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LawEx

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NOBEL PRIZES 2023



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About Magazine

“LawEx” is a carefully curated set of Current Events designed specifically for CLAT aspirants. To take you one step closer to realizing your dream, “LawEx” provides a fortnightly overview of the most significant current events related to politics, economics, science and technology, & sports with a wide range of infographics to ensure a smoother learning experience and enhanced retention of information.

Editor's Note

Six Nobel Prizes are awarded every year, each recognizing an individual's or organization's groundbreaking contribution in a specific field. On October 2, the Bihar government published the 'Bihar Caste-based Survey 2022'. On October 7, the Hamas terrorist group launched a surprise attack of unprecedented scale on Israel from the Gaza Strip, killing over 700 people in one day. India finished with a record haul of 107 medals at the Hangzhou Asian Games, its best ever, on October 7 at the 19th edition Hangzhou Asian Games. For more information, keep reading.

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The Question Bank



QUICK BOOSTERS



NOBEL PRIZES 2023

WHY IN NEWS?

- Six Nobel Prizes are awarded every year, each recognizing an individual's or organization's groundbreaking contribution in a specific field.

2023 Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology

- The 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to Katalin Karikó (Hungarian-American) and Drew Weissman (American) for their “discoveries concerning nucleoside base modifications that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19”.
- The discoveries by the two Nobel Laureates were critical for developing effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 during the pandemic that began in early 2020.
- Through their groundbreaking findings, which have fundamentally changed our understanding of how mRNA interacts with our immune system, the laureates contributed to the unprecedented rate of vaccine development during one of the greatest threats to human health in modern times.

- The first vaccines to use the mRNA technology were those made by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna against COVID-19.
- In 2022, the Nobel Prize for Physiology was awarded to Swedish scientist Svante Pääbo “for his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution.”
- Dr. Pääbo's pioneering work in an entirely new discipline—paleogenomics—has helped the scientific community understand human evolution and migration at a deeper level.
- To date, the youngest Nobel Prize laureate in physiology or medicine is Frederick G. Banting, who was 32 years old when he was awarded the medicine prize in 1923.
- The oldest Nobel Prize laureate in physiology or medicine to date is Peyton Rous, who was 87 years old when he was awarded the medicine prize in 1966.
- Of the 227 individuals awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 13 are women. Of these 12, Barbara McClintock is the only one who has received an unshared Nobel Prize.

2023 Nobel Prize in Physics

- The 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded to Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, and Anne L'Huillier “for experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electrodynamics in matter”.
- The three Nobel Laureates in Physics 2023 are being recognised for their experiments, which have given humanity new tools for exploring the world of electrons inside atoms and molecules.
- Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier have demonstrated a way to create extremely short pulses of light that can be used to measure the rapid processes in which electrons move or change energy.

- In 2022, the Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to Alain Aspect, John F. Clauser and Anton Zeilinger "for experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science."
- John Bardeen is the only person who has received the Nobel Prize in Physics twice in 1956 and 1972.
- C.V Raman became the first Indian scientist to be honoured with the prestigious Nobel Award in Physics in the year 1930 "for his work on the scattering of light and for the discovery of the effect named after him."
- To date, the youngest Nobel Prize laureate in physics is Lawrence Bragg, who was 25 years old when he was awarded the Nobel Prize together with his father in 1915.
- The oldest Nobel Prize laureate in physics to date is Arthur Ashkin who was 96 years old when he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2018.

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2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

- The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023 was awarded to Mounqi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov "for the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots."
- Quantum dots have unique properties and now spread their light from television screens and LED lamps. They catalyse chemical reactions and their clear light can illuminate tumour tissue for a surgeon.

- The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2022 was awarded jointly to Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and K. Barry Sharpless "for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry."
- Only one woman, Marie Curie, has been honoured twice, with the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1903 and the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1911.
- Frederick Sanger, 'the father of genomics', was one of just four scientists to win two Nobel prizes and the only one to receive both in chemistry.
- The oldest Nobel Prize laureate in chemistry to date is John B. Goodenough, who was 97 years old when he was awarded the chemistry prize in 2019. He is also the oldest laureate to be awarded in all prize categories.
- To date, the youngest Nobel Prize laureate in chemistry is Frédéric Joliot, who was 35 years old when he was awarded the chemistry prize in 1935, together with his wife, Irène Joliot-Curie.

2023 Nobel Prize in Literature

- The Nobel Prize in Literature 2023 was awarded to Jon Fosse, "for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable."
- Literature laureate Fosse's magnum opus in prose is 'Septology' which he completed in 2021: 'Det andre namnet' (2019; 'The Other Name', 2020), 'Eg er ein annan' (2020; 'I is Another', 2020) and 'Eit nytt namn' (2021; 'A New Name', 2021).

- In 2022, the Literature Nobel was awarded to French author Annie Ernaux "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory."
- Rabindranath Tagore was the first person from India and the first person from Asia to win the Nobel Prize in 1913 for his creation "Geetanjali".
- In 2018, the Swedish Academy postponed the announcement of the prize in the wake of a sexual assault and harassment scandal involving Jean-Claude Arnault, husband of then-academy board member Katarina Frostenson.
- Polish author Olga Tokarczuk was awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature "for a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life."
- To date, the youngest literature laureate is Rudyard Kipling, best known for The Jungle Book, who was 41 years old when he was awarded the Literature Prize in 1907.

2023 Nobel Prize in Peace

- The Nobel Peace Prize 2023 was awarded to Narges Mohammadi "for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all."
- The 2023 peace laureate Narges Mohammadi is a woman, a human rights advocate, and a freedom fighter.
- This year's Nobel Peace Prize also recognises the hundreds of thousands of people who have demonstrated against the theocratic regime's policies of discrimination and oppression targeting women.
- Mohammadi is currently lodged in a prison in Iran. In fact, the Iranian regime has arrested her 13 times, convicted her five times, and sentenced her to a total of 31 years in prison and 154 lashes.
- The motto adopted by the Iranian demonstrators – "Woman – Life – Freedom" – suitably expresses the dedication and work of Narges Mohammadi.

- In 2022, the Nobel Peace Prize was jointly awarded to Belarusian human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski, the Russian human rights organisation Memorial, and the Ukrainian human rights organisation Centre for Civil Liberties.
- To date, the youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate is Malala Yousafzai, who was 17 years old when awarded the 2014 Peace Prize.
- The Nobel Peace Prize 2014 was awarded to India's Kailash Satyarthi and Pakistan's Malala Yousafzai for their struggles against the suppression of children and for young people's rights, including the right to education.

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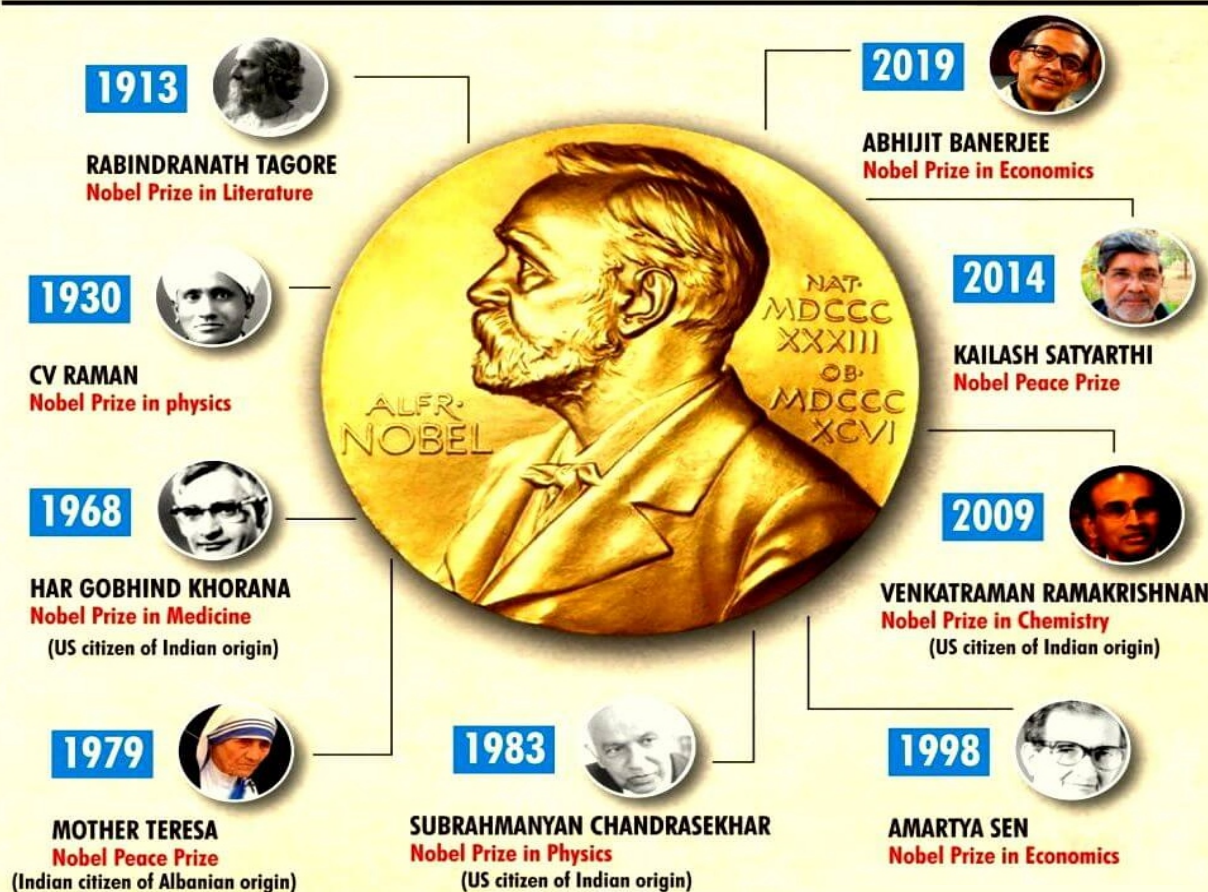




2023 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences

- The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences (popularly known as the Nobel Prize in Economics) in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2023 was awarded to Claudia Goldin "for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes."
 - Goldin reveals that before industrialisation, more women were likely to have been involved in economic activity related to agriculture and various cottage industries.
 - With greater industrialisation, work was concentrated in factories, and women found it difficult to leave their homes and travel to work. This trend reversed in the early 20th century, with the growth of the services sector.
 - Two other factors played a crucial role in women's access to higher education and employment — marriage and the contraceptive pill.
- In 2022, the prize was awarded to Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke, Douglas W. Diamond and Philip Dybvig for their research into bank failures that helped shape America's aggressive response to the 2007-2008 financial crisis.
 - Claudia Goldin is the third woman, and the first female solo winner, to be honoured with the Prize.
 - Elinor Ostrom became the first female economic sciences laureate when awarded the prize in 2009. Esther Duflo was the second female laureate awarded the prize in 2019.
 - The Nobel Prize for Economics was instituted in 1968 but was first awarded in 1969.
 - Indian-American economist Abhijit Banerjee has won the Nobel Prize in Economics, along with his wife Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer "for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty."

NOBEL PRIZE WINNER FROM INDIA (INCLUDES PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN)



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GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2023

WHY IN NEWS?

- The 2023 edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023 was recently released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Key Findings

- The ranking was topped by Switzerland, followed by Sweden and the USA. India's ranking has improved 26 places from 66th in 2013.
- India secured the 40th rank out of 132 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings.
- In the report, WIPO noted that, apart from India, only four other middle-income economies are among the top 40, namely, China (12th), Malaysia (36th), Bulgaria (38th), and Türkiye (39th).
- India was also highlighted as the top innovation economy among the lower-middle-income countries, followed by Vietnam and Ukraine.
- Five economies host 80 per cent of all the world's unicorns, namely, the US (54 per cent), China (14 per cent), India (6 per cent), the United Kingdom (4 per cent), and Germany (2 per cent).
- Out of a total unicorn valuation of \$3.8 trillion in 2023, US unicorns accounted for \$2 trillion, followed by China with \$736 billion and India with \$193 billion.
- Apart from infrastructure, India was the top performer in all other criteria within the Central and South Asian region.
- In human capital and research, it stood at 48th; in business sophistication, it ranked 57th; and it secured the 22nd spot in knowledge and technology outputs.

ABOUT INDEX

- The GI is a reliable tool for governments across the world to assess the innovation-led social and economic changes in their respective countries.
- WIPO is the global forum for Intellectual Property (IP) services, policy, information and cooperation.
- It is a self-funding agency of the United Nations, with 193 member states.
- Its mandate, governing bodies and procedures are set out in the WIPO Convention, which established WIPO in 1967.

Top 10 Most innovative economies



- Switzerland
- Sweden
- United States of America
- United Kingdom
- Singapore
- Finland
- Netherlands
- Germany
- Denmark
- Republic of Korea

Global
Innovation
Index 2023

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MAHATMA GANDHI'S 154th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

WHY IN NEWS?

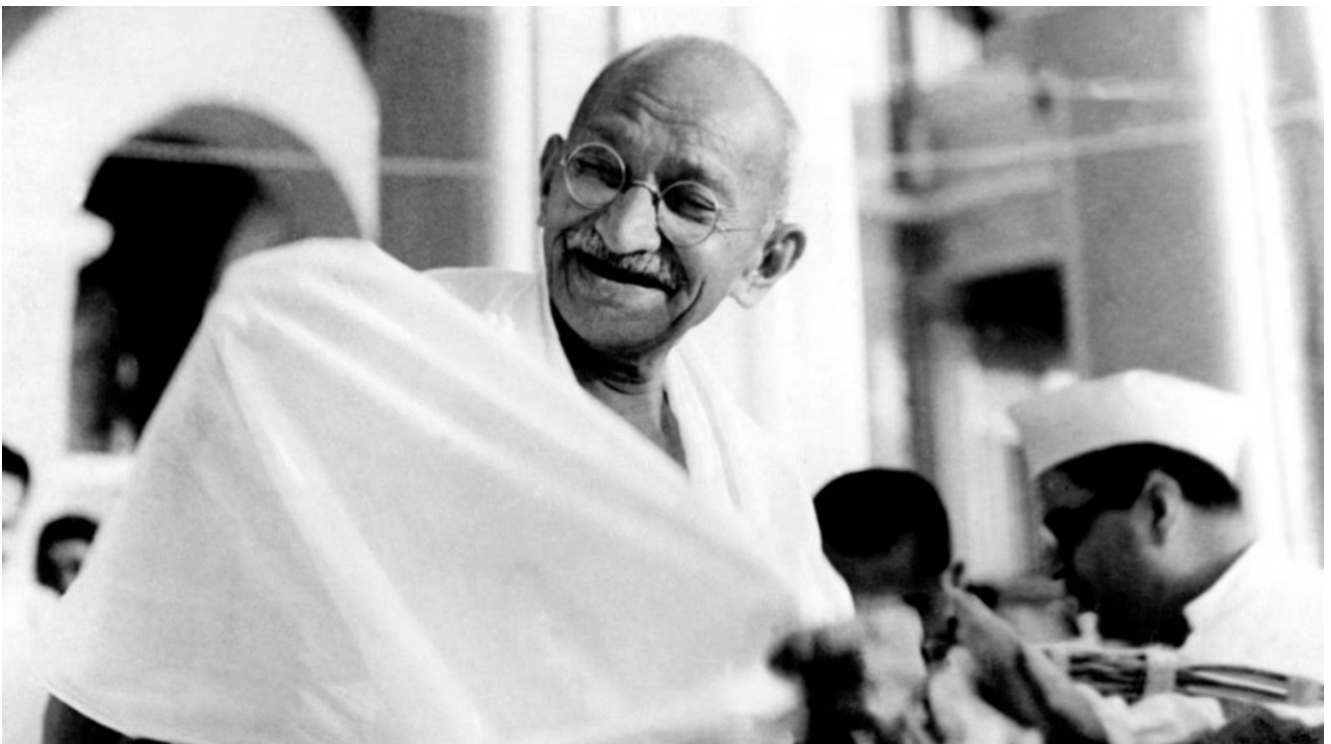
- Mahatma Gandhi's 154th birth anniversary was celebrated on 2nd October 2023.

Key Points

- Mahatma Gandhi, born on October 2, 1869, is a revered figure in the history of India and the world.
- His contributions to the freedom struggle earned him the epithet of "Father of Nation" which led to his portrait being featured on Indian legal banknotes.
- He led various freedom movements in India, including the non-cooperation movement, civil disobedience movement and Quit India movement.
- It was his non-violence movement which helped India gain Independence in 1947.
- His principles - Satya (truth), ahimsa (non-violence) and swaraj (self-rule) -- became the basis of several civil rights movements across the world.
- The Gandhian technique of mobilising people has been successfully employed by many oppressed societies around the world under the leadership of people like Martin Luther King in the United States, Nelson Mandela in South Africa, and Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar, which is an eloquent testimony to the continuing relevance of Mahatma Gandhi.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The "International Day of Non-Violence" is also observed every year on 2nd October.
- The United Nations declared October 2 as "International Day of Non-Violence" on June 15, 2007.
- In 1930, he was named the Person of the Year by Time Magazine. Mahatma Gandhi died on January 30, 1948.
- Mahatma Gandhi founded the Phoenix Settlement in Durban and the Tolstoy Farm near Johannesburg in 1904 and 1910 respectively.
- In August 2022, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Paraguay.
- In October 2023, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar unveiled the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Tao Dan Park of Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.



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BIHAR CASTE SURVEY

WHY IN NEWS?

- On October 2, the Bihar government published the 'Bihar Caste-based Survey 2022'.

Key Findings

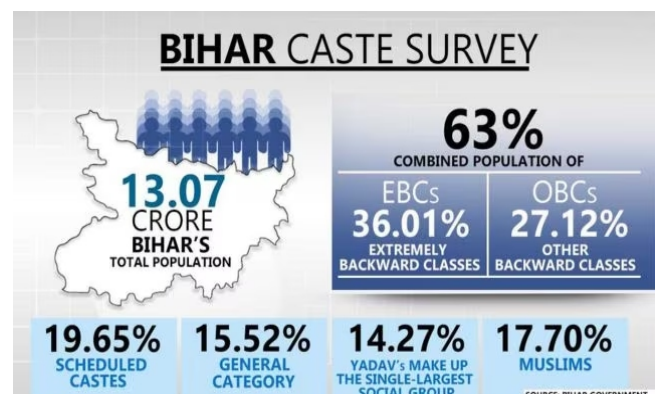
- The Survey shows that extremely backward classes (EBCs) and other backward classes (OBCs) together add up to nearly 63% of the 13-crore population, making it the largest caste group in the State.
- The survey shows that the EBCs with 112 castes comprise the largest chunk of the population in the State with a 36.01% share; with 29 castes and a 27.12% share, the OBCs are the second largest contingent of the population.
- The Yadavs, with a 14.26% share, is the dominant caste in the OBC group.
- The Scheduled Castes population is pegged at 19.65% while the number of the general unreserved population is 15.52%.
- The so-called “forward” castes or “General” category is only 15.5% of the population.
- Bihar's population, according to the survey, is 13,07,25,310, compared to the 10.41 crore recorded in the 2011 census.
- Hindus comprise 81.99% of the population, and Muslims 17.72%.
- The populations of Buddhists, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, and other religious denominations are minuscule.

Background

- The Bihar legislature unanimously passed a resolution agreeing to a caste census, twice: first on February 18, 2019 and then on February 27, 2020.
- In 2022, the Bihar government issued a notification for conducting a caste survey in the State on its own and subsequently allocated ₹500 crore from its contingency fund for the exercise.
- The two-phase counting exercise was completed in August this year involving around 2.64 lakh enumerators documenting details of 29 million registered households.
- All 214 castes mentioned in the survey form were allotted different individual codes and the survey was segmented into 17 points, to find out the socio-economic profile of the population.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The survey results will amplify the clamour for increasing the OBC quota beyond 27%, and for a quota within quota for the EBCs.
- The survey data will also reopen the longstanding debate over the 50% ceiling on reservation imposed by the Supreme Court in its landmark ruling in Indra Sawhney v Union of India (1992).
- The Justice Rohini Commission, which had been examining the question of “sub-categorisation” since 2017, submitted its report at the end of July — its recommendations are not yet public.
- Caste Survey will help attain the objectives as enunciated in Directive Principles of State Policies (DPSPs) as mentioned in Part IV of the constitution.
- The last caste census was conducted in 1931, and data was made publicly available by the British Government of the day.
 - This caste census became the basis for the implementation of Mandal Commission Reports and subsequent reservation policies by the government for Other Backward Classes.
- The Mandal Commission, which presented its report in 1980, had put the share of the OBC population in the country as a whole at 52%.
- The Census of 2011 became the first time to collect Caste-based data after independence.
 - However, the data related to caste were not made public due to fear of political favouritism and opportunism.



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CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ'S 'WAGH NAKH'

WHY IN NEWS?

- Maharashtra's Cultural Affairs Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar on October 3 signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Victoria and Albert Museum in London to bring back Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's legendary 'Wagh Nakh' to the state.
- The MoU states that the antique weapon will be handed over to the Government of Maharashtra on a loan basis for a period of three years, during which it will be displayed in museums across the state.

What is the Wagh Nakh?

- Literally 'tiger claws', the Wagh Nakh is a mediaeval claw-like dagger which was used across the Indian subcontinent.
- Designed to either fit over the knuckles or be concealed under the palm, the weapon consisted of four or five curved blades affixed to a glove or a bar of some kind.
- It was a weapon used for personal defence or stealth attack, and could easily slice through skin and flesh.
- The most famous use of the Wagh Nakh in history comes from the story of Afzal Khan's killing by Shivaji. Khan was a general of Bijapur's Adil Shahi Sultanate.
- According to the Victoria and Albert Museum's website, the weapon was brought to Britain by East India Company officer James Grant Duff (1789- 1858).

About Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

- Born on 19th February 1630, at Shivneri Fort in Pune District, Maharashtra, he was the son of Shahaji Bhonsle, a Maratha general with jagirs in Pune and Supe under the Bijapur Sultanate, and Jijabai, a deeply religious woman who greatly influenced him.
- He took on the titles of Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak.
- He established a centralised administration with a council of eight ministers (Ashtapradhan) who were directly responsible to him and advised him on various matters of the state.
- Chauth and Sardeshmukhi were among the sources of income.
- Shivaji passed away in Raigad in 1680 and was cremated at the Raigad Fort.

CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ'S ICONIC 'WAGH-NAKH' TO BE BROUGHT BACK TO INDIA FROM UK



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THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

WHY IN NEWS?

- On October 7, the Hamas terrorist group launched a surprise attack of unprecedented scale on Israel from the Gaza Strip, killing over 700 people in one day.
 - 'Operation Al Aqsa Storm' is the name of the recent Hamas operation.
- The Jewish state immediately declared war, and the decades-old conflict with the Palestinians took a turn for the worse.

Historical Background

- In 1917, during World War I, the British captured Palestine from the Ottomans and, in the Balfour Declaration of November 2, promised the Jews a "national home" there.
- Opposition from the Palestinians first emerged at a congress in Jerusalem in 1919.
- In 1922, the League of Nations set out the obligations of a British mandate in Palestine, including securing the "establishment of the Jewish national home", the future Israel.
- Palestine was partitioned into Jewish and Arab states under United Nations Resolution 181, approved in November 1947. Jerusalem is put under international control.
- In the split, the West Bank including east Jerusalem goes to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt.
- The state of Israel is finally created on May 14, 1948.

Wars

- In 1948, the Jewish declaration of Israel's independence prompted surrounding Arab states to attack. At the end of the war, Israel controlled about 50% more territory than originally envisioned by the UN partition plan.
- But UN partition plan fell short of solving the Palestinian crisis which led to the formation of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation in 1964.
- The UN granted the PLO observer status in 1975 and recognizes Palestinians' right to self-determination.
- In the Six-Day War of 1967, Israeli forces seized the Golan Heights from Syria, the West Bank & East Jerusalem from Jordan and the Sinai Peninsula & Gaza Strip from Egypt.
- In 1973, the war, known to Israelis as Yom Kippur and to Arabs as the October War, started when Egypt and Syria launched a two-front attack on Israel to regain their territories lost in the 1967 Six-Day War when Israel captured the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt and Syria's Golan Heights.
 - Yom Kippur is the holiest day in Judaism, a day of fasting and atonement.
 - Israel also seized large parts of historic Palestine, including the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in 1967. The defeat of Arabs and Palestinians is known as the "Naksa", meaning setback or defeat.
 - Egypt regained control of Sinai but Syria's Golan Heights remains occupied by Israel.
 - The Yom Kippur War lasted for barely three weeks but it shook the world economy and culminated in the Camp David Accords that saw Egypt become the first Arab country to establish diplomatic ties with Israel.



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Key Terms

Hamas

- Formed in the 1980s, during the first Intifada (1987-93), Hamas is a militant Sunni Islamist group and one of the two main political parties of Palestine. It came up as a more militant alternative amidst failure of the Palestinian Liberation Movement to make real gains. Currently, it governs the Gaza strip and was responsible for sparking the most recent escalation.

Al Aqsa

- Al Aqsa refers to the compound of Islamic religious buildings, including the Dome of Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque, in Jerusalem's Old City. Located adjacent to Christian and Jewish religious sites, it has been a flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Gaza

- Gaza is a strip of land, just 365 sq km in size, wedged between the Mediterranean Sea to the west, Israel to the north and east, and Egypt to the south.

Hezbollah

- Hezbollah is a Shiite Islamic militant organisation and political party based in Lebanon.

Intifada

- Intifada literally means 'to shake off' in Arabic. It was brought to popular movement by the Palestinians in the 1980s, and is used to connote 'righteous rebellion against oppression'. Palestine underwent two Intifadas – from 1987 to 93, and from 2000 to 2005.

Jerusalem

- One of the oldest extant cities in the world, Jerusalem is considered holy in all three Abrahamic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Both Israel and Palestine claim the city though As per the 1947 UN Partition Plan, Jerusalem was to be jointly governed. Today, Israel has effective control over Jerusalem and considers the city its capital.

The West Bank

- The West Bank refers to the territory allotted to the State of Palestine according to the UN's 1947 Partition Plan, lying to the west of the Jordan river. It has been under the military occupation of Israel since 1967. Currently, only about 40 per cent of the region is controlled by the Palestinian Authority.



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ARUNACHAL GETS GI TAG FOR ITS THREE PRODUCTS

WHY IN NEWS?

- Arunachal Pradesh has been awarded the geographical indication (GI) tag for Khamti rice, Yak churpi from Tawang and Tangsa textile by the GI Registry in Chennai.

About Khamti Rice

- Khamti Rice (Khaw Tai) is a variety of chewy sticky rice produced in the Namsai district by traditional Khampti tribal farmers. It is known for its taste.

About Yak Churpi from Tawang

- Churpi is a cheese product widely consumed in the Himalayan region of India, Nepal and Bhutan. In Arunachal Pradesh, it is largely produced in the Tawang district.
- Churpi is prepared from the milk of Arunachali yak, a unique breed found in the West Kameng and Tawang districts of the state.
- It is reared by tribal yak pastoralists known as Brokpas who migrate along with their yaks to higher reaches (at an altitude of 10,000 ft and higher) during summers and descend to mid-altitude mountainous regions in winters.
 - Yaks cannot survive in lower altitudes during summer and thus, they need to be taken beyond 13,000 ft.
- Rich in protein, churpi is used as a substitute for vegetables by tribal yak herders in the vegetation-starved cold and hilly mountainous regions of the state.
- It is also mixed in vegetables or meat curry and is eaten with rice as a staple food in tribal households. It is considered an integral part of the tangible cultural and tribal heritage of Arunachal Pradesh.

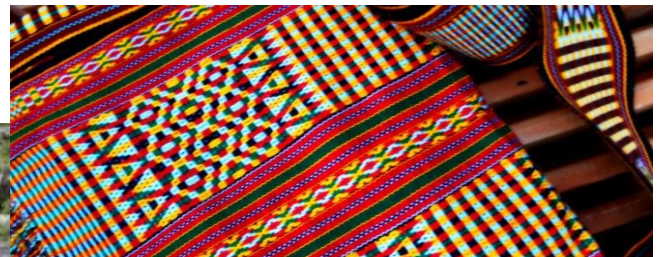


About Tangsa Textile

- Textile products of the Tangsa tribe of Changlang district are famous for their exotic designs and colours.
- This traditional craftsmanship reflects the cultural richness of the region.

What is a Geographical Indication?

- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- For example, Darjeeling Tea, Kanchipuram Silk, Amroha Dholak, Goan cashew (kernel), etc.
- GIs are part of the intellectual property rights that come under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.
- In India, GI registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999.
- GIs are typically used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, and industrial products.
- A registered GI is valid for 10 years. It can be renewed from time to time for a further period of 10 years each.



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IORA COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING

WHY IN NEWS?

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended the Council of Ministers' meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

Key Points

- The Ministers deliberated on ways to cooperate on six priority areas identified by the IORA, including Trade and Investment, Maritime Safety and Security, Fisheries Management, Disaster Risk Management and Blue Economy.
- Sri Lanka assumed the role of chair of the Council, the highest decision-making body of IORA, from Bangladesh for 2023-2025.
- India also assumed the role of vice-chair role of the regional grouping for 2023-25 during the IORA meeting.
- India is set to take over the chairship of IORA during 2025-27.
- The regional meet of countries on the rim of the Indian Ocean came exactly a year after the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), the country's top development aid agency, convened the first 'China-Indian Ocean Region Forum' in the southwestern Chinese city of Kunming.
- Significantly, Sri Lanka — which is frequently confronted with competing strategic interests of India and China in the Indian Ocean Region — participated in the forum, along with others from the region, including Pakistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Afghanistan.
- The IORA forum also coincides with reports of a possible visit of Chinese research vessel Shi Yan 6 to Sri Lanka.

India-Sri Lanka Relations

- On the sidelines of the Meeting of IORA, the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also held bilateral meetings with the leadership in Colombo.
- India and Sri Lanka unveiled a new economic partnership for maritime, air, energy and financial connectivity, including the use of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system.
- The India-Sri Lanka Economic Partnership Vision also includes a power grid interconnection for electricity trade, construction of a petroleum pipeline, a feasibility study for land connectivity, and resumption of talks on an Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement to replace an existing trade deal.
- India and Sri Lanka also launched a long-pending ferry service connecting Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu with Kankesanthurai in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka this week, as part of the countries' decision to enhance connectivity.

About IORA

- Established in 1997 as an intergovernmental organisation of states on the rim of the Indian Ocean, the IORA has members from Africa, West Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia and the Oceania.
- The Association's membership has expanded to 23 member states and 11 dialogue partners.
- 23 members are Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.
- 11 dialogue partners are China, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.
- The secretariat of IORA is in Mauritius.



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ASIAN GAMES 2023

WHY IN NEWS?

- India finished with a record haul of 107 medals at the Hangzhou Asian Games, its best ever, on October 7 at the 19th edition Hangzhou Asian Games.
- India has won 28 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze medals.

Key Highlights

- It was the first time in Asian Games history that India's medals tally crossed the three-figure mark.
- By doing so, they became the only fourth country after China (383), Japan (188) and the Republic of Korea (190) to win 100 or more medals in a single edition of the Asian Games.
- The Indian delegation was led by flagbearer P.R. Sreejesh, who helped India to the hockey gold.
- Indian shooters won seven gold medals and accounted for the most gold medals for the country at Hangzhou 2023. Four of the seven gold medals for India in shooting at the Asian Games 2023 came with world records.
- Athletics turned out to be the most productive sport for India at the Asian Games 2023 with a total of 29 medals - six gold, 14 silver and nine bronze.
- The India men's hockey team won an Asian Games gold and booked a Paris Olympics berth with a 5-1 thrashing of Japan.

About Asian Games

- The Asian Games is the biggest sports competition in Asia, held once every four years. The symbol for the Asian Games is the rising sun with interlocking rings.
- It is recognised by the International Olympic Committee.
- The first-ever Asian Games were held in New Delhi in 1951.
- India is a founding member of the Asian Games and also the host of the first Asian Games in New Delhi in 1951.
- The 9th edition of the Asian Games was also held in New Delhi in November and December 1982.
 - Appu, the Indian elephant, was the first mascot to be used for the Asian Games.



DID YOU KNOW?

- India's previous best haul of medals was 70 at the Jakarta 2018 Asian Games.
- The 20th Asian Games will be held in Japan in 2027.
- The nine medals won by Indian archers included five golds.
- India's previous best was one gold, one silver and one bronze from Incheon 2014.
- In fact, India had won only 10 medals in archery in the previous 18 editions of the Asian Games.
- The men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy claimed India's maiden gold medal in badminton.
- The men's and women's Indian cricket teams also won their first gold medals in the Asian Games on their tournament debuts.
- Sanjana Bathula became the youngest Indian to win a medal at the Asian Games after she won the bronze in the women's speed skating 3000m relay event. She was 15 years, three months and 11 days old when she won the medal.
- Jaggy Shivdasani became the oldest Indian to win an Asian Games medal at 65 years, seven months and 20 days. He was part of the men's bridge team that won the silver medal in Hangzhou.
- Neeraj Chopra clinched a Gold medal following his season's best throw of 88.88 metres.
- Alongside him, Kishore Jena won a silver medal for India as he threw the javelin at a distance of 87.54 metres which was his personal best.

New Sports Additions

- e-sports and breaking were the new additions to the 19th edition Hangzhou Asian Games.
- Breaking, also commonly known as breakdancing, has risen to fame recently, with the sport even booking a spot at the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- Apart from them, Cricket, and board games - Go, Xiangqi, and Chess returned to Asian Games in this edition after not featuring in the 2018 Asiad.

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GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX (GHI) 2023

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023 has been released by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.

The government of India, however, rejected the index calling it a flawed measure of “hunger” that does not reflect India's true position.

Key Findings

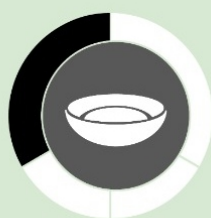
- According to the GHI 2023 report, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, China are among the top ranked countries (i.e., low level of hunger) and Yemen, Madagascar, Central African Republic are the bottom.
- South Asia and Africa South of the Sahara are the world regions with the highest hunger levels, with a GHI score of 27 each, indicating serious hunger level.
- West Asia and North Africa is the region with the third-highest hunger level with a score of 11.9 indicating “moderate” hunger level.
- The 2023 Global Hunger Index (GHI) shows that, after many years of advancement up to 2015, progress against hunger worldwide remains largely at a standstill.
- The 2023 GHI score for the world is 18.3, considered moderate and less than one point below the world's 2015 GHI score of 19.1.
- The GHI attributed the stagnation to various crises, including climate change, conflicts, economic shocks, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the Russia-Ukraine war.

India's Progress

- India ranked 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index-2023 with the country reporting the highest child wasting rate at 18.7 per cent.
- With a score of 28.7 in the Global Hunger Index-2023, India has a level of hunger that is “serious.”
- India ranked 107th out of 121 countries in 2022.
- India's neighbouring countries Pakistan (102th), Bangladesh (81st), Nepal (69th) and Sri Lanka (60th) have fared better than it in the index.
- However, India fared better than South Asia and Africa South of the Sahara, which recorded a score of 27 each.
- While the rate of undernourishment in India stood at 16.6 per cent and under-five mortality at 3.1 per cent, the prevalence of anaemia in women aged between 15 and 24 years stood at 58.1 per cent.
- As per the index, India also has the highest child-wasting rate in the world at 18.7 per cent, reflecting acute undernutrition. Wasting is measured based on children's weight relative to their height.

COMPOSITION OF GHI SCORES AND SEVERITY DESIGNATIONS

Note: All indicator values are standardized.



1/3

Undernourishment

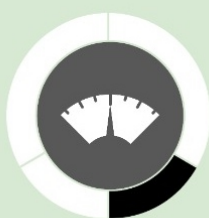
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Child stunting

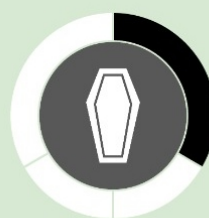
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1/6

Child wasting

+



1/3

Child mortality

=



GHI SCORE

GHI Severity of Hunger Scale

≤ 9.9
Low

10.0–19.9
Moderate

20.0–34.9
Serious

35.0–49.9
Alarming

≥ 50.0
Extremely alarming

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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY AND RUSSIA

WHY IN NEWS?

- Russia's parliament took the first step recently towards revoking ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and its top lawmaker hinted it might go further by abandoning the pact altogether.

What is CTBT?

- The CTBT is a multilateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions, whether for military or peaceful purposes.
- Although it was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1996, it's still in the ratification stage — 18 countries are yet to ratify (the process by which a state indicates its consent to be bound to a treaty).
- While Russia ratified the agreement in 2000, the US is still to do so.

Current Position

- CTBT has been signed by 187 nations and ratified by 178 nations.
- For the treaty to enter into force, it must be signed and ratified by 44 specific nuclear technology holder countries, eight of which have yet to ratify the agreement.
- These are China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States.

Genesis

- The genesis of the CTBT can be traced back to the Cold War era when the United States and the Soviet Union were engaged in a nuclear arms race, conducting numerous nuclear tests.
- Between 1945 and 1996, over 2,000 nuclear tests took place globally, with the U.S. conducting 1,032 tests and the Soviet Union conducting 715 tests, among others.
- Britain carried out 45 tests, France 210 and China 45.
- In response to concerns about the environmental and health impacts of nuclear tests, the international community made efforts to limit testing.
- The Limited Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (LTBT) of 1963 prohibited nuclear testing in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater but allowed underground tests.
- The Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT) of 1974 prohibits underground nuclear weapons tests and establishes a nuclear "threshold," yet it falls short of providing a comprehensive ban on all nuclear testing.
- A major breakthrough only came after the Cold War ended around 1990 and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. As the geopolitical tensions simmered down, the UN adopted the CTBT, which put a blanket ban on the explosive testing of nuclear weapons, on September 10, 1996, and it opened for signature on September 24, 1996.



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Did the CTBT Stop Nuclear Testing?

- Since the CTBT, 10 nuclear tests have taken place.
- India conducted two in 1998, Pakistan also two in 1998, and North Korea conducted tests in 2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 (twice) and 2017, according to the United Nations.
- The United States last tested in 1992, China and France in 1996 and the Soviet Union in 1990.
- Russia, which inherited most of the Soviet nuclear arsenal, has never conducted a nuclear test.

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LARGE OZONE HOLE DETECTED OVER ANTARCTICA

WHY IN NEWS?

- Satellite measurements over Antarctica have detected a giant hole in the ozone layer.

Key Points

- The hole, which scientists call an “ozone-depleted area” was 26 million square kilometres (10 million square miles) in size, roughly three times the size of Brazil.
- The European Space Agency Copernicus Sentinel-5P satellite made the recordings on September 16, 2023, as part of the EU's environmental monitoring program.
- The satellite measured trace gases in the atmosphere in order to monitor the ozone and climate.
- It showed that this year's ozone hole started earlier than usual, and had a big extension. Experts believe the hole in the ozone is not likely to increase warming on the surface of Antarctica.

What is an Ozone Hole?

- The ozone hole is not technically a “hole” where no ozone is present but is actually a region of exceptionally depleted ozone in the stratosphere over the Antarctic that happens at the beginning of Southern Hemisphere spring (August–October).
- The size of the ozone hole over Antarctica fluctuates each year, opening each year in August and closing again in November or December.

- The ozone layer is a trace gas in the stratosphere, one of the four layers of the Earth's atmosphere.
- It functions as a protective gas shield that absorbs ultraviolet radiation, protecting humans and ecosystems from dangerous amounts of UV.
- Most skin cancers are caused by exposure to high amounts of UV radiation, so anything that shields us from UV rays helps reduce cancer rates.

Cause of the Ozone Hole in 2023

- Scientists believe this year's big ozone hole could be due to the volcanic eruptions at Hunga Tonga during December 2022 and January 2023.
- Under normal conditions, gas released from a volcanic eruption stays below the level of the stratosphere, but this eruption sent a lot of water vapour into the stratosphere.
- The water had an impact on the ozone layer through chemical reactions and changed its heating rate.
- The water vapour also contained other elements that can deplete ozone like bromine and iodine.
- There isn't much evidence the ozone hole is due to humans.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Ozone can be good or bad, depending on where it is found.
- Called stratospheric ozone, good ozone occurs naturally in the upper atmosphere, where it forms a protective layer that shields us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.
- Tropospheric or ground-level ozone is a harmful air pollutant, because of its effects on people and the environment, and it is the main ingredient in “smog.”
- International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer or World Ozone Day is celebrated on September 16 to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol, one of the most successful environmental treaties.
- The Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol was adopted in 1985 and 1987 respectively.

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BAIGA TRIBAL GROUP GETS HABITAT RIGHTS IN CHHATTISGARH

WHY IN NEWS?

- Ahead of Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh, the Baiga Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) recently became the second to get habitat rights in the state, after the Kamar PVTG on August 9.

Key Points

- The Baiga PVTG became the second group to be granted these rights in Chhattisgarh.
- There are seven PVTGs in Chhattisgarh. These are Kamar, Baiga, Pahadi Korba, Abujmadiya, Birhor, Pando and Bhujia.
- The total population of PVTG tribes in Chhattisgarh as per the 2015-2016 survey is 2.50 lakh while the population of tribals in Chhattisgarh as per the 2011 census is 78.22 lakh.

What are Habitat Rights?

- Habitat rights recognition provides the community concerned rights over their customary territory of habitation, socio-cultural practices, economic and livelihood means, intellectual knowledge of biodiversity and ecology, traditional knowledge of the use of natural resources, as well as protection and conservation of their natural and cultural heritage.
- Habitat rights safeguard and promote traditional livelihood and ecological knowledge passed down through generations.
- They also help converge different government schemes and initiatives from various departments to empower PVTG communities to develop their habitats.
- Out of 75 PVTG in India, only three have habitat rights. The Bheria PVTG in Madhya Pradesh was the first, followed by the Kamar tribe and now the Baiga tribe in Chhattisgarh.



About Baiga PVTG

- The Baiga (means sorcerers) tribe mainly lives in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- Traditionally, the Baiga lived a semi-nomadic life and practised slash and burn cultivation. Now, they are mainly dependent on minor forest produce for their livelihood.
- Tattooing is an integral part of Baiga culture, every age and body part has a specific tattoo reserved for the occasion.

PVTG

- According to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, tribal communities who are technologically backward, who have stagnant or declining population growth, extremely low level of literacy, and a subsistence level of economy are declared as PVTG.
- PVTGs have low health indices and largely reside in isolated, remote, and difficult areas in small and scattered hamlets/habitats.
- The ministry has identified 75 PVTGs in 18 states and one Union Territory.
- In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs.

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TOTO LANGUAGE

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Toto language, spoken by only 1,600 people in West Bengal bordering Bhutan, is on the brink of extinction.

Key Points

- Toto is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken by the tribal Toto people and is written in the Bengali script.
- Even though prominent community member Dhaniram Toto developed a script as recently as in 2015, most people either write it in Bengali script or write in Bengali language.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) lists it as a critically endangered language.
- Toto is a small tribal community having a population of only 1,632 people living in Toto Para in Alipurduar district, on the edge of north Bengal near the India-Bhutan border, and speaking the eponymous language.
- The Totos are considered Mongoloid people.
- A trilingual dictionary (Toto-Bengali-English) called "Toto Shabda Sangraha" was released in Kolkata on 7th October 2023, to help preserve the toto language.
- A book by the Padma Shri-decorated Mr. Toto, titled Dhanua Totor Kathamala, was written in Bengali.
- The dictionary has been compiled by Bhakta Toto, a bank employee-cum-poet, and published jointly by the trust and Bhasha Samsad, a publishing house run by Bitasta Ghoshal.
- This book will protect the language from vanishing. Even those studying in English and Bengali can stay in touch with Toto because of this compilation.
- The trust will soon publish Uttal Torsa, another Bengali novel written by Dhaniram Toto.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

Padma Awards 2023

DHANIRAM TOTO

'Triumph of Dengka'

Padma Shri

Literature & Education | West Bengal

Architect of the Toto language script, preserving the indigenous language

First author to write a novel in Toto language

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CHINA-TIBET DISPUTE

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Dalai Lama recently said in a latest discussion with reporters at his residence in Dharamshala that Tibetans are seeking greater autonomy rather than political separation from China.

Key Points

- Toto is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken by the tribal Toto people and is written in the Bengali script.
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- The Totos are considered Mongoloid people.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Dalai Lama has named a US-born Mongolian boy as the tenth Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa, the head of the Janang tradition of Tibetan Buddhism and the Buddhist spiritual head of Mongolia.
- The ninth Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa died in 2012 at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- Tibetan Buddhism has four major schools: Nyingma (8th century), Kagyu (11th century), Sakya (1073), and Gelug (1409). The Janang school (12th century) is one of the smaller schools that grew as an offshoot of the Sakya school.
- Since 1640, the Gelug school has been the predominant school of Tibetan Buddhism. The Dalai Lama belongs to this school.
- The Chinese occupation of Tibet and the Dalai Lama's exile has raised significant complications in the established traditions of reincarnations in Tibetan Buddhism.

China-Tibet Dispute

- The 13th Dalai Lama, Thubten Gyatso, announced de facto Tibetan independence in early 1913.
- China did not recognize Tibet's independence and continued to claim sovereignty over the region.
- From 1912 until the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, no Chinese government exercised control over what is today China's Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).
- The Dalai Lama's government alone ruled the land until 1951. Tibet was not "Chinese" until Mao Zedong's People's Liberation Army (PLA) marched in and invaded Tibet.
- In 1951 Tibetan leaders were forced to sign a treaty dictated by China. The treaty, known as the "Seventeen Point Agreement", professes to guarantee Tibetan autonomy and to respect the Buddhist religion but also allows the establishment of Chinese civil and military headquarters at Lhasa (Tibet's capital).
- However, the Tibetan people, including the Dalai Lama consider it invalid.
- Escalating tensions between Tibet and China led to a critical turning point in 1959 when the Dalai Lama, along with a group of followers, fled to India, seeking asylum.
- Tibetans who followed the Dalai Lama formed an exiled government based in Dharamshala, India, known as the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA).



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**CONTEMPORARY EVENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE FROM
INDIA AND THE WORLD**

QUICK FACTS



1. The upcoming **Noida International Airport (NIA)** in Jewar has received a unique international three-letter code, '**DXN**', by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). "The D in DXN signifies Delhi, which is the national capital, and N stands for Noida, which shows our presence in the Western UP area. X, we think, signifies connectivity within India and the world.
2. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has placed two contracts with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the indigenous **Astra Beyond Visual Range (BVR)** Air to Air Missile and the first batch is expected to be inducted by the end of 2023. Astra is a state-of-the-art BVR air-to-air missile with a range of over 100 km designed to engage and destroy highly manoeuvrable supersonic aerial targets. It is designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Research Centre Imarat (RCI) and other DRDO laboratories.
3. An ambitious effort for the integration of India's "ancient strategic acumen" into the contemporary military domain and develop an "indigenous strategic vocabulary", rooted in India's "philosophy and culture" was launched under '**Project Udbhav**', by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on October 21.
4. **India and Bangladesh** commenced the 11th edition of the annual joint military exercise, **SAMPRITI** on 03rd October 2023 in Umroi, Meghalaya. This exercise, alternatingly organised by both countries, signifies strong bilateral defence cooperation initiatives. With its inception in Jorhat, Assam in 2009, the exercise has witnessed ten successful editions till 2022.
5. The Government of India notified the constitution of the **National Turmeric Board**. The National Turmeric Board will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country. As India is the world's largest producer (75% of global turmeric production), consumer, and exporter of turmeric, this move aims to enhance the development and expansion of the turmeric industry within the country. The largest producing states of Turmeric are Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
6. Suicide is a major cause of the 817 unnatural deaths reported in jails across the country between 2017 and 2021, the **SC Committee on Prison Reforms** has told the apex court while emphasising the need for building suicide-resistant barracks. The committee, headed by former top court judge **Justice (retd) Amitava Roy**, has said that out of the 817 unnatural deaths, 660 were suicides with Uttar Pradesh recording the highest number of suicides at 101 during this period.
7. On October 4, the Union cabinet approved a tribal university for **Telangana – the Sarakka Central Tribal University**, which will come up in Mulugu district at a cost of Rs 889 crore. Sammakka-Sarakka (also called Medaram Jatara) is the second-largest fair in India, after the Kumbh Mela, celebrated by the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana- the Koya tribe for four days.
8. Scientists at the Materials Research Centre (MRC), **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, have developed a new type of enzyme mimetic that can degrade toxic chemicals in industrial wastewater effectively in the presence of sunlight. Enzymes are proteins that catalyse a majority of biological reactions in living systems.
9. **Gravity-based energy storage** is emerging as a solution to renewable energy intermittency and interruption, with the help of Energy Vault, which is in talks with Indian companies like NTPC, Tata Power, and ReNew Power. Energy Vault offers the EVx platform using gravity and mechanical elevators to store and release energy with 25-tonne blocks. It also focuses on short-term storage, eco-friendly materials, and green hydrogen energy storage.
10. The **Dandeli forest in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka** is known for its forest grasses, birds and cattle herders. In recent years, rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns are impacting the forest ecosystem and the people living around them and dependent on them.
11. **Indian Air Force Day** is celebrated on **8th October** every year to commemorate the establishment of the Royal Indian Air Force on 8th October 1932. The theme for Indian Air Force Day 2023 is "IAF - Airpower Beyond Boundaries." The Motto of the IAF is "Touch the sky with Glory" has been taken from the eleventh chapter of the Bhagavad Gita. Till now, IAF has fought four conflicts with Pakistan in 1947-1948, 1965, The Bangladesh Liberation War (1971) and 1999 (Kargil War), and Operation Meghdoot.
12. In a recent **operation named "Kachchhap,"** the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has successfully rescued nearly a thousand live baby Gangetic turtles, shedding light on the ongoing battle against illegal wildlife trade and the protection of these unique creatures. The operation resulted in the recovery of live baby turtles of different species, such as the Indian Tent Turtle, Indian Flapshell Turtle, Black Spotted/Pond Turtle, and Brown Roofed Turtle., some of which are considered vulnerable or near-threatened species according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.





13. The **Union Minister of Commerce & Industry** unveiled a significant initiative to issue system-based automatic '**Status Holder**' certificates under the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023. Now the exporter will not be required to apply to the office of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for a Status Certificate and the export recognition will be provided by the IT system based on available Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) merchandise export electronic data and other risk parameters.
14. The **Annual Joint HADR Exercise 2023 (AJHE-23) 'CHAKRAVAT'** was hosted by the Indian Navy at Goa from 09-11 Oct 2023. Initiated in 2015, this exercise marks a significant step towards enhancing collective response mechanisms to humanitarian crises and natural disasters in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
15. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways inaugurated the dredging work at **National Waterways 44 (Ichamati River)** in West Bengal. The **Ichamati River**, serving as a boundary between India and Bangladesh, flows through both countries and has three distinct sections.
16. In an unprecedented development where India had already served two terms as President, of **Asia- the Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)** General Conference (GC) from 2018 – 2021 and 2021 – 2023, India has been elected as President of AIBD GC for the 3rd successive term to lead the prestigious international organisation. AIBD, established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO, is a unique regional inter-governmental organisation, that currently has 92 member organisations from across 44 countries. India is one of the founding members of AIBD.
17. The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the establishment of an autonomous body **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)** to serve as an overarching enabling mechanism powered by technology for youth development and youth-led development and provide equitable access to youth to actualize their aspirations and build Viksit Bharat across the entire spectrum of the Government.
18. The **Indian Army**, in its plan for larger manpower optimisation of its force, is deliberating to convert its logistics and transport units into the **Territorial Army (TA)**. The TA, according to the source, is also recruiting Chinese language interpreters for border personnel meetings (BPM) and cyber security experts to support the Army.
19. Recently, the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** released the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report 2022-2023** on the basis of the Periodic Labour Force Survey conducted from July 2022 to June 2023.
20. A new high throughput **quantum-backed green hydrogen** production technology, developed by the Green Keplerate Team from **Banaras Hindu University**, could boost green hydrogen production in bulk. The technology developed showcases the uses of Green Hydrogen as an eco-friendly energy alternative. They introduced a next-generation quantum-powered photo-catalyst with a charge transfer system coupled with high proton availability and mobility and delivered quantum catalytic applications for energy generation.
21. In **Arunachal Pradesh**, seven bridge projects under the **Setu Bandhan Scheme** have been approved by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (earlier known as Central Road Fund) was established in 2000 under the Central Road Fund Act, 2000. The fund comprises a cess imposed along with excise duty on petrol and diesel.
22. **UNICEF's** global learning-to-earning solution, **Passport to Earning (P2E)**, has skilled and certified more than one million young people in India in areas of financial literacy and digital productivity. Notably, 62% of the young learners who benefitted from P2E courses in India are adolescent girls and young women. In India, aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, P2E provides free access to certificate courses in digital productivity, financial literacy, employability skills, and other in-demand, job-ready skills. The P2E solution also offers provisions for online, hybrid, and offline learning models.
23. **INS Sagardhwani**, an oceanographic research vessel belonging to the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of DRDO, embarked on a two-month-long **Sagar Maitri (SM) Mission-4** from Kochi, on October 12. In the Sagar Maitri programme, INS Sagardhwani will retrace the tracks of INS Kistna, which participated in the International Indian Ocean Expedition during 1962-65. The mission aims to establish long-term scientific partnerships and collaborations with the eight IOR countries: Oman, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Myanmar.



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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

QUICK FACTS



1. Boundaries play an important role in science because they help differentiate and define things that might otherwise blend together. One such boundary is the **Kármán Line**. Located at 100 km above sea level, it is an imaginary line that demarcates the Earth's atmosphere from space. It was established in the 1960s by a record-keeping body called Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI). Anyone individual who crosses this line qualifies as an astronaut. The Kármán Line was established to regulate airspace. It marks, roughly, the altitude beyond which a traditional aircraft can't fly.
2. In 2023, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international shipping were 20 per cent higher than 10 years earlier, according to the **Review of Maritime Transport 2023** by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Overall, the shipping industry contributes to over 80 per cent of the world's trade volume and nearly three per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.
3. **World Animal Day**, sometimes referred to as World Animal Welfare Day or World Animal Protection Day, is an annual event that aims to celebrate animal rights and welfare around the world. World Animal Day is an annual event that is celebrated around the world on **October 4**. The theme of World Animal Day 2023 is "**Big or small, we love them all**".
4. The **World Health Organization** (WHO) recommended a new malaria vaccine, **R21/Matrix-M**, to curb the life-threatening disease spread to humans by certain mosquitoes. The R21/Matrix-M vaccine is the second malaria vaccine recommended by WHO, following the RTS, S/AS01 vaccine, which received a recommendation in 2021. The R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine was developed by the University of Oxford and the Serum Institute of India.
5. Millions around the world suffer from vision problems, with a significant portion in need of spectacles. However, access to eye care remains a challenge, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. In response to this crisis, the **74th World Health Assembly**, 2021 has embarked on an initiative called "**Specs 2030**" to provide integrated and people-centred eye care.
6. According to the **World Health Organization's** (WHO)'s weekly Epidemiological Record, the World reported more than twice as many cholera cases in 2022 as it did in 2021. This escalation presents a substantial challenge to the WHO's ambitious goal set in 2017 to reduce global **cholera deaths by 90% by 2030**.
7. Carcasses of **120 river dolphins** have been discovered floating in a tributary of the **Amazon River** over the past week. Experts believe that severe drought and heat may be the culprits behind this mass mortality. The Amazon River, currently experiencing low water levels due to an intense drought, has seen its waters heated to temperatures intolerable for the dolphins.
8. **India and Iran** have further narrowed differences on a proposed 10-year pact for operations at the strategic Chabahar port, which is expected to be signed following political clearance from both sides.
9. The **Maldives** has chosen a new leader, replacing President Ibu Solih, who won by a landslide in 2018, with **Mohamed Muizzu**, the Mayor of Male and the choice of the previous ruling party, the PPM.
10. The traditional five basic tastes, such as sweet, sour, salty, bitter, and umami, have been part of our understanding of taste for years. However, recent scientific research has unveiled evidence of a **sixth basic taste sensation**.
11. **World Dyslexia Day** is observed every year on **October 8**. Dyslexia is a common learning disorder that affects a person's ability to read and write properly. It is characterized by difficulties in processing language-related tasks, including recognizing and decoding written words. However, Dyslexia is not related to intelligence. The theme for 2023 is "Uniquely You".
12. **World Cerebral Palsy Day**, observed globally on **October 6**, serves as a platform to raise awareness, provide support, and advocate for a greater understanding of cerebral palsy (CP) and its impact. Cerebral palsy is a group of neurological disorders that affect movement, muscle tone, and coordination. The theme for 2023 is "Together Stronger".
13. The **United Kingdom** has made medical history with doctors carrying out the country's first **womb transplant**. India is one of a few countries to have had a successful uterine transplant; others include Turkey, Sweden, and the U.S.
14. The **World Mental Health Day** is observed on **October 10** every year. The World Federation of Mental Health (WFMH) formally created the day in the early 1990s. The theme for World Mental Health Day 2023 "Mental health is a universal human right" provides an opportunity for individuals and communities to come together to deal with mental health issues.

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15. Shreya Dharmarajan, a 21-year-old woman from Chennai, became the top boss at the British High Commission in India for a full day after winning a competition that was organised to empower the next generation of women leaders. Shreya is the seventh winner of the India edition of the 'High Commissioner for a Day' competition organised annually since 2017. **International Day of the Girl Child**, observed annually on **October 11** was first celebrated in 2012.
16. Every year, **World Habitat Day** is celebrated on the first Monday of the month of October. This year, World Habitat Day falls on **October 2**. In 1986, the first World Habitat Day was celebrated in Nairobi, Kenya. The theme of that year's World Habitat Day was – Shelter is my right. For this year, the theme is - Resilient urban economies.
17. **Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan** was conferred an honorary doctorate by Jawaharlal Nehru University, becoming the first woman to be bestowed with the honour for her “pivotal role in fostering stronger India-Tanzania relations, promoting economic diplomacy, and achieving success in regional integration and multilateralism.” The Government of Tanzania also announced that they would be joining the International Big Cat Alliance and the Global Biofuel Alliance.
18. **World Sight Day** is a global event held **every second Thursday in October** to raise awareness about blindness and vision impairment. In 2023, it falls on 12th October, and the theme is "Love your eyes at work." The emphasis this year is on educating people about safeguarding their vision in the workplace.
19. India launched **Operation Ajay** to bring back Indians from Israel as the conflict escalated with Israel retaliating against Hamas's attack. Operation Ajay is not technically an evacuation operation. It is an operation to repatriate its citizens from Israel.
20. The **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** has officially joined as a member of the **Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG)**, which was established in 1989 to harmonise pharmacopoeial standards in the world. A standardised pharmacopoeia will make it easier for drugmakers to adhere to procedural norms for multiple markets. IPC was the only Pharmacopoeia body in the world to be selected for the pilot phase initiated in September 2022.
21. After a surprise attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7 escalated the decades-long conflict in the region, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered the **USS Gerald R Ford carrier strike** group to sail to the Eastern Mediterranean to assist Israel, if the need arose.
22. Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its **World Economic Outlook 2023 titled- Navigating Global Divergence**, which stated that the Indian Economy will grow faster than previously estimated. The IMF expects global GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth to be 3% in 2023, which is the same as its July 2023 forecast. Global GDP growth for 2024, however, has seen a reduction of 10 basis points from the July forecast to 2.9%.
23. Samples collected from the 4.5-billion-year-old **asteroid Benu** could indicate the building blocks of life on Earth. Initial studies on the samples collected in space and recently brought back to earth have shown evidence of high-carbon content and water-bearing clay minerals, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

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**ARTS & CULTURE AND HISTORICAL EVENTS
OF CONTINUING SIGNIFICANCE**

QUICK FACTS



1. Monkomb Sambasivan (**MS Swaminathan**), hailed as the '**Father of India's Green Revolution**,' passed away at the age of 98. Swaminathan's groundbreaking work with Norman Borlaug in developing high-yielding wheat and rice varieties, notably the semi-dwarf wheat varieties, revolutionized agriculture in India during the 1960s and '70s. He has received numerous accolades and awards for his outstanding contributions to agriculture, including being honoured as the first World Food Prize Laureate in 1987. He has also been conferred with the Padma Shri (1967), Padma Bhushan (1972) and Padma Vibhushan (1989). Various international honours including the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1971) and the Albert Einstein World Science Award (1986).
2. India observed the birth anniversary of **Lal Bahadur Shastri on 2nd October**, honouring his significant contributions and legacy. He served as India's second Prime Minister from 1964 to 1966, and faced significant challenges during his tenure, including the aftermath of the 1962 war with China, drought, food crises, and the 1965 war with Pakistan. His famous slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" symbolized India's determination to tackle these issues.
3. India celebrated the 200th birth anniversary of **Shri Ramalinga Swamy**, also known as **Vallalar**, on 5 October 2023. Shri Ramalinga Swamy was a prominent Tamil poet in the 19th century and a member of the "gnana siddhars" lineage. He was born in the village of Marudhur in Tamil Nadu. He established 'The Sathya Dharma Salai,' a free food facility in Vadalur, Tamil Nadu in 1867, serving all people without caste distinctions. In January 1872, Vallalar opened the 'Sathya Gnana Sabha' (Hall of True Knowledge) in Vadalur.
4. Recently, the Prime Minister of India has paid **tributes to Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan** on his birth anniversary. Devoted his life to the Bhoodan Yajna Movement, advocating land redistribution to the landless, inspired by Vinoba Bhave. He led the movement against the Indira Gandhi Regime in response to electoral law violations, promoting a program of 'Sampoorna Kranti' or total revolution in 1974.
5. Recently, the Prime Minister of India has paid **tributes to Nanaji Deshmukh** on his birth anniversary. Deshmukh, who came from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), actively collaborated with JP in coordinating protests against the Indira Gandhi government and was lauded for voluntarily quitting politics later to dedicate his life to social service. Awarded Padma Vibhushan in 1999 and was posthumously honoured with the Bharat Ratna by the President of India in 2019.
6. Noted author and activist **Sivasankari** was honoured with the prestigious **Saraswati Samman for the year 2022** for her memoir written in Tamil, "Surya Vamsam". This award is given annually to literary works published in the last 10 years by Indian writers of 22 languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The Saraswati Samman was instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991.



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to the Government of India

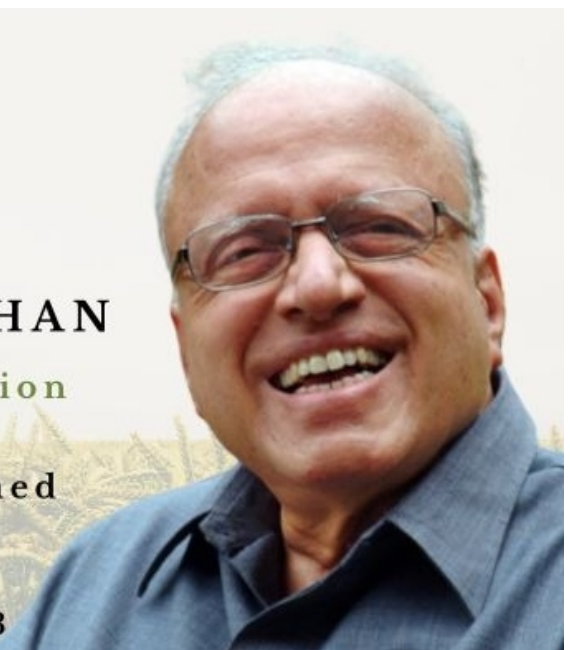
India mourns the loss of

PROF. M. S. SWAMINATHAN

Father of India's **Green Revolution**

Indian Agronomist and Renowned
Agricultural Scientist

7 August 1925 - 28 September 2023



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TEST ZONE



PASSAGE - 1

India has maintained its [1] rank in the latest Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023, making it a leading position holder among the lower middle-income country group. The country ranked first among the 37 lower-middle group income and first among the 10 economies in Central and South America.

The GI tracks the innovation ecosystem performance of 132 global economies and the most recent global innovation trends. In 2015, India stood at the 81st spot and has been rising in the past eight years.

The GI is a reliable tool for governments across the world to assess the innovation-led social and economic changes in their respective countries.

Other parameters where India performed fairly better include—cultural and creative services exports as percentage of trade (18th rank), intangible asset intensity (8th rank), and overall market sophistication (20th rank).

The broad areas where a lot of improvement needs to happen are infrastructure (84th rank), business sophistication (57) and institutions (56).

Of the 21 economies that outperformed on innovation relative to their level of development, the majority are located in Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia, East Asia, and Oceania.

Along with India, the Republic of Moldova and Vietnam have also been innovation overperformers for 13 years in a row and Indonesia, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have maintained their overperformer status for a second year and Brazil for a third consecutive year.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "India maintains [1] rank in the Global Innovation Index 2023", by Saptarshi Das, Hindustan Times]

Q.1 Which number has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- A** 40th
- B** 35th

- C** 45th
- D** 30th

Q.2 Which country is the most innovative country in the world according to the 2023 Global Innovation Index?

- A** United States
- B** Singapore

- C** United Kingdom
- D** Sweden

Q.3 Every year the World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated on –

- A** December 20
- B** April 26

- C** September 10
- D** May 15

Q.4 In July 2022, India Innovation Index Report 2021 was released by NITI Aayog. Which state retained its top position in the major States category?

- A** Gujarat
- B** Tamil Nadu

- C** Karnataka
- D** Andhra Pradesh

Q.5 Which organization releases the Global Innovation Index every year to measure an economy's innovation ecosystem performance?

- A** International Monetary Fund
- B** World Economic Forum

- C** World Intellectual Property Organisation
- D** World Bank

Q.1 (A) Q.2 (D) Q.3 (B) Q.4 (C) Q.5 (C)
Answers

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PASSAGE - 2

Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated every year on October 2. It marks the birthday of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, revered as Mahatma Gandhi. He is fondly remembered by the people as "Mahatma" or "Bapu", and played a key role in India's freedom movement. Mahatma Gandhi demonstrated the power of non-violence, or ahimsa through various peaceful movements. He inspired leaders across the world with his values and principles.

When Mahatma Gandhi was in South Africa for higher studies. There, he opposed racial segregation after he was thrown out of a train while he was travelling in a first-class compartment in Pietermaritzburg. He stood against discrimination by choosing the path of non-violence.

His approach found resonance among people across the country and they joined the peaceful civil disobedience movement. It was his non-violence movement which helped India gain Independence in 1947.

He led various freedom movements in India, including the non-cooperation movement, civil disobedience movement and Quit India movement. Under him, many people actively participated in protests against colonial rule in India.

His principles - Satya (truth), ahimsa (non-violence) and swaraj (self-rule) -- became the basis of several civil rights movements across the world. American civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. espoused the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. King cited Mahatma Gandhi and his Satyagraha (peaceful resistance for truth) in many of his addresses.

In 1930, he was named the Person of the Year by Time Magazine. Mahatma Gandhi died on January 30, 1948.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Mahatma Gandhi's 154th Birth Anniversary: History Behind This National Festival", by Anjali Thakur, NDTV]

Q.1 Which legendary personality shares his birthday with another legendary personality, Mahatma Gandhi on October 2?

- A** Subhas Chandra Bose
- B** Gopal Krishna Gokhale

- C** Lal Bahadur Shastri
- D** Lala Lajpat Rai

Q.2 To honour Gandhian principles, the International Day of Non-Violence is observed every year on –

- A** October 24
- B** October 2

- C** October 15
- D** October 30

Q.3 In which year was the 'Quit India Movement' started?

- A** August 1942
- B** July 1942

- C** September 1945
- D** August 1945

Q.4 Every year, Shaheed Diwas, also known as Martyrs' Day or Sarvodaya Day, is observed on –

- A** March 23
- B** January 23

- C** March 26
- D** January 26

Q.5 When did Mahatma Gandhi return to India from South Africa?

- A** 1905
- B** 1920

- C** 1915
- D** 1925

Q.1 (C) Q.2 (B) Q.3 (A) Q.4 (A) Q.5 (C)

Answers

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PASSAGE - 3

Satellite measurements over Antarctica have detected a giant hole in the ozone layer.

The hole, which scientists call an “ozone-depleted area” was 26 million square kilometers (10 million square miles) in size, roughly three times the size of Brazil.

The [1]'s Copernicus Sentinel-5P satellite made the recordings on September 16, 2023, as part of the EU's environmental monitoring program.

Claus Zehner, the agency's mission manager for Copernicus Sentinel-5P, told DW that this is one of the biggest ozone holes they've ever seen. “The satellite measured trace gases in the atmosphere in order to monitor the ozone and climate. It showed that this year's ozone hole started earlier than usual, and had a big extension,” said Zehner.

Experts believe the hole in the ozone is not likely to increase warming on the surface of Antarctica.

The ozone layer is a trace gas in the stratosphere, one of the four layers of the Earth's atmosphere.

It functions as a protective gas shield that absorbs ultraviolet radiation, protecting humans and ecosystems from dangerous amounts of UV. Most skin cancers are caused by exposure to high amounts of UV radiation, so anything that shields us from UV rays helps reduce cancer rates.

The size of the ozone hole over Antarctica fluctuates each year, opening each year in August and closing again in November or December.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Large ozone hole detected over Antarctica: Is it a matter of concern?", by Deutsche Welle, The Indian Express]

Q.1 Which space agency's name has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A European Space Agency | <input type="radio"/> C NASA |
| <input type="radio"/> B ISRO | <input type="radio"/> D JAXA |

Q.2 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer or World Ozone Day is celebrated on –

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A June 5 | <input type="radio"/> C March 24 |
| <input type="radio"/> B September 16 | <input type="radio"/> D October 24 |

Q.3 Good ozone forms a protective layer that shields us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. Good ozone found in -

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A Mesosphere | <input type="radio"/> C Stratosphere |
| <input type="radio"/> B Troposphere | <input type="radio"/> D Ionosphere |

Q.4 The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed in which year?

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A 1988 | <input type="radio"/> C 1900 |
| <input type="radio"/> B 1989 | <input type="radio"/> D 1987 |

Q.5 The Vienna Convention was adopted in which year?

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A 1985 | <input type="radio"/> C 1988 |
| <input type="radio"/> B 1987 | <input type="radio"/> D 1989 |

Q.1 (A) Q.2 (B) Q.3 (C) Q.4 (D) Q.5 (A)

Answers

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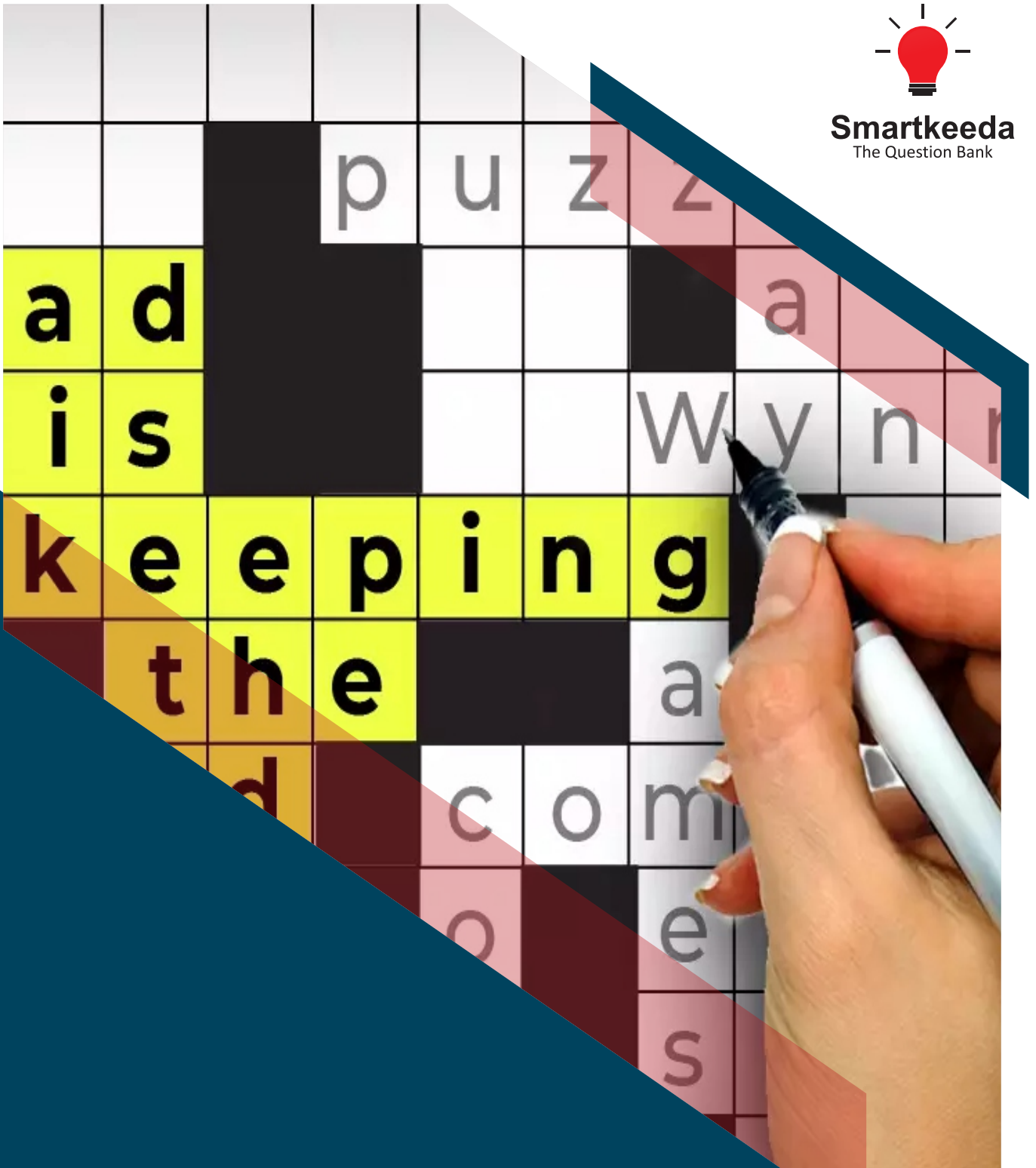
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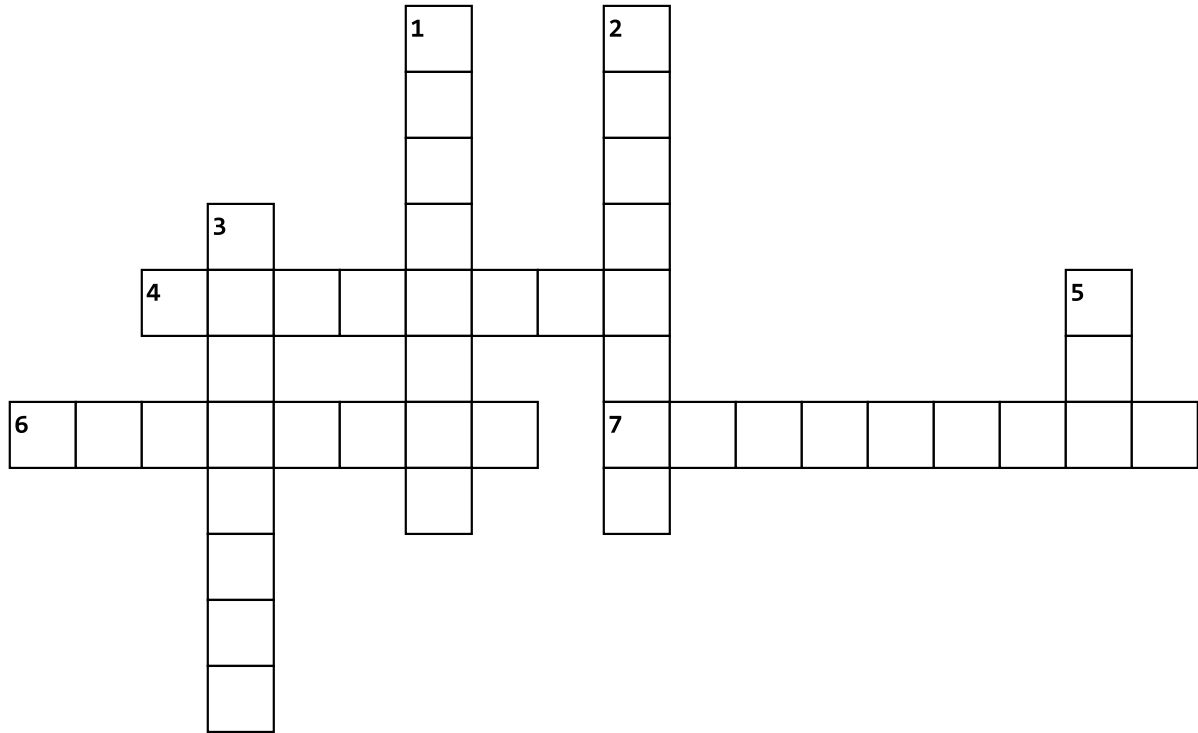
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CROSSWORD CORNER



CROSSWORD - 1



Across

- 4. World Dyslexia Day
- 6. Indian Air Force Day
- 7. Place where the Sarakka Central Tribal University

Down

- 1. World Animal Day
- 2. Joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh
- 3. World Cerebral Palsy Day
- 5. Code given by the International Air Transport Association to Noida International Airport

Answers

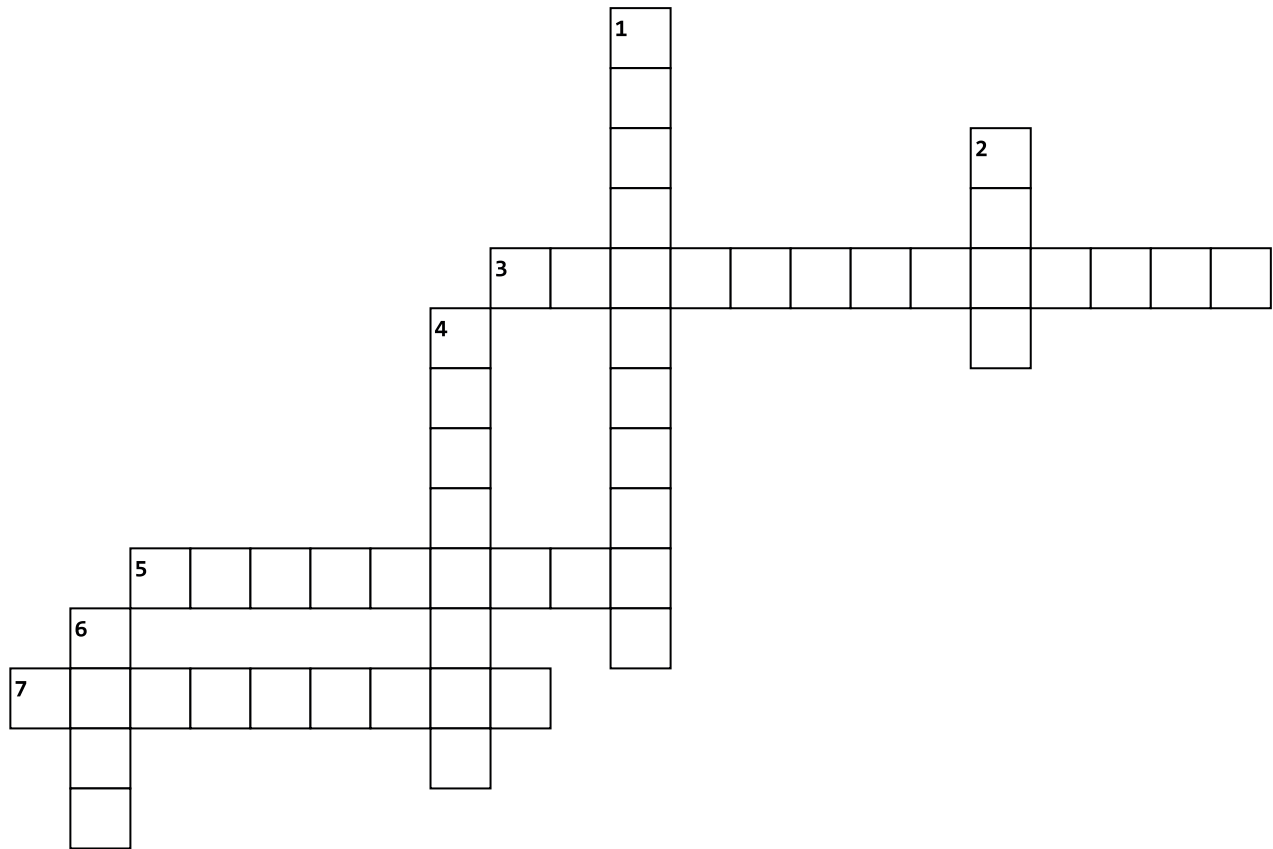
4	October
3	October
2	SAMPRIITI
1	October
7	Telangana
6	October
5	DXN

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CROSSWORD - 2



Across

- 3. 'Father of India's Green Revolution
- 5. International Day of the Girl Child
- 7. World Mental Health Day

Down

- 1. Honoured with the prestigious Saraswati Samman for the year 2022
- 2. Operation launched by India to bring back Indians from Israel
- 4. World Habitat Day
- 6. Target year to reduce global cholera deaths by 90% by WHO

Answers

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1 | Sivasankari |
| 2 | Ajay |
| 3 | MSSwaminathan |
| 4 | 20 October |
| 5 | 11 October |
| 6 | 2030 |
| 7 | 10 October |

