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# LawEx

01-15 JUN, 2023

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[Cover Story]

22<sup>nd</sup> Law  
Commission  
on  
SEDITION

# SEDITION



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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

The 22nd Law Commission recommends that Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) dealing with sedition needs to be retained, but certain amendments could be made for greater clarity regarding its usage, India conducted Asia’s first demonstration of performance-based navigation for helicopters for a flight from Juhu to Pune using GAGAN satellite technology, also a fresh round of excavations at the site of Delhi’s Purana Qila or Old Fort has uncovered evidence of the continuous history of the city since the pre-Mauryan era. To know more, keep reading.

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The Question Bank



**QUICK BOOSTERS**



## 22ND LAW COMMISSION ON SEDITION

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The 22nd Law Commission recommends that the Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) dealing with sedition needs to be retained, but certain amendments could be made for greater clarity regarding its usage.

#### Law Commission's Recommendations

- The Commission recommended three changes to the law on sedition.
  - The first is to include the ratio of the Kedar Nath ruling into the provision by adding the words "with a tendency to incite violence or cause public disorder."
    - The report also defines the tendency to incite violence as a "mere inclination to incite violence or cause public disorder rather than proof of actual violence or imminent threat to violence."
  - Second, the report suggests enhancing the imprisonment for sedition to "remove an oddity." One of the criticisms against the provision is that it leaves judges with wide discretion on sentencing.
    - Section 124A has a jail term of up to three years or life imprisonment. The Law Commission has now proposed enhancing the jail term up to seven years or life imprisonment.

- Third, to prevent misuse of the law, the report suggested including a procedural safeguard that no FIR shall be registered for sedition "unless a police officer, not below the rank of Inspector, conducts a preliminary inquiry and on the basis of the report made by the said police officer the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, grants permission for registering a First Information Report".

#### Reference from Home Ministry

- The Law Commission received a reference from the Home Ministry through a letter dated March 29, 2016, for a study of the usage of the provision of Section 124A and suggest amendments.
- The Law Commission said the existence of laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the National Security Act (NSA) does not, by implication, cover all elements of the offence envisaged under Section 124A of the IPC.

### What is the Sedition Law?

- Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code penalises a crime against the state.
- It defines the crime as bringing "into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India."
- In 1962, the Supreme Court in 'Kedarnath Singh v State of Bihar' upheld the constitutional validity of IPC Section 124A.
- However, the court attempted to restrict its scope for misuse. The court held that unless accompanied by an incitement or call for violence, criticism of the government cannot be labelled sedition.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- The law was originally drafted in 1837 by Thomas Macaulay, the British historian-politician, but was inexplicably omitted when the IPC was enacted in 1860.
  - Section 124A was inserted in 1870 by an amendment introduced by Sir James Stephen when it felt the need for a specific section to deal with the offence.
- The United Kingdom deleted the seditious libel through the Coroners and Justice Act, 2009.
- In Australia, following the recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) the term sedition was removed and replaced with references to 'urging violence offenses'.
- In August 2018, the Law Commission of India published a consultation paper recommending that it is time to re-think or repeal the Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code that deals with sedition.

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## DELIMITATION BASED ON POPULATION AND SOUTHERN STATES

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Southern states Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana termed the proposed delimitation of constituencies based on population not only as “irrational but could also lead to disparities in the federal structure” and stressed the need to raise the voice against the injustice awaiting the Southern States.

#### What is Delimitation?

- Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and state Assembly seats to represent changes in population.
- The main objective of delimitation is to provide equal representation to equal segments of a population.

#### Previous Delimitations?

- In the history of the Indian Republic, Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002. There was no delimitation after the 1981, 1991 and 2001 Censuses.
- However, the 2002 Act did not make any changes in total Lok Sabha seats or their apportionment between various states.
- It also left out a few states including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur, from the exercise due to “security risks.”
- The central government reconstituted the Delimitation Commission for these four states as well as the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir on 6 March 2020.

#### Process

- Under Article 82 of the Indian Constitution, Parliament is to enact a Delimitation Act after every Census. Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up the Delimitation Commission.
- The Commission is supposed to determine the number and boundaries of constituencies in a way that the population of all seats, so far as practicable, is the same.
- The Commission is also tasked with identifying seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- The draft proposals of the Delimitation Commission are published for public feedback. The Commission also holds public sittings. After hearing the public, it considers objections and suggestions, and carries out changes, if any, in the draft proposal.
- The final order is published in the Gazette of India and the State Gazette concerned and comes into force on a date specified by the President.

#### Who carries out Delimitation?

- Delimitation is carried out by an independent Delimitation Commission appointed by the Government of India under provisions of the Delimitation Commission Act.
- The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
- It is composed of the following - a retired Supreme Court judge, the Chief Election Commissioner of India and respective State Election Commissioners.
- The Delimitation Commission is to work without any executive influence.
- The Constitution mandates that the Commission's orders are final and cannot be questioned before any court as it would hold up an election indefinitely.

#### Concerns

- Estimates suggest that the new delimitation would give rise to 222 seats for Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (as compared with 120 at present), 165 for the five Southern States (129 at present).
- The net result is a substantial reduction in the proportion of seats for states that have adopted more proactive measures in restraining population growth over the past decades, specially southern states.
- With only 18% population, the southern States have been contributing 35% to the country's GDP and the proposed delimitation based on population is a gross injustice to them.
- The northern states specially Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which did not prioritise population control, are expected to benefit in the delimitation process due to their higher population growth.
- The proposed exercise will also affect the division of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) in each state (under Articles 330 and 332).

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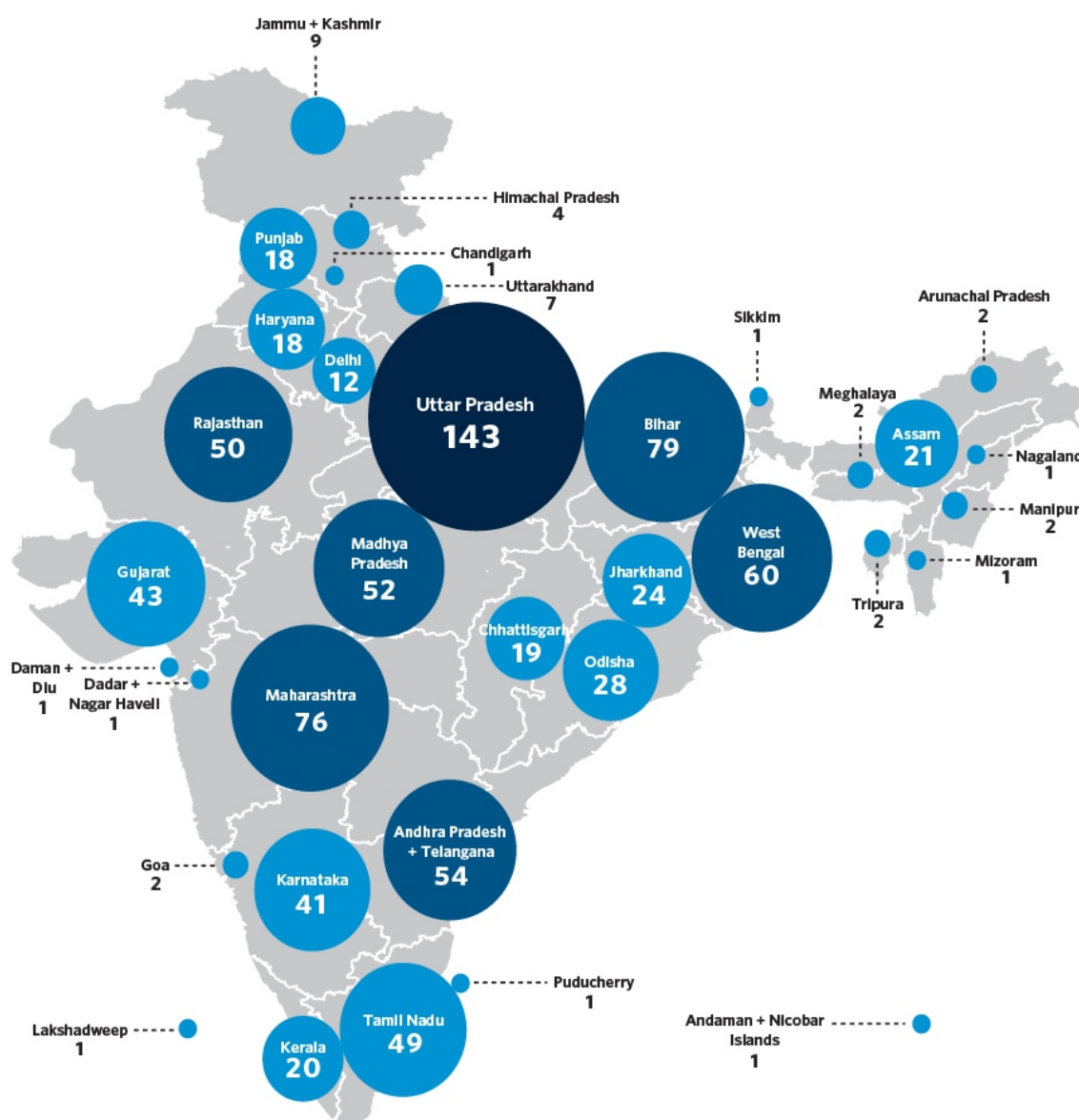




## DID YOU KNOW?

- The last delimitation exercise that changed the state-wise composition of the Lok Sabha was completed in 1976 and done on the basis of the 1971 Census.
- The Constitution was amended during Indira Gandhi's Emergency rule in 1976 to suspend delimitation until 2001. Another amendment postponed this until 2026.
- It was hoped that the country would achieve a uniform population growth rate by this time.
- Under Article 82 of the Constitution, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Under Article 170 of the Constitution, states also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.

## Expanding the Lok Sabha Using 2026 Population Projections



**SOURCE:** Office of the Registrar General, 2006; and authors' calculations.

**NOTE:** Calculations use projected population figures while ensuring no state loses seats during reapportionment.

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## GOVERNMENT CONTRACT UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S NAME AND ARTICLE 299

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Supreme Court held that the government, when entering into a contract under the President's name, cannot claim immunity from the legal provisions of that contract under Article 299 of the Constitution.

#### Key Points

- The case dealt with an application filed by Glock Asia-Pacific Limited, a pistol manufacturing company, against the centre regarding the appointment of an arbitrator in a tender-related dispute.
- The government objected to appointing a retired Delhi High Court judge as the arbitrator, citing a tender condition requiring an officer from the Law Ministry to act as the arbitrator.
- Deciding the case in Glock's favour, the court observed that the arbitration clause allowed a "serving employee of the Union of India as the Sole Arbitrator, conflicted with Section 12(5).
- The court rejected the centre's reliance on Article 299, saying, "Article 299 only lays down the formality that is necessary to bind the government with contractual liability" and not "the substantial law relating to the contractual liability of the Government", which is to be found in the general laws of the land.

#### What is Article 299 of the Constitution?

- Article 299 of the Constitution provides that "all contracts made in the exercise of the executive power of the Union or of a State shall be expressed to be made by the President or by the Governor of the State" and that all such contracts and "assurances of property made in the exercise of that power shall be executed" on behalf of the President or the Governor by persons in a manner as directed and authorised by them.
- Further, the phrase 'expressed to be made and executed' under Article 299 (1) means that there must be a deed or contract in writing and that it should be executed by a person duly authorised by the President or the Governor on their behalf.
- However, Article 299 (2) says that essentially, neither the President nor the Governor can be personally held liable for such contracts.



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## WORLD'S LARGEST GRAIN STORAGE PLAN IN THE COOPERATIVE SECTOR

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved forming and empowering an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to create the "world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector". by converging eight ongoing schemes of three ministries.

#### Key Points

- The Ministry of Cooperation will implement the plan a pilot project in at least 10 selected districts. The Pilot would provide valuable insights into various regional requirements of the project, learnings from which will be suitably incorporated for country-wide implementation of the plan.
- The plan focuses on creating infrastructure, such as godowns for agriculture and allied purposes at viable Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).
  - Creation and modernisation of infrastructure at the level of PACS will reduce food grain wastage by creating sufficient storage capacity, strengthen food security of the country and enable farmers to realise better prices for their crops.
  - There are more than 1,00,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in the country with a huge member base of more than 13 crore farmers.
- An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) will be constituted under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Cooperation, with the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Minister of Food Processing Industries and Secretaries concerned as members.

- The plan aims to converge various schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

**CABINET DECISIONS**  
31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2023



*Harvesting  
Success For Our  
Annadatas*




World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector Approved



Address the shortage of agricultural storage infrastructure



Reduce food grain wastage at local level & cost incurred in transportation



Prevent distress sale of crops, enabling farmers to get better prices

### 8 SCHEMES IDENTIFIED FOR CONVERGENCE

#### Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
- Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI)
- Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
- Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)

#### Ministry of Food Processing Industries

- Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

#### Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

- Allocation of food grains under the Food Security Act
- Procurement ops at MSP

#### Benefits

- The plan aims to address not just the shortage of agricultural storage infrastructure in the country by facilitating the establishment of godowns at the level of primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) but would also enable PACS to undertake various other activities.
  - These activities include functioning as procurement centres for state agencies or the Food Corporation of India (FCI); serving as fair price shops; setting up custom hiring centres; setting up common processing units, including assaying, sorting, grading units for agricultural produce, etc.

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## SALT CAVERN-BASED STRATEGIC OIL RESERVES IN RAJASTHAN

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Government-owned engineering consultancy firm Engineers India (EIL) is studying the prospects and feasibility of developing salt cavern-based strategic oil reserves in Rajasthan, in line with the government's objective of increasing the country's strategic oil storage capacity.

### What is Salt Cavern-based Reserve?

- Unlike underground rock caverns, which are developed through excavation, salt caverns are developed by the process of solution mining, which involves pumping water into geological formations with large salt deposits to dissolve the salt.
- After the brine (water with dissolved salt) is pumped out of the formation, the space can be used to store crude oil. The process is simpler, faster, and less cost-intensive than developing excavated rock caverns.
- Salt cavern-based oil storage facilities are also naturally well-sealed, and engineered for rapid injection and extraction of oil. This makes them a more attractive option than storing oil in other geological formations.
- The salt that lines the inside of these caverns has extremely low oil absorbency, which creates a natural impermeable barrier against liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons, making the caverns apt for storage.
- Also, unlike rock caverns, salt cavern-based storage can be created and operated almost entirely from the surface.
- Salt caverns are also used to store liquid fuels and natural gas in various parts of the world. They are also considered suitable for storing compressed air and hydrogen.

### Rationale

- The International Energy Agency (IEA), a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organisation in which India is an 'Association' country, recommends that all countries should hold an emergency oil stockpile sufficient to provide 90 days of import protection.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- India's three existing strategic oil storage facilities — at Mangaluru and Padur in Karnataka, and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh — are made up of excavated rock caverns.
- India, the world's third-largest consumer of crude, depends on imports for more than 85% of its requirement.
- Apart from the existing capacity, India is in the process of expanding its SPR capacity by a cumulative 6.5 million tonnes at two locations — Chandikhol in Odisha (4 million tonnes) and Padur (2.5 million tonnes).
- India's strategic oil reserves come under the Petroleum Ministry's special purpose vehicle Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve (ISPRL).
- The entire SPR programme of the United States has so far been based on salt cavern-based storage facilities. The US strategic oil reserves have a cumulative capacity of around 727 million barrels.

### Potential in India

- Rajasthan, which has the bulk of requisite salt formations in India, is seen as the most conducive for developing salt cavern-based strategic storage facilities.
- A refinery is coming up in Barmer, and Rajasthan has crude pipelines as well; such infrastructure is conducive for building strategic oil reserves.

### India's Capacity

- In India, apart from the strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) that are sufficient to meet 9.5 days of oil requirement, the oil marketing companies (OMCs) have storage facilities for crude oil and petroleum products for 64.5 days — which means there is sufficient storage to meet around 74 days of the country's petroleum demand.
- India has also decided to commercialise its strategic petroleum reserves, as part of which the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) stored about 0.8 million tonnes of crude oil in the Mangaluru strategic reserve.
  - In the second phase of the programme, the government wants to develop strategic reserves through public-private partnerships so as to reduce government spending and exploit the commercial potential of the reserves.

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## DEMONSTRATION OF PERFORMANCE-BASED NAVIGATION FOR HELICOPTERS

### WHY IN NEWS?

- India conducted Asia's first demonstration of performance-based navigation for helicopters using GAGAN satellite technology.
- The demonstration was conducted for a flight from Juhu in Mumbai to Pune.

### What is GAGAN?

- GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) is a step by the Indian Government towards initial Satellite-based Navigation Services in India.
- It is a system to improve the accuracy of a global navigation satellite system (GNSS) receiver by providing reference signals.
- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) have collaborated to develop GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) as a regional Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS).
- GAGAN provides accuracy, availability, and integrity essential for each phase of flight, en route the approach for airports within the GAGAN service volume. This makes airline operations more efficient and effective, increase air safety, and fuel efficiency.
- Further, with vertical guidance at runways, a significant cost will be saved due to withdrawal of ground aids and reduced workload of airline crew and traffic controllers.
- GAGAN covers the area from Africa to Australia and has expansion capability for seamless navigation services across the region.
- One essential component of the GAGAN project is the study of the ionospheric behaviour over the Indian region.
- GAGAN ionospheric algorithm was developed by ISRO. This makes India the third country in the world which has such precision approach capabilities.

### What is Performance-Based Navigation (PBN)?

- PBN is a modern concept of air navigation that allows aircraft to fly accurately along a predefined route using advanced onboard navigation systems and satellite signals.
- It improves the safety, efficiency and capacity of air traffic management by reducing the reliance on ground-based navigation aids and allowing more flexible flight paths.
- PBN is helping the global aviation community reduce aviation congestion, conserve fuel, protect the environment, reduce the impact of aircraft noise and maintain reliable, all-weather operations, even at the most challenging airports.



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## NIRF OVERALL RANKING LIST 2023

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) released ranking across various categories.

### Key Highlights

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras retains its 1st position in Overall Category for the fifth consecutive year, i.e. 2019 to 2023 and in Engineering for the eighth consecutive year, i.e. from 2016 to 2023.
- Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, tops the Universities Category for the eighth consecutive year, i.e. from 2016 to 2023.
- It stood first in Research Institutions Category for the third consecutive year, i.e. from 2021 to 2023.
- IIM Ahmedabad tops in Management subjects retaining its first position for the fourth consecutive year, i.e. from 2020 to 2023. It was ranked among the top two in management subject of the India Rankings from 2016 to 2019.
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, occupies the top slot in Medical for the sixth consecutive year, i.e. from 2018 to 2023. Moreover, AIIMS is ranked in 6th position in the Overall category, thereby improving from its 9th position in 2022.
- National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hyderabad, tops the ranking in pharmacy for the first time pushing Jamia Hamdard to the second slot. Jamia Hamdard was ranked 1st position for four consecutive years, i.e., from 2019 to 2022.
- Miranda House retains the 1st position amongst Colleges for the seventh consecutive year, i.e. from 2017 to 2023.
- IIT Roorkee stands at 1st position in Architecture subject for the third consecutive year, i.e. from 2021 to 2023.
- National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, retains its first position in law for the sixth consecutive year, i.e. from 2018 to 2023
- The Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences takes the top slot for the second consecutive year.
- Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, takes the top slot in Agriculture and Allied Sectors.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur tops in the Innovation category.

### About NIRF Ranking

- The Ministry of Education (formerly the Ministry of Human Resource Development) established the NIRF in 2016 to determine the critical indicators on which institutions' performance could be measured.
- The NIRF releases rankings across various categories such as 'Overall', 'Research Institutions', 'Universities', and 'Colleges', and specific disciplines like engineering, management, pharmacy, law, etc.
- NIRF ranks institutes by their total score; it uses five indicators to determine this score: 'Teaching, Learning & Resources' (30% weightage); 'Research and Professional Practice' (30%); 'Graduation Outcomes' (20%); 'Outreach and Inclusivity' (10%); and e) 'Perception' (10%).

## OVERALL RANK

| Institution   | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------|------|------|
| IIT-Madras    | 1    | 1    |
| IISc          | 2    | 2    |
| IIT-Delhi     | 3    | 4    |
| IIT-Bombay    | 4    | 3    |
| IIT-Kanpur    | 5    | 5    |
| AIIMS-Delhi   | 6    | 9    |
| IIT-Kharagpur | 7    | 6    |
| IIT-Roorkee   | 8    | 7    |
| IIT-Guwahati  | 9    | 8    |
| JNU           | 10   | 10   |

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## MISSION ON ADVANCED AND HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH (MAHIR)

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy have jointly launched a National Mission titled "Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)" to quickly identify emerging technologies in the power sector and develop them indigenously, at scale, for deployment within and outside India.

#### Key Points

- The Mission will be funded by pooling financial resources of the Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Central Public Sector Enterprises under the two Ministries.
- Any additional funding needed will be mobilised from the Government of India's budgetary resources.
- Planned for an initial period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28, the Mission will follow the technology life cycle approach of Idea to Product.

#### Areas Identified for Research

- Alternatives to Lithium-Ion storage batteries
- Modifying electric cookers / pans to suit Indian cooking methods
- Green hydrogen for mobility (High Efficiency Fuel Cell)
- Carbon capture
- Geo-thermal energy
- Solid state refrigeration.
- Nano technology for EV battery
- Indigenous CRGO technology

#### Structure of the Mission

- The Mission will have a two-tier structure - a Technical Scoping Committee and an Apex Committee.
- The Technical Scoping Committee, chaired by the Chairperson of Central Electricity Authority, will identify ongoing and emerging research areas globally, recommend potential technologies for development under the Mission, justify the techno-economic advantages, provide research outlines, and conduct periodic monitoring of approved research projects.
- The Apex Committee will approve the research proposals and monitor the progress of the research. The technology/product to be developed under the Mission will be deliberated by the Apex Committee.

#### Key Objectives

- To identify emerging technologies and areas of future relevance for the Global Power Sector and take up indigenous end-to-end development of relevant technologies.
- To provide a common platform for Power Sector Stakeholders for collective brainstorming and synergetic technology development and devise pathways for the smooth transfer of technology.
- To support pilot projects of indigenous technologies (developed especially by Indian Start-ups) and facilitate their commercialisation.
- To leverage foreign alliances and partnerships to accelerate research & development of advanced technologies and to build competencies, capabilities and access to advanced technologies through bilateral or multilateral collaborations, thereby facilitating the exchange of know-how and Technology Transfer.
- To promote scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in the country's Power Sector.
- To make our Nation among the leading countries in Power System related Technologies & Applications development.



### National Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)

#### Areas Identified for Research

- Alternatives to Lithium-Ion storage batteries
- Modifying electric cookers / pans to suit Indian cooking methods
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- Nano technology for EV battery
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## WHO REPORT HIGHLIGHTS SIGNIFICANT IMPACT OF 'HAR GHAR JAL' PROGRAM

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, a report from the World Health Organisation (WHO) highlighted the substantial benefits of the 'Har Ghar Jal' program in India.

#### Key Points

- The report estimates that ensuring safely managed drinking water for all households in the country could avert nearly 400,000 deaths caused by diarrheal diseases and prevent approximately 14 million Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) related to these diseases.
  - This achievement alone would result in estimated cost savings of up to \$101 billion. The analysis focuses on diarrhoeal diseases as it accounts for majority of WASH-attributable disease burden.
- Prior to 2019, the situation of water supply in rural areas was challenging.
  - The report reveals that in 2018, 36% of India's total population, including 44% of the rural population, lacked access to improved drinking-water sources on their premises. The direct consumption of unsafe drinking water had severe health and societal consequences.
  - The analysis indicates that in 2019, unsafe drinking water, along with inadequate sanitation and hygiene, contributed to 1.4 million deaths and 74 million DALYs globally.
- In 2018, women in India spent an average of 45.5 minutes daily collecting water to meet household needs.
  - Overall, households without on-premises water spent a staggering 66.6 million hours each day collecting water, with the majority (55.8 million hours) occurring in rural areas.
  - Universal coverage through tap water provision will result in substantial savings by eliminating the need for daily water collection efforts.

#### About 'Har Ghar Jal' Programme

- The Har Ghar Jal Programme, implemented by the Jal Jeevan Mission under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, was announced on August 15, 2019.
- The program aims to provide every rural household with affordable and regular access to an adequate supply of safe drinking water through taps.
- The program's components align with the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (JMP) to monitor progress on SDG 6.1 for safely managed drinking water services.



### DID YOU KNOW?

- Currently, more than 12 Crore rural households of the country have access to piped water connection.
- Five states - Goa, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat and Punjab and three UTs - Puducherry, Daman Diu & Dadra Nagar Haveli and Andaman & Nicobar Islands- reported 100% coverage.
- Goa, Haryana, Punjab, A&N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D are 'Har Ghar Jal certified States/ UTs i.e., in these states/ UTs, the villagers have confirmed through Gram Sabhas that 'all households and public institutions' in the village are getting adequate, safe and regular supply of water.

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## GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2023

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Walk Free Foundation released the fifth edition of the Global Slavery Index (2023) which is based on the 2022 estimates.

### Key Findings

- According to the Index, on any given day in 2021, as many as 50 million people were living in “modern slavery” — a 25% rise over the last five years.
  - Among these 50 million, 28 million suffer from forced labour and 22 million from forced marriages. Of these 50 million, 12 million are children.
- The Group of 20 nations are contributing more, as their trade operations and global supply chains allow for human rights abuses.
  - Among the G20 nations, India tops the list with 11 million people working as forced labourers, followed by China, Russia, Indonesia, Turkey and the U.S.
- The countries with the highest prevalence are North Korea (104.6), Eritrea (90.3), and Mauritania (32.0).
- The countries with the lowest prevalence are Switzerland (0.5), Norway (0.5), and Germany (0.6).
- The report recommended implementing stronger measures and legislation that prevent governments and businesses from sourcing goods and services linked to modern slavery.
- Other suggestions include embedding anti-slavery measures in climate change sustainability plans, providing primary and secondary education to children and tightening regulations around forced and child marriage.

### What is Modern Slavery?

- According to the index, “modern slavery” refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, or abuses of power.
- Modern slavery is an umbrella term and includes a whole variety of abuses such as forced labour, forced marriage, debt bondage, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, slavery-like practices, forced or servile marriage, and the sale and exploitation of children.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations also resolve to end modern slavery.
  - Target 8.7 of the SDGs states: “Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.”

#### Most prevalent

The countries estimated to have the highest prevalence of modern slavery tend to be conflict-affected, have state-imposed forced labour, and have weak governance.

|                      | Rank | Prevalence Rate* | # of People |
|----------------------|------|------------------|-------------|
| North Korea          | 1    | 104.6            | 2,696,000   |
| Eritrea              | 2    | 90.3             | 320,000     |
| Mauritania           | 3    | 32.0             | 149,000     |
| Saudi Arabia         | 4    | 21.3             | 740,000     |
| Türkiye              | 5    | 15.6             | 1,320,000   |
| Tajikistan           | 6    | 14.0             | 133,000     |
| United Arab Emirates | 7    | 13.4             | 132,000     |
| Russia               | 8    | 13.0             | 1,899,000   |
| Afghanistan          | 9    | 13.0             | 505,000     |
| Kuwait               | 10   | 13.0             | 55,000      |

\*Estimated number of people in modern slavery per 1,000 population

#### Least prevalent

The countries with the lowest prevalence of modern slavery are those with strong governance and strong government responses to modern slavery.

|             | Rank | Prevalence Rate* | # of People |
|-------------|------|------------------|-------------|
| Switzerland | 160  | 0.5              | 4,000       |
| Norway      | 159  | 0.5              | 3,000       |
| Germany     | 158  | 0.6              | 47,000      |
| Netherlands | 157  | 0.6              | 10,000      |
| Sweden      | 156  | 0.6              | 6,000       |
| Denmark     | 155  | 0.6              | 4,000       |
| Belgium     | 154  | 1.0              | 11,000      |
| Ireland     | 153  | 1.1              | 5,000       |
| Japan       | 152  | 1.1              | 144,000     |
| Finland     | 151  | 1.4              | 8,000       |

\*Estimated number of people in modern slavery per 1,000 population

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## PURANA QILA EXCAVATIONS IN DELHI

### WHY IN NEWS?

- A fresh round of excavations at the site of Delhi's Purana Qila or Old Fort has uncovered evidence of the continuous history of the city since the pre-Mauryan era.

#### Key Findings

- The findings include shards of Painted Gray Ware pottery which are usually dated to around 1200 BC to 600 BC.
- The new excavations have also found –
  - Remains of a 900-year-old Vaikuntha Vishnu from the Rajput period
  - A terracotta plaque of Goddess Gaja Lakshmi from the Gupta period
  - The structural remains of a 2,500-year-old terracotta ring well from the Mauryan period
  - A well-defined four-room complex from the Sunga-Kushan period dates back to 2,300 years ago
- More than 136 coins and 35 seals and sealings have been discovered from a small excavated area, indicating the site's pivotal role as a center for trade activities.

#### Importance

- The recent one was the third round of excavations at the site, beginning from January. Earlier excavations had been carried out in 2013-14 and 2017-18.
- These efforts have revealed nine cultural levels, representing different historical periods, including pre-Mauryan, Mauryan, Sunga, Kushana, Gupta, post-Gupta, Rajput, Sultanate, and Mughal.
- The Culture Minister said that the Purana Qila would soon be reopened and the excavated remains preserved, conserved, and provided with a shed.
- The site will be showcased as an open-air site museum, allowing visitors to experience the rich historical legacy of Delhi.

#### About Purana Qila

- Purana Qila is one of the oldest forts in Delhi. The present citadel at Purana Qila was believed to have been built under Humayun and Afghan Sher Shah Suri ('The Lion King').
- The fort was the inner citadel of the city of Din Panah during Humayun's rule who renovated it in 1533 and completed it five years later.
- The founder of the Suri Dynasty, Sher Shah Suri, defeated Humayun in 1540, naming the Fort Shergarh; he added several more structures to the complex during his five-year reign. Purana Qila and its environs flourished as the "sixth city of Delhi".



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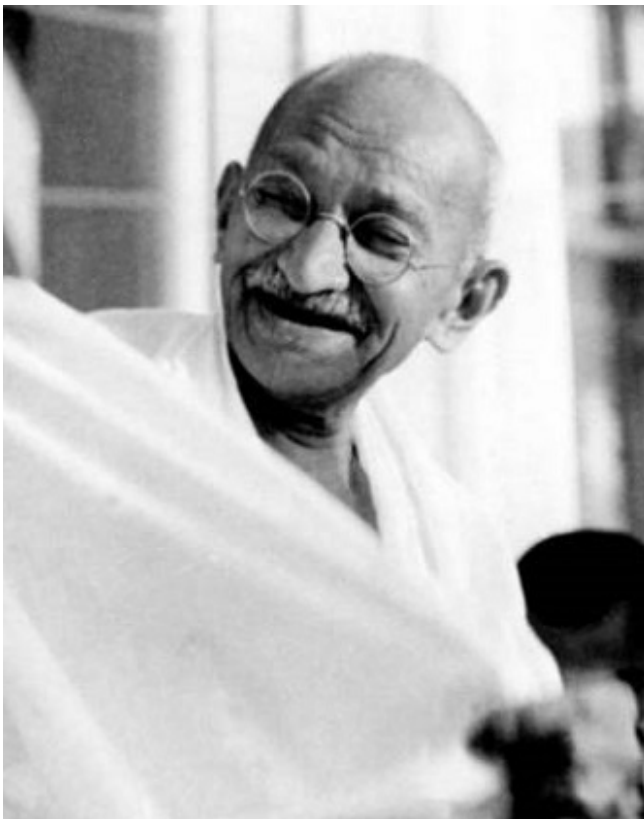
## 130 YEARS OF MAHATMA GANDHI'S 'SATYAGRAHA'

### WHY IN NEWS?

- On 7th June, the Indian Navy participated in a commemorative event to mark 130 years of the start of the struggle against apartheid at the Pietermaritzburg Railway Station near Durban.

#### Key Points

- INS Trishul, a frontline warship of the Indian Navy, visited Durban to commemorate the event.
- The visit also commemorated 30 years of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between India and South Africa.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

- Mahatma Gandhi arrived in South Africa in 1893 and founded the Natal Indian Congress in 1894 to advocate for voting rights for Indians.
- Mahatma Gandhi founded the Phoenix Settlement in Durban in 1904 as a community living experiment.
- Mahatma Gandhi launched his first Satyagraha campaign in Johannesburg in 1906 against an ordinance that imposed restrictions on Asians.
- Mahatma Gandhi also established the Tolstoy Farm near Johannesburg in 1910 to prepare Satyagrahis.

#### Beginning of Satyagraha

- Mahatma Gandhi arrived in Durban, South Africa, in 1893 to serve as legal counsel to the merchant Dada Abdulla.
- On 7th June 1893, during a trip to Pretoria in the Transvaal, he first arrived at Pietermaritzburg station.
- Gandhiji, who was seated in the first-class compartment after having purchased a ticket, was evicted from the compartment at the behest of a European since as per him 'coolies' and non-whites were not permitted in first-class compartments.
- The incident is considered to be the trigger which led to Gandhiji's fight against racial oppression and to the birth of Satyagraha (nonviolent resistance).
- In recognition of his contribution, Nelson Mandela, then President of South Africa, conferred the Freedom of Pietermaritzburg posthumously on Mahatma Gandhi in a moving ceremony at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station on April 25, 1997.



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## 126TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF RAM PRASAD BISMIL

### WHY IN NEWS?

- On 11th June 2023, the 126th birth anniversary of Ram Prasad Bismil was celebrated across the country.

#### About Ram Prasad Bismil

- Ram Prasad Bismil was born on June 11, 1897, in a nondescript village in the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh) Shahjahanpur district.
- He joined the Arya Samaj and became a prolific writer and poet, penning patriotic verses in Hindi and Urdu under pen names like 'Agyat', 'Ram', and the one that is most known – 'Bismil' (meaning 'wounded', 'restless').
- At the age of only 18, he penned the poem Mera Janm (My Birth), venting out his anger over the death sentence handed out to Arya Samaj missionary Bhai Parmanand.
- On December 19, 1927 along with Ashfaqullah and Rajendranath Lahiri, Bismil was sentenced to death.



#### His Actions

- Fighting against the British Raj, he was involved in the Mainpuri Conspiracy of 1918 as well as the more famous Kakori Train Action of 1925.
- He founded the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA, later Hindustan Socialist Republican Association) and was hanged for his revolutionary activities in 1927.
- He also started a revolutionary organisation called Matrivedi (The Altar of the Motherland).

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## EL NINO IS BACK IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN

### WHY IN NEWS?

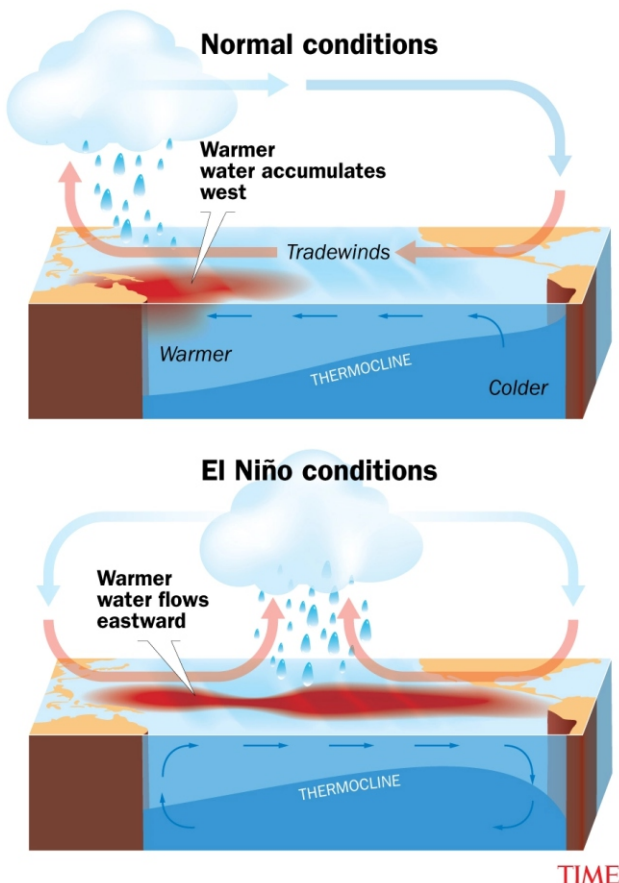
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States federal administration recently announced that seven years after 2016, El Nino is back in the Pacific Ocean.

### What is El Nino?

- El Nino, which means “little boy” in Spanish, is a climate pattern that develops along the equatorial Pacific Ocean after intervals of a few years ranging between 2 and 7 years.
- El Nino, as is commonly known, refers to an abnormal warming of surface waters in equatorial Pacific Ocean. It is known to suppress monsoon rainfall.
  - The opposite phase, La Nina, which is the abnormal cooling of sea surface waters in the same region, is known to aid rainfall over India.
- Essentially, water on the surface of the ocean sees an unusual warming in a band straddling the equator in the central and east-central Pacific — broadly extending from the International Date Line and 120°W longitude, i.e., off the Pacific coast of South America, west of the Galapagos islands.
  - When the so-called El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is in its neutral phase, the trade winds blow west along the equator and take the warm water from South America towards Asia.
  - However, during an event of El Nino, these trade winds weaken (or may even reverse) — and instead of blowing from the east (South America) to the west (Indonesia), they could turn into westerlies.
  - In this situation, as the winds blow from west to east, they cause masses of warm water to move into the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean and reach the coast of western America. During such years, there prevails warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures along the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

### Impact

- Globally, El Nino has been associated with severe heatwaves, floods, and droughts in the past. In general, El Nino has a warming effect on the planet, while La Nina tends to cool it down.
- The warmest-ever year on record, 2016, was part of one of the longest and strongest El Nino episodes ever, dubbed the Godzilla El Nino.
- The 2023 event is the fifth since 2000 — which means they develop every 4-5 years on average.
- In the Indian context, over the last hundred years, there have been 18 drought years. Of these, 13 years were associated with El Nino. Thus, there seems to be a correlation between an El Nino event and a year of poor rainfall in India.
- Also, between 1900 and 1950, there were 7 El Niño years but during the 1951-2021 period, there were 15 El Nino years ( 2015, 2009, 2004, 2002, 1997, 1991, 1987, 1982, 1972, 1969, 1965, 1963, 1957, 1953 and 1951). This suggests that the frequency of El Nino events has been increasing over time.
- Of the 15 El Nino years in the 1951-2021 period, nine summer monsoon seasons over the country recorded deficient rain by more than 90 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA).



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## CYCLONE BIPARJOY

### WHY IN NEWS?

- A cyclonic storm named Biparjoy made a landfall near Jakhau Port in Gujarat's Kutch district.

#### What is the "Landfall" of a Cyclone?

- Simply put, landfall is the event of a tropical cyclone coming onto land after being over water.
- As per the IMD, a tropical cyclone is said to have made a landfall when the center of the storm – or its eye – moves over the coast.
- Crucially a landfall should not be confused with a 'direct hit', which refers to a situation where the core of high winds (or eyewall) comes onshore, but the centre of the storm may stay remain offshore.
- As per the US's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), because the strongest winds in a tropical cyclone are not located precisely at the centre, it is possible for a cyclone's strongest winds to be experienced over land, even if landfall does not occur.

#### What is Cyclone?

- A cyclone is a low-pressure system that forms over warm waters. Usually, a high temperature anywhere means the existence of low-pressure air, and a low temperature means high-pressure wind.
- As air warms over hotter regions, it ascends, leading to low pressure at the surface it is covering. When air cools in colder areas it descends, leading to high pressure at the surface.
- In a depression or low-pressure situation, the air is rising and blows in an anticlockwise direction around the low in the northern hemisphere and in a clockwise direction in the southern hemisphere. This is because of the Coriolis effect, a result of the earth's rotation on its axis.
- As warm air rises and cools, water vapour condenses to form clouds and this can lead to rains.
- Warm seas present ripe conditions for the development and strengthening of cyclones and fuel these systems over the water.



#### Naming of Cyclone

- 'Biparjoy' was suggested by Bangladesh and the word means 'disaster' or 'calamity' in Bengali.
- The naming of cyclones is done by countries on a rotational basis, following certain existing guidelines.
- Worldwide, there are six regional specialised meteorological centres (RSMCs) and five regional Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs) mandated for issuing advisories and naming of tropical cyclones.
- IMD is one of the six RSMCs to provide tropical cyclone and storm surge advisories to 13 member countries under the WMO/Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (ESCAP) Panel including Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
- The list of 169 cyclone names released by IMD in 2020 was provided by these countries — 13 suggestions from each of the 13 countries.
- After Bangladesh, the next cyclone will be named 'Tej' based on India's suggestion.

#### Bay of Bengal vs Arabian Sea

- Historically, the Bay of Bengal has been known for tropical cyclones. But over the years, there has been an increase in cyclones forming in the Arabian Sea, as well.
- Bay of Bengal is slightly warmer. Because of climate change, the Arabian Sea side is also getting warmer, and as a result, the number of cyclones in the Arabian Sea is showing an increasing trend in the recent trend.

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

**QUICK FACTS**



1. On **29<sup>th</sup> May**, the Indian Army commemorated the **75th International Day of UN Peacekeepers** by paying homage to the fallen comrades by laying a wreath at National War Memorial, New Delhi. This is the day when in 1948, the first UN peacekeeping mission, “UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)” began operations in Palestine. The theme for 2023 is 'Peace begins with me'.
2. Secrets hidden in ancient lake sediment deposits recovered from the **Indus River valley** in Ladakh have helped retrace the climate since the last deglaciation from 19.6 to 6.1 thousand years, paving the path towards understanding climate variation during the era. Researchers have reconstructed millennial to centennial-scale climate records from the paleolake deposits and identified a cold arid period, followed by a strong monsoon period and subsequent weakening monsoon phase with enhanced El Nino activities with climate variations in the Last Glacial Maxima. Ladakh region in the Trans-Himalaya forms an environmental boundary between North Atlantic and monsoon forcings. Its location is ideal to gain insight into the variations of the atmospheric circulations like westerly and Indian summer monsoon.
3. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has conceptualised a **lightweight payment and settlement system (LPSS)** that can be operated from anywhere by a bare minimum staff in the event of natural calamities and war. This new payment system will be independent of conventional technologies used for existing payment systems such as RTGS, NEFT, and UPI.
4. The Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, launched the **Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan**, which will act as a one-stop repository to assess investment and participation in the Biogas/CBG sector at pan India level and, more importantly, streamline the process of setting up CBG/Biogas plants in India.
5. Over 46.54 lakh small working capital loans have been disbursed to street vendors under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (**PM-SVANidhi**) in the three years since it was launched on June 1, 2020.
6. On **World Environment Day**, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program (CLASP), organised a “Conference on Consumer-Centric Approaches for E-cooking Transition” in New Delhi. World Environment Day is observed every year on **June 5**. This year marks the 50th anniversary of World Environment Day. The United Nations Assembly established World Environment Day on June 5, 1972, which was the first day of the Stockholm Conference on the human environment. The theme for this year focuses on solutions to plastic pollution under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution.
7. According to the Health Ministry, the **assessment of anaemia** in India is being shifted from National Family Health Survey (NFHS) to the new **Diet and Biomarkers Survey in India (DABS-I)**, launched last year to map diet, nutrition and health status and provide the correct estimate of anaemia among the rural and urban population. DABS-I is a comprehensive national-level dietary survey aimed at determining food and nutrient adequacy across different age groups and regions. It collects individual dietary intake data and provides nutrient composition information on cooked and uncooked foods.
8. The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush flagged off the **maiden International Cruise Vessel - MV Empress**, India's first international cruise vessel - from Chennai to Sri Lanka in Chennai. The MV Empress will sail to three Sri Lankan ports: Hanbantota, Trincomalee, and Kankasanturei.
9. The **22nd Law Commission's** recent report examined adverse possession and its implications in property law. It recommended that no changes are necessary in the existing Limitation Act of 1963 provisions. The concept of **adverse possession** stems from the idea that land must not be left vacant but instead put to judicious use. Adverse possession refers to the hostile possession of the property, which must be “continuous, uninterrupted, and peaceful.”
10. Investigation into the recent tragic train accident in **Odisha**, the deadliest train crash in India in over two decades, is being conducted by the **Commissioner of Railway Safety** for the south-eastern circle. Rail safety commissioners are part of the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS), a government body that acts as the railway safety authority in the country. Investigating serious train accidents is one of the key responsibilities of the CRS, which is headquartered in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.





11. Indigenously designed and developed **heavy-weight torpedo (HWT) Varunastra** was on June 6 successfully test-fired with a live warhead against an undersea target by the Indian Navy. Varunastra is a ship-launched anti-submarine torpedo having low drift navigational systems, acoustic homing, advanced acoustic countermeasure features, autonomous guidance algorithms, insensitive munitions warhead and GPS-based recovery aid for practice torpedo. Varunastra was designed and developed by the Vizag-based Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and is manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL).
12. India's premier health institution, **AIIMS New Delhi**, said that it thwarted a **malware attack** on its e-Hospital services and the systems were working normally. The government also denied any cyber breach. Malware is a malicious program designed to harm computers, networks, and devices by disrupting their operations or gaining unauthorised access.
13. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (**NCPCR**) successfully launched the National Campaign "**Addiction Free Amrit Kaal**" on May 31, 2023 at NCPCR on World Tobacco Day. This campaign, aimed at promoting a healthier and addiction-free India, marks a significant milestone in the mission to create a tobacco and drug-free nation.
14. The National Highways Authority of India (**NHAI**) has published its inaugural '**Sustainability Report for FY 2021-22**,' showcasing its dedication to environmental sustainability and social responsibility. The report highlights a decline in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from energy consumption, operations, transport, and travel. In FY 2020-21, there was a reduction of 9.7 per cent, followed by an additional two per cent decline in FY 2021-22.
15. The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) Governor Shaktikanta Das recently launched a financial inclusion dashboard named '**Antardrishti**'. As the name suggests, the dashboard will provide the required insight to assess and monitor the progress of financial inclusion by capturing relevant parameters. The RBI has been promoting financial inclusion through various policy initiatives. To measure the extent of financial inclusion, RBI constructed the Financial Inclusion (FI) Index in 2021, based on three dimensions of financial inclusion -- 'Access', 'Usage' and 'Quality'.
16. The **first edition of India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise** commenced on June 7 in the Gulf of Oman. INS Tarkash and French Ship Surcouf, both with integral helicopters, French Rafale aircraft and UAE Navy Maritime Patrol Aircraft, are participating in the exercise. Exercise Shakti, Exercise Varuna, and Exercise Garuda are other defence exercises between India and France.
17. The Financial Services Institution Bureau (**FSIB**) has selected **N Ramaswamy**, the General Manager of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), as the next Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of GIC Re, while M Rajeswari Singh, General Manager and Director of United India Insurance, as the CMD of National Insurance Company (NIC).
18. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (**CACP**) has recommended the Centre to bring **urea** under the **nutrient-based subsidy (NBS)** regime to address the problem of imbalanced use of nutrients. Urea does not come under NBS, which includes non-urea fertilisers like phosphorous and potassium. Keeping urea out of NBS essentially means that the government has retained direct control over the MRP of urea and its subsidy.
19. The '**Soul of Steel**' challenge launched in the forward areas of Garhwal Himalayan region in Joshimath, Uttarakhand, by a group of special forces veterans, under CLAW Global, in partnership with the Army to test an individual's high-altitude endurance has entered the final phase of training. "Soul of Steel Himalayan challenge, a joint initiative by the Indian Army and CLAW Global, was flagged off from Auli, Uttarakhand. Soul of Steel-Himalayan Challenge is the world's first self-sustained, high-altitude skill and endurance at such glaciated and snow-bound terrains. It is modelled on the lines of the '**Ironman triathlon**' a long-distance triathlon challenge in Europe, which tests an individual's grit and endurance.
20. The Chief Election Commissioner emphasised the need to facilitate **postal voting for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)**. The EC's proposal for introducing Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballots is currently pending with the government. The initiative aims to allow over 1.34 crore overseas Indians to participate in elections using a technology-driven methodology.





21. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) launched '**SAGAR SAMRIDHI**' - the online dredging monitoring system - to accelerate the **Ministry's 'Waste to Wealth' initiative**. Dredging is the removal of sediments and debris from the bottom of lakes, rivers, harbours, and other water bodies.
22. The government of **Karnataka** has launched the '**Shakti scheme**'. In this scheme, women can travel for free in non-premium services of State-run buses across Karnataka. The main purpose of this scheme is said to be to increase the work participation rate of women and to promote public transportation in Karnataka.
23. **India's first 100 per cent dimethyl ether (DME) fuelled vehicle** for on- and off-road applications has been developed, initiating a new chapter in the quest for a sustainable alternative-fuel transport system. The country imports most of its crude oil requirements to energise various sectors of the domestic economy. Dimethyl ether (DME) is a suitable alternative since it is renewable. It can be produced indigenously, and several countries, like Japan, the USA, China, Sweden, Denmark, and Korea, are already using DME to power their vehicles. However, the use of DME in IC engines remains uncharted territory in the Indian subcontinent.
24. Researchers from the Department of Physics at **IIT-Madras** have developed critical components for a highly efficient, cost-effective way to **electrolyse seawater to generate hydrogen**. State-of-the-art alkaline water electrolyser technology is energy-intensive, requires an expensive oxide-polymer separator, and uses fresh water for electrolysis.
25. The **12th edition** of the joint military exercise "**Ekuverin**" between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force has commenced at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand. The exercise started on 11 June and will continue until 24 June 2023. Ekuverin meaning 'Friends' is an annual bilateral exercise conducted alternatively in India and Maldives. The previous edition of the exercise, the 11th edition, was held in the Maldives in December 2021.
26. The **Chite Lui River in Mizoram** is facing pollution and degradation due to unplanned urbanisation, encroachments, and businesses near its banks. The river holds significant cultural and sentimental value for the people of the hilly northeastern state.
27. An **anti-submarine warfare** shallow watercraft vessel built by Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), for the Navy was launched at the Larsen and Toubro, Kattupalli Port. **Anjadip, is the third of the eight ships** of the contract that was signed between Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata and the Ministry of Defence in April 2019. The vessel was named after the island of Anjadip, located off Karwar Port, Karnataka, signifying its strategic maritime importance.
28. '**Sanshodhak**', the **fourth of four ships of the Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project**, being built by Larsen and Toubro (L&T)/ Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) for the Indian Navy, was launched on 13 Jun 23 at Kattupalli, Chennai. The first three ships of the project, Sandhayak, Nirdeshak and Ikshak were launched on 05 Dec 21, 26 May 22 and 26 Nov 22 respectively. SVL ships will replace the existing Sandhayak Class survey ships, with new generation hydrographic equipment, to collect oceanographic data.
29. **India** is expected to see the exit of **6,500 high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs)** in 2023, the second-highest estimated outflow number globally, as per the latest Henley Private Wealth Migration Report 2023. Although the second-biggest loser globally, India's net exit numbers are predicted to drop to 6,500 in 2023 compared to last year's 7,500, the report said. 'Millionaires' or 'high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs)' refer to those with an investable wealth of US \$1 million or more.

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## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **QUICK FACTS**





1. India's neighbours, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Myanmar, are among the hunger hotspots in the world, a new United Nations early warning report titled '**Hunger Hotspots – FAO-WFP**' has found, warning of increasing acute food insecurity in several parts of the world. Deepening economic shocks continue to drive low- and middle-income nations deeper into crisis, and a likely El Nino climatic phenomenon is raising fears of climate extremes in vulnerable countries around the globe.
2. On **World No Tobacco Day**, the World Health Organisation (WHO) urged governments to stop subsidising tobacco farming and support more sustainable crops that could feed millions. World No Tobacco Day, observed annually on **May 31**, serves as a reminder of the ongoing battle against the global tobacco epidemic. The theme of 2023 is "Grow food, not tobacco".
3. **World Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Day** is officially marked on **May 30**. It brings the global MS community together to raise awareness and campaigns with everyone affected by multiple sclerosis (MS). The theme for World MS Day 2020-2023 is '**connections**'.
4. **Venice's iconic Grand Canal** recently took on a vibrant green hue, perplexing both residents and officials. After conducting test samples of the water, authorities confirmed that the colour was caused by **fluorescein**, a chemical commonly used to detect leaks in underwater construction. In 1968, Argentine artist Nicolás García Uriburu turned the Grand Canal green using fluorescein "to bring attention to the relationship between nature and civilisation and to promote ecological consciousness as a critical part of the culture.
5. The **United Arab Emirates** has withdrawn from a **U.S.-led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)** tasked with securing tense Gulf waterways that are vital to the global oil trade. The Bahrain-headquartered CMF was established in 2001, initially as a partnership between 12 nations (now 38 members). It is active in crucial but troubled Gulf waters where tankers have been seized and attacked in recent months.
6. Every year, **June 1** is marked as **World Milk Day** in recognition of the importance of milk as a universal food. The day was established in 2001 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. The theme for 2023 is "Showcasing how dairy is reducing its environmental footprint while also providing nutritious foods and livelihoods."
7. The **76th annual World Health Assembly** was held at World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters(HQ), **Geneva, Switzerland**, from 21st to 30th May 2023. The theme for 2023 is "**WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all.**" Taiwan was excluded from the WHO assembly due to opposition from China and Pakistan.
8. In May 2023, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has gathered in **Paris, France**, for the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (**INC-2**). The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (**INC-1**) **concluded in Uruguay in 2022**. INC-2 aimed to set the stage for negotiations on the substance of a global deal to end plastic pollution to edge closer to protecting ecosystems, species and humanity from the grave impacts of the linear plastics economy.
9. **Serbian protesters** and **NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) peacekeepers recently clashed in **Kosovo**, leading to more than 60 injuries. It is the most serious violence seen in the region in over a decade. Serbia views Kosovo as a breakaway state and does not recognise its independence. Kosovo's Serbs view themselves as part of Serbia, and see Belgrade as their capital, rather than Pristina. Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, following the 1998-99 war in which Kosovar Albanians attempted to break from what was then the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, made up of today's Serbia and Montenegro. NATO intervened in the war to protect Kosovo's Albanian majority.
10. **India and the US** have agreed to initiate negotiations for a '**Security of Supply**' (**SoS**) arrangement and a 'Reciprocal Defence Procurement' (RDP) agreement which will promote long-term supply chain stability as defence sources.
11. The **Kakhovka Dam** was destroyed on June 6, 2023, in an explosion that caused massive flooding and a humanitarian crisis in the war-torn region. It was a major hydroelectric power plant and reservoir on the Dnieper River in a Russian-controlled part of southern Ukraine. The Dam was built in 1956 as part of the Soviet Union's ambitious project to harness the Dnipro River for irrigation, power generation and navigation.
12. The Indian President and President of Suriname commemorated the **150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians in Suriname**. The Indians who first set foot in the tiny South American country went there for a better life. The first sailing ship from India was called Lalla Rookh in 1873. The



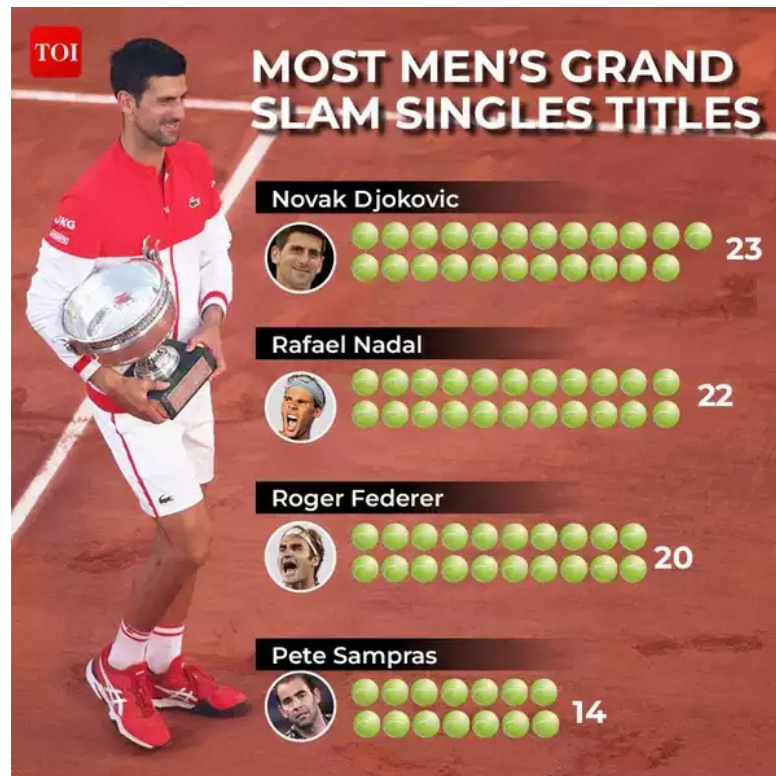


Indian President Droupadi Murmu was also bestowed with Suriname's highest civilian honour "Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star", further underscoring the importance of the bilateral relationship. India and Suriname developed their first relations in 1976 after Suriname got independence on November 25, 1975.

13. **World Oceans Day** is celebrated every year on **June 8** to create awareness among people regarding the significance of oceans, and the importance of preserving and conserving oceanic resources. The concept of celebrating ocean day on a global level was first proposed in 1992 by the Canadian government at the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This year, the theme of World Oceans day 2023 is "**Planet Ocean: The Tides are Changing.**"
14. **World Food Safety Day** is celebrated on **June 7** every year since 2019, following a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly. It aims to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks. The theme for 2023 is "**Food standards save lives.**"
15. On June 8, 2023, the **United States and the United Kingdom** announced the **Atlantic Declaration** for a Twenty-First Century U.S.-UK Economic Partnership to ensure that our unique alliance is adapted, reinforced, and reimagined for the challenges of this moment.
16. The **first round table joint meeting between India and New Zealand** with the industry and industry associations of both countries took place in New Delhi. India and New Zealand discussed the facilitation of a Unified Payment Interface (UPI) system, carbon credit, trans-shipment hub, technological collaboration and cooperation in work visa and banking.
17. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) is all set to host an international conference to develop an **ethical framework for the usage of neurotech devices** that feed brain-wave data to computers through dry electrodes and implants. The first-of-its-kind conference hosted by the UN body will be held on July 13, 2023, at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France. UNESCO strives to develop a framework similar to the established global ethical frameworks on the human genome (1997), human genetic data (2003) and artificial intelligence (2021).
18. The annual Group of Seven (**G7 Summit**), hosted by Japan, took place in Hiroshima on May 19-21, 2023. Among other matters, the G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué initiated the **Hiroshima AI Process (HAP)** – an effort by this bloc to

determine a way forward to regulate artificial intelligence (AI). The HAP is likely to conclude by December 2023.

19. The **size of China's nuclear arsenal** increased from 350 warheads in January 2022 to 410 in January 2023, and it is expected to keep growing, according to estimations by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The key finding in SIPRI Yearbook 2023 is that the number of operational nuclear weapons started to rise as countries' long-term force modernisation and expansion plans progressed. According to SIPRI estimates, the nuclear arsenals of India grew from 160 in 2022 to 164 in 2023 and that of Pakistan from 165 to 170.
20. **Novak Djokovic** reaches record 23 grand slam titles after **French Open** final win. Novak beats Casper Ruud 7-6 (1), 6-3, 7-5 at Roland Garros. This win marked **Novak Djokovic's 23rd major men's singles crown**, surpassing all other players in the history of the sport. He also equaled Serena Williams' record for the most Grand Slam titles won in the Open Era. Djokovic is the first man to win all four majors at least three times.



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

**QUICK FACTS**



1. **India's first deluxe train**, the iconic **Deccan Queen**, also known as "**Dakkhan Ki Rani**" completed 93 years of operations between Pune and Mumbai on June 1. The train had its maiden run on **June 1, 1930**, which was a major mark in the history of the Great Indian Peninsula (GIP) Railway, the predecessor of Central Railways. It set records as India's first superfast, long-distance electric-hauled, vestibuled train and even had a dedicated women-only car.
2. In a celebration of the vibrant and captivating art form of **Kathakali**, esteemed author **KK Gopalakrishnan** has unveiled his latest masterpiece, a book titled "**Kathakali Dance Theatre: A Visual Narrative of Sacred Indian Mime.**" This literary work delves into the intricacies of Kathakali, offering a comprehensive guide to the ancient dance-theatre tradition.
3. Commemorating the **350th year of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Coronation Day**, the Indian Prime Minister highlighted the significance of this historic event in the context of India's present era. Calling him the 'beacon' of bravery and courage, the Prime Minister said that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj continues to inspire the country, and his thoughts can be seen in the vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. The Prime Minister also said that, taking inspiration from Shivaji Maharaj, the Indian Navy was freed from the trace of slavery and the identity of British rule was replaced by his royal seal.
4. Palaeoanthropologists have uncovered evidence that suggests that **Homo naledi**, an extinct human species that lived hundreds of thousands of years ago, may have buried their dead and carved meaningful symbols in a cave. These behaviours were thought to be unique to our own species – Homo sapiens – and the Neanderthals. Homo Naledi is a species of human discovered in the Rising Star cave system, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in South Africa in 2013**. The remains of at least 15 individuals, including adults, juveniles, and infants, were found, making it the largest collection of a single hominin species in Africa.
5. A tomb-like structure was accidentally discovered in the **Siri Fort** area while the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was carrying out renovation work at the Siri Fort Children's Park around three months ago. Siri Fort was built in the 13th Century by **Alauddin Khilji**, considered to be the most powerful ruler of the Khilji dynasty. The Siri Fort Children's Museum was built in 2011 and is located opposite Shahpur Jat village. The park has about 30 replicas of popular monuments from around the world, and the recent renovations were taking place to install about 100 more such replicas, during which the tomb-like structure was found.
6. The Ministry of Culture inaugurated an exhibition under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) titled "**Hamari Bhasha, Hamari Virasat**" to celebrate the 75th International Archives Day at the National Archives of India, New Delhi. **June 9 is International Archives Day**, commemorating the date when the International Council on Archives (ICA) was established in 1948 at a meeting of archivists in Paris.
7. The Prime Minister of India paid tributes to **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**, an iconic freedom fighter and tribal leader, on his 123<sup>rd</sup> death anniversary on June 9. The 19th-century leader is often referred to as 'Bhagwan'. He gave a call for 'Ulgulan (Revolt)' to the tribal people and encouraged them to embrace their roots and unify in a bid to break away from the shackles of British colonial rule. In 2021, the government declared that the day of his birth anniversary would be observed as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' – a day dedicated to remembering the tribal freedom fighters of India.
8. The Prime Minister of India has lauded the new initiative of celebrating '**Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**' as '**God Bharai**' ceremony in **Dausa, Rajasthan**. During the ceremony, Poshan Kit was given to the pregnant women. Around 3.5 lakh women have benefited from the scheme in 2022-23. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is a maternity benefit program in India that provides financial assistance to pregnant and lactating women for their healthcare and nutrition needs.
9. The Central government is planning to complete **3D digitisation of all museums** under its administrative control by the year-end for better conservation of artefacts. This includes the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad, the Allahabad Museum in Prayagraj, the Indian Museum in Kolkata, the Victoria Memorial Hall, the National Museum and the National Gallery of Modern Art. The Culture Ministry has under its ambit 10 museums, including those mentioned above. The digitisation process involves 3D scanning, which means analysing a real-world object or environment to collect three-dimensional data of its shape and possibly its appearance. The collected data is then used to construct digital 3D models.

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**TEST ZONE**



## PASSAGE - 1

Working president of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), K.T. Rama Rao has asked people and politicians of the southern States cutting across party lines to raise voice against the impending injustice staring at the southern States with the proposed delimitation of constituencies to be taken up in [1], based on population.

It is unfortunate that the southern States which followed the Centre's policies to control the population growth are going to be punished for the same in the delimitation of constituencies. Believing the Centre's words that controlling population growth would help the country overcome several problems, the southern States had followed the population control policies and succeeded in the goal, Mr. Rama Rao said in a statement.

However, the southern States are now facing the threat of injustice simply for following the Centre's words and controlling the population. At the same time, the States which did not care about the Centre's words for population control, particularly the northern States, are poised to benefit in the delimitation exercise on the grounds of higher population growth, he pointed out.

Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana, which followed the progressive policies to control the population growth and stayed ahead in all human development indices compared to the northern States, were going to be punished in the delimitation, he noted. "With only 18% population, the southern States have been contributing 35% to the country's GDP, and the proposed delimitation based on population is a gross injustice to them", he felt.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Delimitation based on population is irrational, injustice to southern States: KTR", The Hindu]

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

A 2030

B 2026

C 2027

D 2025

2. Under which Article of the Indian Constitution does the Parliament enact a Delimitation Act after every Census?

A Article 152

B Article 170

C Article 82

D Article 256

3. The last delimitation exercise that changed the state-wise composition of the Lok Sabha was completed in 1976 and done on the basis of the \_\_\_\_\_

A 1976 Census

B 1966 Census

C 1963 Census

D 1971 Census

4. Who among the following appointed delimitation commission?

A Prime Minister

B President

C Chief Election Commissioner

D None of the above

5. How many seats will the Lok Sabha chamber of the new parliament building of India have?

A 888

B 1272

C 678

D 778

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

Answers

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## PASSAGE - 2

Seven years after 2016, El Niño is back in the Pacific Ocean, the NOAA of the United States federal administration, announced on Thursday (June 8). El Niño, which in Spanish means “little boy”, is a climate pattern that develops along the equatorial Pacific Ocean after intervals of a few years ranging between 2 and 7 years.

Essentially, water on the surface of the ocean sees an unusual warming in a band straddling the equator in the central and east-central Pacific — broadly extending from the International Dateline and 120°W longitude, i.e., off the Pacific coast of South America, west of the Galapagos islands.

When the so-called El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is in its neutral phase, the trade winds blow west along the equator and take the warm water from South America towards Asia. However, during an event of El Niño, these trade winds weaken (or may even reverse) — and instead of blowing from the east (South America) to the west (Indonesia), they could turn into westerlies.

In this situation, as the winds blow from the west to east, they cause masses of warm water to move into the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, and reach the coast of western America. During such years, there prevails warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures along the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Globally, El Niño has been associated with severe heatwaves, floods, and droughts in the past.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: “El Niño is here: NOAA flags dramatic warming in Pacific Ocean after 7 years, what does this mean?”, by Anjali Marar”, The Indian Express]

### 1. What is India's ranking in the 2023 Climate Change Performance Index?

A 68

B 10

C 98

D 8

### 2. India joined Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C), a global platform launched by the US and \_\_\_\_\_.

A The UAE

B The UK

C Israel

D Germany

### 3. Which country is planning to launch its own composite 'Heat Index' next year to quantify the impact of heat on its population and generate impact-based heatwave alerts for specific locations?

A Israel

B China

C India

D France

### 4. What does 'NOAA' stand for?

A National Organization for Aviation and Aeronautics

B National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

C National Office for Atmospheric Administration

D North American Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### 5. Which agency/ministry released Aridity Anomaly Outlook Index, a real-time drought index which monitors agriculture drought in July 2022?

A NITI Aayog

B Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

C India Meteorological Department

D Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India

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

Answers

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## PASSAGE - 3

Ram Prasad Bismil was born on June 11, 1897 in a nondescript village in the United Provinces' (now Uttar Pradesh) Shahjahanpur district. Today, he is one of India's most revered freedom fighters, known as much for his revolutionary zeal as for his poetic profundity.

Fighting against the British Raj, he was involved in the Mainpuri Conspiracy of 1918 as well as the more famous Kakori Train Action of [1]. He founded the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA, later Hindustan Socialist Republican Association) and was hanged for his revolutionary activities in 1927. On his 126th birth anniversary, we remember Ram Prasad Bismil, whose words and actions have inspired generations of Indians.

Born into a Rajput Tomar family, Ram Prasad Bismil learnt Hindi from his father and Urdu from a maulvi who lived nearby. He also went to an English medium school in Shahjahanpur. His exposure to multiple languages would develop his instincts as a writer and poet at a very early stage in his life.

Furthermore, during his childhood, Arya Samaj was becoming an influential organisation in north India. He joined the Arya Samaj and became a prolific writer and poet, penning patriotic verses in Hindi and Urdu under pen names like 'Agyat', 'Ram', and the one that is most known – 'Bismil' (meaning 'wounded', 'restless'). At the age of only 18, he penned the poem Mera Janm (My Birth), venting out his anger over the death sentence handed out to Arya Samaj missionary Bhai Parmanand.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "A revolutionary and a poet: Who was Ram Prasad Bismil?", by Arjun Sengupta, The Indian Express]

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

**A** 1922

**B** 1921

**C** 1925

**D** 1919

2. During his childhood, Ram Praas Bismil joined the Arya Samaj. Who was the founder of Arya Samaj?

**A** Dayananda Saraswati

**B** Bhai Parmanand

**C** Swami Vivekanand

**D** Raja Ram Mohan Roy

3. Which state government has renamed 'Kakori Kand', an important movement in the history of India's freedom struggle, to 'Kakori Train Action'?

**A** Punjab

**B** Madhya Pradesh

**C** Maharashtra

**D** Uttar Pradesh

4. In \_\_\_\_\_, HRA was renamed from Hindustan Republican Association to Hindustan Socialist Republic Association (HSRA).

**A** 1925

**B** 1928

**C** 1930

**D** 1924

5. In which case was Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaquallah and Rajendranath Lahiri sentenced to death?

**A** Lahore Conspiracy

**B** Chauri Chaura Incident

**C** Kakori Conspiracy

**D** None of the above

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

Answers

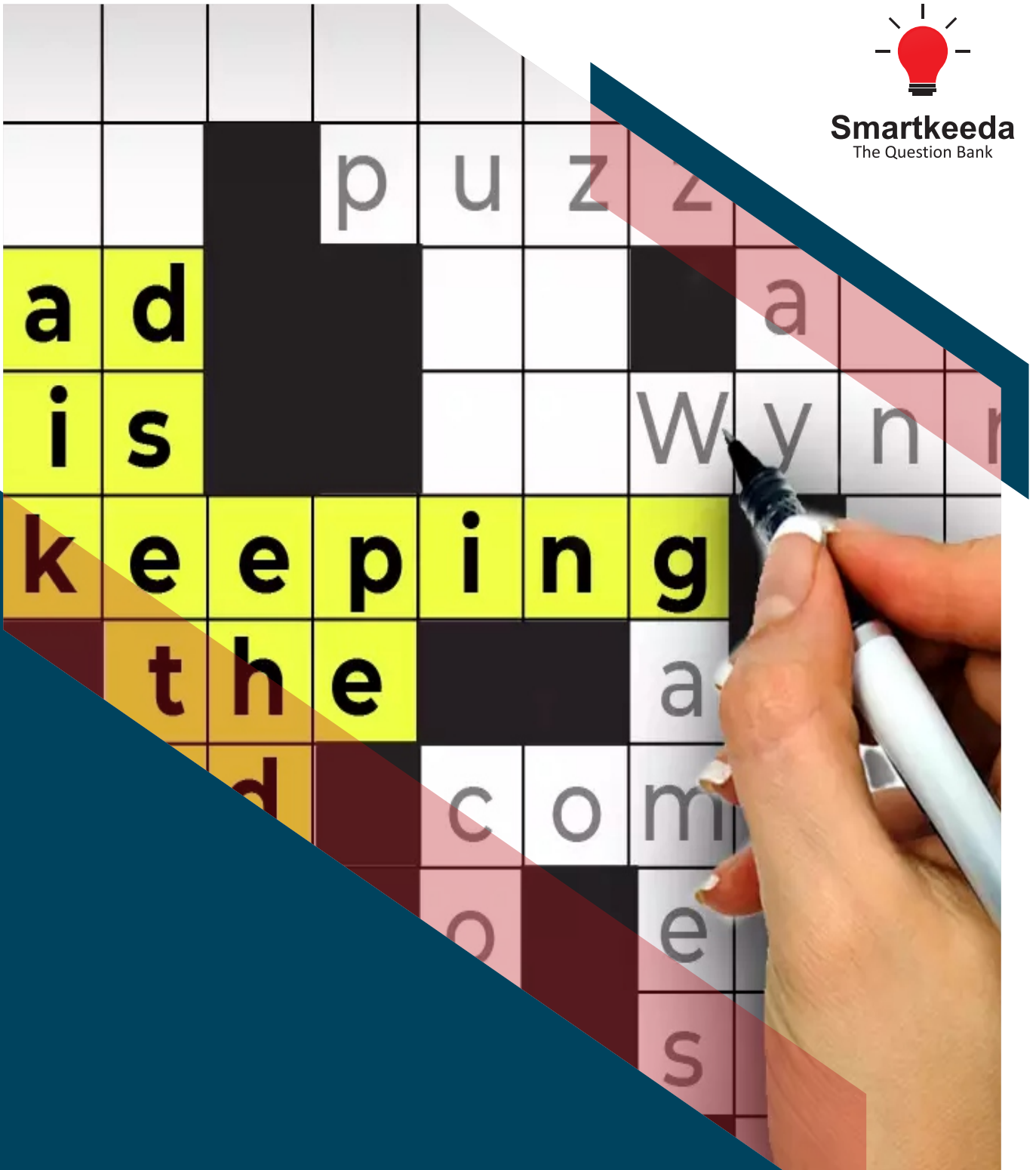
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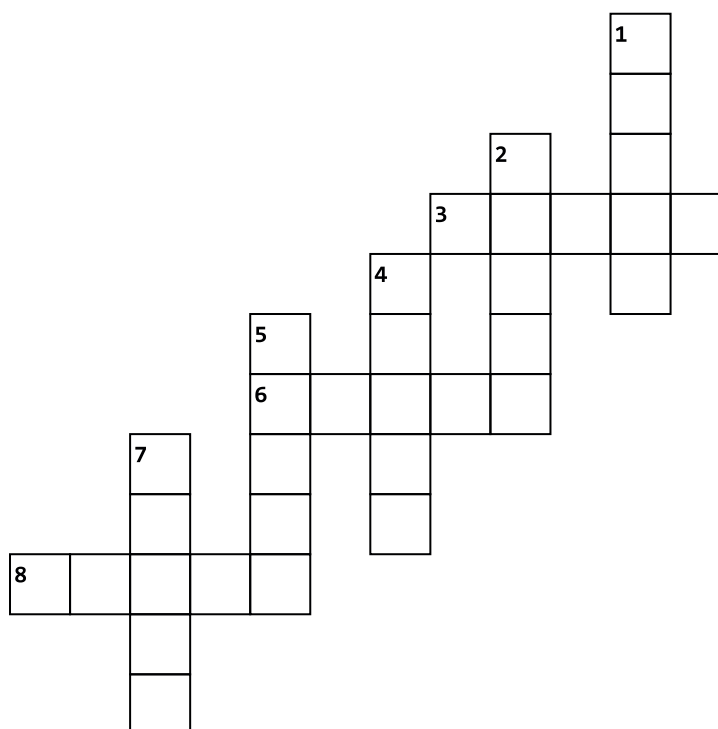
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**CROSSWORD CORNER**



## CROSSWORD - 1



### Across

- 3. World Oceans Day
- 6. International Archives Day
- 8. World No Tobacco Day

### Down

- 1. World Milk Day
- 2. World Environment Day
- 4. World Food Safety Day
- 5. International Day of UN Peacekeepers
- 7. World Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Day

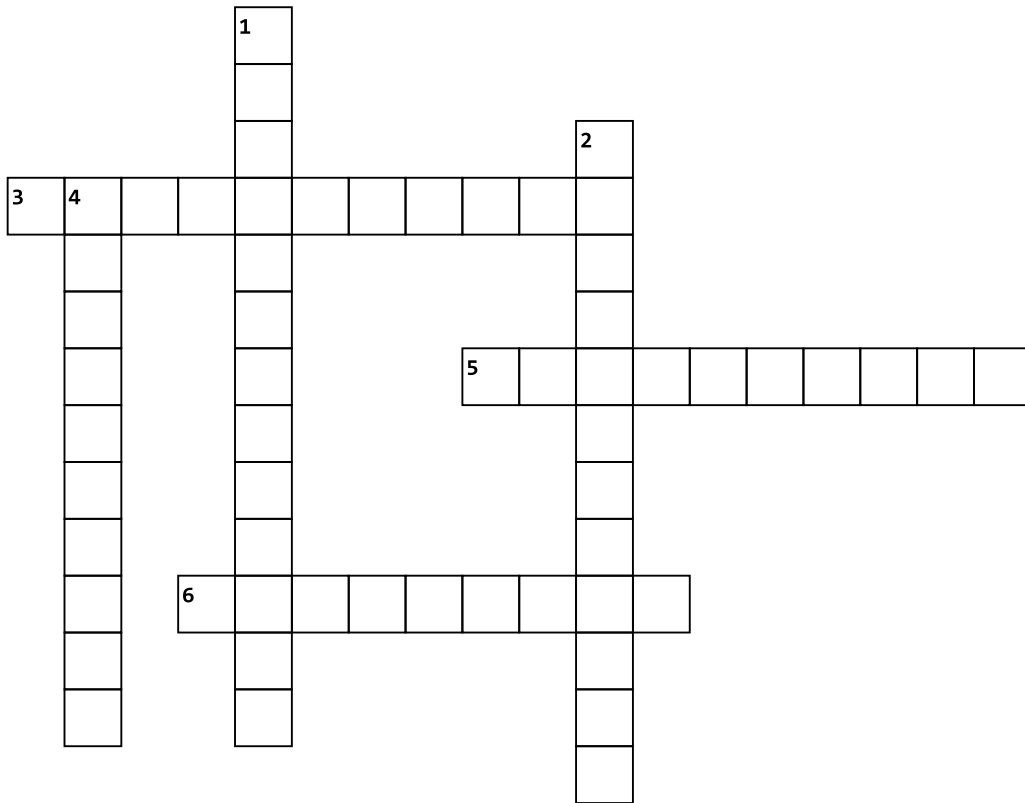
### Answers

|       |   |       |   |
|-------|---|-------|---|
| 31May | 8 | 7June | 4 |
| 30May | 7 | 8June | 3 |
| 9June | 6 | 5June | 2 |
| 29May | 5 | 1June | 1 |





## CROSSWORD - 2



### Across

3. India's first deluxe train
5. A ship-launched anti-submarine torpedo
6. India's first international cruise vessel

### Down

1. Winner of French Open 2023
2. A financial inclusion dashboard launched by RBI
4. Military exercise between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force

### Answers

|   |             |   |               |
|---|-------------|---|---------------|
| 6 | MVEmpress   | 3 | DeccanQueen   |
| 5 | Varunasttra | 2 | Antardrshiti  |
| 4 | EXKuverin   | 1 | NovakDjokovic |

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