



SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY

SANGAMAM

Monthly Current Affairs for TNPSC

MARCH-2023

NATIONAL SECURITY DAY

04th March





SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY

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Seven special projects(Yetramigu yezhu thittangal)

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin, in a ceremony held at the Anna Centenary Memorial Library Hall, Chennai, launched new projects under “Seven Projects schemes” and laid the foundation stone for various hospital buildings.
- The projects are
 - ▶ Special nutrition program for malnourished children and mothers,
 - ▶ A scheme to increase the monthly allowance for transgenders from Rs 1000 to Rs 1500,
 - ▶ A scheme to expand the Chief Minister’s Breakfast Scheme to the Corporation and Municipal Areas,
 - ▶ Modernizing sewage disposal works in Chennai metropolitan area.
 - ▶ A special scheme to integrate sanitation workers and their families as entrepreneurs.
 - ▶ scheme for giving free housing leases to differently abled persons on priority basis.
 - ▶ On behalf of the Medical and Public Welfare Department, he laid the foundation stone for 44 new hospital blocks at a cost of Rs 1,136.32 crore and issued appointment orders to those selected through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission for various government jobs and on compassionate grounds.

Special nutrition program for malnourished children and mothers

- Under the “Ensure Nutrition” program on behalf of the Department of Social Welfare and Women’s Rights, 1,11,216 severely malnourished children between the ages of 6 months and 6 years have been given Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) as special food for 8 weeks
- To provide 11,917 mothers of severely malnourished children between 0 to 6 months of age to improve their nutritional status and ensure that the children get the required amount of milk.
- Instant therapeutic food (RUTF) is a paste-like food product recommended by UNICEF to improve child nutrition. It contains groundnuts, milk powder, oil, sugar, vitamins and minerals.

- The nutrition box for malnourished mothers includes special health food mix for mothers, iron syrup, deseeded dates, deworming pill, ghee and cotton swab.

A scheme to increase the pension to Rs 1500 for transgenders

- In order to ensure a dignified life for the transgenders and to create recognition for them in the society, the state set up the Transgender Welfare Board in 2008. Tamil Nadu also became the first state in India to recognize transgender with respect as “Thirunangair”.
- Transgender Welfare Board provides identity card, family card, self-employment grant, self-help group training, insurance scheme card, free sewing machines etc. to transgenders.
- As part of this, a monthly pension of Rs 1000 is being provided to indigent poor transgender women above 40 years of age who are unable to earn income for their living.

1,300-year-old Buddhist stupa

- The Archaeological Survey of India recently discovered a 1,300-year-old Buddhist stupa near Jagannath temple located in Puri. The stupa was discovered during a mining operation. Khondalite stone is mined here. It is a metamorphic rock and was used in the construction of the Puri Jagannath temple.

Stupa

- In Buddhism, a stupa is a mound-like or hemispherical structure containing relics that is used as a place of meditation.
- The Great Stupa at Sanchi, Madhya Pradesh, is the most famous and best-preserved early stupa in India

Urban Cooling Project

- The Tamil Nadu government has signed an MoU with the United Nations Environment Program to implement an urban cooling program in the state.

About

- To fulfill the objectives of the Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change, the Government of Tamil Nadu signed a Memorandum of

Understanding with the United Nations Environment Program yesterday, March 1, to develop an integrated urban cooling program in the state.

- The MoU provides for collaboration between the Government of Tamil Nadu and the United Nations Environment Program to meet the rapidly increasing demand for cooling in cities.

Influenza A virus

- A health report says that fever spreading in Chennai is influenza A type of infection.

Influenza A virus

- Influenza is an infectious disease commonly known as the flu.
- Symptoms - The disease is caused by the influenza virus. High fever, sore throat, muscle pain, headache, cough, feeling tired are the most common symptoms of this disease.
- Types – There are three types of influenza viruses that infect people, type A, type B, and type C.
- Viruses are usually spread through air or coughing.
- Frequent hand washing reduces the risk of infection.

Treatment

- The World Health Organization recommends annual vaccination against influenza for those at high risk. This vaccine works best against three or four types of influenza.
- This infections generally well tolerated. Influenza vaccine given one year may not be effective the following year. Because viruses evolve quickly. Antiviral drugs such as neuraminidase inhibitors and oseltamivir are used in the treatment of influenza.

Ornamental fish aquaculture

- Community-based ornamental fish aquaculture, using local resources is expected to help women in the Lakshadweep islands to take the first step towards self-reliance through concerted activities.



What is ornamental fish aquaculture?

- Ornamental fish culture is the culture of attractive, colourful fishes of various characteristics, which are reared in a confined aquatic system. The culture of ornamental fishes is called as aquaculture.
- Ornamental fishes are also known as living jewels. There are more than 30,000 fish species reported around the world, of this about 800 belong to ornamental fishes.
- Most of the ornamental fishes survive in freshwater.

Ornamental Fish Culture in India

- Ornamental fishes of India is contributing about 1% of the total ornamental fish trade.
- India has great potential in Ornamental fish production due to the presence of rich biodiversity of species, favourable climatic conditions and availability of cheap labour.
- Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal mainly practice ornamental fish farming in India.

Rani Mangammal

- The Rani Mangammal Palace, one of the iconic heritage buildings in Madurai, is under restoration.



- Located on North Avani Moola Veedhi near the Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, the single-storey palace was built in 1689 with traditional materials such as clay bricks, limestone, fine sand, jaggery (karupatti) and gallnut (kadukkai). It has a plinth area of 8,500 square feet.

About Rani Mangammal

- Mangammal was a famous queen who ruled the Madurai territory during the peak of 17 th century AD. His father name was Tupakula Lingama Nayaka, the prime general of Madurai ruler Chokkanatha Nayak.
- She was married to chokkanatha nayak. When Chokkanatha died in 1682, Mangammal took over the crown. During her rule, she concentrated on laying the roads and avenues. She even built the temples and choultries for the purpose of

poor people and devotional activities. Her skills in military campaigns and diplomacy were very admirable. She ruled the Madurai kingdom during 1689-1704 for 15 years with influential administrative skills from the capital of Tiruchy.

Irular tribes

- Governor stresses on due recognition for Irulas' snake-catching vocation
- Governor R.N. Ravi felicitated Irula snake-catchers Vadivel Gopal and Masi Sadaiyan, who were recently conferred with the Padma Shri award, in Chengalpattu

About Irula Tribe

- Irula, also known as Iruliga, are a Dravidian ethnic group inhabiting the Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. A scheduled tribe, their population in this region is estimated at around 200,000 people. People of Irula ethnicity are called Irular, and speak Irula, which belongs to the Dravidian family.
- Irular believes in life after death.
- In general, the Irula are Hindu, but many of them have retained their own tribal beliefs that revolve around the spirit world.
- Traditionally, the main occupation of the Irulas has been snake, rat-catching and honey collection.
- They also work as labourers in the fields of the landlords during the sowing and harvesting seasons or in the rice mills.
- Fishing and cattle farming is also major occupation.
- Rats destroy a quarter of the grains grown on Tamil Nadu, annually. To combat this Irula men use a traditional earthen pot fumigation method.

Climate Knowledge Movement

- A 'Climate Knowledge Movement' is soon to be implemented to create awareness about climate change among all sections of the society like school, college students, entrepreneurs.
- Chief Minister Stalin made the announcement at the first meeting of the Climate Change Management Committee



What are the Projects implemented on climate change?

- A number of programs are being implemented to guide the country in mitigating and adapting to climate change
- For climate programme, Rs.500 crore has been earmarked
- A 'climate studio' has been set up in Anna University and unique models have been developed for Tamil Nadu.
- A palm tree planting program has been implemented to prevent sea erosion and maintain coastal biodiversity.
- The number of Ramsar-certified wetlands in Tamil Nadu has increased to 13
- For the first time in the country, 'Tamil Nadu Green Climate Institute' has been created to coordinate these projects.
- Manjapai' movement has started again.
- Henceforth, all the projects implemented in Tamil Nadu are to be implemented after examining them through the lens of climate change.
- The Tamil Nadu Government is also going to implement the policy of 'Integrated Welfare'.
- The climate change management committee will scientifically publish how much carbon each sector emits in a few months and set a target for Tamil Nadu before 2070, the target set for India to achieve carbon balance.
- A project has been launched to convert 10 villages in Tamil Nadu into resilient villages.

Keezhadi vaipagam

- Chief Minister M.K.Stalin inaugurated the underground storage facility built in Chettinad architecture on 5th March



A reference to the keezhadi vaipagam

- Thousands of antiquities have been found in various stages of excavation in Geezadi near Tiruppuvanam in Sivagangai district. An excavated warehouse to display these has been built on an area of 2 acres at a cost of Rs.11

crores and 3 lakhs. The excavated museum is constructed with separate buildings for metal objects, pottery objects, ancient architectural models, earrings, gold objects.

- The materials found in the underground excavations are reported to be 2600 years old.
- Therefore, wood carvings have been done accordingly to display the products without changing the age.
- It is built in the Chettinad style of construction with teak timbers and tiled roofs.

Publication of books and code for sustainable development goal

- First Minister M.K. released books and slogans related to Sustainable Development Goals and social media for Sustainable Development Goals. Stalin initiated.



A book on sustainable development goals

- Considering the five basic principles of sustainable development goals, namely people, resources, planet, peace and partnership, this book has been prepared to describe the efforts undertaken by the government of Tamil Nadu and to provide the necessary information to the policy makers of the government to monitor the benefits of programs and special initiatives and to further improve them.
- The book contains the summaries of district meetings held to describe its importance to district and sub-district level officers of sectors involved in SDGs and the steps to be taken to achieve SDGs at the village level.

Breakfast Scheme pushes up attendance levels, says survey

About

- Under the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme, breakfast would be provided to students up to Class V in these government schools on "all working days."

History of the scheme

- The significant breakfast scheme has been rolled out after 102 years, when P. Theagaraya Chetty,

the then President of the Corporation (Mayor) of the Justice Party approved the proposal to provide tiffin to students of a Corporation School at Thousand Lights, Chennai

- In 1957, then Chief Minister of then Madras State (renamed Tamil Nadu in 1967) K. Kamaraj introduced the mid-day meals scheme.
- In 1982, then Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran announced a scheme for ensuring nutritious meals to students in primary schools and it was rolled out in a school at Pappakurichi in Tiruchi district on July 1, 1982.
- In 1989, Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi announced in the Assembly that eggs would be provided once in two weeks as part of the nutritious meal. In the Budget presented on July 23, 1998, the government announced that eggs would be provided once every week.
- In 2007, eggs were given three days a week. A year later, the scheme was modified to provide bananas to students who did not consume eggs and to provide eggs five days a week.

International Booker prize

- Pyre, the English translation of writer Perumal Murugan's Tamil novel Pookkuzhi, has figured on the long list for the International Booker Prize, 2023.
- The translator is Aniruddhan Vasudevan.

Tamil Nadu Organic Farming Policy 2023

- In order to increase the importance of organic farming among the farmers of Tamil Nadu, gradually reduce the use of chemical inputs in the lands, increase the use of natural inputs and improve soil fertility, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin launched the Tamil Nadu Organic Agriculture Policy 2023.



A mega food park, 16 cold storage facility in Tamil Nadu

- The Union Cabinet has approved a production-based promotion scheme in the food processing sector.
- With an allocation of Rs 10,900 crore, the scheme is being implemented to generate support from

global food companies for the entry of Indian branded food products into international markets.

- It will also lead to employment in the food processing sector. 4 major units producing small grain food products, processed vegetables and fruits, sea food products, cottage cheese etc. will be operational under the scheme. The 2nd division will have 4 divisions processing eggs, poultry meat and egg products.
- A mega food park, 16 integrated cold storage facility, 11 agro processing complex, 32 agro food processing units, 9 production and marketing linkages for agro produce, 2 vegetable markets have been approved in Tamil Nadu.

Innuivav Kapom Project

- 1.50 Lakh families have been saved - Innuiv Kappom Scheme.



About

- Innuiv Kaappom is an excellent scheme launched by the Government of Tamil Nadu to reduce the number of deaths due to road accidents.
- As an important part of this scheme, Tamil Nadu government will bear the cost of emergency medical treatment for the first 48 hours of road accident victims.

Music Academy Awards

- Renowned Carnatic music singer Bombay Jayashree has been selected for this year's Sangeetha Kalanidhi Award by the Chennai Music Academy. The awardees have also been selected and announced for Niruthya Kalanidhi, Sangeetha Kala Acharya, DTK Award, Music Scholar Awards.
- Awards such as Sangeetha Kalanidhi, Nrithya Kalanidhi, Sangeetha Kala Acharya awarded by Chennai Music Academy are considered as the most prestigious award in the world of Carnatic music.

Saurashtra Tamil Sangam

- The inauguration ceremony of 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam', jointly organized by the Central Government and the Gujarat State Government, was held in Chennai .
- The relationship between Tamil Nadu and Gujarat started several hundred years ago.

- Tamil Nadu has provided opportunities and contributions to improve the living standards of the people of Saurashtra.
- To commemorate this, the Saurashtra Tamil Sangam program will be held in Gujarat from April 17 to 26.
- Through this program, social culture of Tamil Nadu and Saurashtra can be exchanged.

Entitlement to Women

- Tamil Nadu Finance Minister BDR Palanivel Thiagarajan announced in the budget that from September 15, the eligible women head of the family will be given an entitlement amount of Rs.1000.

A new wildlife sanctuary in the name of Periyar

- The budget announced that the government will establish a new sanctuary in Tamil Nadu called Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

About

Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary:

- A new sanctuary called 'Thanda Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary' is to be set up on 80 thousand 567 hectares of forest land in Anthiur and Kopisetipalayam circles of Erode district to link the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve with the Thenkaviri Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It is the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state.

International Bird Center

- As Tamil Nadu is located on the bird migration route of Central Asia, a large number of birds visit our state every year.
- The Tamil Nadu government is planning to set up an International Bird Center at Marakanam at a cost of Rs 25 crore to maintain the protection of birds, promote ornithological research and create awareness about the role of birds in nature.

'Tamil Nadu coastal restoration Movement'

- Due to the impact of climate change and population growth, the coastal environment and the livelihood of coastal people may be severely affected in the future. To prevent sea erosion, reduce marine pollution and protect marine biological diversity, this government is going to implement a project called 'Tamil Nadu coastal Restoration Movement' with the help of World Bank in the next 5 years.

Climate Change Champions

- Recognizing the important role of women in combating climate change, a climate awareness

program called 'Climate Change Warriors' will be launched through Women's Self Help Groups.

- In the first phase, 500 Women Self Help Groups will carry out environmental advocacy to spread awareness about environment and climate change. They will be given electric autos worth Rs.20 crore.

World Investors Conference

- The World Investor Conference will be held in January next year at a cost of Rs 100 crore
- With a view to increasing the industrial development of Tamil Nadu, foreign investments are being attracted to a large extent. The Tamil Nadu government is providing various facilities such as Single Market Permit, Land Bank etc. to make the state an investment-friendly state.
- Meanwhile, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu government, the Global Investors' Conference is being held to bring together the investors at one place and sign memorandums of understanding with them.

T.N. to bring separate legislation for SCs and tribal sub plans

- The Tamil Nadu government will introduce a legislation to ensure effective implementation of the Schedule Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), and provide adequate funds for it

Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme' –

- This scheme will be launched to ensure basic amenities and comprehensive socio-economic development in “Adi Dravidar habitations” in urban and rural areas. A total of ₹1,000 crore would be spent for the scheme over the next five years

Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme

- Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme' would be launched with an allocation of ₹100 crore for 2023-24. This scheme would provide 35% capital subsidy and 6% interest subvention for loans to procure machineries.

Ambedkar Works in Tamil

- On behalf of the Department of Tamil Development and Culture, Annal Ambedkar, the father of the Indian Constitution and the architect of progressive egalitarian India, has his works translated into Tamil. A subsidy of Rs.5 crore will be given for this purpose.

Tamil Computer Conference

- In order to increase the usage of Tamil language in the field of technology, to develop Tamil language as a world language, a 'Tamil Computer International Conference' will be held with renowned experts.
- It is intended to encourage large-scale development of software in Tamil.
- Tamil cultural sea voyages are to be encouraged to connect Tamil cultural sites in order to take pride in the cultural values of Tamils who have flown the flag across the ocean.

Talala Muthu-Natarasan Memorial

- On behalf of the Department of Tamil Development and Culture, a memorial is to be set up in Chennai for language war martyrs Thalamuthu and Natarasan, who lost their lives in the anti-Hindi struggle.

Tuberculosis free district

- Prime Minister Modi honored the Nilgiris with a gold medal for being selected as a TB-free district
- Nilgiri district in Tamil Nadu has achieved tuberculosis free status as per World Health Organization ranking.
- Prime Minister Modi presented the gold medal and certificate to the Director of Health and Welfare Group on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Also Trichy and Tiruvarur districts were awarded gold medals for effective control of tuberculosis.
- Similarly, Kanyakumari, Madurai, Thoothukudi, Thiruvannamalai, Karur districts were awarded silver medal and Theni district was awarded bronze medal.

A new type of coronavirus

- Omicron's 'XXB, - BA2' type of corona is increasing in Tamil Nadu.



About

- While not much research has been done on the Covid XBB.1.16 variant, experts have said that it is the fastest-spreading of the Covid subtypes identified so far, and that infections could increase at an alarming rate if proper precautions are not taken.
- Also, no deaths were reported due to the XBB 1.16 variant, so the team suggests that immunity may have developed and not caused serious damage.
- Like other strains of corona, the XBB 1.16 strain has symptoms like fever, body aches, cough, runny nose, breathing problems and, in some cases, prolonged illness.

Mains Related Topic

Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Plan – Key Features of the Policy

- Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Plan - 2023 and State Disaster Management Policy released.

Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Plan 2023:

- In this State Disaster Management Plan, an explanation has been given about the disasters faced by the state, Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Authority, State Action Committee, District Disaster Management Authority, role of various departments involved in disaster management, other departments and participants.
- The precautionary measures and capacity building exercises required to deal with various disasters like floods, tsunamis, cyclones, droughts, heat waves, landslides, earthquakes, accidents in chemical plants, nuclear power plants, radiation etc. and the areas affected by various types of disasters in the state have been informed.
- The need, possibilities, policies to be implemented, planning, allocation of funds, sectoral disaster mitigation potentials are indicated for carrying out disaster mitigation and mitigation of climate change through project work implemented by government departments.



- The safety priorities to be given to the elderly, differently abled, group mothers and third gender during disasters and the responsibility and contribution of various sectors have been explained.
- Media management to be followed during disasters and Build Back Better than before in disaster recovery and rehabilitation are explained.
- State Disaster Management Policy: The objective of the updated Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Policy is to reduce the adverse effects of all types of disasters through a robust disaster management initiative, avoid loss of life, damage to public property and critical infrastructure, and not lose the economic and development gains made by the State.
- The Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Policy focuses on increasing the multi-disaster warning system, hazard, disaster impact assessment and risk analysis, mitigation measures to reduce disaster risk and priority and joint implementation of disaster risk reduction activities in development programs implemented by all sectors.
- Also, the policy emphasizes on reducing disaster-related deaths, number of victims, impact on vulnerable groups and damage to basic services and economic loss. Providing clear guidance for disaster risk reduction, the policy has been developed based on global and national frameworks for disaster risk reduction and tailored to the state's vision and priorities.

Pudhumai penn thittam

- Marriage Financial Assistance Scheme was introduced for marriage assistance to promote the education of women belonging to poor and humble families in Tamil Nadu.
- Karunanidhi, who was then the Chief Minister, brought the Muvalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Marriage Financial Assistance Scheme in 1989.
- Gold for thali
- Accordingly, financial assistance of 25 thousand rupees and 50 thousand rupees was provided based on the educational qualification of the bride. Last year this scheme was expanded and scheme of providing gold to Thali with financial assistance of 25 thousand, 50 thousand was also introduced. According to this, 4 grams and 8 grams of gold have been provided.
- The scheme was introduced in 2011 during the then Chief Minister Jayalalithaa's regime.



Puthumaipenn Thittam

- The scheme was implemented with the objective of raising the educational level of girls to ensure higher education and providing financial assistance to parents for the marriage of poor girls.
- In this context, the scheme has been modified to ensure higher education of women belonging to economically backward families as per the current environment.
- The Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiya Memorial Marriage Funding Scheme has been renamed as the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiya Higher Education Guarantee Scheme to increase the enrollment of female students studying in government schools.
- Under this scheme, which is to be implemented under the name of Puthumai Pen, girl students who have studied in government schools from 6th to 12th standard will be given Rs.1,000 higher education guarantee every month under the higher education guarantee scheme.

Women's Entitlement Scheme'

- Scheme to provide 1 crore women's rights.
- Women who are providing their invaluable labor in various categories like street vendors, fisherwomen, women working in construction industry, women working in small shops, commercial and small scale enterprises, women working in more than one household in a day will benefit from the 'Women's Entitlement' scheme.
- In the name of Universal Basic Income, this program has been implemented in many countries of the world in an experimental manner, in certain areas, only in a few social groups.
- Economists are of the opinion that many significant changes have taken place through the program implemented on such an experimental basis.
- Studies show that through this program, there is a chance of reducing poverty by half, women

prioritize the funds available for their children's education, nutrition and medical expenses, and offer to start small businesses.

Objectives of the Scheme

- Recognition of the work of women who have been working tirelessly throughout their lives regardless of reward.
- Next, the entitlement amount of Rs 12,000 per annum is to support the livelihood of women, eradicate poverty, raise the standard of living and enable them to live in society with self-respect.

Vaikam Struggle Centenary

- The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has announced in the assembly that the centenary of the Vaikam struggle will be celebrated for a whole year and that awards will be given to individuals and organizations who strive for the welfare of the oppressed.



Vaikam agitation started on 30 March 1924.

- The Vaikam protest was held in the streets around the Mahadeva temple in Vaikam, Kottayam district, Kerala, demanding the removal of barriers to the movement of oppressed people.
- Thanthai Periyar went to Vaikom and led the protest. Vaikom participated in the protest and spent 74 days in jail. The Vaikom struggle, which lasted for more than one and a half years, came to an end on 23 November 1925.
- On November 29, 1925, a victory ceremony was held at Vaikal under the leadership of Periyar. Thanthai Periyar and Nagammai were invited to this victory ceremony. It has been 100 years since such a historic struggle took place. Until now, the Vaikam struggle reverberates in the history of social justice.
- To honor the memory of Thanthai Periyar, who fought across borders for the common people and succeeded in making such revolutions in history,

and to continue to emphasize the ideas of social justice, the Tamil Nadu government is planning to organize the centenary celebrations of the Vaikom struggle.

Centenary celebrations

- In memory of Periyar who crossed the border and fought in Vaikom, the Tamil Nadu government will present the annual Vaikom Award on Social Justice Day, September 17, to personalities or organizations who work for the welfare of the oppressed in other states and make a significant difference.
- 8 crore 14 lakh rupees has been allocated for the renovation of the Periyar memorial located in Vaik, Kerala state in a modern way and for additional space for Periyar related memorabilia.
- Efforts are being made to construct a new Periyar memorial in Aruvikkutty village where Thanthai Periyar was arrested and imprisoned for the first time.
- Steps are being taken to issue a special commemorative stamp to commemorate the centenary of the Vaikom struggle.



NATIONAL NEWS

Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC)

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology recently launched the Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) portal under the IT Rules, 2021.

About Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC):

- The GAC was one of the provisions in the recently amended Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
- GAC will look into user complaints regarding unsatisfactory grievance redressal by social media intermediaries.
- Three such bodies have been constituted of professionals from various fields.
- Each GAC will comprise three government-appointed, full-time members, including a chairperson.
- Any user aggrieved by a decision of a platform's Grievance Officer can appeal to the GAC within 30 days of the receipt of communication from the Grievance Officer.
- The Committee has to dispose of the appeals within 15 days of receiving them.
- GAC's decisions will be binding on the intermediary.

G20 Foreign Ministers Conference

- India is chairing this year's G20 summit, which will be attended by the foreign ministers of the participating countries. The central government has also announced that the foreign ministers of the United States, Russia, and China will participate in this conference.
- The G20 member countries includes
 - ▶ United States, Britain, China, Canada, Australia, India, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, France, Germany, Italy, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea



First G- 20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting (ACWG)

- The First Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting (ACWG) of G-20 is set to take place in Gurugram, Haryana, from 1st to 3rd March 2023.

About the first G- 20 ACWG Meeting:

- It is under India's chairpersonship, and Italy is the co-chair.
- Over 90 delegates from 20 member countries, 10 Invitee countries, and 9 International Organizations will engage in detailed deliberations on strengthening International Anti-corruption mechanisms.
- Focus areas:
 - ▶ Enhancing the effectiveness of asset-tracing and identification mechanisms;
 - ▶ Developing mechanisms for rapid restraint of illicit assets;
 - ▶ Promoting effective use of open-source information and asset recovery networks;
- The theme of India's G20 Presidency is - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth. One Family, One Future".

AM Chabre inquiry commission

- Hindenburg, an investment research firm, has published a report that the companies of business magnate Adani were involved in stock market fraud. The Supreme Court which heard the cases filed in this regard has constituted a committee headed by former judge AM Chabre to conduct a detailed inquiry into the report. It has also issued an order to submit the findings in 2 months.

Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner

- The Supreme Court has said that Parliament should enact a law in accordance with the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners by the President as per the recommendation of the committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

About

- The Election Commission of India is a body established by the Constitution of India.
- This autonomous body is quasi judicial in nature
- The Constitution of India mandates this Commission to conduct and supervise elections to the President of India, Vice President of India, State Legislatures and Parliament. The relevant legislation is the Representation of the People Act 1951.
- The Election Commission of India is headed by the Chief Election Commissioner of India. He will be assisted by two Election Commissioners. The Chief Commissioner of India and two other Commissioners are appointed by the President of India. Their tenure is either six years or till the age of 65 years.

13th Century Hindu Temple

- 13th century Hindu temple ruins have been unearthed amidst a shrub jungle northeast of the Durga temple, atop a hillock in the Pushpagiri Kshetram in Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh.
- The architectural features of the ruins reveal a style that is contemporary to a temple at Vallur, built by the Kayastha rulers.

About Kayastha rulers:

- The Kayasthas (1239 AD - 1297 AD) were subordinates to the rulers of the Kakatiya dynasty.
- In the history of the Kakatiyas, the Kayastha played a prominent role both as loyal subordinates and traitors.
- It is believed that they originally belonged to a class of warriors of Western India.
- They ruled the region with Vallur as the capital.
- Some rulers of this community were -Ganagaya Sahini (1239 - 1258 AD), Jannigadeva (1258 - 1268 AD), and Ambadeva II (1272 - 1294 AD). The last ruler was Trupurari II (1294 - 1297 AD).

Central Government approves 'Nano' DAP Fertilizer



- Nano DAP is an advanced fertilizer in liquid form based on nanotechnology.
- In 2021, IFFCO introduced Nano Urea as an alternative to conventional urea fertilizers. Following this, the company informed that Nano DAP fertilizer will also be introduced.
- In this case, the Union Ministry of Agriculture has approved the introduction of this fertilizer manufactured by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative, known as IFFCO, in the market.

Nano Urea

- The Prime Minister recently lauded the benefits of Nano Urea in bringing long-term positive changes in the lives of Indian farmers.

About Nano Urea:

- It is a nanotechnology-based revolutionary Agri-input that provides nitrogen to plants.
- It is developed and patented by the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO).
- IFFCO Nano Urea is the only nano fertilizer approved by the Government of India and included in the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO).

Features:

- Compared to conventional urea prill, Nano Urea has a desirable particle size of about 20-50 nm and more surface area (10,000 times over 1 mm urea prill) and number of particles (55,000 nitrogen particles over 1 mm urea prill).



- It contains 4.0 % total nitrogen (w/v).

Benefits:

- It is produced by an energy-efficient, environment-friendly production process with less carbon footprints.
- Increased availability to crop by more than 80%, resulting in higher nutrient use efficiency.
- It is expected to improve crop productivity, soil health, and nutritional quality of produce and address the “imbalanced and excessive use” of conventional fertilizer.

Indian Air Force appoints first female commander in attack wing

- Shalisa Thami has been appointed as the first woman commander of the Western Wing of the Indian Air Force. This Western Division has border area with Pakistan.



- In 2003, Shalisa Thami joined the Indian Air Force as a helicopter pilot. Having flown over 2,800 hours in various aircraft, she is the first female pilot instructor of the Air Force.

Nallamala Forest

- Nallamala forest is witnessing frequent forest fires due to rising temperatures, where the day temperature is almost touching 40 degrees Celsius.

About Nallamala Forest:

- It is one of the largest stretches of undisturbed forest in South India, apart from the Western Ghats, spread over five districts in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- It is located in Nallamala Hills, which is a part of the Eastern Ghats and lies south of the Krishna river.
- The forest has a good tiger population, and a part of the forest belongs to the Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve, the largest tiger reserve in the country.
- **Climate:** It has a warm to hot climate throughout the year, with very hot summer and cool and dry winter.
- It gets most of its rain during the South West monsoon.
- **Vegetation:** Tropical dry deciduous.

- **Flora:** It harbors endemic species like *Andrographis nallamalayana*, *Eriolaena lushingtonii*, *Crotalaria madurensis* var, *Dicliptera beddomei* and *premma hamitonii*.
- **Fauna:** It is home to as many as 700 species of animals besides tigers, leopards, such as black buck, wild hog, peacock, pangolin, Indian Python and King Cobras and several rare bird species.

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry recently said that the ONDC will help small retailers survive the onslaught of large tech-based e-commerce companies.

About ONDC:

- It is an open-source network set up to enable buyers and sellers to transact with each other irrespective of the e-commerce platform on which either of them are registered.
- It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It comprises buyer-side apps where consumers can place orders, seller-side apps that allows merchants to display their listings, and logistics platforms that handle deliveries.

Aim:

- To promote open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.
- To create new opportunities, curb digital monopolies and support micro, small and medium enterprises and small traders and help them get on online.
- It seeks to democratise digital or electronic commerce, moving it from a platform-centric model to an open-network model

23rd Commonwealth Law Conference begins in Goa

- The 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference was inaugurated by Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai.



- The five-day conference, which is being held from March 5-9, 2023, was also attended by Union Minister for Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju and Chief Minister of Goa Dr. Pramod Sawant. The Conference has 500 delegates from 52 countries in attendance.

Millets Giveaway

- The Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium, a society promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare of the Indian government, has launched a special marketing campaign called Millets Giveaway.
- The campaign is aimed at promoting direct purchases from small and marginal farmer producer organisations (FPOs) to support their livelihoods.

Indian Union Muslim League

- To mark the 75th Jubilee Year of the Indian Union Muslim League Party, 'All India Conference 2023' was held in Chennai.
- The All India Muslim League was formed in 1906 to increase the representation of Muslims socially and politically in India.
- The movement not only participated in freedom struggles but also raised political awareness among Muslims and their rights in general society.
- Advances made by Indian Union Muslim League educationally
 - ▶ Kaithe Millath was the founder of many colleges in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
 - ▶ The tireless work of the Muslim League is behind the inclusion of the Muslim community in the backward list and the provision of 3.5% separate reservation to Muslims.

India-Australia 4 agreements: cooperation in sports, solar energy sectors

- The first meeting between India and Australia was held in Delhi on Friday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese participated in it. At that time, there was a detailed discussion regarding the improvement of existing good relations between the two countries in various fields.



- During the conference, 4 agreements were signed to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the fields of sports, innovation, audio-visual production and solar energy production.
- Further, it was also discussed to improve existing cooperation in the fields of green energy, trade-investment, security, essential minerals, distribution of food items, education and culture.

Literate states in the country

- Report has been revealed that Bihar is at the last place in the list of literate states in the country. It is followed by the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- This information was conveyed in Parliament on behalf of the Union Ministry of Education. Annapoorna Devi, Union Minister of State for Education, gave this answer in writing to a question raised in the Lok Sabha.
- According to the details of literate states given by him, Kerala is at the first place and Bihar state is at the last place.
 - ▶ Tamil Nadu ranks 14th in this list with 80.09 percent.

India Hosts SCO International Conference on 'Shared Buddhist Heritage'

- With a focus on India's civilizational connections with the SCO states, the two-day international conference of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on "Shared Buddhist Heritage" was launched at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.



- This historic gathering brings together Central Asian, East Asian, South Asian, and Arab nations to discuss "Shared Buddhist Heritage" and is the first of its kind.
- It takes place under India's leadership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) (from September 17, 2022, to September 23, 2023) for a year.

5G services

- The central government has said that 5G services are operational in approved areas in 329 cities of

the country.



About

- 5G stands for Fifth Generation Mobile Internet. Efforts to develop the fifth generation mobile network started as early as 2013 and its rollout started worldwide from 2019.
- When Samsung tested its 5G network in 2013, its speed was 1 Gbps. 5G network is now operational in 70 countries with an average download speed of 700 Mbps.
- With 5G, data travels at much higher speeds via radio waves
- To make it easier to understand, this can be called superfast internet, which is hundred times faster than 4G internet speed.
- Many are hoping that with the switch to 5G internet, apps won't crash halfway through, videos won't buffer and you won't have to struggle with endless download identifiers.

G20 Education Summit

- The meeting regarding the education sector in which the G20 countries are participating has started in Amritsar, Punjab.
- In this meeting, which will be attended by the members of the Education Executive Committee of the G20 Federation, future work and innovations will be discussed for 3 days. Various seminars are organized.
- The seminar was held under the theme 'Strengthening Research, Enhancing Innovation through Strong Collaboration'.

National University of Culture

- The Parliamentary Commerce Committee has recommended to the Central Government to set up a National Cultural University.

Committee recommendations

- A unique culture is found in every part of every state of our country. It has disappeared due to modern changes. In view of this, a new idea has been presented to the Union Ministry of Culture to demonstrate that India is a multi-faceted nation.

- The university can conduct research on the Vedas, Upanishads and the history of Indian languages.
- Taking the example of the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel erected as a symbol of unity in Kavadia, Gujarat, statues of historical figures can be erected in every state of the country. This can be implemented in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Tourism
- There are also opportunities to make this area a popular tourist destination.

Milk production

- By 2034, India's share of the world's total milk production will be 33%

About

- The Indian Dairy Association (IDA) held its 49th Dairy Industry Conference in Gujarat's capital Gandhi Nagar.
- India's Dairy to the World: Opportunities and Challenges' was held.
- India's contribution to global milk production will reach 33 per cent after new dairy societies are set up at the village level. Export of our milk products will be 5 times more than the current level. By 2033-34, India's milk production will reach 330 million metric tonnes per annum.

Privilege Motion

- Congress MP KC Venugopal has filed a privilege motion in the Rajya Sabha against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

2nd Financial Framework Working Group Conference of G-20

- The 2nd Financial Framework Working Group Conference of G-20 is being held in Chennai. The G-20 is an alliance of economically powerful nations.

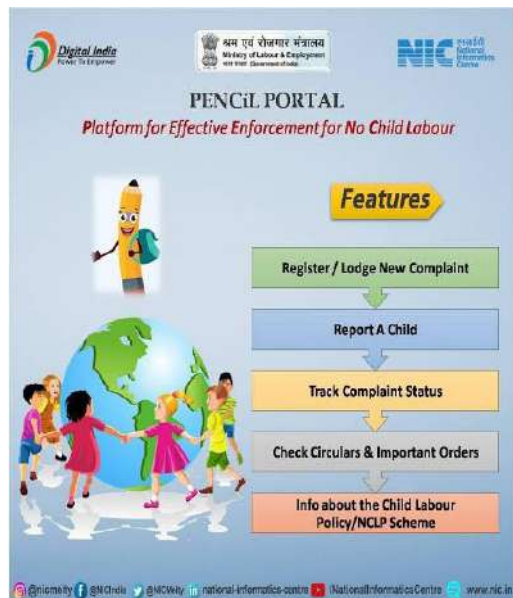


- India, USA, Canada, England, China, France and Japan are members of it. India is currently chairing G-20, one of the most powerful international organizations in the world.
- The representatives of G-20 countries are holding discussions on various issues like education,

finance, economy, food, environment, disaster management, climate change and international relations.

PENCIL Portal

- Recently, the Minister of State for Labour and Employment informed Rajya Sabha about the PENCIL portal and implementation of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme



About PENCIL Portal:

- Full Name: Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL).
- Objective: It is a separate online portal to ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the Child Labour Act and smooth implementation of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme.
- Components - The PENCIL Portal has various components, namely Child Tracking System, Complaint Corner, State Government, National Child Labour Project and Convergence.

Features of the portal

- The Portal connects Central Government to State Government(s), District(s), all Project Societies and the General public.
- Further, online complaints regarding child labour can also be filed by anybody on the Pencil Portal. The complaint gets assigned to the concerned Nodal Officer automatically by the system for further necessary action.

Gandhamardan Hill

- Recently, the state government of Odisha declared the Gandhamardan Hill Range in Bargarh and Balangir district as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS).

About Gandhamardan Hill:

- The Gandhamardan hill (Gandhamardan Reserve Forest) spreads in Bargarh and Balangir districts in Odisha.
- This ecologically fragile ecosystem is rich in floral and faunal diversity and is protected under the Odisha Biodiversity Rules - 2012.
- What is the Significance?The hill range has a diverse socio-economic, ecological and biological significance for the people of Odisha.
- This hill consists of medicinal plants, the hill system is considered the 'Ayurvedic paradise' of Odisha.
- The hills have 2 historical monuments (hill shrines) which are major pilgrimage sites of Odisha.
- Nrusinghanath temple is located on the northern slope.
- Harishankar temple on the southern side.
- In his chronicles, Hiuen Tsangdescribed the hill shrine as a Buddhist heritage site named

'One Country One Policy' for Organ Donation - Central Govt

- Union Health Joint Minister Bharati Praveen Pawar, who has responded in writing in the Lok Sabha, said that the Central Government has adopted the 'one country, one policy' system for organ donation and transplantation.
- Mentioning that they have consulted with the state governments for this, he said that the condition that the patient registered for organ donation of the deceased should reside in the concerned state will be removed.
- Through this, patients can go to any state and register for organ transplant, he said, adding that the age limit for those who register has also been removed.

Anji Khan Bridge

- According to officials, the last deck portion of the Anji Khan bridge is expected to be completed soon.

About

- It is an under-construction railway bridge in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.



- It will be the first cable-stayed railway bridge in India.
- It forms a part of the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link Project (USBRL) connecting Katra and Reasi Station on the Jammu-Baramulla line.

Features:

- It is an asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge balanced on the axis of a central pylon, and it has tunnels on both ends.
- The cable-stayed portion of the Anji bridge is 472.25 metres, while the total length of the bridge is 725.5 metres, which is divided into four parts, including an embankment.
- The central span of the bridge is 290 metres; its total deck width will be 15 metres.
- It stands at the height of 331 metres above the Anji river bed.
- Trains can run up to 100km/h, and the bridge can withstand wind speeds up to 213 km/hr.

Chenab Bridge – World’s Highest Rail Bridge

- The Indian Railways is constructing the world’s highest railway bridge in the challenging terrain of the Himalayas, which is expected to be completed in the coming months.
- The Chenab Bridge, an engineering marvel, is a part of the strategically important Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla (USBRL) railway link that will connect Jammu & Kashmir to the rest of India.

Committee on Pension reform

- The Indian government forms a committee to explore pension reforms
- This committee is led by finance secretary **TV Somanathan** to explore ways to address concerns raised by government employees over the National Pension System (NPS)

First Urban Climate Film Festival

- The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), a Central Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, is organising the Urban Climate Film Festival under the CITIIS program.
- The festival aims to create wider awareness of the impact of climate change on life in cities and engage the public in the dialogue on sustainable urban development.

Exemption of duty on rare disease drugs

- Tax exemption will be applicable to diseases defined by the central government as rare diseases in 2021”.

- “For a 10 kg child, treatment costs for rare diseases range from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 crore”.
- Considering the cost of treatment, government has been declared exempt from customs duty

Kangra Tea

- Kangra Tea from Himachal Pradesh was recently granted the European Geographical Indication (GI) tag.



About

- It is a type of tea produced in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.
- It is a high-quality tea that is known for its unique flavour, aroma, and colour.
- It is made from the leaves, buds, and tender stems of the *Camellia sinensis* species cultivated in the Kangra valley.
- Black tea and green tea have both been cultivated in the Kangra Valley.
- In India, Kangra tea received the Geographical Indication (GI) designation in 2005.

Features:

- Kangra tea leaves are narrow and have a multi-stemmed frame.
- Green tea has a subtle woody aroma, while black tea has a sweet, lasting aftertaste.
- It has a light colour and a high body in liquor.

Mains related Topics

Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act)

- The Delhi High Court recently disposed of a plea seeking direction to the Bar Council of India (BCI) to make the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act) a compulsory subject in all law schools.

About Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act):

- The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education

of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right.



- RTE Act is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted on 4 August 2009 as envisaged under Article 21-A.

Main Features of the RTE Act:

- Free and compulsory education to all children of India in the 6 to 14 age group.
- It clarifies that ‘compulsory education’ means the obligation of the appropriate government to provide free elementary education and ensure compulsory admission, attendance, and completion of elementary education to every child in the six to fourteen age group.
- No child shall be held back, expelled, or required to pass a board examination until the completion of elementary education.
- It makes provisions for a non-admitted child to be admitted to an age-appropriate class.
- It specifies the duties and responsibilities of appropriate Governments, local authorities, and parents in providing free and compulsory education and sharing of financial and other responsibilities between the Central and State Governments.
- It lays down the norms and standards relating inter alia to Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTRs), buildings

and infrastructure, school-working days, and teacher-working hours.

- It provides for the appointment of appropriately trained teachers, i.e., teachers with the requisite entry and academic qualifications.
- It prohibits physical punishment and mental harassment, screening procedures for admission of children, capitation fee, private tuition by teachers, and running of schools without recognition.
- It provides for the development of a curriculum in consonance with the values enshrined in the Constitution.

New Foreign trade policy

- The Union government will launch the new foreign trade policy by the end of this month.
- The Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, which was to end on 31 March 2020, has been extended four times so far: earlier due to the covid-19 pandemic, and more recently due to global economic uncertainties. It is now valid till 31 March 2023.
- The new trade policy is expected to have new chapters on e-commerce, districts as export hubs, and SCOMET--dual-use items straddling civilian, industrial and military use--thereby placing a special emphasis on them.
- The World Trade Organization has estimated global trade growth to slow down to 1% in 2023 from 3.5% in 2022.
- India’s merchandise exports declined nearly 9% in February, the third contraction in the current fiscal, led by a persistent demand slowdown across major markets including the US and the European Union.
- Imports also contracted for the third straight month by value, as Indian importers spent less because of easing prices, thus narrowing the trade deficit to the second lowest in the current fiscal.



Windsor Framework

- Windsor Framework is a legal agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom
- This Framework introduces a green lane for goods that will stay in Northern Ireland and a red lane system for goods that will reach the European Union.
- It also introduces the ‘Stormont Brake’ that allows the lawmakers in Northern Ireland and the UK to veto any EU regulations that may adversely impact the region.

QUAD Task Force to Suppress Terrorism

- The ‘Quad’ countries have decided to set up a separate working group for measures to eradicate terrorism completely.



- India, America, Japan and Australia have joined forces to form a ‘Quad’ organization in order to suppress China’s dominance in the Indian Ocean and China Ocean regions.
- A Task Force to Counter Terrorism, Extremism and Violence to be Constituted by QUAD

7th International Dharma Dhamma Conference

- The 7th edition of the conference has a theme of “Eastern Humanism for the New Era” and has been planned in collaboration with Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies, whose vice chancellor Dr Neerja Gupta also joined President Murmu.
- The conference aims to bring together religious, political and thought leaders from Dharma Dhamma traditions to ponder over building a philosophical framework for the emerging new world order.

- Representatives from Bali, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Royal Government of Bhutan are amongst the international delegates and speakers invited to Madhya Pradesh to the 7th edition of the Dharma Dhamma Conference.



Indonesia’s new capital

- Indonesia is all set to move its capital from Jakarta to Borneo over environmental issues such as being congested, sinking into seawater, and being prone to earthquakes.

Memorandum of Understanding on Semiconductor Distribution System

- A memorandum of understanding was signed between India and the United States regarding the distribution of semiconductors.
- The two countries have resumed trade talks to discuss new trade and investment opportunities between India and the US.



- Following this, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries to establish a semiconductor distribution system that transmits electricity in electronic equipment and develop new products through collaboration.
- The agreement was signed by Ministers Piyush Goyal and Zeena Raymondo.

Xi Jinping sworn in for 3rd term as Chinese President

- China's single political party, the Communist Party of China, usually elects its president at a convention. Accordingly, Xi Jinping was re-elected as the President at the Congress of the Communist Party of China.



- Xi Jinping is the first leader since Mao, the founder of the Chinese Communist Party, to serve more than two terms as president. Since coming to power in 2012, he has sidelined his rivals and filled top positions in the ruling Communist Party with his supporters.

Chitwan National Park

- Chitwan National Park is the first-ever national park set up in Nepal.
- It was founded in 1973 as the Royal Chitwan National Park. It became a World Heritage Site in 1984.



- This park encompasses a massive area of 952.63 km² (367.81 sq mi). It is located in the subtropical Inner Terai lowlands of south-central Nepal.
- Notably, its adjacent Parsa National Park is contiguous with Bihar's Valmiki National Park.

India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFP)

- Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh will jointly inaugurate the maiden cross-border oil pipeline between the two countries.

About India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL):

- IBFPL will carry diesel from Assam-based Numaligarh Refinery Ltd's (NRL) marketing terminal at Siliguri in West Bengal to the Parbatipur depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).



- IBFPL is 131.5 Kilometers long, out of which 126.5 kilometer pipeline is in Bangladesh and 5 kilometers in India.
- The pipeline has a capacity of one million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA).
- The total project cost for the construction of the IBFPL is Rs 377.08 crore.
- The project is built under grant assistance from the government of India.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

- India has invited Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Asif to participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting in Delhi in April.



- China, India, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- India is the current chairman of this organization.
- In this case, as the head of the organization, India conducts various meetings.

Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference

- On March 18, 2023, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Global Millets Shree Anna Conference 2023 in the national capital.

- The event marks the beginning of a two-day global conference on millets, where Modi unveiled a customised postal stamp and commemorative currency coin to mark the International Year of Millets, being celebrated in 2023.
- This event is significant, as it will help to promote millet farming and nutrition across the globe.

Burundi: First Polio Outbreak in 30 Years

- Burundi, a landlocked east-African country, has declared its first polio outbreak in 30 years.
- The outbreak was confirmed after a four-year-old child in the Isale district of western Burundi, along with two other children he was in contact with, were diagnosed with vaccine-linked polio.
- Additionally, poliovirus type 2 was detected in five samples from environmental surveillance of wastewater from the region.

Egypt joins BRICS bank as a new member

- After President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi visited India as a chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations, Egypt became a member of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB).

About BRICS Bank

- It is a multilateral development bank jointly founded by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) at the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil in 2014.



- It was formed to support infrastructure and sustainable development efforts in BRICS and other underserved, emerging economies for faster development through innovation and cutting-edge technology.
- It is headquartered at Shanghai, China.
- Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay joined the NDB in September 2021. Egypt was welcomed as a new member of the NDB in December 2021.

Haeil drone

- North Korea has recently unveiled its new nuclear underwater drone, which has caused concerns in the international community.

- The drone, dubbed “Haeil” or Tsunami, is designed to create massive radioactive waves through submarine explosions.
- North Korean state news agency KCNA claims that the drone can be deployed at any coast and port or towed by a surface ship for operation. The country’s leader, Kim Jong-un, was reportedly “greatly satisfied” after the drone was successfully tested.

The new president of the World Bank

- Indian-origin Ajay Banga is elected unopposed as the new president of the World Bank.



About

- 63-year-old Ajay Banga, a native of Jalandhar, Punjab, currently works as a vice-chairman of General Atlantic.
- Banga studied BA from St. Stephen’s College, University of Delhi and completed his MBA from IIM, Ahmedabad.
- From 1981 to 1994, he held various positions in Nestlé India and held senior positions in Pepsi and Citigroup.
- It is worth noting that in 2015, he worked as a consultant in many companies and was a member of the Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations of the former President of the United States, Barack Obama.

ASEAN-India Business summit

- Recently, the Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology addressed the 5th ASEAN-India Business summit.



About the ASEAN-India Business summit:

- It is being held as part of the ASEAN-India Year of Friendship to commemorate the more than three-decade-long engagement between India and the 10-member bloc in Kuala Lumpur.

Mains Related Topics

United Nations High Seas Treaty

- After more than a decade of negotiations, the countries of the United Nations have recently agreed to the High Seas Treaty.

About UN High Seas Treaty:

- It is the first-ever treaty to protect the world's oceans that lie outside national boundaries.
- It is also known as the 'Paris Agreement for the Ocean.'
- It is a legally binding treaty to protect marine life in international waters.
- It aims to place 30% of the seas into protected areas by 2030 (a pledge made by countries at the UN biodiversity conference in 2022).



- It will provide a legal framework for establishing vast marine protected areas (MPAs) to protect against the loss of wildlife and share out the genetic resources of the high seas.
- It also covers environmental assessments to evaluate the potential damage of commercial activities, such as deep-sea mining.
- It will establish a conference of the parties (CoP) that will meet periodically and enable member states to be held to account on issues such as governance and biodiversity.
- The treaty also includes a pledge by signatories to share ocean resources.
- The treaty is built on the legacy of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which is the last international agreement on ocean protection, signed 40 years ago in 1982. UNCLOS established an area called the high seas.



The World Bank has given a loan of Rs 8,200 crore to India

- The World Bank and the Government of India have jointly signed two additional loans of \$500 million each to support India's health infrastructure.



- Both these projects aim to increase the resilience and preparedness of India's healthcare systems against future pandemics
- The \$1 billion (about ₹8,200 crore) funding is said to support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Initiative, which was launched in October 2021. Through this loan, priority will be given to provide health services in seven states in India namely Kerala, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Punjab.

Money laundering laws will now cover cryptocurrency trade

- India's money laundering laws will apply to trade in cryptocurrencies, the Finance Ministry said in a notification dated March 7.
- What are the things covered under money laundering laws?
 - ▶ The exchange between virtual digital assets and fiat currencies, the exchange between one or more forms of virtual digital assets and the transfer of digital assets

Hindu Rate of Growth

- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Raghuram Rajan recently said India was "dangerously close" to the 'Hindu rate of growth'.

About Hindu Rate of Growth:

- It is a term describing low Indian economic growth rates from the 1950s to the 1980s, which averaged around 4%.

- The term was coined by the late economist Raj Krishna in 1978 to describe the slow growth in the country.

What is Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?



- GDP is the final value of the goods and services produced within the geographic boundaries of a country during a specified period of time, normally a year.
- The GDP growth rate is an important indicator of the economic performance of a country.
- It can be measured by three methods, namely, Output Method, Expenditure Method, and Income Method.

Mission Har Payment Digital

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a new mission called "Har Payment Digital" as part of its efforts to make every Indian a user of digital payments.
- The initiative was launched during Digital Payments Awareness Week and aims to reinforce the ease and convenience of digital payments, while also onboarding new users

International Monetary Fund

- India and China will contribute more than half of global growth this year, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- It added that other Asian countries would contribute an additional 25 percent.
- The Asia-Pacific (APAC) region is predicted to be a bright spot in the global economy this year.
- The region's economy is expected to grow 4.7 percent in 2023, up from 3.8 percent last year, the IMF said.



PROGRAMS AND YOJANAS

Adopt a Heritage Scheme:

- Recently one archaeologist from USA Adopt a Heritage Scheme of India

About Adopt a Heritage Scheme:

- The “Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dhरोhar, Apni Pehchaan” scheme was launched in 2017 on World Tourism Day
- It is a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India.
- The project aims to encourage companies from public sector, private sector, corporate citizens, NGOs, individuals and other stakeholders to become ‘Monument Mitras’.
- They will take up the responsibility of developing and upgrading the basic and advanced tourist amenities at these sites as per their interest and viability in terms of a sustainable investment model under CSR.
- The Monument Mitras are selected by the ‘oversight and vision committee,’ co-chaired by the Tourism Secretary and the Culture Secretary.
- The oversight committee also has the power to terminate a memorandum of understanding in case of non-compliance or non-performance.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras(PMBJKs)

- Union Health Minister recently said that the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) has increased to 9,082 as on January 31, 2023.

About PMJBKs

- PMBJKs are set up under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, which was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in November 2008.

- Objective: To provide quality medicines at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor, so as to reduce out-of-pocket expenses in healthcare.
- PMBJKs provides generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.
- All therapeutic medicines are made available from Jan Aushadhi Stores.
- Jan Aushadhi stores also sell allied medical products commonly sold in chemist shops so as to improve the viability of running the Jan Aushadhi store.
- Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India, with the support of all the CPSUs for co-ordinating procurement, supply, and marketing of generic drugs through the PMBKs.

Agneepath scheme

- Notification for Agni soldiers under Agnipath scheme was published on 15th.

About Agneepath Scheme

- Agnipath Scheme is a system introduced for recruitment in all three armed forces of India namely Army, Air Force and Navy.
- Employees recruited under the Agni Path scheme will be called Agniveer.
- Agneepath scheme approved by Govt of India in June 2022 to be implemented from September 2022

Qualifications



- Young men and women aged 17.5 to 21 years are eligible to join the scheme.
- The same fitness requirements as in practice for joining the Army are applicable to those joining

the Agnipath scheme. Must have passed 10th or 12th standard.

- Women can also apply.
- Can work in Indian Army, Navy and Air Force

Tenure

- Fighters can serve in the Indian Army for 4 years. 25 per cent of those selected will be inducted into the permanent army after the completion of their term of service. The move will depend on willingness, work ability and contribution. The remaining 75 percent will be discharged from the army.

SWAYATT Initiative

- Recently, a function was held to commemorate the success of “SWAYATT”, an initiative that was first launched in February 2019.

About SWAYATT Initiative:

- It is an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions on Government eMarketplace (GeM).
- Aim: To promote the inclusion of various categories of sellers and service providers on the portal by taking proactive steps to facilitate their training and registration, develop women’s entrepreneurship, and encourage the participation of the MSME sector and startups in public procurement.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- A milestone has been achieved under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), as over 25 crore health records have been successfully linked to the Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts.
- This will help with the easy access and management of health records using any ABDM-enabled health apps

What is ABHA?

- The Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts consist of 14-digit numbers. The number is used to identify the persons and integrate their health records across multiple stakeholders and systems.

Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023

- Recently, the President of India presented the Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 and graced the launch of Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain -2023 in New Delhi.

About

- Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman’ is to highlight and acknowledge the leadership and contribution of women at the grass-root level in the journey towards making a ‘Swachh Sujal Bharat’.



- The women achievers who have contributed exceptionally to ODF Plus Model Villages, Har Ghar Jal Villages, Water Conservation, etc. under the National Flagship Missions were felicitated.
- This year’s event was organized by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to honour the women champions of the rural water and sanitation sector.

What is the Catch the Rain campaign?

- Catch the Rain is a Jan Andolan campaign to encourage all stakeholders to create rainwater harvesting structures (RWHS).
- Tag line: Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls.
- The campaign is implemented by the National Water Mission (NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The campaign takes place across the country, in both rural and urban areas.

PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

- The PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission was launched in October 2021 with an aim to strengthen healthcare infrastructure across India.
- With a budget of Rs.64,180 crore, the mission has three aspects: strengthening public health institutions, building an IT-enabled disease surveillance system, and expanding research on infectious diseases.

Jan Aushadhi Train

- The Jan Aushadhi Train was flagged off recently in New Delhi by union ministers Dr Mansukh Mandaviya and Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw.



- It was launched as part of the week-long celebrations commemorating the Jan Aushadhi scheme. This is the second such train to be flagged off to create awareness about the scheme.

Incredible India Campaign

- The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India under its “Incredible India” brand is participating in ITB, Berlin 2023, showcasing India’s rich & diversified tourism potential.



About Incredible India Campaign:

- The ITB is a prestigious platform and is among the top international travel shows, where travel professionals come together to connect and showcase destinations and tourism products.

Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP)

- The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has launched the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) in 57 Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) throughout India. This flagship initiative is launched under NEP 2020.



- It was notified in 2021. It offers a 4-year dual-major undergraduate degree program, preparing teachers for the 4 stages of the new school structure i.e. the 5+3+3+4 structure of foundational, preparatory, middle and secondary schooling.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)

- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment’s flagship program, Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan

(NMBA), aims to raise awareness about substance abuse among youth in India, with a particular focus on higher education institutes, university campuses, schools, and community engagement.

National Bamboo Mission

- Recently, the National Workshop of Bamboo Sector Development was conducted under the National Bamboo Mission (NBM) in New Delhi on 10th March 2023.

About National Bamboo Mission:



- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme started in the year 2006-07 and was subsumed under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), for the years 2014-15 and 2015-16.

- MIDH is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented from 2014-15 for the holistic development of horticulture in the country, covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew and cocoa.

- The aim of the National Bamboo Mission is to focuses on the development of bamboo in limited States where it has social, commercial and economical advantages. in the

- Nodal Ministry: Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

- Bamboo is majorly grown in North Eastern region and States including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Benefits of the Mission:

- The initiative would assist farmers, local craftspeople, and other persons involved in the bamboo industry, including allied sectors, both directly and indirectly.

- The initiative aims to reduce the import of bamboo goods while also increasing farmer income.

- It establishes a full value chain for the expansion of the bamboo sector.

NIPUN BHARAT

- Recently, the Women and Child Development Minister introduced NIPUN BHARAT in Rajyasabha.



About NIPUN BHARAT:

- It has been launched as a National Mission called “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)” in 2021.
- Aim: To ensure that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.
- A five-tier implementation mechanism will be set up at the National- State- District- Block- School level in all States and UTs, under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha.
- It is one of the components of the NEP 2020.
- Implementing agency: The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education.

Baal Swaraj Portal

- Recently Women and Child Development Minister introduced about Baal Swaraj portal in Rajya Sabha.



About Baal Swaraj Portal:

- It is a portal launched by NCPCR for online tracking and digital real-time monitoring mechanism of children in need of care and protection.
- The portal has two functions- COVID care and CiSS.
- COVID Care link caters to the children who have lost either or both parents due to COVID-19 or otherwise post March 2020.

- CiSS- to help in the rehabilitation process of Children in Street Situations.
- Portal also provides a platform for professionals and organizations to provide any help for children in need in the form of open shelters, counselling services, medical services, de-addiction services, education services, volunteering etc.
- It has been launched under a centrally sponsored scheme namely Mission Vatsalya.

Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)

- The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPsRC), a component of Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana.

About ATAL VAYO ABHYUDAY YOJANA:

- It is a Central Sector Scheme, which is formerly known as National Action Plan for Senior Citizens.
- Its vision is to create a society where senior citizens live healthy, happy and empowered life.
- It has two components – the Integrated Program for Senior Citizens (IPsRC) and the State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC)
 - IPsRC: It entails setting up homes to improve the quality of life of senior citizens, especially indigent senior citizens for writing basic amenities.
 - SAPSrC: Each state/union territories expected to frame its own action plan for the welfare of senior citizens.
- Under IPsRC component grant in aid is provided to NGOs/ Voluntary Organisations (VOs) for running and maintenance of old age homes, Continuous Care Homes.
- Five schemes have been launched under this umbrella scheme:
 - Poshan Abhiyan for elderly
 - Livelihood and skilling initiatives for senior citizens
 - scheme on promoting silver economy
 - Awareness generation and capacity building for welfare of senior citizens
 - Channelising CSR funds for elderly care.
- Nodal Agency: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Poshan Pakhwada

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development will celebrate the fifth Poshan Pakhwada from 20th March 2022 to 3rd April 2023 with various activities nationwide.

About

- The Poshan Pakhwada aims to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and promote healthy eating habits through Jan Andolan and Jan Bhagidari.
- The theme of this year's Poshan Pakhwada 2023 is "Nutrition for All: Together Towards a Healthy India".
- With the declaration of 2023 as the International Year of Millets, this year the focus of Poshan Pakhwada will be to popularise 'Shree Anna' - the mother of all grains, as a valuable asset to address malnutrition.

What is Poshan Abhiyaan?

- Poshan Abhiyaan, launched by the Prime Minister of India on 8th March 2018, has been instrumental in ensuring people's participation and bringing the discourse on nutrition to the forefront.
- Poshan Abhiyan was launched to improve nutritional outcomes holistically.
- Behavioural change at the individual and community levels is an important component to achieve the desired goals of a Kuposhan-mukt Bharat.

PM MITRA Parks

- The Government of India recently announced the sites for setting up of 7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks for the Textile industry.



Why in news:

- Seven sites were chosen out of 18 proposals for PM MITRA parks which were received from 13 States.
- The Parks will come up in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

About PM MITRA:

- It will offer the opportunity to create an Integrated Textiles Value Chain right from spinning,

weaving, processing/dyeing and printing to garment manufacturing etc. at one location and will reduce the logistics cost of the Industry.

- A Special Purpose Vehicle owned by the Centre and State Government will be set up for each park which will oversee the implementation of the project.

Funding

- The Ministry of Textiles will provide financial support in the form of Development Capital Support up to Rs. 500 crores per park to the Park SPV.
- A Competitive Incentive Support (CIS) of up to Rs 300 crore per park to the units in PM MITRA Park shall also be provided to incentivise speedy implementation.
- State governments will provide a contiguous and encumbrance-free land parcel of at least 1000 acres of land.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Textiles.

'herSTART'

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh recently highlighted the newly created 'herSTART' platform, which aims to support women-led startups and encourage women entrepreneurs.
- The platform was launched in October 2022 by the Gujarat University Startup and Entrepreneurship Council (GUSEC). The platform aims to provide resources and training modules free of cost to aspiring women entrepreneurs.

Heal in India

- Heal in India is an initiative of the Indian Government aimed at promoting medical tourism in the country. This initiative is being led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Ayush.
- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) and Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) have been working in collaboration with the Ministries to develop a 'One Step' Heal in India portal for the promotion of Medical Value Travel.

National Rabies Control Program (NRCP) for prevention and control of Rabies

- A new initiative called the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) has been introduced by the Central Government with the aim of preventing and controlling Rabies.

- The objectives of the NRCP include providing rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin through free national drug initiatives, conducting training on appropriate animal bite management, prevention and control of rabies, surveillance, and intersectoral coordination, enhancing the surveillance of animal bites and reporting of rabies deaths, and raising awareness about rabies prevention.



Rabies

- Rabies is a viral infection that can be prevented by vaccination and is transmitted through the saliva of infected animals such as dogs, cats, and monkeys.

- Transmission occurs when an infected animal bites a person, depositing the virus in the wound.
- The disease is typically fatal if clinical symptoms appear, with death occurring within 4-14 days due to cardio-respiratory failure.
- Domestic dogs are responsible for the majority of human rabies cases, and the incubation period can vary from 1 week to 1 year or even longer, typically lasting 2-3 months.
- Treatment - Preventive measures include vaccinating pets, avoiding contact with wildlife, and seeking prompt medical care after potential exposure to the virus.
- Symptoms - Initial signs of rabies, which can last several days, include flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, anxiety, confusion, hyperactivity, difficulty swallowing, excessive salivation, hallucinations, and insomnia
- On the 28th of September each year, World Rabies Day is observed to increase awareness about the impact of rabies virus disease and methods to prevent it.
- The theme of this day for the year 2022 is 'Rabies: One Health, Zero Deaths'.



Chandrayaan-3 Mission:

- Chandrayaan-3 is India's third moon mission and is a follow up mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.
- Chandrayaan-3 mission has three major modules — the Propulsion module, Lander module, and Rover.
- The mission is slated to be launched later this year by Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LMV3) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.

India's DNA Vaccine against Dengue

- India's first prospective DNA vaccine against dengue is under clinical trials.

About DNA Vaccine:

- DNA vaccines use engineered DNA to induce an immunologic response in the host against bacteria, parasites, and viruses.
- The basic working principle behind DNA vaccine involves the use of a DNA plasmid that encodes for a protein that originated from the pathogen in which the vaccine will be targeted.
- It is considered to be more stable, cost-efficient, and easier to handle than traditional vaccines.

Dengue

- It is a mosquito-borne viral infection found in tropical and sub-tropical climates worldwide, mostly in urban and semi-urban areas.
- The primary vectors that transmit the disease are *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.
- The virus responsible for causing dengue is called the dengue virus (DENV).
- It can be transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) states that the virus can transmit from pregnant mother to baby.
- There is no specific treatment for dengue.

Scrub typhus

- Indian researchers have discovered a better medical treatment for life-threatening scrub typhus fever.
- Scrub typhus remains a major threat in India and South Asia.
- Symptoms include headache, cough, shortness of breath.
- Caused by the bacteria *Orientia tsutsugamushi*, this disease is life-threatening.



- This disease is transmitted by the bite of microscopic insects such as bedbugs, bedbugs, and lice.
- 800 people with scrub typhus were tested for 7 days. In this, patients were assessed for fever at 5 days, complications at 7 days, and mortality at 25 days.
- At the end of the study, it was found that using a combination of drugs and administering the drugs intravenously is more beneficial than a single drug for this disease. With this treatment, it has been found that the bacteria in the body of the patients are destroyed faster and they recover faster.

NISAR satellite

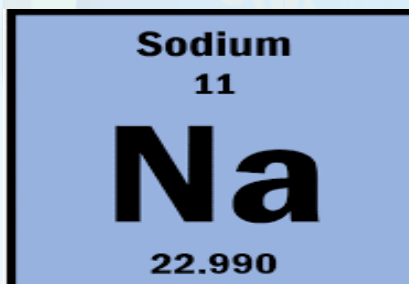
- US air forces handed over NISAR, a satellite jointly developed by US space agency NASA and India's ISRO (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) to India.



- The satellite is expected to be launched in 2024 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Andhra Pradesh.
- ISRO will be using the NISAR satellite for agricultural imaging operations and monitoring of landslide-prone areas.

Sodium Intake

- According to the WHO Global Report on Sodium Intake, Reduction two million deaths can be prevented by 2025 and seven million by 2030 if policies recommended by the World Health Organization to reduce sodium intake are implemented.



Key Highlights of the report:

- Of the 194 WHO member states, 55 per cent have implemented sodium reduction policies and other measures through mandatory and voluntary approaches.
- The global average salt intake is estimated to be 10.8 grams per day, more than double the WHO recommendation of fewer than 5 grams of salt per day (one teaspoon).

What is Sodium?

- Sodium (Na) is a chemical element of the alkali metal group(Group 1) of the periodic table.
- It is a very soft silvery-white metal.
- It is the most common alkali metal and the sixth most abundant element on Earth, comprising 2.8 per cent of Earth's crust.

- It shows an exploding reaction with water.
- It occurs abundantly in nature in compounds, especially common salt—sodium chloride (NaCl)—which forms the mineral halite and constitutes about 80 per cent of the dissolved constituents of seawater.

GSLV Mark 3 (LVM-3) rocket

- ISRO's GSLV Mark 3 (LVM-3) rocket was launched with 36 telecommunication satellites.
- It is reported to be ISRO's 6th GSLV Mark 3 spacecraft.



- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launches satellites into space using PSLV and GSLV rockets. In this, ISRO is trying to launch commercial satellites with GSLV Mark-3 (LVM-3) rocket.
- Accordingly, ISRO's NSIL entered into an MoU last year to launch 72 satellites of UK-based OneWeb using GSLV.
- In the first phase, 36 satellites were successfully launched on October 23 last year by the GSLV Mark-3 rocket.

NASA Human Mission to Mars

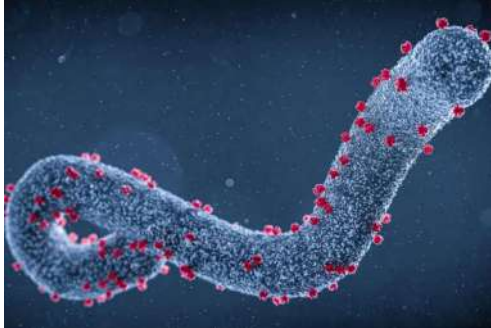
- NASA to send 4 humans to live on Mars from June 2023
- This summer, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is preparing four individuals to live on Mars.

Marburg virus diseases

- Tanzania announces outbreak of deadly Marburg virus diseases

About

- The discovery of Marburg viral disease (MVD) dates back to 1967 in Germany and Serbia. This highly fatal disease, with mortality rates ranging from 24% to 88%, causes severe hemorrhagic fever and is part of the same virus family as Ebola.



- Fruit bats are the carriers of the virus, which is then transmitted to humans through contaminated items or bodily fluids. Members of the family and healthcare providers are at a higher risk of contracting the disease.
- The **symptoms** of MVD can vary, starting from fever, nausea, and rash to jaundice and extreme weight loss. While there are no vaccines or treatments for the virus, controlling the patient's blood and oxygen levels or rehydration can help alleviate the symptoms and improve the chances of survival.



Hyneria udlezinye

- Hyneria udlezinye was a prehistoric fish species that is of great interest to paleontologists and evolutionary biologists. This species lived around 360 million years ago during the Devonian period and was a predatory sarcopterygian. Its discovery has provided valuable insights into the evolution of vertebrates and their transition from water to land.

Seahorse

- Extensive fishing off the Coromandel coast forced the great seahorse to migrate laboriously toward Odisha



About Seahorse:

- Great seahorses can be found in relatively deep waters.
- These are ovoviviparous and the males give birth to live young.
- They also have some traits, such as small body size, fast growth and high fecundity, that may confer resilience to high levels of exploitation
- They are distributed across diverse ecosystems such as seagrass, mangroves, macroalgal beds, and coral reefs.
- Conservation status
- IUCN: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix II

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- India recently proposed to launch International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) to protect big cats and assured support over five years with guaranteed funding of \$100 million.

About International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):

- It is a proposed mega-global alliance that will work toward the protection and conservation of the seven major big cats — tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar, and cheetah.
- Membership to the alliance will be open to 97 ‘range’ countries, which contain the natural habitat of these big cats, as well as other interested nations, international organizations, etc.
- The alliance’s purpose is to provide a platform for the dissemination of information on benchmarked practices, capacity building, resources repository, research and development, awareness creation, etc., on the protection and conservation of big cats.

Parambikulam Tiger Reserve

- A recent faunal survey conducted in the Parambikulam Tiger Reserve has recorded over 500 species, many of which were hitherto unseen in the protected area.
- About Parambikulam Tiger Reserve:
- Parambikulam is one of the premier Tiger Reserves of India and is endowed by nature in terms of species, habitat and ecosystem diversity.
- It is located in the Palakkad District of Kerala and lies between the Anamalai hills and Nelliampathy hills of the Southern Western Ghats.
- **Flora:** It supports diverse habitats like; evergreen forests, moist and dry deciduous forests and grasslands.
- **Fauna:** Lion-tailed macaques, Malabar giant squirrel and Flying squirrel, Tarantula (large-bodied spiders) etc.
- There are several endemic, rare, endangered and threatened (RET) species of flora and fauna adding to the diversity of the Reserve.

Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary

- Recently, during the Synchronised Bird Census 2023 conducted by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department at Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary as many as 69 species of terrestrial birds were observed.

About the Sanctuary:

- It was established in the year of 1967 and is situated in the state of Tamil Nadu.



- It houses the famous bird sanctuary of Vedaranyam and the Talaignayar forests.
- Flanked by the Bay of Bengal in the east, and Palk Strait in the south, It primarily focuses on the protection and conservation of the black antelopes, an endangered and endemic species that are found in this region.
- It is designated as a Ramsar site.
- **Flora:** It has mangroves, tropical evergreen forests, and grassland ecosystems.
- **Fauna:** Wild boar, macaque, black buck, chital, Great flamingo, Painted Stork, Little Stint, Seagull and Brown-headed gull are normally found in the sanctuary.

Guindy National Park

- A total of 421 birds of 63 species were spotted during the two-day annual bird census at the Guindy National Park.



About Guindy National Park:

- Guindy is India's eighth-smallest national park and one of the very few national parks located inside a city.
- It is located in the heart of Chennai's metropolitan area of Tamil Nadu.
- It is one of the last remnants of the tropical dry evergreen forests of the Coromandel Coast.
- **Flora:** Tropical dry evergreen forest, Scrub and thorn forests.

- **Fauna:** Blackbuck, Toddy cat, Civet cat, Jungle cat, Pangolin, Hedgehog, Shrew and black-naped hare etc.

Kalakkad–Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR)

- Recently, two researchers from Tamil Nadu have spotted a rare moth species for the first time in India in the buffer zone of Kalakkad–Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve.



About

- The researchers from Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) Tamil Nadu Wetland Mission were the first in the world to photograph the moth species *Mimeusemia ceylonica*.
- It was first illustrated and described by English entomologist George Hampson and was sighted 127 years ago - at Trincomalee in Sri Lanka in 1893.
- *Mimeusemia ceylonica* belongs to the subfamily Agaristinae and family Noctuidae.

Key facts about (KMTR)

- The Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu is one of the protected areas having diverse flora and fauna.
- It was declared as the “First Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu” and the 17th Tiger Reserve of the country.
- It consists of the Kanyakumari Wildlife sanctuary in the south and the Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary in the North.
- The river Thamirabarani originates from this tiger reserve.
- The reserve is also known as the “River Sanctuary” with as many as 14 rivers originating from this Tiger Reserve.
- **Flora:** This region has got vegetation types which gradually change from dry thorn forest to dry deciduous, moist deciduous and a patch of West coast wet evergreen forests on the higher reaches of the reserve.

- **Fauna:** Lion Tailed Macaque, Nilgiri Tahr, Nilgiri Pipit, Grey Headed Bulbul, Blue Winged Parakeet etc.

Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has introduced the Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure, which aims to provide standardized and real-time tracking of greenhouse gases.
- The new platform integrates space-based and surface-based observing systems to improve the measurement of planet-warming pollution and inform policy decisions.

Pench Tiger Reserve

- As many as 129 species of butterflies were recorded during a citizen science-based survey at Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra's Nagpur district.

About Pench Tiger Reserve:

- It is located in the Nagpur district of Maharashtra which derives its name from its lifeline - the River Pench.
- Pench River divides the reserve into almost two halves.
- The Reserve is located in the southern reaches of the Satpura hills in the Seoni and Chhindwara districts in Madhya Pradesh and continues in Nagpur district in Maharashtra as a separate Sanctuary.
- **Fauna:** Tiger, Leopard, Sloth bear, Indian gaur, Wild dog, wolf etc.
- **Flora:** It has a mixture of Southern dry broadleaf teak forests and tropical mixed deciduous forests are present.

Barda Wildlife Sanctuary

- The Gujarat government has proposed a second home for Asiatic lions in Gujarat at Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, about 100km away from their present home at Gir National Park.

About the news

- The Central government of India has given in-principle approval to the project.
- A report on "Lion@2047: A vision for Amrutkal", prepared by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) for the Gujarat government, has identified Barda as a potential site where a population of 40 adult and sub-adult lions can be accommodated in the larger landscape of Barda-Alech hills and coastal forests.

Key facts about Barda Wildlife Sanctuary:

- Barda Wildlife Sanctuary area falls into two districts, Porbandar and Jamnagar in the state of Gujarat
- It is characteristically abundant in floral diversity, which consists of a good number of medicinal plants.
- **Flora:** The area has the maximum floral diversity in the state (650 plant species), Gorad, Babul, Dhav, Rayan, Ber, Jamun, Amla, Dhudhlo, Bamboo
- **Fauna:** Leopard, Hyena, Wild boar, wolf, Jackal, blue bull, Rare and endangered spotted eagle and crested hawk eagle etc.

Project Lion

- It envisages ecology-based conservation of the Asiatic Lion in Gujarat by integrating conservation and eco-development.
- The Project is being implemented in the Gir landscape in Gujarat which is the last home of the Asiatic lion.
- Conservation status of Asiatic Lion
 - ▶ IUCN: Endangered

Indian Black Turtle

- Recently, the Marakkanam police seized 46 live Indian Black Turtles (*Melanochelys trijuga*) from two persons who were allegedly smuggling them on a two-wheeler, from neighbouring Puducherry.



About Indian Black Turtle:

- The Indian black turtle is a medium-sized turtle found across the Indian subcontinent.
- It is an aquatic species, mainly associated with standing water bodies, sometimes rivers.
- The species is an omnivore, consuming both aquatic macrophytes and invertebrates.
- The species shows a crepuscular to a nocturnal lifestyle, with individuals seen foraging after dark along the edges of water bodies.

- The distribution in India includes the hill ranges of the Western Ghats, south of Gujarat, and the southeast coast, and then a separate disjunct distribution in northern and northeastern India.
- Conservation status:
 - ▶ IUCN: Least concern

Wild Ass Sanctuary

- Gujarat High Court recently sought a report from the state government on the licenses and permissions it has granted for mining activities within Wild Ass Sanctuary in the Little Rann of Kutch.

About Wild Ass Sanctuary:



- **Location:** It is located in the Little Rann of Kutch of the Gujarat State in India.
- It is the only place where the Indian wild ass, locally called Khacchar, is found.
- The sanctuary is home to a sizeable population of Rabari and Bharwad tribes.

Flora:

- It is full of dry thorny scrub, and there are no large trees except on the fringes and bets.
- Some of the plants and trees that are found in this sanctuary are Morad, Unt morad, Theg, Dolari, Khijdo, Kerdo, Mithi jar, Kheri pilu, Akado, etc.
- Fauna:
 - Besides Indian Wild Ass, the other mammals found here include Blackbuck, Nilgai, Bluebull, Hare, Wolf, Foxes, Desert Cat, Indian fox, Jackal, Hyena, Wild boar, etc.
 - There is rich birdlife, including the Houbara bustard, Sandgrouse, Pale harrier, Black-shouldered kite, Pelican, etc.

Key Facts about Indian Wild Ass:

- It is a sub-species of Asian Wild Ass, i.e., Equus hemionus.
- Scientific name: Equus hemionus khur
- It is characterized by distinctive white markings on the anterior part of the rump and on the posterior part of the shoulder and a stripe down the back that is bordered by white.

- Distribution: World's last population of Indian Wild Ass is restricted to Rann of Kachchh, Gujarat.
- **Habitat:** Desert and grassland ecosystems.
- Conservation Status:
 - ▶ IUCN: Near threatened.
 - ▶ CITES: Appendix II
 - ▶ Wildlife Protection Act (1972): Schedule-I

Eurasian Otter

- Three Eurasian Otters were recently spotted in the Neeru stream of the Chenab catchment in Jammu and Kashmir

About Eurasian Otter:

- It is a semi-aquatic carnivorous mammal.
- Scientific Name: Lutra lutra

Distribution:

- It has one of the widest distributions of all Palaearctic mammals.
- Its range covers parts of three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- In India, it occurs in northern, northeast, and southern India.



Habitat:

- It lives in a wide variety of aquatic habitats, including highland and lowland lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, swamp forests, and coastal areas.
- In the Indian subcontinent, Eurasian otters occur in cold hill and mountain streams.

Features:

- It has a long lithe body with a thick tail and short legs.
- It has sensitive whiskers around the snout to help detect prey.
- It has two layers of fur: a thick waterproof outer one and a warm inner one with 50,000 hairs/cm²
- It has an acute sense of sight, smell, and hearing.

- Conservation Status:
 - ▶ IUCN: Near threatened
 - ▶ Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule II
 - ▶ CITES: Appendix I

Cyrtopodion Vindhya

- Recently, a new species of naked-toed gecko (Cyrtopodion) has been discovered in Dahod and Panchmahals districts in Gujarat.



About

- The newly discovered naked-toed gecko has been named 'Cyrtopodion Vindhya' and it is the fifth endemic species of reptile described in the last fifteen years from the state of Gujarat.
- The new species is named after the Vindhya hill ranges.
- The Palearctic naked-toed geckos of the genus Cyrtopodion are a group of gekkonid lizards distributed across the arid regions of north Africa, Arabia, and Central Asia to northwestern India.
- The taxonomic history of the genus Cyrtopodion has been unstable, and 23 species are currently recognized, with the diversity concentrated in Pakistan and Iran.
- The newly discovered reptile is a nocturnal species, associated with granite boulders.
- Mostly rupicolous(living among rocks) in its habits but can be found on the ground as well.
- Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis (Bd)
- Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis (Bd) is a lethal fungus that causes chytridiomycosis – a deadly disease that is wiping out hundreds of amphibian species.
- The pathogen affects the keratin in the skin of amphibians and is spreading across Africa, killing out or driving to the verge of extinction hundreds of amphibian species.

Kashmiri Stag ((Hangul)

- In a recent census conducted at Kashmir's Dachigam National Park, it was found that the population of Hangul or Kashmiri Stag has gradually increased over time at the national park.

Note

- The Kashmir stag also called hangul is a subspecies of Central Asian red deer endemic to Kashmir and surrounding areas.



- It is found in dense riverine forests in the high valleys and mountains of Jammu and Kashmir and northern Himachal Pradesh.
- In Kashmir, it is found primarily in the Dachigam National Park where it receives protection.
- A small population has also been witnessed in Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary in south Kashmir.
- Conservation status
- IUCN: Critically Endangered
- CITES : Appendix I

Exostoma Dhritiae

- A new catfish species named 'Exostoma Dhritiae' was recently discovered by scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Arunachal Pradesh.



Note

- It is a new species of catfish of the genus Exostoma.
- It is a small fish locally called 'Ngorang' by local tribals.
- The new species has been named 'Exostoma Dhritiae' after Dhriti Banerjee, the first woman director of the ZSI.
- It was found in Siking stream, a tributary of the Siang River in the Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Long-tailed ducks

- Recently, Long-tailed duck species have been spotted at the iconic Wular Lake, Kashmir after 116 years.



Note

- The attractive Long-tailed Duck breeds in the high Arctic and spends winters mostly along ocean coasts.
- They are amazing divers—able to swim down as deep as 200 feet to forage.
- Unlike other ducks, Long-tailed Ducks do not use their feet to propel their dives, but they flap with partially opened wings.
- It is one of the species to which the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)
- Conservation Status
 - IUCN: Vulnerable

Earth Hour

- Millions of people across countries recently celebrated Earth Hour.

About Earth Hour:

- It is a global grassroots movement uniting people to take action on environmental issues and protect the planet.
- It is organized by World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
- It was started by WWF and partners as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney in 2007.
- It takes place on the last Saturday of March every year.
- “Earth Hour” encourages people to switch off all lights for an hour, from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm local time to promote awareness of climate change challenges and energy conservation.
- Governments and companies also participate by turning off non-essential lights in their buildings, monuments, and landmarks to raise awareness about the impact of energy consumption on our planet.

- This symbolic act, known as the ‘lights off’ moment, unites people worldwide in a show of support for the planet and serves as a reminder of the environmental issues facing us.

Sea Slugs

- Recently, scientists documented a unique species of sea slugs from the Visakhapatnam coast.



About Sea Slugs:

- Sea slugs belong to Phylum Mollusca and Class Gastropoda. They look like naked snails, i.e., without shells.
- Sea slugs are usually found in the sea but some slugs live on land as well.
- A unique species of nudibranch sea slugs were documented on the Visakhapatnam shore.
- These sea slugs are found in places with abundant prey bases which may vary from sponges, hydroids and algae.
- The nudibranchs are usually found in coral reefs and their presence is a significant indicator of a strong coral ecosystem.
- They mainly feed on algae and are usually seen in large numbers when there is an algal bloom.
- Most nudibranchs are active throughout the day, but some species are also nocturnal.

Moray eel



- Recently, researchers have discovered a new species of Moray eel at the Mudasalodai fish landing centre off the Cuddalore coast.

About

- Moray eels or Muraenidae are a family of eels found worldwide
- They have small eyes and rely primarily on their highly developed sense of smell to ambush prey. Their body is mostly patterned.
- Moray eels live in shallow water among reefs and rocks in all tropical and subtropical seas.
- Moray eels can be found in both freshwater and saltwater environments.
- They are distinguished by two types of jaws: regular (oral) jaws with large teeth and the pharyngeal jaw (which drags prey inside the eel's stomach).
- The newly discovered species has been named after Tamil Nadu as *Gymnothorax tamilnaduensis* with common name as Tamil Nadu brown moray.

Cheetah

- In Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park, a female cheetah brought from Namibia last year has given birth to four cubs.



- The central government has taken steps to bring back and breed cheetahs, an extinct animal in India. Accordingly, eight cheetahs were brought to India in September 2022 from the South African country of Namibia.
- Five female cheetahs and three male cheetahs were flown in.

Eurasian Griffon Vulture

- A rare Eurasian griffon vulture was recently spotted at Delhi's Aravalli Biodiversity Park (ABP)



About Eurasian Griffon Vulture:

- It is a large Old World vulture in the bird of prey family Accipitridae.
- It is one of the largest birds in the vulture family and is Europe's second-largest bird.
- Scientific Name: *Gyps fulvus*

Distribution:

- It has a very large range, across the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe, from India to Portugal and Spain
- They are most commonly found in countries that border the Mediterranean.

Habitat:

- They live in areas of mountains, plateaus, shrubland, grassland, and semi-desert, usually in warm climates, but also in harsher conditions of cold, rain, mist, and snow to secure particularly favourable breeding or foraging conditions.
- They tend to avoid forests, lakes, wetlands, and marine waters.

Conservation Status:

- IUCN: Least Concern



India on 108th Position in Electoral Democracy Index 2023

- India has now been ranked at the 108th spot globally for electoral democracy, far behind nations like Tanzania, Bolivia, Mexico, Singapore, and even Nigeria, which comes in at a modest 91st spot by V-Dem Institute in its Electoral Democracy Report for 2023.
- This ranking may come as a shock to many, but it is also far below nations like Tanzania, Bolivia, Mexico, Singapore, and even India.

India's per capita income doubles since 2014-15: NSO.

- India's per capita income in nominal terms doubled to Rs 1,72,000 since 2014-15 when the Narendra Modi-led NDA came to power but uneven income distribution remains a challenge.
- As per the National Statistical Office (NSO), the annual per capita (net national income) at current prices is estimated at Rs 1,72,000 in 2022-23, up from Rs 86,647 in 2014-15, suggesting an increase of about 99 per cent.

World Bank's Women, Business and the Law Report 2023

- Economic growth and strength are boosted by gender equality, according to the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law Report 2023.
- It increases labour force participation and results in a more effective allocation of resources. Women may engage more fully in the economy and realise their full potential when they have equal access to economic opportunities, which boosts productivity and growth.

Mind the Gender Gap report

- The report titled "Mind the Gender Gap" was released recently by the CFA Institute. It is created based on the data from BRSR (Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report) disclosures. The BRSR framework was released in 2021 by SEBI as a set of sustainability disclosure mechanisms for private companies.

- According to the Mind the Gender Gap report, women's participation rate in finance and related sectors are low in India. Only 21.7 per cent of women are employed in financial services companies and only 15.9 per cent are employed in key managerial positions.

2023 Hunger Funding Gap Report

- A report titled "2023 Hunger Funding Gap Report: What's Needed to Stop the Global Hunger Crisis" was released recently by Action Against Hunger, a global humanitarian organisation.
- The organization takes action against the causes and effects of hunger. According to this report, countries witnessing the worst hunger crisis received less hunger funding than countries with lower rates of hunger.

International Energy Agency report

- According to the CO2 Emissions in 2022 Report by the International Energy Agency released on March 2, 2023, global energy-related CO2 emissions increased by less than 1% in 2022.
- This is despite many countries shifting from natural gas to coal as an energy source. This was due to the increased use of clean energy technologies such as solar, wind, EVs, heat pumps, and energy efficiency, which helped to limit the impacts of coal and oil use amid the global energy crisis.

Indian States' Energy Transition

- The "Indian States' Energy Transition" Report was released recently by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and EMBER.
- The report analysed 16 states, which make up 90% of India's annual power requirement, and devised a scoring system called States' Electricity Transition (SET) to measure performance.
- The report tracks 4 dimensions- decarbonization, the performance of the power system, the readiness of the power ecosystem and policies and political commitment.

- ▶ According to this report, Karnataka and Gujarat are leading the way in India's transition to clean electricity.
- ▶ Karnataka is the only state that scored well across all four dimensions of clean electricity transition and has proactive policies for open access, solar park development and public awareness.
- ▶ Meanwhile, Gujarat scored just behind Karnataka in decarbonising its electricity sector. Other states like Haryana and Punjab are also taking major steps in the electricity transition.

Arms imports

- India tops in arms imports - Swedish research institute informs

Note

- India is one of the top arms importers in the world.
- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, published its annual report on arms exports and imports recently.
- It has been said that: In the last year 2022, the United States is on the top of the list of countries that have exported the most weapons internationally. 40% of the total arms exports are from USA alone.



- In second place is Russia. 16% of arms are exported from that country. France 11%, China 5.2%, Germany 4.2%, Italy 3.8%, UK 3.2%, Spain 2.6%, South Korea 2.4%, Israel 2.3% are next.
- India tops the list of countries that have imported the most weapons. India alone imports 11% of the total arms imports from foreign countries. Russia is the top arms supplier to India with 45 percent. India imports 29% of its arms from France and 11% from the US.

- India is importing more weapons due to threats from Pakistan and China. Due to this, since 1993, India has been the number one importer of international weapons.
- India's arms imports decreased by around 11% during 2018-22 as compared to 2013-17. The country's arms imports are gradually decreasing as domestic arms production is increasing.

India 8th most polluted country in the world: Swiss firm IQAir Report.

- According to the 'Global Air Quality' study published by the Swiss company IQAir, India fell from the fifth to the eighth most polluted nation in the world in 2022. The research shows that the PM2.5 level in the most polluted Indian cities is 53.3.

Global Terrorism Index

- Afghanistan remains the country most impacted by terrorism for the fourth consecutive year, despite attacks and deaths falling by 75 per cent and 58 per cent, respectively, the tenth Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report showed.
- India ranked 13th on the index, marking only a marginal decrease from the previous year.
- In spite of being among the 25 worst-hit nations on the index, Indian respondents desisted from selecting war and terrorism as the biggest threat to their daily safety.

Women and men in India 2022 Report

- The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the Women and Men in India 2022 report on March 16, 2023.
- The report revealed that India's sex ratio, or the number of females per 1,000 males, is expected to improve from 943 in 2011 to 952 by 2036. However, the report also highlighted the gender disparity in labor force participation rates in the country.
- Improvement in Sex Ratio- The report noted that the sex ratio at birth increased by three points to 907 in 2018-20 from 904 in 2017-19.
 - ▶ The projected sex ratio improvement to 952 by 2036 is a positive development, but the report also indicates that women in India are still largely excluded from the labor force, restricting their financial independence.

Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)

- The Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), in its latest report, said that India can emerge as a major player in the wind energy sector if facilitative policy measures are put in place.



About:

- It is a member-based trade association that represents the entire wind energy sector.
 - It was established in 2005 to provide a credible and representative forum for the entire wind energy sector at an international level.
 - **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium.
 - **Mission:** To promote the development and deployment of wind power as a sustainable and cost-effective source of energy.
- The GWEC conducts research, provides market intelligence, and advocates for policies that support the growth of wind energy.
 - It also organizes events and conferences to bring together stakeholders from around the world to discuss key issues in the industry.
 - Reports published: Global Wind Report

Passport Index

Passport Index points: India ranks at 144th spot in 2023

- According to the latest update from the Passport Index, India's Mobility Scores have decreased, resulting in the country experiencing the largest global drop on the Index this year.
- Prior to the pandemic in 2019, India had a mobility score of 71, which increased to 73 in 2022 as the post-pandemic wave of increasing mobility took effect. However, as of March 2023, its mobility score has dropped to 70.
- This decline has occurred despite record increases in mobility as the global and national economies re-opened after the pandemic.
- India's ranking has fallen by six places in 2023, resulting in an individual ranking of 144 compared to 138 in 2022.



FIFA Award

- Argentina's star player Lionel Messi has been selected and honored as the best player of the International Football Federation(FIFA) for the year 2022. Which was held in Paris, France.
- Spain's Alexia Butellas was eventually chosen For the Women's Footballer of the Year award

Asian Chess

Federation

- India's young grandmaster d Gukesh has been awarded the player of the year award at an event held in Abu Dhabi on behalf of the Asian Chess Federation.



- Gukesh, India's youngest player who scored more than 2700 points in the 44th Chess Olympiad held in Chennai last year, set a record by winning the gold medal.
- With this, the Asian Chess Confederation (ACS) has honored Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh with the Player of the Year Award.

Stadium named after hockey star Rani Rampal, first woman to get this honour

- Rani Rampal, a prominent player on the Indian hockey team, has achieved a significant milestone as the first woman in the sport to have a stadium named after her.
- The MCF Rae Bareilly has renamed the hockey stadium to 'Rani's Girls Hockey Turf' in her honor.

Asian Billiards title

- Pankaj Advani, the Indian cue sports champion, has retained his Asian Billiards title in the 100-up format.

World Cup Shooting Competition

- India bagged 2 medals - 1 silver and 1 bronze - in the mixed team category at the Shooting World Cup in Madhya Pradesh.
- As a result, the number of medals won by India so far in this competition has increased to 4, i.e. 1 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze.
- In the final rounds, India's Varun Thom/Ritham Sangwan combination won the silver medal in Air Pistol Mixed Teams category and Rudranksh Patil/Namtha Nithin combined third place in Air Rifle Mixed Teams category to get Bronze.

World Cup Shooting Competition

- World Cup Shooting Competition is going on in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. In the women's 50m air rifle category, Indian athlete Chipt Kaur Samra won the bronze medal.

Women's World Boxing Championship



- India's Neethu Kangas and Savethi Bora set a record by winning gold medals at the Women's World Boxing Championships.
- India has won 12 gold medals so far in the history of World Boxing Championships.

Statue of Knowledge

- On April 13, a 70-feet tall statue of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar will be unveiled in Latur city, Maharashtra.
- The unveiling ceremony will take place in the presence of Union ministers Kiren Rijju and Ramdas Athawale, along with other dignitaries such as former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and state minister Sanjay Bansode.





AWARDS

Porter Prize 2023

- Porter Prize 2023 was conferred recently to the Indian Government's Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The award recognized the achievements of the ministry in the health sector, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It recognized India's successful delivery of more than 2.5 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines and the role of stakeholders like ASHA workers. The Prize is named after Michael E. Porter- an economist and researcher.

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2023

- Prime Minister of India recently felicitated awardees of the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar during the 3rd Session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR).



About Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar:

- It is an award to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of disaster management.

Oscars awards 2023:

- RRR's "Naatu Naatu" wins Best Original Song.



- The 95th Academy Awards have announced that RRR's "Naatu Naatu" won Best Original Song. The Oscars was accepted by lyricist Chandrabose and composer Keeravani.

Saraswati Samman Award

- 'Saraswati Samman' - KK Birla Foundation Award Announcement for Writer Sivasankari.



- Writer Sivasankari has been selected for the Saraswati Samman Literary Award for the year 2022. She has been given this award for her book 'Suryavamsam - Memoirs'.

About

- The Saraswati Samman Literary Award is presented annually to an outstanding literary work in any of the 22 Indian languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- Considered one of the highest awards in India, the KK Birla Foundation has been presenting this award since 1991.
- The award includes a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh, and a certificate of appreciation.
- Writers are selected for the award based on their work over the past 10 years.

Governor of the Year' Award for 2023

- Shaktikanta Das, the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has been named "Governor of the Year" for 2023 by Central Banking, an international economic research journal.
- Das's steady leadership during challenging periods, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the collapse of a significant non-banking company, and inflationary pressures due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, earned him this accolade.

- This recognition highlights the critical role of strong leadership in managing complex economic challenges.

Padma Awards 2023

- The 2023 Padma awardees were presented with the awards by President Draupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Palace.



Note

- Padma awards are given annually to those who have rendered excellent service in various fields including arts, social service, public service, science and technology.
- The names of 106 people who have been selected for this year's Padma Award have been published by the central government on January 25
- Accordingly, Vadivel Gopal and M.C. Sadian, Irular snake catcher from Chengalpattu district of Tamil Nadu,
- Film singer Vani Jayaram
- Palam Kalyanasundaram, for social service.
- Gopalsamy Veluchami in Medicine
- Kalyana Sundaram Pillai has been awarded the Padma Shri for his social service.

Children's Champion Award

- Tapoban, an NGO based in Pathsala, Assam, which focuses on supporting children with special needs and autism, has been honored with the prestigious Children's Champion Award 2023.
- This award is presented by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights and acknowledges individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the welfare of children

in various areas such as education, justice, health, nutrition, sports, and creative arts.

Kashmir's Aliya Mir honoured with Wildlife Conservation Award 2023

- The Union Territory has awarded wildlife conservationist Aliya Mir for her exceptional efforts in conservation. Aliya is the first woman from Jammu and Kashmir to work for Wildlife SOS and is the first.



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman honoured with literary award.

- The Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) presented a unique literary award to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh for his trilogy of books



Lifetime Achievement Award

- Naveen Jindal has been awarded a lifetime achievement award by the University of Texas at Dallas for his accomplishments in industry, politics, and education. Jindal, who graduated from the University.



Exercise Shinyuu Maitri

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise Shinyuu Maitri with the Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF).



About

- It is a bilateral military exercise between Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF).
- The exercise is being organized on the sidelines of the Indo-Japan Joint Army Exercise, Dharma Guardian.
- The IAF contingent is participating in the exercise with one C-17 Globemaster III
- The first phase of the exercise consists of discussions on transport operations and tactical manoeuvring, followed by the second phase of flying drills by IAF's C-17 and JASDF C-2 transport aircraft.
- The exercise will enhance mutual understanding and interoperability between the two air forces.

BrahMos missile

- Recently BrahMos Missile is tested by Indian Navy



- It is a joint venture of India and Russia which makes supersonic cruise missiles
- It has a speed of 2.8 Mach or about three times the speed of sound.
- The missiles can be launched from a range of platforms such as submarines, ships, aircraft, or land.
- BrahMos Aerospace is also developing the BrahMos NG, a compact version of the missile.

FRINJEX-23

- FRINJEX-23, the first-ever joint military exercise between Indian Army and French Army. It was conducted between 7th and 8th of March 2023 at Pangode Military Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Both contingents consist of a Company Group.

Bold Kurukshetra

- Recently, the Singapore Army and Indian Army participated in Exercise Bold Kurukshetra which was held at Jodhpur Military Station, India.



About

- It was the 13th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral military exercise between India and the Singapore army.
- Hosted by the Indian Army, the exercise involved soldiers from the 42nd Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment and an Armoured Brigade of the Indian Army.
- First conducted in 2005, this exercise underscores the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between both countries and enhances cooperation between the two armies.

- Both defence establishments also interact regularly through high-level visits, policy dialogues, courses and other professional exchanges.

Exercise La Perouse – 2023

- A multilateral exercise La Perouse is scheduled to be conducted in the Indian Ocean Region from 13 to 14 March 2023



About Exercise La Perouse:

- The third edition of the multilateral maritime exercise is conducted in the Indian Ocean Region.
- This edition will witness the participation of personnel, ships and integral helicopters of the Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force, Royal Navy and the United States Navy.
- The biennial exercise La Perouse is conducted by the French Navy and is aimed at enhancing maritime domain awareness and optimising maritime coordination amongst the participating navies in the Indo-Pacific Region.

Exercise SEA DRAGON 23

- Indian Navy is participating in SEA DRAGON 23 exercise in waters off Guam, USA which has been scheduled from 15-30 March 23.
- About Exercise SEA DRAGON 23:
- The Sea Dragon is an annual, multinational anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise conducted by the United States Navy.
- **Participating Countries:** India, USA, Japan, Canada and South Korea.
- The annual exercise launched in 2014. This is the third edition of the coordinated multi-lateral ASW exercise for Long Range MR ASW aircraft.
- The Exercise aims to achieve high levels of synergy and coordination between the friendly navies, which is based on their shared values and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- The Exercise would witness representation by an Indian Navy P8I aircraft along with other countries' aircrafts.

- This exercise will test the capabilities of participating aircraft in tracking simulated and live underwater targets, whilst also sharing mutual expertise.

Other Exercises between India and USA:

- **Malabar: India and USA with Japan, Australia participate in the naval war gaming exercise named Malabar.**
- **Yudh Abhyas: Military Training Exercise**
- **VAJRA PRAHAR: Special Forces Exercise.**

AFINDEX

- The Indian Army is set to host the second edition of the Africa-India field training exercise (AFINDEX-23) from March 21 to 30 and African Chiefs Conclave on March 28 in Pune.

About

- The first Africa-India Field Training Exercise was held in Pune in March 2019. It saw participation from 20 African nations.
- The first India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave was held on the sidelines of the DEFEXPO, 2020 in Lucknow.

Objective:

- To continue building upon initiatives taken to strengthen India-Africa relations, with a focus on enhancing peace and security, and creating opportunities to exchange ideas and perspectives.
- Learning from the African experience in cooperative security, management of security crises and conflicts, and promoting a collaborative approach in capacity enhancement of African armies

Exercise Vayu Prahar

- The Indian Army and the Indian Air force recently conducted a joint exercise, 'Vayu Prahar'.

About Exercise Vayu Prahar:

- It is a multi-domain air-land exercise jointly conducted by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.
- The special forces also participated along with the Army and the Navy in the 96-hour exercise which was held in the eastern theatre.
- **Objective:** To validate joint plans to prosecute synergized multiple-domain operations.
- The scope of the exercise included the rapid mobilization of an earmarked Rapid Reaction Force from the hinterland to undertake air-landed operations in a nominated Advance Landing Ground.

Exercise Konkan 2023

- Konkan 2023, the bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the UK's Royal Navy, was recently held off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea.



About

- Konkan exercise is the annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the UK's Royal Navy.
- INS Trishul, a guided missile frigate, and HMS Lancaster, a Type 23 guided missile frigate, participated in this edition.
- They undertook multiple maritime drills to enhance interoperability between the two forces and imbibe best practices.
- The exercises covered all domains of maritime operations, air, surface, and sub-surface.

17 ships for Indian Navy at a cost of Rs 19,600 crore - Ministry of Defense contract

- 11 state-of-the-art patrol vessels and 6 missile vessels are being procured for the Indian Navy for patrol duties.
- The Ministry of Defense has said that the strength of the Navy will further increase with this procurement.

INS Trikand

- INS Trikand is participating in the International Maritime Exercise/ Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/ CE-23) being held in the Gulf region from 26 Feb to 16 Mar 23.



About INS Trikand:

- INS Trikand is a frontline frigate equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors. The ship is a part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet, based in Mumbai.
- It belongs to the Talwar class of guided missile frigates.
- It was built by the Yantar shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia.

FRINJEX-23

- The India-France joint exercise FRINJEX-23 is scheduled to be held at the Pangod military center in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

About FRINJEX-23:

- It is the first joint military exercise between the Indian Army and French Army.
- This is the first time the two countries have engaged in a military exercise in a team format consisting of a company group.
- **Objective:** Enhancing interoperability, coordination, and cooperation between both forces at the tactical level.
- The theme for the exercise is based on "Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations in a Contested Environment".

Indian-France Military Exercises:

- Exercise Garuda: Air Force
- Exercise Varuna: Navy
- Exercise Shakti: Army



India's Vaccine Growth Story

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya released the book 'India's Vaccine Growth Story - From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri' authored by Shri Sajjan Singh Yadav.

Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform

- Rachna Biswat Rawat a journalist and writer from India, has recently written a book called "Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform."
- The book is published by Penguin Veer, a Penguin Random House imprint, and focuses on the life, personality, and principles of General Bipin Rawat.
- Rawat was India's first Chief of Defence Staff and one of the country's most notable military leaders until he tragically died in a helicopter crash in 2021.

Snakes in the Ganga: Breaking India 2.0

- The book "Snakes In the Ganga: Breaking India 2.0" authored by Shri Rajiv Malhotra and Mrs. Vijaya Viswanathan has received considerable recognition in India.
- It sheds light on the various threats to India's national security from the United States, which is not typically perceived as a major risk by the average Indian.

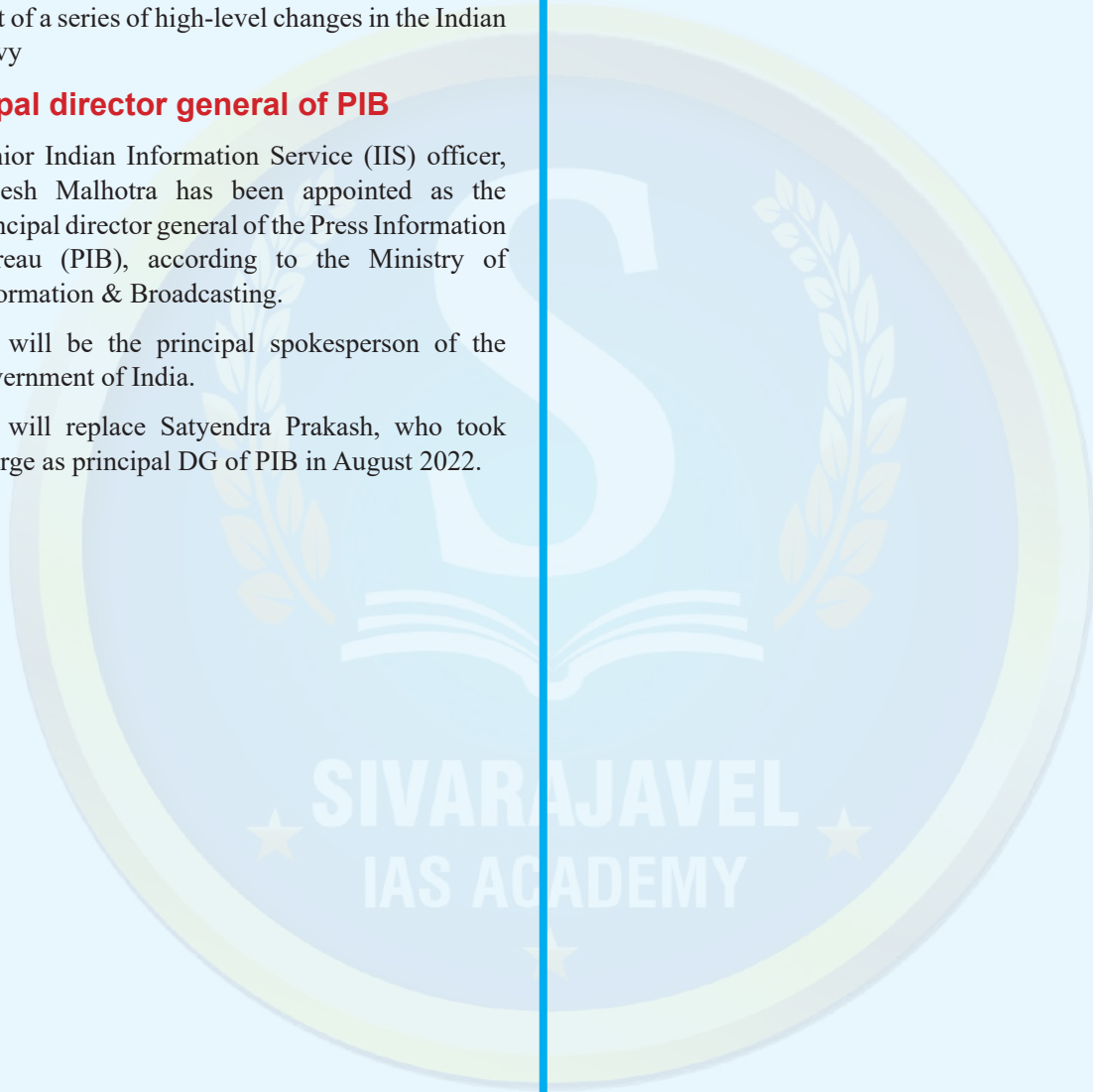


Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh is new Vice-Chief of Navy.

- Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh assumed the position of Vice-Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS) as part of a series of high-level changes in the Indian Navy

Principal director general of PIB

- Senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, Rajesh Malhotra has been appointed as the principal director general of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), according to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- He will be the principal spokesperson of the government of India.
- He will replace Satyendra Prakash, who took charge as principal DG of PIB in August 2022.





IMPORTANT DAYS

Zero Discrimination Day 2023

- On Zero Discrimination Day, 1 March, we celebrate the right of everyone to live a full and productive life and live it with dignity.
- Zero Discrimination Day highlights how people can become informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace and, above all, a movement for change.
- Zero Discrimination Day is helping to create a global movement of solidarity to end all forms of discrimination.

World Seagrass Day 2023

- World Seagrass Day is celebrated annually on 1st March to raise awareness about seagrass and its important functions in the marine ecosystem.

What are Seagrasses?

- The seagrasses are grass-like plants that live close to the sea. They are the only flowering plant to grow in the marine environment.
- There are more than 60 seagrass species in the world. They act as the best carbon sink and provide food for marine life.

World Civil Defence Day 2023.

- World Civil Defence Day is observed on 1st March to raise awareness about the importance of civil defence measures in protecting people and their property from natural disasters, accidents, and other emergencies.
- The day honours the work of several civil defence organizations in protecting communities and saving lives.
- The day also recognises the contribution of civil defence personnel, who work tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of their communities.

World Wildlife Day 2023

- World Wildlife Day is celebrated every year on March 3 to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the world's flora and fauna.

About World Wildlife Day :

- It is a United Nations International day to celebrate all the world's wild animals and plants and the contribution they make to our lives and the health of the planet.



- This date was chosen to commemorate the CITES convention, signed in 1973.
- The theme of World Wildlife Day 2023 is 'Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation'.

Key facts about CITES:

- CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments.
- Aim: To ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.
- It was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union). It entered into force in July 1975.

World Hearing Day 2023

- World Hearing Day is observed every year on March 3 to raise awareness about hearing care. It is being observed since 2007.
- On this occasion, audiologists and other healthcare professionals create awareness about the significance of hearing and timely actions required to prevent hearing loss.

National Safety Day 2023

- National Safety Day is observed on March 4 annually with an aim to promote safe working environment and ensure safety of people in all aspects.
- National Safety Day 2023 is marked to raise awareness about safety measures and protocols so that any kind of untoward incident can be averted.
- The theme for 2023 National Safety Day is 'Our Aim – Zero Harm'

National Security Day 2023

- India celebrates National Security Day on March 4 every year. Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas is another name for it, and it is a holiday honouring the Indian Security Forces.



- The purpose of the National Security Day is to express gratitude to our nation's security forces, which include the police, paramilitary units, guards, commandos, army officers, and other units involved in preserving the safety and security of our citizens.
- They spread awareness about numerous tragedies and issues that Indian leaders and individuals need to be informed about. They hope to educate people about many topics during the week-long event and try to improve the lives of their inhabitants.
- **Theme** - Nurture young minds – Develop safety culture'.

International Women's Day 2023

- Every year on March 8, the world celebrates International Women's Day as a focal point for the campaign for women's rights. International Women's Day 2023 raises awareness of topics including gender equality, access to abortion, and violence and abuse against women. International Women's Day serves as a rallying point for advancing women's equality.



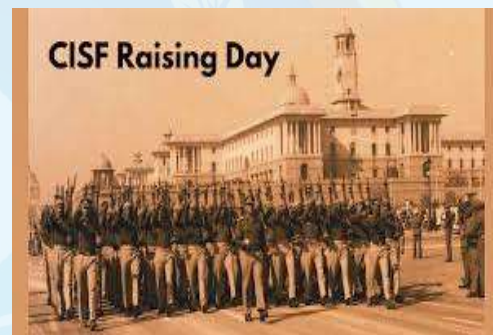
- The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality..
- International women's day theme - DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality

World Kidney Day 2023

- On the second Thursday in March each year, the world observes World Kidney Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness about kidney health. On March 9, 2023, it will be remembered this year.
- The International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations-World Kidney Alliance (IFKF-WKA) are working together on it. The day has been marked annually since 2006 and is significant since it promotes everyone's renal health.

54th CISF Raising Day

- Every year on March 10, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day is observed to mark the CISF's founding in 1969.



- The Ministry of Home Affairs' top-tier central armed police force, the CISF, is in charge of providing security protection for several public sector organisations, airports, seaports, power plants, and other significant infrastructure projects across the nation.
- This year, the 54th CISF Raising Day celebrated to appreciate the efforts and contributions of Central Industrial Security Force.

International Day of Women Judges

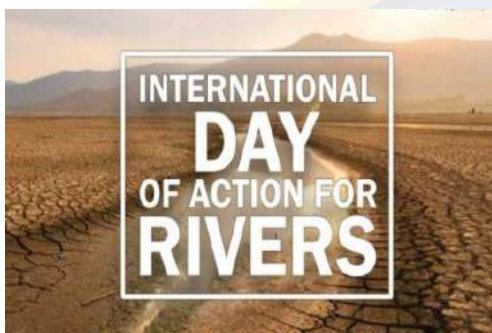
- The International Day of Women Judges, which is celebrated every year on March 10, honours all female judges who have taken the lead in the fight against social injustice.



- Women judges in international legal institutions are honoured on this significant day.
- It serves as a day of symbolism for the fight for gender equality, equal access to opportunities, and the elimination of gender-based discrimination, which persists in all spheres of society.
- Theme-”Women in Justice, Women for Justice”

International Day of Action of Rivers 2023 observed on 14th March

- Every year on March 14, the UN mark the International Day of Action for Rivers to bring attention to the significance of rivers in our daily lives.



- The theme of the 2023 International Day of Action for Rivers is “Rights of Rivers,” which calls for the designation of rivers as a national treasure. It also involves the legal authority to prevent rivers from becoming sewage or trash disposal areas.

World Consumer rights Day 2023.

- Every year on March 15, the International Consumer Rights Day is observed with the goal of promoting consumer protection and increasing global knowledge of consumer rights. The day is also used to raise awareness of global market inequities. The yearly celebration of cooperation among the global consumer movement. On this day, consumers everywhere promote their fundamental rights, call for their protection and observance, and denounce unfair trade practise
- World Consumer Rights Day 2023’s theme is “Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions.

National Vaccination Day

- National Vaccination Day, also known as Immunization Day or Polio Ravivar, is an annual event celebrated in India on March 16th. The day is observed to promote vaccination campaigns and raise awareness about the importance of vaccines in preventing infectious diseases.



History:

- The first National Vaccination Day was celebrated in India in 1995 to eradicate polio from the country. Since then, it has become an important event in India’s public health calendar.
- Significance:
- On this day, the Indian government and various organisations conduct vaccination drives across the country to immunise children and adults against various diseases. The focus is on providing vaccines to those who may have missed their scheduled immunisations.
- The government of India launched Mission Indradhanush in 2014 to ensure full immunisation with all available vaccines for children up to two years of age and pregnant women.
- India is moving towards the eradication of measles and rubella and has set a target of 2023 for covering children and pregnant women.
- Measles kills more than a lakh children globally and Rubella causes birth defects. Both can be prevented by Vaccines

International Day of Happiness 2023



- The International Day of Happiness is an annual celebration that occurs on March 20.
- International Day of Happiness’s purpose is to emphasize the importance of happiness and the overall well-being of individuals.

- The United Nations initiated this event in 2013, following Bhutan's advocacy for national happiness. Observing the International Day of Happiness prompts us to realize that happiness has a significant impact on our longevity and productivity.
- One way to mark the occasion is by sharing warm greetings and quotes with loved ones, inspiring them to embrace happiness.

World Oral Health Day 2023

- World Oral Health Day is observed globally every year on March 20, with the primary objective of increasing awareness about the significance of oral health.



- The Oral Health day aims to encourage individuals to adopt good oral hygiene practices, take care of their teeth, and learn ways to prevent dental problems.
- According to a report by the WHO Global Oral Health, approximately 75% of the world's population suffer from permanent teeth caries, while 514 million children experience caries in primary teeth

World Meteorological Day 2023 observed on 23rd March

- Every year on March 23, World Meteorological Day is celebrated to mark the official formation of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in 1950. The day recognizes the crucial role of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) in ensuring the safety and welfare of society.
- The theme for World Meteorological Day 2023 is "The Future of Weather, Climate, and Water across Generations".

Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day 2023

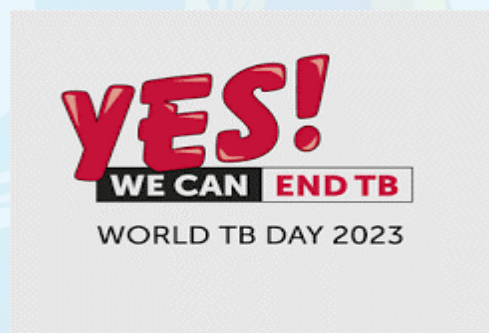
- Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day is observed in India on 23rd March every year to pay homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of India.

- This day marks the anniversary of the execution of three Indian freedom fighters- Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru in 1931.
- On this day, people in India observe a two-minute silence to remember the sacrifice of these three great freedom fighters and all the other martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation.



World Tuberculosis Day 2023

- World Tuberculosis Day is observed on March 24th every year to raise awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease.



Theme

- The theme for this year's World Tuberculosis Day is "**Yes! We can end TB!**". It focuses on urging leaders from around the world to take action to stop the TB epidemic.
- The theme highlights the significance of various factors, including increased funding, prompt action, collaboration among different sectors, swift implementation of new WHO guidelines, and innovative approaches to eliminate tuberculosis.

History

- World Tuberculosis Day has been observed manually on March 24th since 1982, commemorating the date when **Dr. Robert Koch** announced his discovery of the tuberculosis (TB) bacterium in 1882. Koch's discovery paved the way for diagnosing and treating TB, which had been a major cause

International Day of Zero Waste 2023

- United Nations General Assembly acknowledged the significance of zero-waste programs and announced that March 30 would be celebrated as the International Day of Zero.
- International Day of Zero Waste will encourage sustainable consumption and production practices and enhance understanding of the ways zero-waste efforts help to achieve the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

World Backup Day 2023

- World Backup Day is an annual event that takes place on March 31st to raise awareness about the importance of data backup and protection.
- The day encourages individuals and organizations to take proactive steps to safeguard their data

and prevent the loss of important information due to hardware failure, cyberattacks, or other unforeseen events

International Day of Drug Checking 2023

- The International Day of Drug Checking is an annual event that has been observed since 2017 on March 31st.
- The purpose of the day is to educate people about drugs and their effects and to promote harm reduction initiatives to reduce the risks associated with drug use.
- The main objective is to raise public awareness about the availability of drug checking services and organizations worldwide.
- The day emphasizes the importance of harm reduction actions related to drugs and aims to decrease drug-related risks.



Gurudongmar Lake

- Finance Minister visited Sikkim - China border lake



About Gurudongmar Lake

- Gurudongmar Lake or Kurudhogmar Lake is a sacred lake in the Indian state of Sikkim.
- It is one of the highest lakes in the world. It is situated at an altitude of 17,100 feet above sea level. It is located in the northern part of the state of Sikkim.

First woman legislators in Nagaland Assembly

- Assembly elections were held in the northeastern states of Nagaland, Tripura and Meghalaya



- For the first time in the history of Nagaland Legislative Assembly elections, women candidates Hegani Jagaloo and Salhotiuno Cruz have been elected as members of the Legislative Assembly.
- Since the formation of Nagaland state in 1963, 13 assembly elections have been held so far.

Indo-American woman judge Tejal Mehta named first justice of a district court in US.

- Tejal Mehta, an Indian-American woman judge who promised to make a real impact to the community and treat people with compassion, has taken oath as the first Justice of a district court in the US state of Massachusetts.
- Mehta will serve as the first Justice of the Ayer District Court. She has served as an Associate Justice with the same court.
- She was unanimously selected and sworn in by Judge Stacey Fortes, Chief Justice of the District Court

World's longest railway platform

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated World's longest railway platform of 1.5 kilometres at Sri Siddhaarooda railway station in Hubballi in the state of Karnataka.
- The inauguration of the platform was done during the PM's Karnataka visit in the presence of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi. It is to be noted that Indian Railways, South Western Railway Zones Hubballi is now registered in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the longest platform.
- Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag, Tehri top landslide index: ISRO report
- Data collected by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has highlighted that Rudraprayag and Tehri Garhwal are at the highest risk of facing landslides, having seen the highest number of landslide incidents in the past 20 years

Water Heritage sites

- Recently, the Minister of State for Jal Shakti informed Rajya Sabha about the Water Heritage sites of India.

About Water Heritage sites:

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti had constituted a Committee to identify 75 Water Heritage Structure (WHS) in reference to 75 years of India's Independence.
- The Committee has recommended 75 water heritage structures, which include 5 Water Heritage structures from Gujarat and 4 Water Heritage structures from Andhra Pradesh respectively.

Colonel Geeta Rana

- The Indian Army has made history by appointing a woman officer, Colonel Geeta Rana, to lead an independent field workshop in a sensitive location in eastern Ladakh, near the China border.
- This marks a significant milestone in the Indian Army's efforts to bring about gender parity and offer women officers command assignments in select branches.

Asia's largest 4-metre liquid mirror telescope inaugurated in Uttarakhand

- Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology,

inaugurated Asia's largest 4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope at Devasthal, Uttarakhand, in the presence of Lt. Gen (Retd.) Gurmeet Singh, the Governor of Uttarakhand.

- The Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) has declared that the 4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) is operational and can now be used to observe the deep celestial sky.
- ARIES is an independent institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Indian Government, situated at an altitude of 2450 meters.

Miscellaneous

- Indian-origin Sikh woman becomes Connecticut's first Asian assistant police chief.
- Lt. Manmeet Colon, who is of Indian origin and a Sikh woman officer, has recently taken up the position of assistant police chief in the state of Connecticut
- **Crew 6 Project-** 4 astronauts have been successfully launched into international space by SpaceX rocket.

2023 MARCH MONTH QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following pairs

- 1) Sanchi stupa - Madhya Pradesh
- 2) Sarnath stupa - Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Amaravati stupa - Andhra Pradesh

How many pairs is/are correctly matched?

- a) Only one pair
- b) Only two pairs
- c) All three pairs
- d) None of the pairs

2. Recently a 1300 year old stupa was discovered in which among the following states?

- a) Odisha
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Chattisgarh
- d) Andhra Pradesh

3. Which among the following schemes are launched with the aim to provide affordable quality medicine to needed people?

- a) Pradhan mantri awas yojana
- b) Pradhan mantri kisan samada yojana
- c) Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras
- d) Pradhan mantri kisan samman nidhi

4. Consider the following pairs

- 1) APOLLO - United states of America
- 2) Luna - Russia
- 3) Chandrayaan - India
- 4) Chang'e 4 - Japan

How many pairs is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) All are correct

5. Who among the following won FIFA 2022 award?

- 1) Messi
- 2) Ronaldo
- 3) Kylian Mbappe
- 4) Neymar
- 5) Ans a

6. The Tamil Nadu government has signed an MoU with the _____ to implement an urban cooling program in the state.

- a) UNDP
- b) UNEP
- c) World Bank
- d) IMF

7. Consider the following pairs

- 1) Exercise Shinyuu Maitri - Japan
- 2) Varuna - France
- 3) Indira - Russia

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

8. Gurudongmar Lake is the natural lake located in which of the following states?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Sikkim
- d) Mizoram

9. Consider the following statement

- 1) Agneepath is the scheme introduced to recruit youth for all the three defence forces
- 2) People aged between 17 years 6 months to 21 years are eligible under this scheme

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

10. Which among the following diseases is not spread by viruses?

- 1) Influenza
- 2) Cholera
- 3) Tuberculosis
- 4) Malaria
- 5) MERS
- 6) SAARS

Choose the correct answer from the option given below

- a) 1, 3, 5, 6 only
- b) 2, 3, 4 only
- c) 1, 5, 6 only
- d) 2, 5, only

11. Consider the following statements

- 1) Chief election commissioner is appointed by the President of India
- 2) Chief election commissioner and other election commissioner are removed on the same manner as the judge of the Supreme court of India

Which 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

12. Who among the following won the asia chess federation award for the year 2022?

- a) Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa
- b) Gukesh
- c) Pentala Harikrishna
- d) Koneru Humpy

13. World wildlife day is celebrated on

- a) March 1
- b) March 2
- c) March 3
- d) March 4

14. Consider the following statements

- 1) Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection found in tropical and sub-tropical climatic region
- 2) It spreads by Aedes aegypti mosquitoes.

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

15. Recently concept of Green lane and red lane is in news. It is related to

- a) Sendai framework
- b) Kyoto framework
- c) Paris agreement
- d) Windsor Framework

16. Consider the following statements

- 1) Climate change movement to be implemented to create awareness about climate change among all sections of the society
- 2) 'Tamil Nadu Green Climate Institute' has been created to coordinate climate change related projects.

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

17. Which of the following is not belong to the quad grouping?

- 1) India
- 2) US
- 3) Russia
- 4) China
- 5) Japan

Choose the correct answer from the option given below

- a) 1, 2, 5 only
- b) 3 and 4 only
- c) 3, 4 and 5 only
- d) 1 and 2 only

18. Keezhadi vaipagam is located in _____ district

- a) Madurai
- b) Sivagangai
- c) Tirunelveli
- d) Kanyakumari

19. Which among the following state released a book on sustainable development goals?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Karnataka
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Maharashtra

20. Consider the following statements

- 1) Scrub typhus is a bacterial infection
- 2) It is transmittable from one person to another by sneezing coughing

Which of the Statements given above is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

21. Consider the following statements

- 1) UN high seas treaty is the first ever treaty to protect the high seas outside the national jurisdiction
- 2) It encourages to achieve 30*30 pledge by the year 2030

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

22. Women business and the law report is released by

- a) World Bank
- b) IMF
- c) World Economic forum
- d) World Trade organization

23. National security day is observed on

- a) March 3
- b) March 4
- c) March 5
- d) March 6

24. _____ and _____ are the leading states the way in India's transition to clean electricity.

- a) Tamil Nadu and kerala
- b) Karnataka and Maharashtra
- c) Karnataka and Gujarat
- d) Telangana and Tamil Nadu

25. Consider the following statements

- 1) Sea horses is a kind of fish
- 2) Male seahorses carry eggs in the reproduction cycle
- 3) It spreads in the tropical and temperate saltwater all throughout the world

Which of the Statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

26. Which article of the Indian Constitution deals with the extent of the executive power of the state

- a) Article 161
- b) Article 162
- c) Article 142
- d) Article 153

27. Integrated Teacher Education Programme is launched by _____

- a) National council for teacher education
- b) Ministry of education
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) Planning commission

28. Consider the following statements

- 1) Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan is launched by Ministry of social justice
- 2) This programme aims to raise awareness about substance abuse among youth in India.

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

29. Consider the following statement with reference to the future uses of NISAR satellite

- 1) It will be used in agricultural imaging operations
- 2) It will be in monitoring of landslide-prone areas.
- 3) It will be used to understand the atmosphere of the moon

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

30. Consider the following statements

- 1) Hindu growth rate is a term describing low Indian economic growth rates from the 1950s to the 1980s, which averaged around 4%.
- 2) The term was coined by the late economist Raj Krishna in 1978 to describe the slow growth in the country.

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

31. International day of women judges is observed on

- a) March 8
- b) March 9
- c) March 10
- d) March 11

32. Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve is located in

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Karnataka
- c) Kerala
- d) Andhra Pradesh

33. CISF raising day is observed on

- a) March 10
- b) March 12
- c) March 8
- d) March 7

34. FRINJEX-23 is the defence exercise between India and _____

- a) US
- b) France
- c) Japan
- d) Russia

35. In which year All India Muslim League formed

- a) 1905
- b) 1906
- c) 1907
- d) 1908

36. In which of the following countries is Chitwan National Park located?

- a) India
- b) Bhutan
- c) Nepal
- d) Myanmar

37. In which among the following states Pench tiger reserve is situated?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Gujarat

38. Consider the following countries

- 1) Australia
- 2) United States
- 3) United Kingdom
- 4) France

Which of the above countries are the members in AUKUS groups?

- a) 1, 2 and 4
- b) 1, 2 and 3
- c) 2, 3 and 4
- d) 1, 3 and 4

39. International Day of Action of Rivers 2023 is observed on _____

- a) March 13
- b) March 14
- c) March 15
- d) March 16

40. Which of the following country is the largest arm importer in the world?

- a) China
- b) Pakistan
- c) India
- d) United States of America

41. Bold kurukshetra is the defence exercise between India and _____

- a) America
- b) Russia
- c) Singapore
- d) Vietnam

42. Consider the following statements

- 1) Saraswati samman award is presented annually to an outstanding literary work in any of the 22 Indian languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- 2) Writer Sivasankari has been selected for the Saraswati Samman Literary Award for the year 2022.

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

43. Consider the following countries

- 1) India
- 2) China
- 3) Pakistan
- 4) Russia
- 5) US

Which of the above countries are the members of the Shanghai cooperation organisation?

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 5
- b) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- c) 3 and 5
- d) 1, 3 and 5

44. G20 Education summit is held at _____

- a) New Delhi
- b) Amritsar
- c) Pune
- d) Chennai

45. According to Swiss firm IQAir Report India is the _____ most polluted country in the world

- a) 6th
- b) 7th
- c) 8th
- d) 9th

46. National vaccination day is celebrated on _____

- a) March 14
- b) March 15
- c) March 16
- d) March 17

47. Wild ass sanctuary is located in _____

- a) Gujarat
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Kerala

48. Consider the following statements

1) NIPUN BHARAT initiative aims to ensure that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.

2) It was implemented by Ministry of Education

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. Yudh Abhyas is the military exercise between India and _____

- a) Russia
- b) France
- c) Japan
- d) America

50. Mission Indradanush aims to

- a) Provide shelter to the women who are affected by violence
- b) Vaccinate the child and pregnant women.
- c) Providing interest free loan to SC and ST entrepreneur
- d) Create infrastructure in Scheduled Tribes areas

51. Operation Flood is related to

- a) Rice
- b) Milk
- c) Jute
- d) Oil seeds

52. Who among the following is bestowed with a music academy award?

- a) Chitra
- b) Janaki
- c) Suseela
- d) Bombay jayashree

53. International day of happiness is observed on

- a) March 18
- b) March 19
- c) March 20
- d) March 21

54. Which country remains the most impacted by terrorism?

- a) Pakistan
- b) Afghanistan
- c) Nigeria
- d) Kenya

55. PM MITRA aims to promote

- a) Textiles
- b) Food processing industries
- c) Horticulture
- d) Agriculture

56. Consider the following statements

1) Down syndrome is a genetic condition that causes mild to serious physical and developmental problems.

2) People with Down syndrome are born with an extra chromosome

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

57. International forest day is observed on _____

- a) March 20
- b) March 21
- c) March 22
- d) March 23

58. With reference to the Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme which of the following statement is correct?

- a) This schemes aims to provide house to the women
- b) This scheme aims to ensure basic amenities and comprehensive socio-economic development in Adi Dravidar habitations in urban and rural areas.
- c) This scheme aims to provide affordable housing to all the people
- d) This scheme aims to provide affordable housing to differently abled people

59. World sparrow day is observed on

- a) March 19
- b) March 20
- c) March 21
- d) March 22

60. World investor conference is held in _____

- a) Mumbai
- b) New delhi
- c) Chennai
- d) Kolkata

61. Which is the first country facing a polio outbreak after 30 years?

- a) Egypt
- b) Pakistan
- c) Iran
- d) Burundi

62. World Meteorological Day is observed on _____

- a) March 21
- b) March 22
- c) March 23
- d) March 24

63. Dachigam National Park is situated in _____

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Jammu and Kashmir
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Sikkim

64. Hangul is naturally found in _____

- a) Western Ghats
- b) Eastern Ghats
- c) Jammu and Kashmir
- d) North eastern India

65. New Development Bank is related to _____

- a) World Trade organization
- b) BRICS
- c) BIMSTEC
- d) ASEAN

66. World Tuberculosis day is observed on

- a) March 19
- b) March 31
- c) March 24
- d) March 25

67. World cup shooting competition was held at _____

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) New delhi
- d) West Bengal

68. Exercise konkan is the naval exercise between India and _____

- a) US
- b) UK
- c) Japan
- d) Russia

69. Who among the following is not related to Vaikom Satyagraha

- a) E. V. Ramasamy
- b) T. K. Madhavan
- c) Mahatma Gandhi
- d) Rajendra Prasad

70. In which of the following states Gandhamardan Hill is located?

- a) Odisha
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Karnataka
- d) Rajasthan

71. Which of the following districts won an award for the TB free district in Tamil Nadu?

- a) Mayiladuthurai
- b) Chennai
- c) Kanyakumari
- d) Nilgiri

72. Who among the following heads the state disaster management authority?

- a) Chief secretary
- b) Chief minister
- c) Governor
- d) Ministry of finance

73. Consider the following statements regarding Puthumai Penn Thittam

- 1) The Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Marriage Funding Scheme has been renamed as the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Guarantee Scheme
- 2) This scheme aims to increase the enrollment of female students studying in government schools.

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

74. In which among the following states Anji Khan bridge is located?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Jammu and Kashmir
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Bihar

75. Earth Hour is observed on last _____ of march every year

- a) Thursday
- b) Friday
- c) Saturday
- d) Sunday

76. Neethu Kangas and Savethi Bora are related to

- a) Shooting
- b) Wrestling
- c) Boxing
- d) Badminton

77. In which among the following states launched a women's Entitlement Scheme?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Gujarat
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Andhra Pradesh

78. In which of the following states is the world's highest railway bridge constructed?

- a) Jammu and Kashmir
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Bihar

79. Haeil drone is tested by

- a) South Korea
- b) China
- c) Russia
- d) North Korea

80. Sea slugs are

- a) Insects
- b) Mammals
- c) Reptiles
- d) Mollusca

81. Who among the following heads the committee to explore the pension reform set up by Union Government?

- a) Vinod Rai
- b) Anand subramanian
- c) T v somanath
- d) N. K. Singh

82. Which among the following countries is not belong to ASEAN countries?

- a) China
- b) Vietnam
- c) Indonesia
- d) Malaysia

83. Recently new species of Moray eel found in which among the following coast of india?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Gujarat
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Maharashtra

84. Consider the following pairs

- 1) H1N1 - Swine Flu
- 2) H3N1 - Bird Flu
- 3) XBB - Corona

How many pairs given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

85. World Rabies Day is observed on

- a) March 15
- b) October 18
- c) December 30
- d) September 28

86. Consider the following statements

- 1) Marburg virus disease is similar to Ebola virus causes severe hemorrhagic fever
- 2) Fruit bats are the carriers of the virus

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

87. Vaikom Satyagraha was held in the year ___

- a) 1923
- b) 1924
- c) 1925
- d) 1926

88. International Day of Zero waste is observed on ___

- a) March 20
- b) March 25
- c) March 30
- d) March 31

89. In Passport Index 2023 india ranks _____

- a) 49
- b) 144
- c) 70
- d) 51

90. Global Wind Report is released by

- a) UNDP
- b) UNEP
- c) Global Wind Energy Council
- d) WORLD BANK

91. Who among the following is selected as the new president of the world bank?

- a) Anand vaidyanathan
- b) Ajay Banga
- c) Raghuram Rajan
- d) Geetha Gopinath

92. Who among the following heads the drafting committee of the constituent Assembly?

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- b) Sardar Vallabhai Patel
- c) Rajendra Prasad
- d) Ambedkar

93. Who among the following called as the Vaikom Verar?

- a) Mahadevan
- b) Narayana Guru
- c) Periyar
- d) Ayankali

94. India Stands _____ position in Electoral Democracy Index 2023

- a) 107
- b) 108
- c) 109
- d) 110

95. Vadivel Gopal and M.C. Sadian recently bestowed with padma award. They belongs _____ tribal group

- a) Katnayakan
- b) Todas
- c) Badugas
- d) Irulas

96. Which among the country chairs 2023 G20 summit?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Saudi Arabia
- c) India
- d) Australia

97. Hangul Natural seen in

- a) Western Himalayas
- b) Eastern himalays
- c) Western Ghats
- d) Eastern Ghats

98. Barda Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in _____

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Karnataka
- d) Madhya Pradesh

99. In which among the following state shaurashtra Tami8l sangam will held?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Gujarat
- c) Odisha
- d) Assam

100. Asia's largest 4-metre liquid mirror telescope is inaugurated in _____

- a) Uttar Ppradesh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Assam

Answers:

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