

SANGAMAM

Monthly Current Affairs for TNPSC

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INTERNATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY

OCTOBER 11





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Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve

- The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court recently ordered notice to the State on a public interest litigation petition that sought a direction to restrict the entry of outsiders and vehicles inside Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve.

About Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve:

- Location: It is located in the Southern Western Ghats in the Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts of Tamil Nadu.
- It was established as a Tiger Reserve in 1988.
- This reserve is a mixture of three main sanctuaries: Kalakad Sanctuary, Mundanthurai Sanctuary, and a part of Kanyakumari Sanctuary.
- Nestled between Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the Agastya Malai Hill Range forms the core area of the sanctuary and is part of one of the world's 18 biodiversity hotspots.
- The reserve is also known as the "River Sanctuary", with as many as 14 rivers originating from this Tiger Reserve.
- Terrain: Undulating with several valleys and porous rocks.

Vegetation:

- It varies from thorny shrub jungles to lush evergreen forests.
- In addition to forests, savannah woodlands, and grasslands, there are tea and coffee plantations within the reserve.
- Flora: Important species include Sarcandra, Paphiopedulum, druryi, Hopea parviflora, Hopea utilis, Calophyllum elatum, Cullenia exarillata, etc.
- Fauna: Tiger, leopard, rusty spotted cat, wild dog, sloth bear, elephant, gaur, sambar, spotted deer, mouse deer, nilgiri langur, slender loris, bonnet macaque, lion tailed macaque, etc.

Green Ammonia

- Recently, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority, Tamil Nadu, successfully received and handled Green Ammonia Containers from Damietta Port, Egypt.

About Green Ammonia:

- It is produced by using hydrogen from

water electrolysis and nitrogen separated from the air.

- These are then fed into the Haber process (also known as Haber-Bosch) which is powered by sustainable electricity.
- In the Haber process, hydrogen and nitrogen are reacted together at high temperatures and pressures to produce ammonia, NH₃.
- Green ammonia production is where the process of making ammonia is 100% renewable and carbon-free.
- It can be used in
- Fuel for engines such as locomotives and shipping, replacing diesel and marine fuel oil
- Fuel source for electricity and power generation
- Building block to make fertilisers for use in agriculture;
- Feedstock for industrial and manufacturing applications ranging from water purification through to pharmaceutical.

Computer Tamil Conference

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin has announced that the Tamil Computer International Conference will be held in Chennai on February 8, 9, 10, 2024 on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government through the Tamil Internet Education Association.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu is planning to hold an International Mathematics Conference with the objectives of researching, discussing, generating new ideas and identifying young talent about the status of Tamil in emerging technologies. It is noteworthy that after 25 years of the successful completion of the 'Tamil Internet99' conference in 1999 under the leadership of the late Chief Minister Karunanidhi, the Tamil Nadu government is organizing this conference again.
- The Tamil Internet Education Association was formed as a result of the 'Tamil Internet 99' conference. Teaching Tamil online to Tamils living all over the world, digitization of Tamil books, magazines and rare documents, development of computerized Tamil are the primary tasks of Tamil Internet Education Institute. Also, with the guidance of experts who

participated in the conference, ‘Tamil99 keyboard’ was developed, approved by the government and issued an ordinance. The Government of Tamil Nadu is constantly promoting activities related to software development in Tamil.

Udangudi Panangrupatti

- Recently, Udangudi ‘Panangrupatti’ (palm jaggery/ gur) from Tamil Nadu has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

About Udangudi Panangrupatti:

- The palm jaggery preparation procedure in this area is traditional till date without inclusion of any additional modern strategies.
- Uniqueness:
- The karupatti prepared from the palm sap from the region around Udangudi in Tiruchendur taluk in Thoothukudi district has some uniqueness.
- This is due to the presence of red sand dune soil found in the region.
- This soil holds less groundwater. The moisture content in the atmosphere is less because of the dry climatic condition, which leads to high sucrose content, in turn adding taste.
- The region’s dry climate is also suitable for storage of karupatti for a longer duration.
- No chemical additives like Triple super phosphate and phosphoric acid are used in its preparation.



Peace program for businessmen

- Chief Minister M.K.Stalin has introduced a peace plan to collect long-standing tax arrears from businessmen in a simple manner.
- He announced this in the assembly on 10th. The project aims to collect tax arrears of around Rs.25 thousand crores.
- For this purpose, Chief Minister M.K.Stalin had announced that the dues of the businessmen who have less than Rs.50 thousand will be completely waived.

- Through this, 1 lakh simple traders will be benefited and Rs.147 crore dues will be waived off.
- The rest of the merchants can know the details of the government’s offer and pay the dues accordingly.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin started Nilgiri Tahr Project

About the project

- Rs 25 crore to develop a better understanding of the population, distribution and ecology of the Nilgiri Tahr, conduct coordinated surveys using standardised methods across the range of Nilgiri Tahr, reintroduce and monitor the Nilgiri Tahr diagnose and treat affected Tahr, provide field equipment and training to staff. , the focus will be on pioneering restoration work in the Shola grasslands of Upper Bhawani, implementation of eco-tourism projects, communication and border etc.

Note

- “Nilgiri Tahr” popularly known as “Tahr” is an endangered species found in the Western Ghats.
- It is famous for its ability to climb difficult cliffs against the force of gravity. This mountain goat is called “Mountain Monarch”.
- There are many references to the Nilgiri Tahr in Tamil Sangam literature dating back to 2000 years ago. The five epics of the Sangam period, Silapathikaram and Sivaka Chintamani, contain descriptions of the Nilgiri Tahr range and its habitat. Also, there are more than eighteen texts such as Naritanai, Five Gurusud, Paripadal, Pathirupattu, Pattinappalai etc. that describe the Nilgiri map.
- The Nilgiri plains are described in the song “Kurathi Malai Valam Koeral” in the play Kurtalak Kuravanchi written by Trikoottarasappa Kaviraya around 1600-1700 AD. Nilgiri Tahr is one of the animals that represent the biodiversity of the region. As a testament to its ecological and cultural importance in Tamil Nadu, the Nilgiri Tahr has been declared the state animal of Tamil Nadu.
- Nilgiris Tahr Day - 7th October is celebrated as Nilgiris Tahr Day in honour of Dr. ERC Davidhar, who pioneered the first studies of Nilgiri Tahr in 1975.

- A Project Office has been set up at Coimbatore to implement the Nilgiris Tahr Project

Muthuvan tribe

- According to the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Muthuvan tribe will be part of Nilgiri Tahr conservation project.
- About the Muthuvan tribe:
- These people live in the border hill forests of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- They speak slightly different dialects and call each other Malayalam Muthuvan and Pandi Muthuvan.
- They are animists and spirit worshippers and also worship the forest gods.
- They believe that the spirits of their ancestors were the first migrants to the hill forests.
- They are known for coexisting with wildlife with their traditional knowledge.
- These tribal people follow a unique system of governance called the 'Kani System'.
- Under this system, each village is headed by a 'Kani', who is responsible for the administration of the village.
- They are experts in traditional medicines, which are extremely effective, and the medicine is kept confidentially and passed down through generations.
- Occupation: Agriculture is the main

occupation of these Muthuvan tribes, producing quite a number of products like ragi, cardamom and lemongrass.

Jaderi namakatti

- Recently, the Jaderi namakatti was given the GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.

About Jaderi namakatti:

- These are clay sticks that are white in colour, usually available in finger-like shape with a smooth texture.
- Jaderi is a small village in Tiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu.
- There are around 120 families in Cheyyar taluk whose primary occupation has been the making of namakatti for more than hundreds of years now.
- Namakatti is made up of the rich deposit of hydrous silicate minerals that form fine grain particles of clay.
- The clay is processed and shaped in a finger like structure.
- The production of namakatti depends on the climatic condition as it needs a lot of sunlight to dry.
- It is used to adorn the foreheads of idols, men, and temple elephants as well as traditionally to treat stretch marks caused by childbirth.



Project Udbhav

News:

- The Indian Army has started an initiative, named Project Udbhav, to rediscover the profound Indic heritage of statecraft and strategic thoughts.

What is Project Udbhav?

- Project Udbhav was started in 2021 by the Indian Army in collaboration with the United Service Institution of India, a defence think-tank.
- It is an initiative to rediscover the profound Indic heritage of statecraft and strategic thoughts derived from ancient Indian texts of statecraft, warcraft, diplomacy and grand strategy.
- It focuses on a broad spectrum including Indigenous Military Systems, Historical Texts, Regional Texts and Kingdoms, Thematic Studies, and intricate Kautilya Studies.
- This pioneering initiative stands testimony to the Indian Army's recognition of India's age-old wisdom in statecraft, strategy, diplomacy, and warfare.

Significance

- At its core, Project Udbhav seeks to bridge the historical and the contemporary to integrate age-old wisdom with modern military pedagogy.
- By reintroducing these classical teachings into contemporary military and strategic domains, the Army aims -
- To nurture its officers to apply ancient wisdom in modern scenarios and
- To allow a more profound understanding of international relations and foreign cultures.
- It seeks to understand the profound depths of indigenous military systems, their evolution, strategies that have been passed down through the ages, and the strategic thought processes that have governed the land for millennia.
- The Project is not limited to just rediscovering these narratives but also to also develop an indigenous strategic vocabulary, which is deeply rooted in India's multifaceted philosophical and cultural tapestry.

State-of-the-Art National Survey Network

- Union Minister of State, Dr. Jitendra Singh, launched the state-of-the-art National Survey Network, comprising Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS). This network, operated by the Survey of India, will revolutionize precise location-based services in India

Supreme Court Declines to Recognize Same-Sex Marriages

- On October 17, 2023, a five-judge Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, issued a unanimous verdict declining to recognize same-sex marriages and civil unions for non-heterosexual couples.

No Fundamental Right to Marry

- All five judges on the Bench, including the CJI, agreed that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution.
- Interpretation of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 to allow same-sex marriage using gender-neutral language was deemed unfeasible.
- Striking down gender-restrictive provisions of the SMA was rejected as it could disrupt the legal framework for interfaith and inter-caste couples.

Minority Opinion on Civil Unions

- Four of the five judges wrote individual opinions.
- Justice Bhat, Justice Kohli, and Justice Narasimha formed the majority, while CJI Chandrachud and Justice Kaul wrote minority opinions in favor of extending civil unions to same-sex couples.
- A 'civil union' offers certain legal rights and responsibilities but lacks the same recognition as marriage.
- The minority view argued that civil union status should entail a "bouquet of rights" for same-sex couples.

Cabinet Committee for Rights Consideration

- The Court acknowledged the need to examine rights for non-heterosexual couples.
- A high-level Cabinet committee was

tasked with exploring rights such as joint bank accounts, beneficiary status, medical decisions, and more for same-sex spouses.

Adoption Regulations Struck Down

- The minority view by CJI Chandrachud and Justice Kaul struck down specific guidelines by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) that disallowed same-sex or unmarried couples from jointly adopting a child.
- They argued that it's discriminatory to assume that only married, heterosexual couples can provide a safe space for raising children.

Limited Changes for Queer Couples

- The judgement did not recognize same-sex marriages or civil unions but acknowledged the right to choose partners and live-in relationships.
- The court emphasised that family laws disproportionately exclude the queer community.
- The responsibility for legal reforms and inclusivity in family law was placed on the legislature.

Basohli Pashmina

- Recently, Basohli Pashmina, a more than 100-year-old traditional craft from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

About

- It is a hand-spun product known for extreme softness, fineness and light-weight, has insulating properties and extended life.
- Pashmina products include shawls for both men and women, mufflers, blankets and basket.
- Pashmina refers to a fine variant of spun cashmere (the animal-hair fibre), that is derived from the downy undercoat of the Changthangi.
- It is obtained from a breed of mountain goats (*Capra hircus*) found on the Changthang Plateau in Tibet and parts of Ladakh.
- A traditional producer of pashmina wool in the Ladakh region are a people known as the Changpa (nomadic people inhabit the Changthang plateau of Tibet).

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime

- Recently, the union Minister of State for Home Affairs participated in the two-day

UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime Ministerial Conference at Palermo in Italy.

About

- It is a multinational treaty against transnational organized crime that was established by the United Nations in 2000.
- It is often known as the Palermo Convention.
- The UNTOC has a total of 147 signatories and 190 parties to the convention.
- The Convention is further supplemented by three Protocols
- The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
- The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and
- The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.
- India signed the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its three Protocols on December 12, 2002.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the nodal agency for all dealings with UNTOC.



Yak churpi

- In a significant milestone for the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, the unique and culturally significant yak milk product, 'Yak Churpi,' has been granted the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

About Yak churpi:

- It is a dairy product made from the milk of the indigenous Arunachali yak breed.
- It is reared by tribal yak pastoralists known as Brokpas who migrate along with their yaks to higher reaches (at an altitude of 10,000 ft and higher) during summers and descent to mid-altitude mountainous regions during winters.

- These remarkable yaks are primarily found in the West Kameng and Tawang districts of the state.
- Churpi is a naturally fermented dairy product and rich in protein content.
- It is an essential dietary staple for tribal communities inhabiting the cold and mountainous regions of Arunachal Pradesh.
- It is often used as a vegetable substitute and is also incorporated into vegetable and meat curries and is commonly consumed with rice.
- This GI tag is going to serve the cause of yak conservation and yak pastoralists' socio-economic upliftment.
- Yaks are reared in high altitude areas in the Himalayan region but the Arunachali yaks are a unique breed in respect to their body shape, size, strain and weight.
- Arunachali yaks are also the only registered yak breed in India.

Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development

- India has been elected president of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) for the third successive term.

About Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development:



- It was established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO.
- The AIBD currently has 92 member organisations from across 44 countries, including 26 government members (countries) represented by 48 broadcasting authorities and broadcasters.
- It also has 44 affiliates (organisations) represented by 28 countries and regions in Asia, Pacific, Europe, Africa, Arab States and North America.
- India is one of the founding members of this organization.
- The Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster, is the representative body of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, at AIBD

Operation Ajay

- India is putting in place a major operation to evacuate its citizens who wish to return from conflict-hit Israel.
- This will be the second evacuation this year, after Operation Kaveri that brought back several thousand Indian citizens from conflict-torn Sudan in April-May.

Mera Yuva Bharat

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved establishment of an autonomous body Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) to serve as an overarching enabling mechanism powered by technology for youth development and youth led development and provide equitable access to youth to actualize their aspirations and build Viksit Bharat across the entire spectrum of the Government.
- The primary objective of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) is to make it a whole of Government platform for youth development. Under the new arrangement, with access to resources & connection to opportunities, youth would become community change agents and nation builders allowing them to act as the Yuva Setu between the Government and the citizens. It seeks to harness the immense youth energy for nation-building

Note

- Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), an autonomous body will benefit the youth in the age-group of 15-29 years, in line with the definition of 'Youth' in the National Youth Policy. In case of programme components specifically meant for the adolescents, the beneficiaries will be in the age-group of 10-19 years.

The establishment of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) would lead to:

- Leadership Development in the Youth:
- Improve the leadership skills through experiential learning by shifting from isolated physical interaction to programmatic skills.
- Investing more in youth to make them social innovators, leaders in the communities.
- Setting the focus of the Government on Youth Led development and to make the Youth "active drivers" of development and not merely "passive recipients".
- Better alignment between youth aspirations and community needs.
- Enhanced efficiency through Convergence

of existing programmes.

- Act as a one stop shop for young people and Ministries.
- Create a centralised youth database.
- Improved two-way communication to connect youth government initiatives and activities of other stakeholders that engage with youth.
- Ensuring accessibility by creating a physical ecosystem.

Background:

- With a view to engage youth and their empowerment guided by the principles of ‘whole of government approach’, in a rapidly changing world, which has an environment of high velocity communications, social media, new digital opportunities and emergent technologies the Government has decided to establish overarching enabling mechanism in a form of a new Autonomous Body, namely Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat).

Goan cashew

- Recently, Goan cashew (kernel) got the geographical indication (GI) tag.

About Goan cashew:

- Cashew is one of the most important plantation crops in India
- Cashew was native to northeast Brazil in Latin America and was introduced to Goa by the Portuguese in the 16th century (1570).
- At the time of its introduction on Indian coasts, cashew was known mainly as a crop for afforestation and soil conservation.
- In the state of Goa, it occupies the largest area among horticultural crops.

Climatic condition

- Soil and climate: Well-drained deep sandy loam soils are the best for growing cashew. In general, all soils from sandy to laterite are well suited for this crop.
- It is very well adapted to Indian coastal area under hot humid conditions
- Temperature: In the range of 20 to 38 °C, relative humidity in the range of 60 to 95%.
- Rain fall: Annual precipitation in the range of 2000 to 3500mm.
- Extreme low temperature and frost are not conducive to raise cashew plantations.
- The cultivation of this crop is being extended to non-traditional areas in the plains of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and some parts of North East hill region.

Lymphatic Filariasis

- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Lao People’s Democratic Republic becomes second country in 2023 after Bangladesh to eliminate lymphatic filariasis.

About Lymphatic Filariasis:

- It is commonly known as elephantiasis, and it is a neglected tropical disease.
- Infection occurs when filarial parasites are transmitted to humans through mosquitoes. This impairs the lymphatic system and can lead to the abnormal enlargement of body parts, causing pain, severe disability, and social stigma.
- Cause: It’s caused by infection with parasites classified as nematodes (roundworms) of the family Filariodidea. There are three types of these thread-like filarial worms:
 - *Wuchereria bancrofti*, which is responsible for 90% of the cases.
 - *Brugia malayi*, which causes most of the remainder of the cases.
 - *Brugia timori*, which also causes the disease.
- Symptoms: About two in every three people who have lymphatic filariasis don’t have severe symptoms, but filariasis usually leads to a weakened immune system. Some people may experience inflammation, Lymphedema, Hydrocele and Edema.

Treatment:

- The World Health Organisation recommended preventive chemotherapy strategy for lymphatic filariasis elimination is mass drug administration (MDA).
- MDA involves administering an annual dose of medicine to the entire at-risk population.
- Global Initiatives to Eradicate Lymphatic Filariasis:
 - WHO’s road map 2021–2030: Sets global targets and milestones to prevent, control, eliminate or eradicate 20 diseases.
 - Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GPELF): WHO established this to stop the transmission of infection by mass drug administration (MDA) of anthelmintics and to alleviate the suffering of people affected by the disease through morbidity management and disability prevention (MMDP).
- According to the WHO progress report on the disease, Nineteen countries have been able to eliminate it.
- Of the 19 countries, 11 belong to the WHO Western Pacific Region (WPR). Lao PDR is 11th country in the WPR region to

successfully eliminate LF.

- South-East Asia region: Bangladesh, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- Africa region: Malawi and Togo

Bharat Tex 2024

- Bharat Tex 2024” is scheduled to be held from 26-29 February 2024 at New Delhi. It is envisaged to be the biggest textile event at the global level, with exhibitors and buyers from over 40 countries.
- Bharat Tex 2024 Expo, would propel the industry’s growth and showcase India’s potential as a mature, competitive global sourcing destination in the global textile industry.



New Flag for Air Force

- The new flag for the Indian Air Force was unveiled by Air Chief Marshal VR Choudhury.
- The new flag has the Ashoka symbol and below it the Ashoka lion with the words ‘Satyameva Jayate’ in Devanagari. Beneath the Ashoka lion is an image of a Himalayan eagle flying with outstretched wings. It represents the fighting qualities of the Air Force. A ring in light blue with the words ‘Bharatiya Vayu Sena’ around the Himalayan eagle.





United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- According to the Review of Maritime Transport 2023 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in 2023, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international shipping were 20 percent higher than in the last 10 years.

Key highlights of the review:

- Overall, the shipping industry contributes to over 80 percent of the world's trade volume and nearly three percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- Containerised trade, which had declined by 3.7 per cent in 2022, is expected to grow by 1.2 per cent in 2023 and grow further by three per cent between 2024-2028.
- Oil and gas trade volumes showed robust growth in 2022, while tanker freight rates saw a strong revival driven by geopolitical events.

About the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD):

- It is the UN's leading institution dealing with trade and development.
- It is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.
- It supports developing countries to access the benefits of a globalised economy more fairly and effectively.
- It provides economic and trade analysis, facilitates consensus-building and offers technical assistance to help developing countries use trade, investment, finance, and technology for inclusive and sustainable development.
- Headquarter: Geneva, Switzerland.

AUKUS

- As part of the AUKUS initiative with Australia and the US, the UK has given three UK businesses a 4 billion pound (\$4.9 billion) contract to design and build an attack submarine powered by nuclear energy.

About AUKUS:

- Established in 2021, the AUKUS is

intended to be a strategic partnership among Australia, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States to bolster their allied deterrence and defense capabilities in the Indo-Pacific.

- The trilateral partnership, which builds on their decades-long security cooperation, has two pillars.
- Pillar I revolves around the acquisition and development of conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines for the Royal Australian Navy;
- Pillar II calls for collaboration on advanced capabilities that will involve technology and information sharing;

What is the submarine component?

- It is designed to equip Australia with nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs).
- In total, Australia will end up with eight of the new nuclear submarines, called SSN-AUKUS.
- Those submarines will be based on a British design but have American technology or an American combat system.
- The deal marks the first time the US has shared nuclear propulsion technology with an ally other than the UK.
- It will significantly enhance Australia's undersea capabilities in the Indo-Pacific.
- These countries, however, made it clear that their aim is not to arm the new submarines with nuclear weapons. This is because Australia is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), which bans it from acquiring or deploying nuclear weapons.

Gaza strip

- Israel recently ordered a full siege of the Gaza Strip and vowed to obliterate Hamas after its all-out offensive entered the next phase.

About Gaza Strip:

- The Gaza Strip is a self-governing Palestinian territory located on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea.
- The territory takes its name from Gaza, its main city.
- It forms the smaller of the two Palestinian territories — the other being the West Bank.
- Bordering Countries: It is bordered by Israel

to the north and east and Egypt to the south.

- Size: It is a 41km (25-mile) long and 10km-wide territory.
- Climate: It has a temperate climate, with mild winters, and dry, hot summer.
- Population:
- It is one of the most densely populated areas in the world. More than 2 million people live in the territory.
- The population is predominantly Palestinian, with the majority being Sunni Muslims.

History:

- After Israel declared its statehood in 1948, Egypt controlled the Gaza Strip for nearly two decades
- Israel then gained control of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank after its victory in the 1967 Six-Day War against its Arab neighbours.
- For the next 38 years, Israel controlled the strip and enabled the construction of 21 Jewish settlements.
- In 2005, under international and domestic pressure, Israel withdrew around 9,000 Israeli settlers and its military forces from the Gaza Strip, leaving the enclave to be governed by the internationally recognised Palestinian Authority, which also controlled parts of the occupied West Bank.

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- Sri Lanka set to take over chairmanship of Indian Ocean Rim Association during 23rd Council of Ministers' Meeting.

About Indian Ocean Rim Association:

- It was established in 1997 as an intergovernmental organisation of States on the rim of the Indian Ocean.
- Member countries:
- It has members from Africa, West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe and Oceania.
- The Association's membership has expanded to 23 member states and 11 dialogue partners.
- Asia: India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Maldives, Oman, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
- Africa: Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles.
- Oceania: Australia.
- Europe: France
- Its apex body is the Council of Foreign

Ministers (COM) which meets annually.

- IORA has identified six priority areas namely: Trade and Investment, Maritime Safety and Security, Fisheries Management, Disaster Risk Management and Blue Economy.
- The secretariat is based in Ebène Mauritius and is overseen by a secretary-general who is appointed for a three-year period.

UNICEF Celebrates Milestone of One Million Certifications on International Day of the Girl Child

- The Secretary of the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, joined a UNICEF-organized online program on October 11, 2023, the UN International Day of the Girl Child, to mark the achievement of one million certifications in its Passport to Earning (P2E) program



Diphtheria

- The World Health Organization (WHO) recently said that the Health Ministry of Guinea has reported an outbreak of diphtheria.

About Diphtheria:

- It is a highly contagious and infectious disease that causes severe inflammation of the nose, throat, and windpipe (trachea).
- Cause: It is caused by strains of bacteria called *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* that make a toxin. It is the toxin that can cause people to get very sick.

Transmission:

- The infection can transmit from a person with the infection to any mucous membrane in another person.
- Diphtheria bacteria spread from person to person, usually through respiratory droplets, like from coughing or sneezing.
- People can also get sick from touching infected open sores or ulcers.

Symptoms:

- Diphtheria signs and symptoms usually begin 2-5 days after a person becomes

infected. Signs and symptoms may include:

- A thick, gray membrane covering the throat and tonsils
- A sore throat and hoarseness
- Swollen glands (enlarged lymph nodes) in the neck
- Difficulty breathing or rapid breathing
- Nasal discharge
- Fever and chills
- Tiredness
- If the toxin gets into the blood stream, it can cause heart, nerve, and kidney damage.
- The bacteria can also infect the skin, causing open sores or ulcers. However,

diphtheria skin infections rarely result in severe disease.

- Treatment: Treatment aimed at countering the bacterial effects has two components:
- Antitoxin: This is also known as anti-diphtheritic serum. It neutralizes the bacteria's toxins. Doctors use the antitoxin to treat diphtheria that has affected the respiratory system. The antitoxin only works on toxins that have not yet bound with cells and tissue in the body.
- Antibiotics: Erythromycin or penicillin can eradicate the bacteria and stop them from spreading. Antibiotics can treat diphtheria affecting the respiratory system and skin.





SCHEMES



Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0

- Recently, the union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions launched the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0

About Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0:

- It is a public grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard portal of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- It has been implemented by IIT Kanpur.
- Objectives: The Dashboard provides instant tabular analysis of Grievances Filed & Disposed, State-wise & District-wise Grievances Filed & Ministry-wise data.
- It will also help the officials identify the root cause of the grievance.
- This portal will help the DARPG with creation of draft letter for selected scheme/ministry and expedite the grievance redressal process by the concerned ministry/department.
- It has been enabled with Artificial intelligence (AI) capacity.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0 Campaign

- Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI 5.0) is the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's primary immunisation initiative.
- This program targets children and pregnant women who haven't been immunised, ensuring they receive their required vaccinations.

SHRESHTA Scheme

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has introduced the 'Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas' (SHRESHTA).
- This program is designed to provide high-quality education to students from

Scheduled Castes (SC) and expand the reach of development initiatives within SC-dominant areas in the education sector.

- The SHRESHTA program will be operated through two distinct modes to cater to the educational needs of SC students.



'Sagar Parikrama' programme

- The Indian government announced that the ninth phase of the 'Sagar Parikrama' programme will commence on October 7, 2023. 'Sagar Parikrama' is aimed at addressing the issues of fishermen and other stakeholders while facilitating their economic upliftment through various schemes.

UMMEED (Understand, Motivate, Manage, Empathise, Empower, Develop)

- The Union Ministry of Education (MoE) has unveiled draft guidelines to address the critical issue of student suicides in schools. Named UMMEED (Understand, Motivate, Manage, Empathise, Empower, Develop), these guidelines provide a comprehensive plan of action to enhance awareness, sensitivity, and support mechanisms for students facing mental health challenges.

Shakharov Prize

- The European Union's highest human RIGHTS award, the Shakharov Prize, has been awarded posthumously to Masha Amini, a teenager who died suspiciously last year after being arrested by cultural police in Iran.
- Nicaraguan human rights activist Vilma Ned de Escarcia and Catholic priest Ronaldo Ivarez have also been selected for this year's award.
- The award has been presented since 1988 in

honor of Andrei Shakharov, a human rights activist of Soviet Russia.

Green Credit Program (GCP) and Ecomark scheme

- To take ahead the 'LiFE' - 'Lifestyle for Environment' movement announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has introduced two pioneering initiatives that indicate the country's pro-active approach to climate change, sustainability and promotion eco-conscious practices. These initiatives, the Green Credit Program (GCP) and the Ecomark Scheme, seek to encourage environmentally friendly practices rooted in tradition and conservation; reflecting the ideas of LiFE concept.
- Green Credit Program (GCP): Incentivizing Environmental Actions
- Green Credit Program (GCP) notified on 13th October, 2023 is an innovative market-based mechanism designed to incentivize voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors, by various stakeholders like

individuals, communities, private sector industries, and companies.

- The GCP's governance framework is supported by an inter-ministerial Steering Committee and The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) serves as the GCP Administrator, responsible for program implementation, management, monitoring, and operation.
- The Ecomark Scheme provides accreditation and labelling for household and consumer products that meet specific environmental criteria while maintaining quality standards as per Indian norms. Products accredited under the Ecomark Scheme will adhere to specific environmental criteria, ensuring minimal environmental impact. It will build consumer awareness of environmental issues and encourage eco-conscious choices. It will also motivate manufacturers to shift towards environmentally friendly production. The scheme seeks to ensure accurate labelling and prevent misleading information about products.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS



Pygmy hog

- Recently, eighteen captive-bred pygmy hogs were released in western Assam's Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve



About Pygmy hog:

- It is the smallest and rarest species of wild pig in the world.
- It is one of the very few mammals that build its own home, or nest, complete with a 'roof'.
- It is an indicator species as its presence reflects the health of its primary habitat, tall and wet grasslands.
- Habitat: It prefers undisturbed patches of grassland dominated by early succession riverine communities, typically comprising dense tall grass intermixed with a wide variety of herbs, shrubs and young trees.
- Currently, the viable population of this pig in the wild is in the Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam.

Conservation status:

- IUCN: Critically Endangered
- The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

Key facts about Manas National Park

- It is located in the state of Assam. It is contiguous with the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.
- It is a national park, UNESCO Natural World Heritage site, a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve and a biosphere reserve.
- Flora: It contains some of the largest remaining grassland habitats in the sub-Himalayan grassland ecosystems.
- Fauna: The Park is known for its rare and endangered endemic wildlife such as the

Assam roofed turtle, hispid hare, golden langur and pygmy hog.

- The Manas River is a major tributary of Brahmaputra River, which passes through the Manas National Park.

Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary

- Bihar is set to get a second tiger reserve in Kaimur district (Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary) by the end of the year or early 2024.

About Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary:

- It is the largest sanctuary located in the Kaimur District of Bihar.
- It is nestled in the Vindhyaachal hill ranges.
- The sanctuary forms a very important catchment for the Karmanasa, Sone, and Durgawati river systems, with important tributaries.
- It is connected with Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary of UP, which again has links with Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve and Panna landscape in Madhya Pradesh through stepping stone forests of Marihan, Sukrit, Chunar ranges and wildlife sanctuaries of Ranipur (UP).

Sycamore tree

- Recently, a 300-year-old sycamore tree in England that was famous for its beauty and unique location was cut down by a teenage boy.
- It was located in a dip between two hills, at a gap in the Hadrian Wall – an old stone structure that is close to the border between England and Scotland – in Northumberland, northern England.

National Green Credit programme

- In a move to promote environmental sustainability, the Indian Government has introduced a national Green Credit programme.
- This program, following the 'LiFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) campaign, employs a market-based approach to encourage environmental initiatives by various stakeholders.

- The Green Credit initiative is voluntary and aims to reward eco-friendly actions across eight specific activity categories.

Ralamandal Wildlife Sanctuary

- Two rare species of butterflies were recently found during a survey conducted by the Forest Department in Ralamandal Wildlife Sanctuary.

About Ralamandal Wildlife Sanctuary:

- Location: It is located in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- Earlier, it was the hunting ground for the royal family members of Holkars, as it had a huge population of tigers, leopards, and deer.
- Established in 1989, this sanctuary is spread over an area of 5 square kilometres.
- Landscape: Rolling hills, lush green forests, and sparkling streams.
- The River Narmada graces the sanctuary with its presence.
- At the top of it is an ancient palace built by the Holkars in 1905, which was primarily used as a hunting hut, also known as shikargah (hunting lodge).

Haploclastus nilgirinus

- Recently, researchers said that the Haploclastus nilgirinus a species of tarantula could be under threat from habitat loss and climate change.

About Haploclastus nilgirinus:

- It is an elusive Nilgiri large burrowing spider and a venomous species of tarantula.
- It is endemic to the Nilgiris hills of Western Ghats.
- It shows sexual dimorphism, the males are much smaller than the females.
- Threats: It is threatened by the illegal trade in wildlife as well as by climate change



Epithemis wayanadensis

- Recently, a new dragonfly species has been discovered in the verdant landscapes of Wayanad and it has been given the scientific nomenclature Epithemis wayanadensis



About Epithemis wayanadensis:

- It is also known as Red-rumped Hawklet.
- It starts flying exclusively during the month of October.
- This species was found amidst the foliage of shrubs flourishing along a shaded streamside marsh near Wayanad's forested terrain, as well as parts of the Nilgiri Coorg landscapes within the Western Ghats.
- Appearance: This newfound species is distinguished by its darker pigmentation, a restricted red coloration on the abdomen, and the absence of the yellow antehumeral stripe.
- This is the first instance of an Indian dragonfly being documented with genetic evidence substantiating morphological distinctions.

National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS)

- India is embarking on a groundbreaking initiative led by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) known as the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS). This comprehensive program aims to provide climate services and information to various sectors, including agriculture, energy, disaster management, health, and water resources.
- The NFCS draws inspiration from the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), a global partnership established during the third World Climate Conference in 2009. The GFCS's primary goal is to improve the production and utilization of climate information and services, facilitating collaboration among researchers, policymakers, planners, investors, and

vulnerable communities. This partnership is spearheaded by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) in each country, emphasizing user-friendly climate information to address long-term challenges effectively.

- Dakar Declaration on Climate Change 2023
- Ministers from the world's 46 least developed countries (LDCs) issued a joint Dakar Declaration on Climate Change outlining their expectations and priorities for COP28.

Key points from the declaration:

- Urgent Global Emissions Reductions:
- The declaration calls for urgent global emissions reductions to address the rapidly approaching 1.5°C global warming threshold.

Increased Climate Finance:

- Developed countries are urged to present a clear road map for at least doubling adaptation finance delivered by 2025 through public, grant-based financing.
- A New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance should provide new and additional resources, exceeding the current \$100 billion per year floor.

Operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund:

- The declaration emphasizes the need for a strong outcome operationalizing the new Loss and Damage Fund to address the impacts of climate change.

Ambitious Global Stocktake:

- The ministers call for an ambitious Global Stocktake to close the gaps in global climate action.

Responsibility and Historical Emissions:

- LDCs account for more than 14% of the global population but only about 1% of emissions from fossil fuels and industrial processes.
- The declaration underscores that LDCs bear the least historical responsibility for climate change and are disproportionately affected by it.

Alignment with 1.5°C Goal:

- Parties, particularly major emitters, are urged to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions urgently and significantly.
- 2030 targets in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) should be revisited and strengthened to align with the 1.5°C warming limit.

UNFCCC Centralised Carbon Market Mechanism:

- The declaration calls for the operationalization of the UNFCCC centralised carbon market mechanism by 2024, with recognition of the needs of LDCs.
- Implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement's capacity-building program is emphasised.

Limiting Warming to 1.5°C:

- The declaration states that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement, will be out of reach if global production and consumption patterns continue.

Accelerating Climate Action:

- COP28 is seen as an opportunity to accelerate climate action towards 1.5°C pathways and meet the needs of LDCs.
- Deep global emissions reductions, scaling up renewable energy, and ensuring no one is left behind are highlighted as essential for a successful COP28.

Egyptian Vulture

- Recently, an Egyptian Vulture was rescued from Indapur which had suffered injuries and dehydration

About Egyptian Vulture:

- The Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) is a native bird of Europe, Central Asia and Africa, and in winter, it travels towards Asian countries, including India.
- The residential sub-species of Egyptian vulture is *Neophron percnopterus ginginianus*, which resides in India throughout the year.
- It inhabits open, arid areas near humans, with plenty of food options.
- These are monogamous, migrating between breeding seasons as a pair. They build a large nest and will constantly replenish it during the breeding season.
- Threats : One of the primary threats facing this species is illegal poisoning aimed at carnivores.

Conservation status

- IUCN: Endangered

Vulture species in India:

- 9 species of vultures are found in India.
- Of these nine species, 4 are listed as Critically Endangered species of Vultures and one as endangered species in IUCN red list of endangered species.
- Species of Vultures found in India and their IUCN Conservation Status:

- Indian Vulture or Long-billed vulture (*Gyps indicus*)-Critically Endangered
- Indian White-backed Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*)-Critically Endangered
- Red-headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*)-Critically Endangered
- Slender-billed Vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*)-Critically Endangered
- Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*)-Endangered
- Cinerous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*)-Near Threatened
- Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*)-Near Threatened
- Himalayan Vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*)-Near Threatened
- Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)-Least Concern

Dancing frogs

- According to the Wildlife Trust of India the dancing frogs are the most threatened amphibian genus of India.

About Dancing frogs:

- These are endemic to the Western Ghats.
- Habitat: The species was found to prefer habitats in areas with thick canopy cover of at least 70-80 per cent
- It belongs to the *Micrixalus* genus.
- It is also the fifth most threatened genus in the world with 92 per cent of its species in the threatened category
- Behaviour
- The dancing frogs that are found near the streams do a unique display to mate.
- The males stretch up their hind legs one at a time and wave their webbed toes in the air in a rapid motion akin to a dance.
- This is to attract mates as well as ward off competition, probably preferred because their mating calls are drowned out by the gurgling of the streams.
- This act is called “foot flagging” and gives the species their name.
- Ecological significance:
- Frogs are valuable in the food chain and also provide other ecological services.
- Threats: These species are threatened by invasive species like the mosquito fish, land use change, variation in temperature and humidity, extreme weather events such as floods and excess rainfall, infectious

diseases, water pollution, light pollution, and infrastructure projects.



Eumasia venefica

- Researchers from the Zoology Department at St. Thomas College (Autonomous), Thrissur, have discovered a new species of bagworm moth, Wizard Bagworm, from near the Nariyampara falls in Idukki district.

About Eumasia venefica:

- The new species has been named due to the peculiar shape of its bag, which resembles a wizard's hat.
- It is the fourth species of this genus to be discovered from India.
- Features:
- It has the clever camouflage employed to escape predators.
- Larval cases of this species are found attached to rocks covered with lichens.
- The cases attach to each other and form a lichen covered colony.
- The larval bags look like a ‘witch's hat’ because of a disc-like anterior and a tubular posterior part.
- It is not a polyphagous pest as its larvae only feed on the algae and mosses on the rocks.

What is Bagworm moth?

- They are a family of moths belonging to the order Lepidoptera and are known for their protective larval cases.
- These moths are found worldwide, but primarily in North America and Africa.
- It is a perennial moth like insect that resides on a number of evergreen as well as junipers in its larva stage.
- They are named for the baglike cases the larvae construct around themselves.
- The larvae are often destructive to trees, especially evergreens.

Curcuma kakchingense

- Three researchers in Manipur recently discovered a new flowering plant species and have named the new species *Curcuma kakchingense*.

About *Curcuma kakchingense*:

- It is a new flowering plant species discovered in Manipur.
- It is a member of the angiospermic family Zingiberaceae, which includes well-known plants like *Curcuma* (turmeric), ginger, and cardamom.
- It is a robust plant, as tall as eight feet, having large terminal inflorescence.
- It was found thriving along the banks of the Sekmai River in the Kakching District of Manipur.
- It bears a striking resemblance to *Curcuma longa*, known locally as “Yaingung,” and *Curcuma phrayawan*, a species from Thailand, but is distinguished by having lemon-yellow rhizomes with a very bitter taste.
- It has been classified as “Data Deficient” (DD) under the IUCN Red List category.
- Importance of *Curcuma* plants:
- Several *Curcuma* species, including the turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) are important for their use in cuisines, traditional medicines, spices, dyes, perfumes, cosmetics, and as ornamental plants.
- Curcumin and several curcuminoids found in *Curcuma* species are nontoxic polyphenolic compounds that have biological activities.
- The essential oil of *Curcuma* species

possesses a wide variety of pharmacological properties, including anti-inflammatory, anti-cancerous, anti-diabetic, anti-hepatotoxic, anti-diarrheal, carminative, diuretic, anti-rheumatic, hypotensive, anti-oxidant, anti-microbial, anti-viral, insecticidal, etc.

Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR)

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) recently gave approval to reintroduce eight tigers into the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR) in Maharashtra.

About Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR):

- Location: It is located in the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats in Maharashtra.
- The reserve spreads over Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, forming the northern portion, and Chandoli National Park, forming the southern part of the reserve. STR was created by merging the areas of these two forests in 2007.
- The region of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve includes the area around the Koyna Dam, the Warna River, and many other small rivers and streams originating from the Western Ghats and flowing to the east.



Like China, India is heavily indebted: foreign finance

- India is also heavily indebted like China. But the risks associated with it are less than China,' said Rut Dee Mooij, Deputy Director of the Financial Affairs Department of the International Fund.
- India's fiscal deficit is projected at 8.8 percent in the current fiscal year. A major portion of this, 5.4 percent, is due to interest expenses. The primary deficit stands at 3.4 percent.

India's growth rate

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has raised India's economic growth forecast for 2023 to 6.6%, up from the 6% predicted earlier. However, it anticipates a slight slowdown to 6.2% growth in 2024.

Global Economic Outlook

- UNCTAD expects global economic output growth to decelerate to 2.4% in 2023 but shows a modest uptick to 2.5% in 2024.
- It characterises the global economy as flying at "stall speed," with the 2023

projection meeting the criteria for a global recession.

- The recovery from the pandemic remains divergent worldwide, with some countries showing resilience while others face significant challenges.

Economic Outlook Survey for India

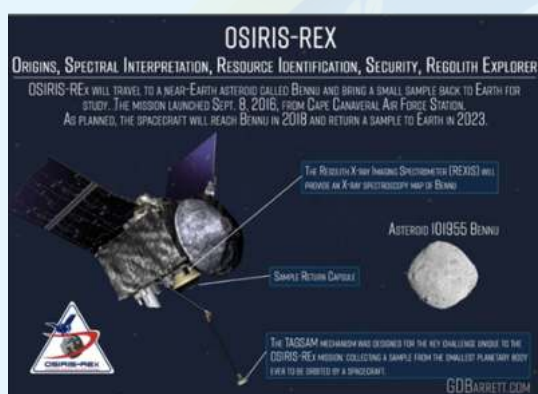
- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has released its Economic Outlook Survey for India, projecting key economic indicators for the fiscal year 2023-24.

Key Highlights

- **GDP Growth:** India's economy is projected to grow by 6.3% in FY24. The growth estimate ranges from a minimum of 6.0% to a maximum of 6.6%.
- **Agriculture and Allied Activities:** The median growth forecast for agriculture and allied activities in FY24 is 2.7%, marking a moderation from the growth of about 4.0% reported in the previous fiscal year (2022-23).
- **Industry and Services Sectors:** The industry sector is anticipated to grow by 5.6%, while the services sector is expected to grow by 7.3% in FY24.

OSIRIS-Rex

- OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, and Security-Regolith Explorer), the first US mission to collect a sample from an asteroid, returned on Earth with material from asteroid Bennu.
- So far, Japan is the only other country to similarly bring asteroid samples to the Earth.



- OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer) is a NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) asteroid-study and sample-return mission.
- The mission was launched in September, 2016. The spacecraft reached asteroid Bennu in 2018.
- Objective: To obtain a sample of at least 60 gm from Bennu and return the sample to Earth for a detailed analysis.

R21/Matrix-M

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently recommended a new vaccine, R21/Matrix-M, for the prevention of malaria in children.

About

- The R21 vaccine is the second malaria vaccine recommended by the WHO, following the RTS,S/AS01 vaccine, which received a WHO recommendation in 2021.
- WHO is now reviewing the vaccine for prequalification, which is the WHO stamp of approval, and will enable GAVI (a global

vaccine alliance) and UNICEF to buy the vaccine from manufacturers.

- About the R21/Matrix-M Vaccine:
- It is a new vaccine approved for the prevention of malaria in children.
- It was developed by the University of Oxford and the Serum Institute of India with support from the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership ('EDCTP'), the Wellcome Trust, and the European Investment Bank ('EIB').
- It is the first malaria vaccine to reach the WHO's target of 75% efficacy.
- It has already been approved for use in Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Nigeria.
- The vaccine will be rolled out in those African countries in early 2024 and will be available in mid-2024 in other countries.

Exclusome

- Researchers have recently identified a previously unknown compartment in mammalian cells named 'exclusome'.
- About Exclusome:
- It is a newly discovered organelle in mammalian cells.
- It is made up of DNA rings known as plasmids.
- It is located within the cell plasma.
- This is peculiar because eukaryotic cells (cells with nuclei) usually keep most of their DNA in the cell nucleus, where it is organized into chromosomes.
- Instead, in the exclusome, it is organized into plasmids -small, circular DNA strands that can replicate independently of chromosomes and are usually found in bacteria and other microscopic organisms.
- National Turmeric Board (NTB)
- Recently, the Government of India notified the constitution of the National Turmeric Board.
- About National Turmeric Board:
- It will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country.
- It will especially focus on capacity building

and skill development of turmeric growers for harnessing greater benefits out of value addition.

- The Board will also promote quality and food safety standards and adherence to such standards.

NanoPtA

- Recently, scientists at the Materials Research Centre (MRC), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), have developed a new type of enzyme mimetic called NanoPtA.

About NanoPtA:

- The research team synthesised a platinum-containing nanozyme called NanoPtA, which can be converted into powder form for industrial use.
- How does it work?
- When the NanoPtA comes in contact with wastewater, the benzene rings and long alkyl chains present in the molecule form multiple non-covalent interactions.
- Individual NanoPtA molecules connect together to form tape-like structures that start emitting light, which is the origin of its oxidising capacity.
- The nanozyme can then degrade pollutants present in wastewater by oxidising them in the presence of sunlight, thereby reducing the toxicity of wastewater.
- The team found that the nanozyme could degrade even small (micromolar) quantities of common effluents like phenols and dyes within ten minutes when placed under sunlight.
- Applications: The nanozyme can also have applications in healthcare and could be a potentially useful diagnostic tool for neurological and neurodegenerative diseases.

Burevestnik missile

- President Vladimir V. Putin recently claimed that Russia had successfully tested the Burevestnik missile.



About

- The Burevestnik, whose name translates as “storm petrel”, is a ground-launched, low-flying cruise missile that is not only capable of carrying a nuclear warhead but is also nuclear-powered.
- The Burevestnik is one of six strategic weapons that the Russian President introduced in a 2018 speech.
- It is code-named ‘SSC-X-9 Skyfall’ by NATO.
- In theory, the nuclear energy could let it fly around the world several times before hitting its target.
- Features:
- It is powered by a small nuclear reactor, which heats up air to propel the missile forward.
- Its nuclear propulsion gives the missile much longer range than traditional turbojet or turbofan engines that are limited by how much fuel they can carry.
- It has a range of up to 14,000 miles (22000 km).
- The missile is also designed to fly at low altitudes, much lower than a conventionally powered cruise missile, which would make it harder for air-defence radar to detect.

Gaganyaan astronaut mission

- India to launch test flight on Oct. 21 for future Gaganyaan astronaut mission
- ISRO will launch an empty module in preparation for a mission to transport Indian astronauts to space.
- The Gaganyaan mission, which translates from Sanskrit to “celestial vehicle,” will be India’s attempt to launch at least three astronauts to low-Earth orbit before the end of 2024, though a concrete timeline for liftoff hasn’t been shared yet.



- India’s first tilapia parvovirus reported in Tamil Nadu
- The occurrence of tilapia parvovirus (TiPV) affecting farm-bred tilapia, a freshwater fish species, and causing a huge mortality rate has been reported for the first time in

India at ponds in Walajah in Ranipet district of Tamil Nadu.

- Considered as “a poor-man’s fish”, Mozambique tilapia was introduced to Indian fresh water bodies in the 1950s and it is called Jilabi in Tamil. Capable of surviving in low-oxygen levels in water, the fish has turned invasive across the country. Nile tilapia introduced in the 1970s is a little bigger and is cultured on a large-scale and available in the market for ₹100 to ₹150 per kg.
- In India, tilapia farming is being carried out in different parts of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, and is sold in domestic markets as whole fish. In 2022, the tilapia production was estimated at about 70,000 tonnes, of which 30,000 tonnes come from aquaculture.

PM Modi “drives” ISRO to land man on moon by 2040

- The Prime Minister has set ambitious new goals, including an indigenous space station by 2035, an Indian on the moon by 2040, and an interplanetary mission to orbit Venus to land on Mars. He directed the

space department to develop a road map

- “To build on the success of Indian space ventures including the recent Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L-1 missions, the Prime Minister advised that India should now aim for new and ambitious goals including ‘Bharatiya Antariksha Santhiya’ (Indian Space Station).) Sending the first Indian to the Moon by 2035 and 2040 within,” says a statement from the Prime Minister’s Office.

TV-D1 Mission

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch its first-ever test flight, TV-D1, for the Gaganyaan mission, marking a pivotal moment in India’s pursuit of human spaceflight.
- About TV-D1 Mission:
- Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) will evaluate the crew module’s readiness for the Gaganyaan mission.
- It is a single-stage liquid rocket developed specifically for this abort mission.
- The payloads consist of the Crew Module (CM) and Crew Escape Systems (CES) with their fast-acting solid motors, along with CM fairing (CMF) and Interface Adapters.
- This flight will simulate the abort condition during the ascent trajectory corresponding to a Mach number of 1.2 encountered in the Gaganyaan mission.



Neeraj Chopra

- World Athletics has nominated Neeraj Chopra for the Men's Athlete of the Year award 2023. The global governing body of Athletics issued the statement announcing Neeraj's nomination. Javelin thrower Neeraj is an Indian Olympic and World Championships Gold medalist.



Shubman Gill

- Shubman Gill, the dynamic Indian opener, created a significant mark in the world of One Day International (ODI) cricket by becoming the fastest player to reach 2000 runs in this format.
- His achievement, which surpasses a previous record held by South African great Hashim Amla, adds to his growing reputation as a rising star in the world of cricket.
- He achieved the feat in India's World Cup 2023 match against Tom Latham's New Zealand at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala.

Mohammed Shami

- Mohammad Shami became the first Indian bowler to pick two five-wicket hauls in ICC ODI World Cups
- Shami ended up picking five wickets while giving away 54 runs in 10 overs. He is now the ninth bowler overall to take two fivers in ODI World Cups.

Asian Para Games 2023

- The Asian Para Games, organized by the Asian Paralympic Committee and recognized by the International Paralympic Committee, commences on October 22, 2023. This marks the fourth edition of the Games, featuring 566 medal events across 22 sports and 24 disciplines.
- It was held take place in Hangzhou.

Qatar Masters Tournament

- Qatar Masters, 24-year-old Indian chess grandmaster Karthikeyan Murali achieved a stunning feat by defeating the world's number one player, Magnus Carlsen
- Karthikeyan played with black in the seventh round of the Qatar Masters.
- He became the third Indian to defeat former world champion Magnus Carlsen in chess.

Asian games

- Men's Javelin Throw competition at the Asian Games 2023, held at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Park Main Stadium in the People's Republic of China. Neeraj Chopra secured the gold medal, while Kishore Kumar Jena clinched the silver, showcasing their exceptional talent on the grand continental stage.
- The Indian quartet won gold medal in the men's 4x400m relay at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China. The team comprising of Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Rajesh Ramesh and Muhammad Ajmal Variyathodi finished with a time of 3:01.58.
- India's archery team won the gold medal in a final match against Chinese Taipei. The team, consisting of Jyoti Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur.
- India's Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Sandhu won the gold medal in the mixed doubles squash tournament



AWARDS



Sastra Ramanujan Prize

- Ruixiang Zhang, Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley, USA will be awarded with the 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for his outstanding contributions in mathematics.



About Sastra Ramanujan Prize:

- The prize was instituted in the year 2005.
- It is awarded every year by the SASTRA University on its campus near Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu, on Ramanujan's birth anniversary, December 22.
- The prize is conferred annually to mathematicians from across the world who is less than 32 years of age, working in an area influenced by the Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- The age limit is 32 years to commemorate the fact that Ramanujan accomplished a phenomenal body of work in this short span.
- Cash prize: It carries a citation and an award of \$10,000.
- This award has gained global repute ever since it was instituted.
- Other recipients: Manjul Bhargava and Akshay Venkatesh

National Service Scheme Awards

- Recently, the President of India presented the National Service Scheme Awards for the year 2021-2022 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

About the National Service Scheme Awards :

- These awards were instituted in the years 1993-1994. Since then, these awards are

given away every year at various levels.

- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Department of Youth Affairs, confers every year the National Service Scheme Award.
- Objectives
- To recognize outstanding contribution by NSS student volunteers, NSS Programme Officers and the Programme Coordinators in community service.
- To encourage young NSS student volunteers to develop their personality through community service.
- To encourage the Programme Officers and the Programme Coordinators of NSS for catering the needs of National Service Scheme through the NSS volunteers.
- To motivate NSS Volunteers for continuing their selfless service towards community work.

What is the National Service Scheme?

- It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Government of India.
- It provides an opportunity to the student youth of the 11th & 12th Class of schools at +2 Board level and student youth of Technical Institution, Graduate & Post Graduate at colleges and University level of India to take part in various Government led community service activities & programmes.
- Motto: The motto of National Service Scheme is NOT ME BUT YOU
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

Nobel Prize in Physics

- This year's Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded to three physicists for their research into attosecond pulses of light.

About Attosecond:

- An attosecond is an astonishingly short unit of time, equivalent to one quintillionth of a second (1×10^{-18} of a second) or one-billionth of a nanosecond.
- To put this into perspective, if a second were stretched to cover the entire age of the universe, which is approximately 13.8 billion years, an attosecond would be just a fraction of a second.

Applications:

- Attosecond physics allows scientists to look at the very smallest particles at the very shortest timescales.
- At this timescale, researchers can now capture the dynamics of electrons within atoms and molecules, allowing them to witness the incredibly fast processes that govern chemical reactions and electronic behaviour.

Attosecond pulses:

- One of the most groundbreaking applications of attosecond science is the ability to create and manipulate extreme ultraviolet (XUV) and X-ray pulses, which are vital for imaging ultrafast processes at the atomic and molecular scale.
- These pulses are produced using high-intensity laser systems that generate attosecond bursts of light.
- With these attosecond pulses, scientists can “freeze” the motion of electrons within atoms and molecules, providing a real-time view of electron movement during chemical reactions.
- The Attosecond pulses can be used to test the internal processes of matter and to identify different events.

Nobel prize in chemistry

- Quantum Dots (QDs)- The 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was recently awarded to Mounji G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus, and Alexei I. Ekimov recently for the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots.

About Quantum Dots (QDs):

- Quantum dots, often referred to as “artificial atoms,” are semiconductor nanoparticles that have unique optical and electronic properties due to their small size.
- They were first theorised in the 1970s and then successfully synthesised in the early 1980s.
- Many semiconductor substances can be used as QDs, such as cadmium selenide, cadmium sulphide, or indium arsenide. Nanoparticles of these, or any other semiconductor substance, have the properties of a QD.
- The size and composition of the QDs can be controlled during synthesis, allowing scientists to tailor their properties for various applications.
- Optical Properties: One of the most notable features of QDs is their tunable emission properties.

- By controlling the size of the QD, researchers can precisely tune the wavelength of light emitted or absorbed.
- They can be engineered to emit light across the entire visible spectrum and into the infrared and ultraviolet ranges, offering a wide palette of colors for various applications.
- The smallest quantum dots emit higher energy waves and produce blue light, and the biggest dots release lower energy waves, creating red light, with the middle sizes creating the colours in between.

Applications:

- Displays: They are used in display technology to enhance the color and efficiency of displays for TVs, monitors, and other electronic devices.
- Compared to organic luminescent materials used in organic light emitting diodes (OLEDs), QD-based materials have purer colors, a longer lifetime, lower manufacturing costs, and lower power consumption.
- Photovoltaics: QDs can be used in solar cells to enhance light absorption and energy conversion efficiency.
- Bio-medical applications: The small size of QDs allows them to go anywhere in the body, making them suitable for different bio-medical applications like medical imaging, biosensors, targeted drug delivery, etc.
- Quantum Computing: QDs are being investigated for their potential role in quantum computing, as they can serve as qubits, the fundamental units of quantum information.

Nobel Prize for Literature 2023



- The Nobel Prize for Literature 2023 has been awarded to Norwegian author Jon Olav Fosse, for his “innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable”.

Nobel Prize for Economics 2023

- Claudia Goldin, a Harvard University professor, was awarded the Nobel economics prize for research that helps

explain why women around the world are less likely than men to work and to earn less money when they do.

- Economic Sciences 2023 laureate Claudia Goldin provided the first comprehensive account of women's earnings and labor market participation throughout the centuries. Her research reveals the causes of change and the main sources of the remaining gender gap.
- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences stated that the 2023 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel was awarded to Claudia Goldin "for advancing our understanding of women's labor market outcomes."
- Goldin is the 55th recipient of the prize and the third woman to receive the award since its inception in 1969.



2023 Nobel Peace Prize

- Narges Mohammadi, a prominent Iranian women's rights advocate, has been awarded the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize for her courageous efforts in the fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her relentless pursuit of social reform.
- Despite her incarceration, she has been recognized for her dedication to promoting human rights and freedom for all.

Saint-Belec slab

- A piece of rock bearing mysterious markings, known as the Saint-Belec slab, which lay largely unstudied for 4,000 years, has become a vital tool for archaeologists in north-western France.
- Researchers declared it Europe's oldest map in 2021 and are now using it to rediscover lost ancient sites, a novel approach in archaeological research. The slab's etchings offer clues to dating the artefact and locating long-forgotten monuments.

69th National Film Awards

- At the 69th National Film Awards held in Delhi, President Thirupati Murmu presented awards to Allu Arjun, SS Rajamouli, Keeravani, Devi Sri Prasad, Madhavan and many others.
- Rocketry: The Nambi Effect directed by actor Madhavan, RRR and Pushpa won several awards at the festival.
- Actor Allu Arjun won the National Award for Best Actor for the first time for his role in Pushpa.
- The film's music composer Devi Prasad also won the National Award for Best Music Composer.
- Oscar winning film RRR won many national awards. Keeravani, the film's music director, won the award for Best Music Direction.
- Kala Bhairava won the best singer award. Prem Rakshit won the award for Best Dance. The RRR team also bagged awards for Special Effects and Best Fight Scenes.
- Lyricist Chandra Bose was also awarded the National Award. Kant Deva was awarded the National Award for music for the documentary film Karurai.
- Last Farmer won the Best Tamil Film award in the state language film category. Singer Shreya Ghoshal bagged the award for Best Female Singer for her performance in Night Shadow

Saraswati Samman 2022

- Tamil writer Sivasankari was honored with the prestigious 'Saraswati Samman' in 2022 for her memoirs, "Surya Vamsam." The award, presented by the K.K. Birla Foundation, was given to her by former Union Minister M. Veerappa Moily, along with a citation, a plaque, and a prize of ₹15 lakh.
- The committee's discerning judgment highlighted the exceptional literary value of Surya Vamsam.
- Surya Vamsam: A Literary Achievement:
- Surya Vamsam, a two-volume work, offers a profound glimpse into the life of an innocent child who evolved into an acclaimed author. Additionally, the book beautifully reflects the societal transformations that have occurred over the past seven decades.

About

- The Saraswati Samman is one of India's most prestigious literary awards, recognizing outstanding literary works

by Indian citizens. The recognized works must have been published in any of the languages included in Schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution within the last 10 years. To date, 32 Saraswati Samman awards have been presented to deserving authors, with Sivasankari's memoir, Surya Vamsam, adding to the illustrious list.

Bal Sahitya Puraskar- 2023

- 'Bal Sahitya Puraskar' for the year 2023 has been conferred upon Dilip Nongmaithem, an accomplished author in the Manipuri language, for his remarkable work titled "Ibemma Amasung Ngabemma." This award is a testament to his profound storytelling and significant impact on children's literature.

Global Indian Award

- Renowned author, philanthropist and the wife of Infosys co-founder N.R. Narayana Murthy, Sudha Murthy, was honored with the prestigious Global Indian Award by the Canada India Foundation (CIF) at a grand Indo-Canadian gala in Toronto.
- The award, which carries a value of \$50,000, is presented annually to an outstanding Indian personality who has left an indelible mark in their respective field.



REPORTS

India's Statistical Performance on the Global Stage

Context

- The World Bank's compilation of Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI) ranked India 67 among 174 countries in 2019.
- A close assessment of India's SPI Score on all pillars reveals both shortcomings and a commendable performance in various aspects of SPI.
- The SPI (Statistical Performance Index) and its Dimensions
- The World Bank compiles SPIs to assess the performance of national statistical systems across 174 countries.
- The SPI is based on the assessment of five dimensions of performance, commonly referred to as the five pillars of a national statistical system.
- Five Pillars of SPI are:
 - Data use;
 - Data services;
 - Data products;
 - Data sources;
 - Data infrastructure.
- According to the latest available scores from 2019, India's overall SPI score stands at 70.4, placing it in the 67th rank among the 174 countries assessed
- The pillar-wise scores show India's lower performance in the 'Data use' and 'Data products' pillars, with scores of 80 and 60, respectively, resulting in poor rankings.

Children Displaced in a Changing Climate" Report

- A recent study conducted by Unicef and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) has uncovered a startling trend: at least 43 million child displacements have occurred in the past six years due to extreme weather events. This equates to an alarming average of 20,000 children forced to leave their homes and schools every day.
- The research highlights the profound impact of floods, storms, wildfires, and droughts on children and the urgent need for climate action



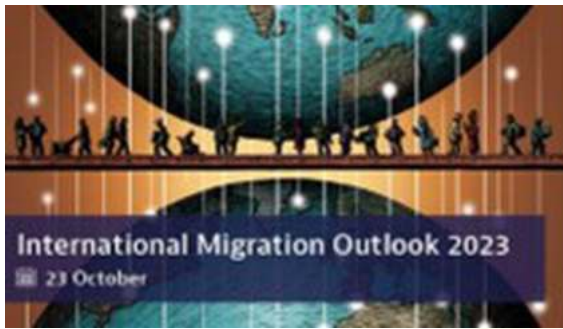
Global Hunger Index

- India has been placed 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023. This ranking has been challenged by the Indian government, which labelled it as "erroneous" and driven by "malafide intent". In 2022, India stood 107th out of 121 countries in the GHI.
- The High Cost of Cheap Water
- A new report titled "The High Cost of Cheap Water," released by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) on World Food Day, warns of a mounting global water crisis that endangers \$58 trillion in economic value, food security, and sustainability. This staggering figure represents the first-ever annual estimate of the economic value of water and freshwater ecosystems, equivalent to 60% of global gross domestic product (GDP).

"The Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security" Report

- A report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reveals that natural disasters have resulted in approximately \$3.8 trillion worth of crop and livestock production losses over the past 30 years.
- Asia has borne the largest share of these economic losses. This report marks the first global estimation of the impact of disasters on agricultural production, focusing on crops and livestock.
- International Migration Outlook 2023
- Recently, the 'International Migration

Outlook 2023' was released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).



Key findings of the International Migration Outlook 2023:

- India saw the highest migration flows to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries in 2021 and 2022.
- In terms of nationalities, 0.13 million Indian citizens acquired the nationality of an OECD country in 2021.
- Inflows of refugees from Ukraine reached the highest level on record, OECD-wide, due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war; more than 10 million people have become either internally displaced or refugees in the OECD region.
- In terms of workers, migration flows from India (+172 percent), Uzbekistan (+122 percent), and Turkey (+240 percent) rose sharply, making them primary countries of origin after Ukraine.



IMPORTANT DAYS



DATE	DAY	THEME
October 1	International Day of Older Persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Older Persons is a special day for senior citizens all over the world. The purpose of the occasion is to raise awareness of the value of senior persons in our society and to show our appreciation for their contributions It has its origins in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 45/106, adopted in December 1990.
October 02	International day of Non violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. It was established on 15 June 2007 according to United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/61/271.
October 05	World Teachers' Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is observed on October 5 annually. It is also known as International Teachers' Day. Its aim is to raise awareness about the role of teachers in providing quality education at all levels and to improve the situations of teachers in the world.
October 08	Indian Air Force day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day marks the formation of Royal Indian Air Force in 8 October, 1932. Every year the IAF celebrates the day by conducting annual IAF day parade and organising air shows and other events at different locations
October 09	World Post Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Post Day is observed every year on 9th October in remembrance of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland while the National Postal Day of India is celebrated on 10th October every year to commemorate the role played by the Indian postal department
October 10	World Mental Health Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is observed on October 10 annually to spread awareness regarding mental health issues globally and to mobilise efforts in support of mental health.
October 11	International Girl child day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated annually on 11 October to highlight and draw attention to the challenges that girls face. It is also necessary to focus on their human rights and empowerment. The theme for International Day Of The Girl Child 2023 is 'Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being.'
October 13	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is observed on 13 October to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.

October 14	World Standards Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is observed on 14 October to commemorate in several forms and themes to raise awareness across the world among industry, regulators, and consumers to value standardization
October 15	World Students' Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Students' Day 2022: The day is celebrated on October 15 in honour of the former President and Missile Man of India Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam. He was born on October 15, 1931. Therefore, World Student's Day is celebrated on October 15 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was the 11th President of India (2002-2007). Being a politician, he was a scientist and a teacher. He played a crucial role in the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998 and so, he earned the title 'Missile Man of India'. On 27 July 2015, he suffered a cardiac arrest while delivering a lecture to the students of IIM Shillong.
October 15	International Day of Rural Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Rural Women was first celebrated in 2008, following a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. The day was established to acknowledge the vital contributions of rural women to their communities and the global economy and celebrate the critical role that rural women play in agriculture, food production and rural development. Significance - To recognise the work of these heroines in the food systems of the world and claim rural areas with equal opportunities for all, the International Day of Rural Women is celebrated. It recognises "the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty."
October 16	World Food Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Food Day is celebrated every year on 16 October to inspire people about healthy diets. On this day Food and Agriculture Organisation was established and launched by the United Nations in 1945. World Food Day 2023 theme is 'Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind.
October 17	International Poverty Eradication Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty aims to promote understanding and dialogue between people living in poverty and society at large. It serves as a reminder that poverty is a complicated, multifaceted problem that affects factors such as access to health care, education and social inclusion, rather than simply a lack of income. Theme- The theme for this year's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is "Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting Dignity in Practice for All," which aims for universal access to decent work and social protection as a way to uphold human dignity for all people.
October 20	National Solidarity Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Solidarity Day is a day of honour and gratitude for the Indian Armed Forces. It is observed on October 20 every year to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of the soldiers who fought in the Sino-Indian War of 1962.

October 24	United Nations Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Day is observed on 24 October every year to mark the anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force in 1945. • The UN Charter is a landmark document that represents the dreams, aspirations and hopes of "we the peoples". • The United Nations General Assembly in 1948, declared 24 October as United Nations Day, which is also the anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations. The UN General Assembly in 1971, further declared that the day shall be an international holiday or global observance and requested that the day should be observed as a public holiday by the UN member states.
October 24	ITBP Raising Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) commemorated its Raising Day on Oct 24 • The ITBP was created in 1962 for reorganising the border intelligence and security set up along the Indo-Tibetan border. • The ITBP is now deployed to patrol the Indo-China border from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Diphu La in Arunachal Pradesh, covering a distance of 3,488 km of the India-China border
October 24	World Polio Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Polio Day is commemorated on 24 October every year. Polio is a highly contagious disease caused by the polio virus. Although very rare, the virus can attack the parts of the brain that help you breathe, which can lead to death. Polio has no cure, but it can be prevented with vaccination.
October 31	Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Unity Day is celebrated every year on 31st October to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. It is also known as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. • The reason behind the celebration of this day is to make people aware of the ideas of staying together and uplifting society. • It was celebrated for the first time in 2014.



Exercise SAMPRITI

- India and Bangladesh commenced the 11th edition of exercise SAMPRITI on 03rd October 2023 in Umroi, Meghalaya.

About Exercise SAMPRITI:

- It is an annual joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh.
- It was started in Jorhat, Assam in 2009, the exercise has witnessed ten successful editions till 2022.
- This exercise, alternately organised by both countries, signifies strong bilateral defence cooperation initiatives.
- SAMPRITI-XI, scheduled for 14 days, will engage approximately 350 personnel from both sides.
- The exercise underscores the importance of enhancing interoperability between the two armies, sharing tactical drills, and promoting best practices.

Very Short-Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) missile system

- The Indian defence establishment recently initiated a tender for the procurement of 30 units of the indigenous Very Short-Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) missile system

About Very Short-Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) missile system:

- It is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) specially designed to counter low-altitude aerial threats over short distances.
- These are short-range, lightweight, and portable surface-to-air missiles that can be fired by individuals or small groups.
- It has been designed and developed indigenously by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian industry partners.
- The use of VSHORAD missiles in India is primarily by the Indian Army.
- Features:
- It is designed to provide short-range air defence capabilities to protect ground forces and critical assets from aerial threats, including helicopters and low-flying

aircraft.

- The missile incorporates many novel technologies, including a Dual-band IIR Seeker, a miniaturised Reaction Control System, and integrated avionics.
- It is propelled by a dual-thrust solid motor.
- The missile and its launcher were designed by the DRDO to be portable, which enables their quick deployment over difficult terrain.

Exercise CHAKRAVAT

- The 2023 edition of the Annual Joint HADR Exercise, CHAKRAVAT, is being hosted by the Indian Navy at Goa from 09 to 11 Oct 23.

About Exercise CHAKRAVAT:

- It is an Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief HADR Exercise (AJHE)
- Since its first edition in 2015, the Annual Joint HADR Exercise, CHAKRAVAT has transformed itself into a multi-agency endeavour.
- It involves participation of all three Services, Paramilitary Forces, as well as several disaster response organisations, NGOs, academic institutions and international organisations.
- The 2023 edition would further synergise efforts at the national level among all stakeholders, as well as witness participation from eight countries of the Indian Ocean Region.
- The exercise has been conducted by the Indian Army, Indian Navy (IN) and Indian Air Force (IAF) in rotation since 2016.
- The 2023 edition of the exercise is being hosted by the Indian Navy at Goa.
- The exercise will witness participation from various national agencies namely, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), National Institute for Disaster Management (NIDM), Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Coast Guard, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and other organizations.
- Logo of the event: The Logo for this year's exercise depicts crests and logos of all participating agencies and flags of all



Seamount

- Recently, two Indian scientists from the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and their team have discovered an active submarine volcano (Crater Seamount) in the Andaman Sea.

White Phosphorous Bombs

- Several photos, videos, and claims on social media allege that Israeli forces are using white phosphorous on the civilian population of Gaza.

About

- White phosphorus is a waxy, yellowish-to-clear chemical with a pungent, garlic-like odour.
- It is a highly combustible chemical that burns quickly and brightly when exposed to air.
- It is used in incendiary weapons by militaries around the world for a variety of purposes, such as illuminating targets at night or to inflicting damage on enemies.
- It burns at a temperature of 800°C and spontaneously ignites at up to 1,300 degrees Celsius when it is exposed to oxygen, and producing white, dense smoke, which is used by armies to create smokescreens in sensitive zones.
- White phosphorus can cause fast-moving and widespread fires on the ground.
- Once ignited, the substance is very difficult to put out, as it clings to many surfaces, including skin and clothing.
- Since it is a wax-like substance, it is very hard to remove and often lights up again when the bandages are removed.
- White phosphorus munitions are not banned under international law, but because of their incendiary effects, their use is supposed to be tightly regulated.



Baiga Tribe

- Recently, the Baiga Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) became the second to get habitat rights in the state of Chhattisgarh

About Baiga Tribe:

- The Baiga Tribe is one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- They reside in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- Occupation: Traditionally, the Baiga lived a semi-nomadic life and practised slash-and-burn cultivation. Now, they are mainly dependent on minor forest produce for their livelihood.
- They practice a form of shifting cultivation called, “Bewar.”
- Mahua is an important aspect of Baiga’s food and drink. It is an intoxicant prepared from the fermentation and distillation of the flowers of the Mahua tree.
- Tattooing is an integral part of Baiga culture, every age and body part has a specific tattoo reserved for the occasion.

New ferry service

- The introduction of a new ferry service connecting Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka has left the residents of Lakshadweep feeling neglected and aggrieved.
- The launch of this service has exacerbated their longstanding transportation challenges, leaving them short-changed in terms of available passenger vessels for inter-island transport.

National Ayurveda Day

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways unveiled a month-long celebration drive regarding the 8th National Ayurveda Day across India with the tagline 'Ayurveda for everyone on every day.'
- Good Manufacturing Practice Day
- The Indian government, in collaboration with the Indian Drugs Manufacturers' Association (IDMA), is set to observe the first-ever National Current Good Manufacturing Practice Day (cGMP Day) on 10th October.
- This initiative aims to underscore the

importance of adhering to cGMP guidelines in pharmaceutical manufacturing, with a focus on improving product quality and ensuring patient safety.

Operation Chakra II

- India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has launched Operation Chakra-II, a crackdown on transnational organised cyber-enabled financial crimes.

About Operation Chakra-II:

- It was launched to fight against transnationally organised cyber-enabled financial crimes in India.
- For this, CBI has partnered with Microsoft and Amazon, as well as with national and international agencies, to combat and dismantle infrastructure of illegal call centres.
- The CBI is working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the USA, the Cyber Crime Directorate and IFCACC of INTERPOL, the National Crime Agency (NCA) in the UK, Singapore Police Force and BKA of Germany to notify further leads.



Sanwariya Seth Temple

- The Prime Minister recently offered prayers at the Sanwariya Seth Temple in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.
- About Sanwariya Seth Temple:
- It is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Krishna, specifically to his beloved child form known as “Sanwariya Seth” or “Shyam Seth.
- Location: It is located in the village of Mandaphia in the Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan.
- It was built in 1840 A.D.
- Architecture:
- The temple follows the traditional architecture of Rajasthan, known for its intricate carvings, domes, and vibrant colors.
- The main structure of the temple is built using white marble.
- The temple is adorned with intricate carvings on the walls, pillars, and ceilings. These carvings depict scenes from Hindu mythology and various motifs.
- The temple features multiple domes that are adorned with decorative elements.
- The temple has a prominent spire, or shikhar, which is a tall, tapering structure that rises above the main sanctum.
- In the sanctum sanctorum of the temple, a black stone idol of Lord Krishna is installed.



Wagh nakh

- The government of Maharashtra has reached a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Victoria and Albert Museum in London to bring back a historic weapon known as the “wagh nakh” to the state on loan for three years. The wagh nakh, meaning “tiger claws,” is a mediaeval claw-like dagger used across the Indian subcontinent. It features curved blades and was employed for personal defence or stealth attacks.
- Significance - The most famous use of the wagh nakh in history is associated with the killing of Afzal Khan by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- Afzal Khan, a general of Bijapur’s Adil Shahi Sultanate, was sent to subdue Shivaji, who had become increasingly assertive in the 1650s.
- In a treacherous meeting, Shivaji used the concealed wagh nakh to defend himself when Afzal Khan attempted to stab him. Khan was fatally wounded, and Shivaji’s army emerged victorious.

Best Tourism Village

- The Prime Minister of India hailed the Dhordo village in Kutch district of Gujarat for being awarded as the Best Tourism Village by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

Someshwara inscription

- Recently, archaeologists discovered a rare inscription connected to the Alupa dynasty during a recent archaeological exploration at Someshwara near Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- About the Someshwara inscription:
- This inscription is very significant in the study of Tuluva history and culture.
- It has two panels on the top, and in between

the two panels, the first line is engraved.

- The rest of the inscription written below the panels is in Kannada script and the language of 12th century characters announcing the death of Alupendra I.
- The human figures shown in the inscription represent Kulashekara Alupendra himself.
- In the first figure, he is shown standing in Tribhanga (tri-bent posture). He holds a sword in his right hand while the left hand rests on a gurani (shield).
- To the left of this panel, divided by a pillar, the King is again shown in a sitting posture on a mound, resting both his palms on the centre of his legs in dhyana mudra.



2023 OCTOBER MONTH QUESTIONS

1. Identify the Tiger reserve associated with the following statements

- 1) It is located in the Southern Western Ghats in the Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts of Tamil Nadu.
- 2) It was established as a Tiger Reserve in 1988.
- 3) It lies between Kerala and Tamil Nadu

Choose the correct answer

- A. Periyar tiger reserve
- B. Kalakkad-Mundanthurai
- C. Srivilliputhur tiger reserve
- D. Agasthyamalai tiger reserve

2. Identify the correctly matched pairs

- 1) JN port- Karnataka
- 2) V. O. Chidambaranar port- Thoothukudi
- 3) Mangalore port- Kerala

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- A. 1 pair only
- B. 2 pairs only
- C. All three pairs
- D. None of the pairs

3. Where will the Tamil Computer International Conference be held?

- A. Madurai
- B. Coimbatore
- C. Chennai
- D. Vellore

4. Tamil Computer International Conference will be held in the year ____

- A. 2024
- B. 2025
- C. 2026
- D. 2027

5. Consider the following statements

- 1) The Tamil Internet Education Association was formed as a result of the 'Tamil Internet 99' conference.
- 2) Teaching Tamil online to Tamils living all over the world, digitization of Tamil books, magazines and rare documents, development of computerised Tamil are the primary tasks of Tamil Internet Education Insti-

tute.

Choose the correct answer

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 are correct
- D. Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

6. Udangudi 'Panang Karupatti' is produced in ____ district

- A. Kanyakumari
- B. Tirunelveli
- C. Thoothukudi
- D. Nagercoil

7. Peace program for businessmen aims to

- A. Promote business
- B. Collect tax arrears
- C. Promote skill among entrepreneurs
- D. None of the above

8. Nilgiri Tahr is endemic to

- A. Western ghats
- B. Eastern ghats
- C. Kanyakumari
- D. Gulf of mannar

9. Which of the following animals is known as the "Mountain Monarch"?

- A. Royal Bengal tiger
- B. Asiatic lion
- C. Nilgiri Tahr
- D. Indian bison

10. Which of the following book contain descriptions of the Nilgiri Tahr range and its habitat?

- A. Silpathikaram
- B. Manimekalai
- C. Periya puranam
- D. Kamba Ramayanam

11. Kurtalak Kuravanchi was written by ____

- A. Sekkizhar
- B. Thirikooda Rasappa kavirayar
- C. Kambar
- D. Avaiyar

12. Nilgiri Tahr has been declared the state animal of _____

- A. Karnataka
- B. Kerala
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Tamil Nadu

13. Nilgiris Tahr Day is celebrated on ____

- A. October 5
- B. October 6
- C. October 7
- D. October 8

14. Muthuvan tribe is indigenous to

- A. Maharashtra
- B. West Bengal
- C. Chattisgarh
- D. Tamil Nadu

15. 'Kani' refers to

- A. Education
- B. Village head
- C. Dams
- D. Irrigation

16. _____ tribes were participated in the conservation of Nilgiri Tahr

- A. Badagas
- B. Muthuvan
- C. Kurumbas
- D. Gonds

17. Jaderi namakatti is produced in ____ district

- A. Tirunelveli
- B. Tirupattur
- C. Vellore
- D. Tiruvannamalai

18. Namakatti is made up of the rich deposit of ____ minerals

- A) Copper sulphate
- B) Hydrous silicate
- C) Nitrous silicate
- D) Calcium carbonate

19. _____ is the currency of China

- A. Rubble
- B. Yuan
- C. Renminbi
- D. Dollars

20. Global Economic Outlook is released by

- A. World Bank
- B. IMF
- C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- D. UNESCO

21. Economic Outlook Survey for India is released by

- A. RBI
- B. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- C. NITI AAYOG
- D. Ministry of finance

22. Project Udbhav aims to

- A. Promote tourism
- B. Protect the natural parks in India
- C. Preserve culture of india
- D. Rediscover the profound Indic heritage of statecraft and strategic thoughts.

23. Project Udbhav was started in the year _____

- A. 2020
- B. 2021
- C. 2022
- D. 2023

24. Consider the following statements

1. Project Udbhav seeks to bridge the historical and the contemporary to integrate age-old wisdom with modern military pedagogy.
2. It aims to allow a more profound understanding of international relations and foreign cultures

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 are correct
- D. Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

25. State-of-the-Art National Survey Network is operated by

- A. Central statistical office
- B. NSSO
- C. Survey of India
- D. NITI aayog

26. Basohli Pashmina is produced in

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Jammy and Kashmir
- C. Karnataka

- D. Kerala
- 27. Changthang Plateau is present in**
- A. Ladakh
B. West Bengal
C. Sikkim
D. Andhra Pradesh
- 28. Changpa is a nomadic tribe inhabited in**
- A. Pakistan
B. Iran
C. Israel
D. Tibet plateau
- 29. UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime Ministerial Conference held at**
- A. United States of America
B. Israel
C. Italy
D. Canada
- 30. India signed the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) in the year _____**
- A. 2002
B. 2003
C. 2004
D. 2005
- 31. The _____ is the nodal agency for all dealings with UNTOC**
- A. CVC
B. NITI AAYOG
C. CBI
D. RAW
- 32. Yak churpi is the dairy product produced from _____**
- A. Sikkim
B. Arunachal Pradesh
C. Himachal Pradesh
D. Uttarakhand
- 33. Brokpas are the indigenous people found in**
- A. Assam
B. Meghalaya
C. Tripura
D. Arunachal Pradesh
- 34. Consider the following Statements**
1. Churpi is a naturally fermented dairy product and rich in protein content.
 2. It is an essential dietary staple for tribal com-

munities inhabiting the cold and mountainous regions of Jammu and Kashmir

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2 are correct
D. Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- 35. Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) was established in the year _____**
- A. 1975
B. 1976
C. 1977
D. 1978
- 36. Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) has _____ members**
- A. 90
B. 91
C. 92
D. 93
- 37. Consider the following statements**
1. India is one of the founding members of the AIBD organisation.
 2. The Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster, is the representative body of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, at AIBD
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2 are correct
D. Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- 38. Operation Ajay is to evacuate Indians from**
- A. Afghanistan
B. Pakistan
C. Israel
D. Libya
- 39. Consider the following statements**
1. Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) to serve as an overarching enabling mechanism powered by technology for youth development and youth led development and provide equitable access to youth to actualize their aspirations and build Viksit Bharat across the

entire spectrum of the Government.

2. The primary objective of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) is to make it a whole Government platform for youth development. Under the new arrangement, with access to resources & connection to opportunities, youth would become community change agents and nation builders allowing them to act as the Yuva Setu between the Government and the citizens

Choose the correct answer

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2 are correct
D. Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

40. Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), an autonomous body will benefit the youth in the age-group of _____

- A. 15-29 years
B. 30- 40 years
C. 18-29 years
D. 18-30 years

41. Consider the following statements

1. The establishment of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) would lead to Leadership Development in the Youth
2. Improve the leadership skills through experiential learning by shifting from isolated physical interaction to programmatic skills.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2 are correct
D. Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

42. Cashew was native to _____

- A. United States of America
B. Latin America
C. Russia
D. India

43. Which of the following soil is suitable for cashew cultivation?

- A. Alluvial
B. Laterite
C. Desert
D. Arid

44. _____ is the first country to eliminate lymphatic filariasis.

- a. Lao
b. Democratic republic of Congo

- c. Bangladesh
d. India

45. Lymphatic filariasis is transmitted by

- A. Housefly
B. Mosquito
C. Butterfly
D. Sandflies

46. Wuchereria bancrofti is a _____

- A. Virus
B. Algae
C. Bacteria
D. Parasite

47. Brugia malayi causes

- A. Malaria
B. Diarrhoea
C. Lymphatic filariasis
D. Corona

48. Consider the following statements

1. Bharat Tex 2024 Expo is the biggest textile event at the global level, with exhibitors and buyers from over 40 countries.
2. Bharat Tex 2024 Expo, would propel the industry's growth and showcase India's potential as a mature, competitive global sourcing destination in the global textile industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2 are correct
D. Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

49. 'Satyameva Jayate' present in

- A. Ramayana
B. Mahabharat
C. Mandukya Upanishads
D. Rig veda

50. 'Bharatiya Vayu Sena' is mentioned in

- A. Indian army
B. Indian navy
C. Indian airforce
D. ITBP

51. _____ is the first country to bring sample from asteroid

- A. United States of America
B. Canada
C. Europe
D. Russia

52. OSIRIS-REx is a

- A. Star
- B. Planet
- C. Galaxy
- D. Asteroid

53. R21/Matrix-M is a vaccines to prevent

- A. Corona
- B. Malaria
- C. Dengue
- D. Chickenpox

54. RTS,S/AS01 is a vaccine to prevent

- A. Yellow fever
- B. Malaria
- C. Chikungunya
- D. Lymphatic filariasis

55. _____ is a newly discovered organelle in mammalian cells

- A. Exosome
- B. Exclosome
- C. Endocytosis
- D. Endoclosome

56. _____ is made up of DNA rings known as plasmids.

- A. Ribosomes
- B. Mitochondria
- C. Exclosome
- D. Endocrine

57. Consider the following statements

1. National Turmeric Board will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country.
2. It will especially focus on capacity building and skill development of turmeric growers for harnessing greater benefits out of value addition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 are correct
- D. Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

58. NanoPtA is an nanozyme contains

- A. Platinum
- B. Gold
- C. Silver
- D. Aluminium

59. Consider the following Statements

- 1) Nanozyme have applications in healthcare
- 2) It could be a potentially useful diagnostic tool for neurological and neurodegenerative

tive diseases

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 are correct
- D. Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

60. Burevestnik missile is tested by

- A. United States of America
- B. Russia
- C. Israel
- D. Italy

61. Gaganyaan aims to

- A. Send astronaut to space
- B. Send astronaut to mars
- C. Send astronaut to moon
- D. None of the above

62. India's first tilapia parvovirus reported in _____

- A. Karnataka
- B. Kerala
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Andhra Pradesh

63. Tilapia is a

- A. Freshwater aquatic animal
- B. Reptile
- C. Amphibian
- D. Mammal

64. PM Modi "drives" ISRO to land man on moon by _____

- A. 2030
- B. 2040
- C. 2050
- D. 2060

65. Prime Minister has set ambitious new goals, including an indigenous space station by _____

- A. 2030
- B. 2035
- C. 2040
- D. 2045

66. Aditya L-1 missions aims to study

- A. Earth
- B. Mars
- C. Sun
- D. Jupiter

67. 'Bharatiya Antariksha Santhiya' is a

- A. Space vehicle

- B. Space station
C. Satellite
D. Mission to send human to mars
68. **TV-D1 is related to**
A. Gaganyaan
B. Chandrayaan 1
C. Chandrayaan 2
D. Chandrayaan 3
- 68.
69. **Exercise SAMPRITI is defence exercise between india and _____**
A. Bangladesh
B. Myanmar
C. Indonesia
D. America
70. **Consider the following statements**
1. Very Short-Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) missile system is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) specially designed to counter low-altitude aerial threats over short distances.
 2. These are short-range, lightweight, and portable surface-to-air missiles that can be fired by individuals or small groups.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2 are correct
D. Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
71. **Exercise CHAKRAVAT 2023 is hosted by**
A. Indian air force
B. Indian army
C. Indian navy
D. ITBP
72. **Joint HADR Exercise is related to**
A. Indian navy
B. Border security force
C. ITBP
D. Tamil Nadu police
73. **Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 is the defence exercise between India and _____**
A. Indonesia
B. Malaysia
C. Myanmar
D. Singapore
74. **MILAN 24 Exercise is hosted by**
A. CAPF
B. Indian army
C. Indian airforce
D. None of the above
75. **Which of the following country is not members in BIMSTEC**
A. India
B. France
C. Nepal
D. Sri Lanka
76. **Pygmy hog is found in**
A. Assam
B. Jammu and Kashmir
C. Andhra Pradesh
D. Maharashtra
77. **Pygmy hog is listed as _____ in IUCN red list**
A. Endangered
B. Vulnerable
C. Critically endangered
D. Least concern
78. **Manas National Park is located in _____**
A. Assam
B. Arunachal Pradesh
C. Meghalaya
D. Sikkim
79. **Identify the national park associated with the following statements**
1. It is a national park, UNESCO Natural World Heritage site
 2. It is a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve and a biosphere reserve
- a. Manas National park
b. Guindy national park
c. Gulf of mannar
d. Gulf of kutch
80. **The Manas River is a major tributary of _____**
A. Ganges
B. Yamuna
C. Brahmaputra
D. Padma
81. **Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary found in _____**
A. Jharkhand
B. Bihar
C. Chattisgarh
D. Maharashtra
82. **Sycamore tree is found in**
A. England
B. Paris
C. Moscow
D. Washington

83. Consider the following statements

1. National Green credit programme aims to promote environmental sustainability, the Indian Government has introduced a national Green Credit programme.
2. This program, following the 'LiFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) campaign, employs a market-based approach to encourage environmental initiatives by various stakeholders.

Which of the above statements is / are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 are correct
- D. Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

84. Who among the following won the Sastra Ramanujan award 2023?

- A. Ruixiang Zhang
- B. Yunqing Tang
- C. Will sawin
- D. Shai Evra

85. Who among the following won the Nobel prize in Physics?

- A. Pierre Agostini
- B. Jon Olav Fosse
- C. Louis E. Brus
- D. Narges Mohammadi

86. Who among the following won the Nobel prize for chemistry?

- A. Claudia Goldin
- B. Jon Olav Fosse
- C. Louis E. Brus
- D. Narges Mohammadi

87. Who among the following won the Nobel prize for Peace?

- A. Alexei I. Ekimov
- B. Jon Olav Fosse
- C. Louis E. Brus
- D. Narges Mohammadi

88. Who among the following won the Nobel prize for Literature?

- A. Alexei I. Ekimov
- B. Jon Olav Fosse
- C. Louis E. Brus
- D. Narges Mohammadi

89. Who among the following won the Nobel prize for Economics?

- A. Louis E. Brud
- B. Alexei I. Ekimov
- C. Narges Mohammadi
- D. Claudia Goldin

90. Who among the following won the Saraswati Samman award for the year 2022?

- A. Sivasankari
- B. Jayakanthan
- C. Muthukumar
- D. Jaganathan

91. Who among the following won the Global Indian award for the year 2023?

- A. Narayana Murthy
- B. Ratan Tata
- C. Azif Premji
- D. Sudha Murthy

92. Consider the following statements

1. Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI 5.0) is the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's primary immunisation initiative.
2. This program targets children and pregnant women who haven't been immunised, ensuring they receive their required vaccinations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 are correct
- D. Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

93. SHRESHTA Scheme was introduced by

- A. Ministry of social justice
- B. Ministry of Environment
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Education

94. 'Sagar Parikrama' aims to

- A. To address the issues of fishermen
- B. To address the issues of women
- C. To address the issues in rural areas
- D. To address the issues in urban slum areas

95. Shakharov Prize was awarded by

- A. United States of America
- B. European Union
- C. Russia
- D. China

96. Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI) is released by

- A. IMF

- B. World Bank
 - C. United Nation
 - D. UNESCO
- 97. India ranked _____ in Global Hunger Index 2023**
- A. 110
 - B. 111
 - C. 115
 - D. 120
- 98. The High Cost of Cheap Water is released by**
- A. World Wide Fund for Nature

- B. World Bank
 - C. IMF
 - D. UNITED NATION
- 99. The Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security” Report is released by**
- A. FAO
 - B. IMF
 - C. World Bank
 - D. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM
- 100. ‘International Migration Outlook 2023’ is released by**
- A. World bank
 - B. NATO
 - C. IMF
 - D. OECD



Answers:

1.	B	21.	B	41.	C	61.	A	81.	B
2.	A	22.	D	42.	B	62.	C	82.	A
3.	C	23.	B	43.	B	63.	A	83.	C
4.	A	24.	C	44.	C	64.	B	84.	A
5.	C	25.	C	45.	B	65.	B	85.	A
6.	C	26.	B	46.	D	66.	C	86.	C
7.	B	27.	A	47.	C	67.	B	87.	D
8.	A	28.	D	48.	C	68.	A	88.	B
9.	C	29.	C	49.	C	69.	A	89.	D
10.	A	30.	A	50.	C	70.	C	90.	A
11.	B	31.	C	51.	A	71.	C	91.	D
12.	D	32.	B	52.	D	72.	C	92.	C
13.	C	33.	D	53.	B	73.	B	93.	A
14.	D	34.	C	54.	B	74.	D	94.	A
15.	B	35.	C	55.	B	75.	B	95.	B
16.	D	36.	C	56.	C	76.	A	96.	B
17.	D	37.	C	57.	C	77.	C	97.	B
18.	B	38.	C	58.	A	78.	A	98.	A
19.	C	39.	C	59.	C	79.	A	99.	A
20.	C	40.	A	60.	B	80.	C	100.	D