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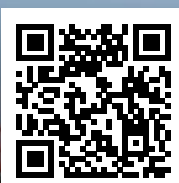
LawEx

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[Cover Story]

ONEWEB INDIA-2 MISSION ISRO



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SDSC SHAR

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

ISRO successfully launches its largest Heavy Lift Rocket LVM3 placing 36 OneWeb Satellites in Orbit & marking the Indian space agency's sixth consecutive successful flight of LVM3-M3. According to Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal, India, currently, the world's third-largest could become the top aviation market globally by decade-end. For more information, continue reading.

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The Question Bank



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

QUICK BOOSTERS



ONEWEB INDIA-2 MISSION

WHY IN NEWS?

- Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) heaviest payload rocket, LVM3, in its sixth consecutive successful flight, placed 36 satellites belonging to OneWeb Group Company into their intended 450 km circular orbit with an inclination of 87.4 degrees.
- With this, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) has successfully executed its contract to launch 72 satellites of OneWeb into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Key Points

- This mission marked OneWeb's second satellite deployment from India and OneWeb's 18th launch bringing the total of OneWeb's constellation to 618 satellites.
- Network Access Associates Ltd, United Kingdom (OneWeb Group Company) has signed an agreement with NSIL to launch 72 satellites into LEO.
- The first set of 36 satellites for OneWeb Group company was launched on 23 October, 2022.

About OneWeb

- OneWeb is a global communication network powered from space, enabling connectivity for governments, businesses, and communities. It is implementing a constellation of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites. India's Bharti Enterprises serves as a major investor and shareholder in OneWeb.
- OneWeb will soon be ready to roll out its global coverage.

DID YOU KNOW?

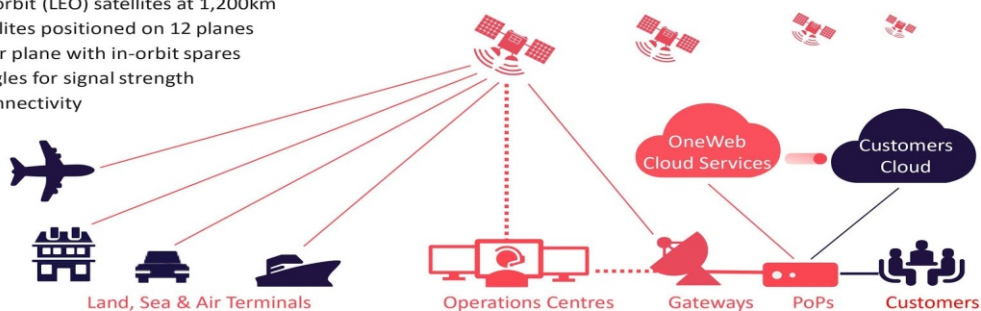
- OneWeb satellites are arranged in 12 rings (Orbital planes). The orbital planes are 1200 km above the Earth. Each satellite completes a full trip around the earth every 109 minutes.
- ISRO has renamed the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-III (GSLV Mark-III) as Launch Vehicle Mark-III. The LVM3 will go everywhere — GEO, Medium Earth orbit (MEO), LEO, and missions to the moon and sun.
 - LVM3 had five consecutive missions, including the Chandrayaan-2.
- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) was founded in 2019 as a wholly owned Government of India company under the administrative control of the Department of Space (DOS).
 - NSIL is the commercial arm of ISRO with the primary responsibility of enabling Indian industries to take up high technology space-related activities.
- The Headquarters of OneWeb is in London.

A network to serve users on land, sea and air



Constellation

- 650 low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites at 1,200km
- Low mass satellites positioned on 12 planes
- 49 satellites per plane with in-orbit spares
- Better look angles for signal strength
- Truly global connectivity



Ground

- User terminals designed for target markets
- Gateway earth stations around the world
- Operations Centers in London and Virginia

Connectivity

- Premium Spectrum Ku- and Ka-band Rights, >3.5Ghz of globally harmonized spectrum
- Innovative satellite design with revolutionary beam technology
- Low latency <100ms
- Terminal download speeds up to 195Mbps

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BASIC ANIMAL HUSBANDRY STATISTICS 2022

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying unveiled the annual publication, the 'Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2022'.
- The publication gives an overview of Animal Husbandry sector briefly in terms of important livestock statistics on livestock population, livestock production and other information like animal diseases, infrastructure etc.

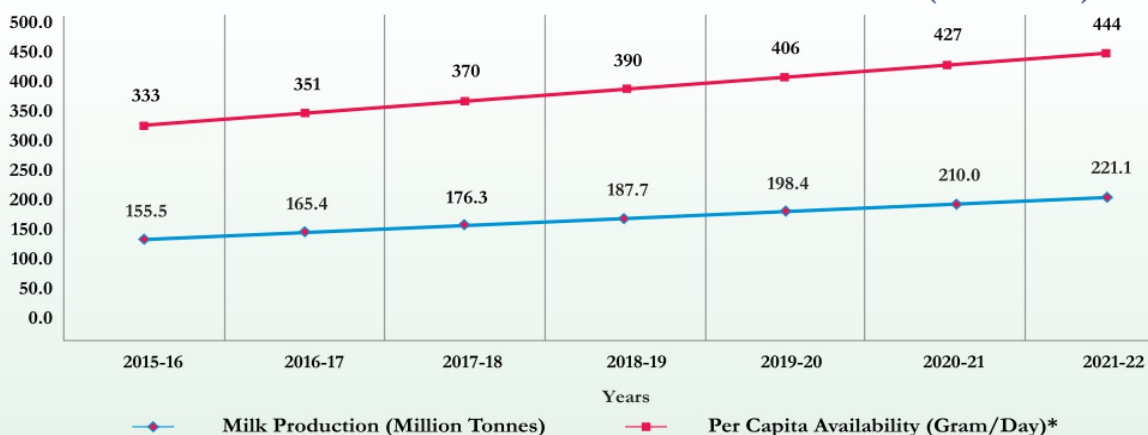
Key Highlights of the Report

- Total milk production in the country during 2021-22 is 221.06 million tonnes.
- Top five major milk producing States are Rajasthan (15.05%), Uttar Pradesh (14.93%), Madhya Pradesh (8.06%), Gujarat (7.56%) and Andhra Pradesh (6.97%).
- In 2021-22, the total egg production in the country is 129.60 billion nos which has increased by 6.19% as compared to previous year.
- Total five major egg producing States are Andhra Pradesh (20.41%), Tamil Nadu (16.08%), Telangana (12.86%), West Bengal (8.84%) and Karnataka (6.38%).
- The total meat production in the country is 9.29 million tonnes for the year 2021-22 with an annual growth rate of 5.62%.
- The total five major meat producing States are Maharashtra (12.25%), Uttar Pradesh (12.14%), West Bengal (11.63%), Andhra Pradesh (11.04%), and Telangana (10.82%).
- The total wool production in the country during 2021-22 is 33.13 thousand tonnes which has decline by 10.30% as compared to previous year.
- The top five major wool producing States are Rajasthan (45.91%), Jammu and Kashmir (23.19%), Gujarat (6.12%), Maharashtra (4.78%) and Himachal Pradesh (4.33%).
- The per-capita availability of milk is 444 gram/day during 2021-22 increased by 17 gram/day over previous year.
- In 2021-22, the per-capita availability of egg is 95 nos/annuum increased by 5 nos/annuum over previous year.
- The per-capita availability of meat is 6.82 kg/annuum during 2021-22 increased by 0.30 kg/annuum over previous year.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Animal husbandry refers to livestock raising and selective breeding.
- India is the highest livestock owner of the world. As per the 20th Livestock Census, the total Livestock population is 535.78 million in the country.
- Operation Flood was launched in 1970 by India's National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to increase milk production in the country. It is also known as the White revolution.

GRAPH 2.1: MILK PRODUCTION & PER CAPITA AVAILABILITY (ALL INDIA)



*Based on Projected Population according to Population Census-2011



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SEVEN PM MITRA PARKS

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Government of India has finalised seven sites viz. Tamil Nadu (Virudhnagar), Telangana (Warangal), Gujarat (Navsari), Karnataka (Kalburgi), Madhya Pradesh (Dhar), Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow/Hardoi) and Maharashtra (Amrawati) for setting up PM MITRA Parks.

Key Highlights

- The parks will be set up by 2026-27. These are aimed at helping India to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 9: "Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation".
- The total outlay for the project is ₹4,445 crore, though the initial allocation in the 2023-24 Budget is only ₹200 crore.

About PM MITRA

- The PM MITRA scheme is Inspired by the 5F - Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.
- PM MITRA park will be developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle which will be owned by the State Government and the Government of India in a Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode.
- The scheme is to develop integrated large-scale and modern industrial infrastructure facilities for the entire value chain of the textile industry. It will reduce logistics costs and improve the competitiveness of Indian Textiles.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The textile sector is the 2nd largest provider of employment in India after agriculture.
- India is the 6th largest exporter of textiles and apparel in the world, with 4% share of the global trade in textiles and apparel.
- The Ministry of Textiles is also implementing the Samarth Scheme for Capacity Building in the textiles sector. Samarth Scheme is also known as Scheme for Capacity Building in the Textile Sector (SCBTS).

PM MITRA A LANDMARK DECISION TO EMPOWER TEXTILES SECTOR

Approves 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region & Apparel (MITRA) Parks

- 7 MITRA Parks with a total outlay of ₹4,445 Crores in a period of 5 years

- World-class Industrial infrastructure to attract investment

- Generation of 7 lakh direct and 14 lakh of indirect employment



CABINET DECISIONS
06 OCTOBER, 2021

Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks (1/2)

- Cabinet approves setting up of **7 PM MITRA Parks**
- Total outlay of **Rs. 4,445 crore over 5 years**
- Inspired by 5F vision of PM Modi - **Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign**
- To be developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle owned by **State Government and Government of India** in PPP mode
- MITRA parks will have
 - Core Infrastructure - **Incubation Centre & Plug & Play facility, Developed Factory Sites, Roads, Power, Water and Waste Water system etc**
 - Support Infrastructure - **workers' hostels and housing, logistics park, warehousing, medical, training & skill development facilities**



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ILLEGAL SAND MINING IN NATIONAL CHAMBAL SANCTUARY

WHY IN NEWS?

- The National Chambal Sanctuary is at risk from illegal sand mining, causing damage to the ecosystem and endangering wildlife.

Key Points

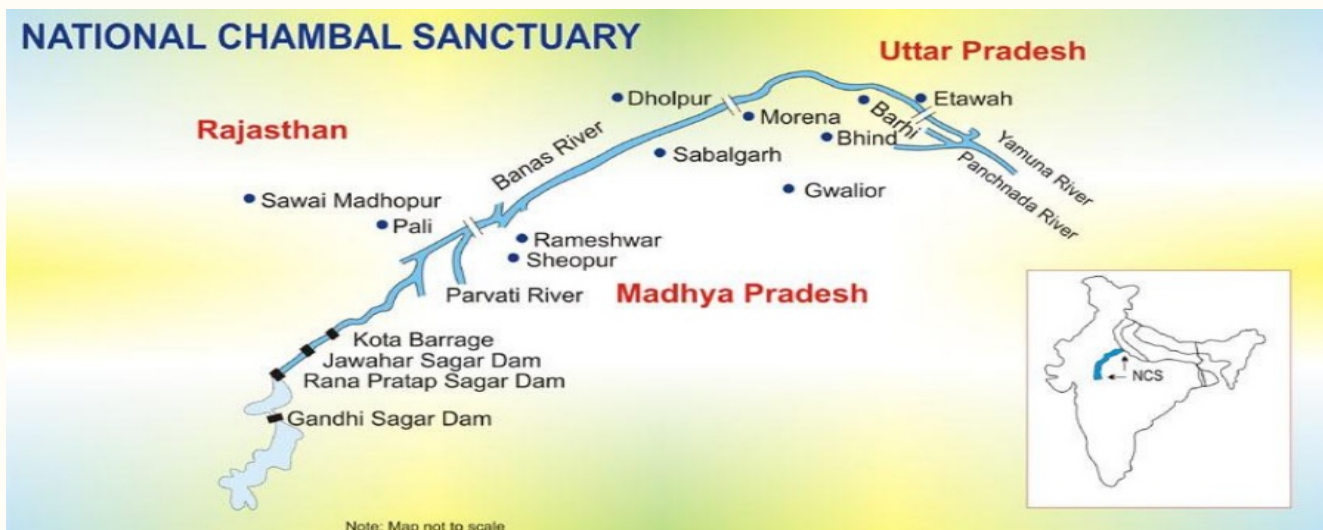
- The Legislative Framework of the Mining Sector in India is governed by the Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act of 1957.
- Under the Indian Constitution, the state government owns the minerals located within its boundaries, while the central government owns the minerals within the exclusive economic zone of India (EEZ).
- The International Seabed Authority (ISA) regulates mineral exploration and extraction and India has an exclusive right to explore polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin.
- Rivers and coastal areas are the primary sources of sand in India, and illegal sand mining is prevalent in many regions. Unregulated and unsustainable sand mining practices have caused severe environmental and social problems, including the degradation of riverine ecosystems, loss of livelihoods, and damage to infrastructure.
- Sand mining can lead to the depletion of groundwater reserves, which can cause water scarcity in nearby areas.
- Excessive sand mining can make riverbeds shallow, which can lead to increased flood risk.

Legislative Framework

- To address the sand mining issues, the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) issued "Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016" to encourage sustainable sand mining practices that are based on scientific principles and environmentally friendly management practices.
- In recent years, there have been efforts to tackle the issue, including the use of satellite imagery and the establishment of special task forces to crack down on illegal sand mining activities.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Located at the trijunction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, and is considered a fragile lotic ecosystem, the National Chambal Sanctuary is a critically important breeding ground for gharials, which are fish-eating crocodiles.
- The sanctuary is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and is listed as an 'Important Bird and Biodiversity Area'.
- The sanctuary is also home to a large number of resident and migratory birds, with over 320 species inhabiting the area. In recognition of its ecological significance, the sanctuary has been proposed as a Ramsar site.



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INDIA COULD BECOME THE TOP AVIATION MARKET GLOBALLY BY 2029-2030

WHY IN NEWS?

- During the CAPA India Aviation Summit, Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal said India could emerge as the top aviation market globally by the turn of the decade, surpassing the United States and China on most parameters.

Key Points

- India is currently the world's third-largest civil aviation market and has big ambitions to expand air connectivity, which is still beyond the reach of a significant chunk of the population.
- Passenger handling capacity at airports at the country's six major metropolitan cities is likely to expand to 320 million per year in the near future.
- Over the past six years, India's domestic passenger traffic has grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 14.5 per cent, while international passenger traffic has increased by a CAGR of around 6.5 per cent.
- According to CAPA India projections, the country's domestic passenger traffic is likely to rise to 16 crores in the 2023-24 fiscal year from an estimated 13.75 crore for the current fiscal. By 2029-30, India's domestic passenger traffic is likely to touch 35 crore.
- The government wants all six metros – Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Kolkata – to emerge as major international hubs for air travel.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Ministry of Civil Aviation's flagship program, Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) was launched in 2016 to fulfil the aspirations of the common citizen with an enhanced aviation infrastructure and air connectivity in tier II and tier III cities.
 - The Government of India has acknowledged the contribution of the scheme and has identified 21st October as UDAN Day.
- India has been re-elected to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council (2022-2025) under Part II, comprising of countries which make the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for international civil air navigation.
- In 2022, Digi Yatra initiative was launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to provide passengers seamless and hassle-free experience at airports without the need for verification of ticket and ID at multiple touch points.
- Krishi Udhan 2.0 focuses on transporting perishable food products from hilly areas, northeastern states and tribal areas.
- The Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) was launched on December 3, 2015, to provide equal opportunities and protection of rights which provides non-discrimination in transport to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).



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VERNAL EQUINOX 2023

WHY IN NEWS?

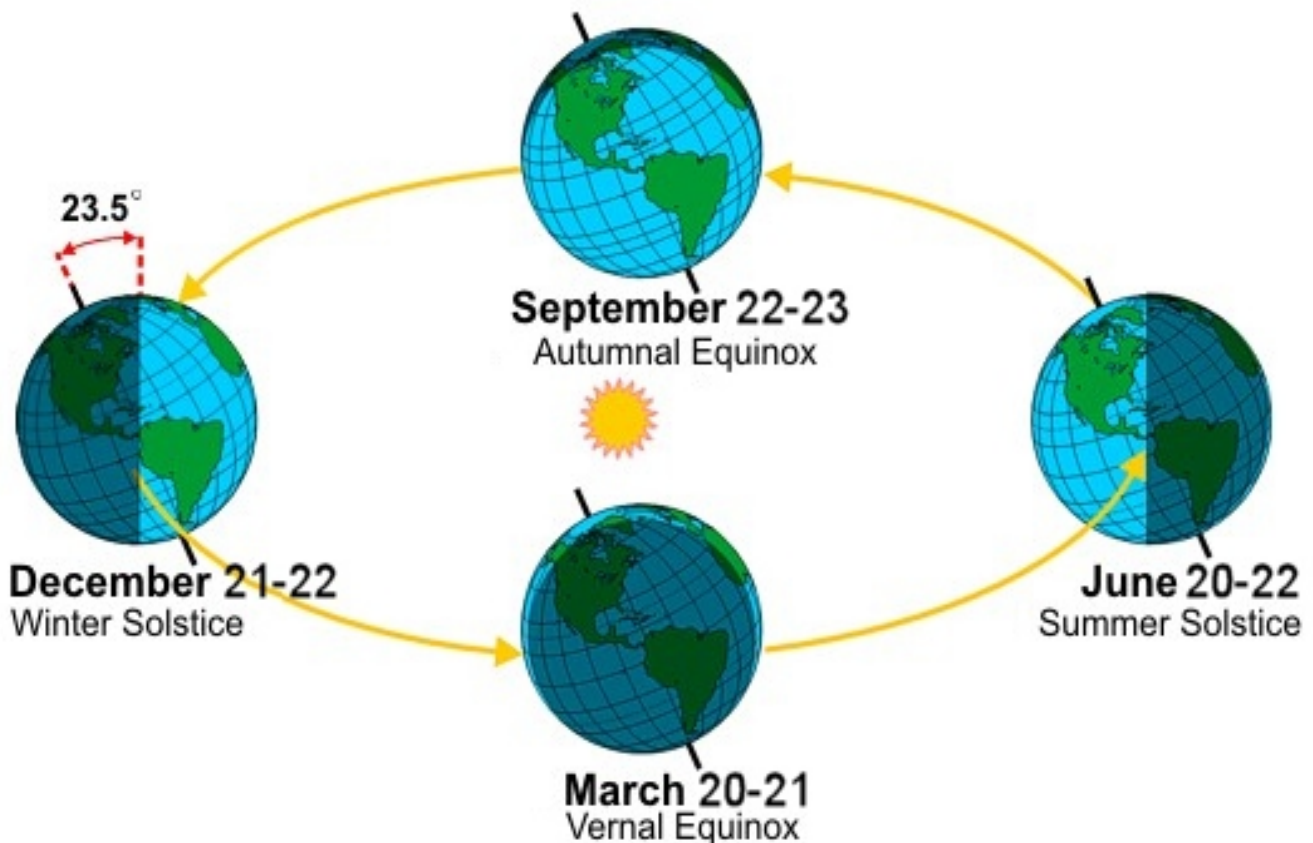
- The Vernal Equinox or March Equinox was observed on 21 March 2023, Tuesday.

About Equinox

- The equinox is also called the spring equinox in the northern hemisphere and the autumn equinox in the southern hemisphere. As it marks the beginning of spring in the northern hemisphere and autumn in the southern hemisphere.
- Vernal translates to “new” and “fresh,” and equinox is derived from the Latin *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night). Therefore, the vernal equinox or March equinox signals the beginning of spring.
- Equinox is one of the two times in the year when the sun is above the imaginary line around the center of the earth (equator) and day and night are of equal length.
- The spring equinox is called the autumn equinox in the southern hemisphere as it marks the beginning of the autumn season in the southern hemisphere.

Significance

- Equinoxes occur when the earth's hemispheres aren't tilted towards or away from the sun. As a result, the sun is located directly above the equator, and both hemispheres receive an almost equal amount of sunlight.
- After the spring equinox, the northern hemisphere tilts closer to the sun in March tilts closer to the sun, resulting in more hours of daylight, with earlier sunrises and later sunsets.
- According to Hindu astrology, Vernal Equinox is known as Vasant Vishuva or Vasant Sampat. The March equinox brings earlier sunrises, later sunsets, and sprouting plants in the northern hemisphere. Meanwhile, later sunrises, earlier sunsets, chillier winds, and dry and falling leaves are observed in the south of the equator.



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SUPREME COURT ON “HUMANE” METHOD OF EXECUTION

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Supreme Court of India asked the Centre to relook at India's method of putting to death its criminals, a method which may be more “humane” and dignified.

Background

- The court was hearing a petition filed by advocate Rishi Malhotra challenging the constitutionality of death by hanging as a mode of execution.
- Section 354 (5) of the Code of Criminal Procedure mandates that a person sentenced to death shall “be hanged by the neck till he is dead”.

Key Observations of the Court

- Out of the 190 economies covered in the Index, only 14 scored a perfect 100: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.
- In 2022, the global average score is 76.5 out of 100.
- At the current pace of reform, it would take at least 50 years to approach legal gender equality everywhere.

DID YOU KNOW?

- As per Amnesty International, five methods were used for executions between 2011 and 2021 by 36 countries – (i) B – Beheading (ii) H – Hanging (iii) I – Lethal injection (iv) S – Shooting and (v) E – Electrocution.
- In 2018, the Centre filed an affidavit supporting death by hanging. It had not found the method of execution “barbaric, inhuman and cruel” compared to firing squads and lethal injections.
- Certain offences under Indian Penal Code, for which the offenders can be sentenced to punishment of death are: Murder (Section 302), Dacoity with murder (Section 396), Criminal Conspiracy (Section 120B), Waging war against the Government of India or attempting to do so (Section 121), and Abatement of mutiny (Section 132) and others.
- The term death penalty is sometimes used interchangeably with capital punishment, though the imposition of the penalty is not always followed by execution. It can be commuted into life imprisonment or pardoned by the President under Article 72 of the Indian Constitution.
- 110 countries and territories around the world have abolished the death penalty, most recently Sierra Leone, Papua New Guinea and Equatorial Guinea.

Death penalty methods and failure rates

The table shows the proportion of botched executions for each method. Data includes only executions in the U.S. from 1890 to 2010.

'Botched executions' are those that did not go as planned, resulting in unnecessary pain for the person charged with death penalty.

Method	Total executions	Botched executions	Botched execution rate
Hanging	2721	85	3.12%
Electrocution	4374	84	1.92%
Lethal Gas	593	32	5.4%
Lethal injection	1054	75	7.12%
Firing Squad	34	0	0%
All methods	8776	276	3.15%

Source: [Death Penalty Information Center](#) • THE HINDU GRAPHICS



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BHARAT 6G PROJECT

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Prime Minister has unveiled a Vision Document to roll out high-speed 6G Communication Services by 2030 and also launched Bharat 6G Project to identify and fund research and deployment of the next-generation technology in India.

Key Points

- India's 6G project will be implemented in two phases, the first one from 2023 to 2025 and the second one from 2025 to 2030.
- In phase one, support will be provided to explorative ideas, risky pathways and proof-of-concept tests.
- Ideas and concepts that show promise and potential for acceptance by the global peer community will be adequately supported to develop them to completion, establish their use cases and benefits, and create implementational IPs and testbeds leading to commercialisation as part of phase two.
- The government has also appointed an apex council to oversee the project and focus on issues such as standardisation, identification of the spectrum for 6G usage, create an ecosystem for devices and systems, and figure out finances for research and development, among other things.
- A key focus of the council will be on new technologies such as Terahertz communication, radio interfaces, tactile internet, artificial intelligence for connected intelligence, new encoding methods and waveforms chipsets for 6G devices.
- It will aim to enable India to become a leading global supplier of intellectual property, products and solutions of affordable 6G telecom solutions and identify priority areas for 6G research based on India's competitive advantages.
- While, technically, 6G does not exist today, it has been conceived as a far superior technology promising internet speeds up to 100 times faster than 5G.

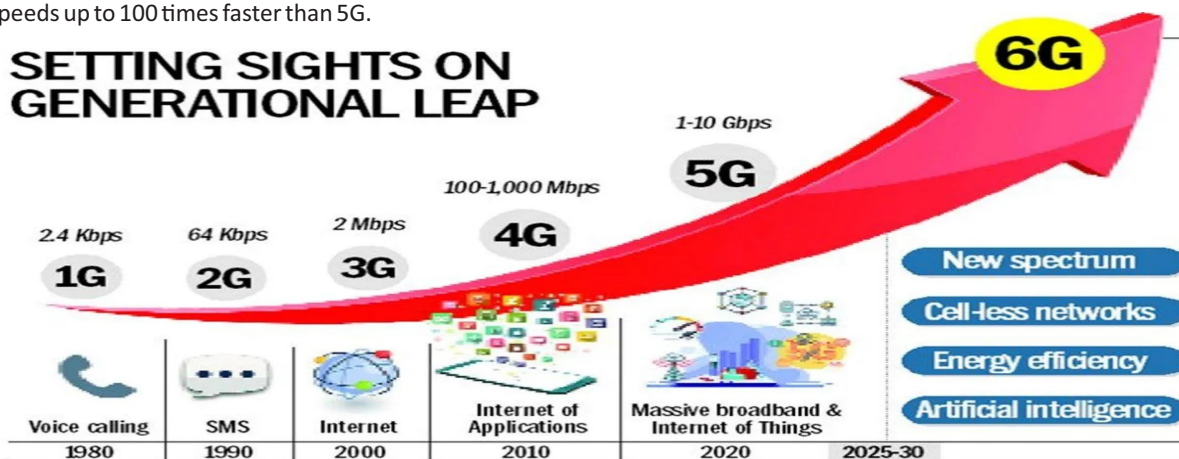
About 6G

- 6G is the name for the sixth generation of cellular networks.
- As opposed to 5G, which at its peak can offer internet speeds up to 10 Gbps, 6G promises to offer ultra-low latency with speeds up to 1 Tbps.
- One of the goals of 6G internet will be to support one microsecond-latency communication (delay of one-microsecond in communication). This is 1,000 times faster - or 1/1000th the latency - than one millisecond throughput.
- Latency is the time taken for a data packet to move from one place to another (as opposed to speed, which is the number of such packets that can travel on a connection each second).
- It seeks to utilise the terahertz band of frequency, which is currently unutilised.
- Terahertz waves fall between infrared waves and microwaves on the electromagnetic spectrum.

DID YOU KNOW?

- India is the second largest telecom market in the world now with 117 crore telecom subscribers and 825 million broadband subscribers.
- Prime Minister of India formally launched 5G services in October 2022.
- By 2025, India will need ~22 million skilled workers in 5G-centric technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics and cloud computing

SETTING SIGHTS ON GENERATIONAL LEAP



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30 YEARS OF PROJECT ELEPHANT

WHY IN NEWS?

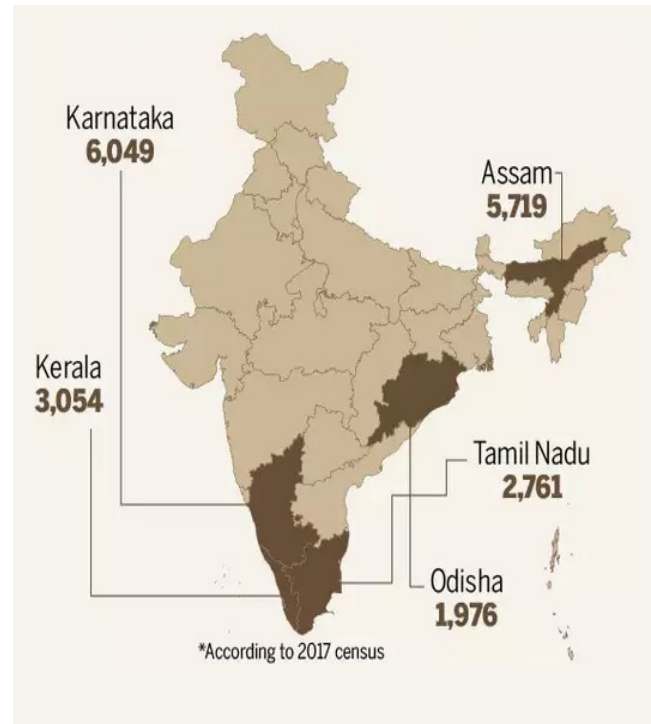
- President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate a two-day “Gaj Utsav” on April 7 in Assam’s Kaziranga National Park to commemorate the successful completion of 30 years of Project Elephant and to give more impetus to conservation efforts.
- Gaj Yatra is a nationwide awareness campaign to celebrate elephants and highlights the necessity of securing elephant corridors.

About Project Elephant

- India launched Project Elephant in 1992 as a centrally-sponsored scheme to protect elephants, their habitat and corridors, prevent human-elephant conflict and to ensure the welfare of captive elephants in India.
- As many as 33 elephant reserves, spanning 80,777 sq km, have been notified.
- It provides financial and technical support to wildlife management efforts by states for their free-ranging populations of wild Asian Elephants.

DID YOU KNOW?

- India accounts for more than 60 per cent of the global wild elephant population. These are distributed majorly in southern and north-eastern India, east-central and northern regions.
- India is home to 20% of the global captive Asian elephant population, but a census of captive elephants is not done regularly.
- Assam holds the second-largest wild elephant population in India and also has a large number of elephants under human care.
- As per Elephant Census (2017), the recorded population of elephants in India is 29,964. Karnataka has the highest number of elephants (6,049), followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054).
- Nilgiri landscape has the largest single population of the endangered Asian elephant anywhere in the world.
- Elephant is a national heritage animal protected under Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.



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NEW INDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Government of India launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, "New India Literacy Programme" (NILP) for implementation during five years from the FYs 2022-23 to 2026-27 with financial outlay of Rs.1037.90 crore.

Key Points

- The scheme aims to cover a target of 5.00 crore non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.
- The scheme has five components: (i) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, (ii) Critical Life Skills, (iii) Vocational Skills Development, (iv) Basic Education and (v) Continuing Education.
- The beneficiaries under the scheme are identified through door to door survey on Mobile App by the surveyors in the States/UTs.
- The non-literate can also avail the benefit of the scheme through direct registration from any place through mobile app.
- The scheme is mainly based on volunteerism for teaching and learning. Volunteers can also register through a mobile app for this purpose.
- The scheme is based on technology and implemented predominantly through online mode.
- The teaching-learning material and resources have been made available on the DIKSHA platform of NCERT and can be accessed through the mobile apps.
- Further, other modes like TV, Radio, Samajik Chetna Kendra etc. are also to be used for dissemination of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy.
- All non-literate above 15 years of age can avail the benefits of the scheme.

DID YOU KNOW?

- As per Census 2011, the absolute number of non-literates of the country in 15 years and above age group is 25.76 crore (Male 9.08 crore, Female 16.68 crore).
- In consideration of the progress of persons certified as literates being to the tune of 7.64 crore under the Saakshar Bharat Programme implemented during 2009-10 to 2017-18, it is estimated that currently around 18.12 crore adults are still non-literate in India.



New India Literacy Programme for FYs 2022-27

A new scheme for 'Education for All', previously called as 'Adult Education'



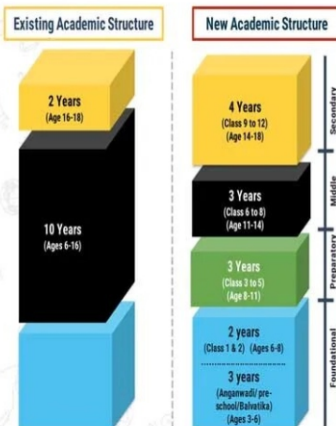
Estimated total outlay

₹1037.90 crores

Key features:

- Volunteerism based implementation
- Cover all the aspects of Education for All for age group of 15 years and above
- Foundational literacy and numeracy will be imparted through Critical Life Skills
- Digital modules for ease of access

Transforming Curricular & Pedagogical Structure



New pedagogical and curricular structure of school education (5+3+3+4): 3 years in Anganwadi/pre-school and 12 years in school

- Secondary Stage(4)** multidisciplinary study, greater critical thinking, flexibility and student choice of subjects
- Middle Stage (3)** experiential learning in the sciences, mathematics, arts, social sciences, and humanities
- Preparatory Stage (3)** play, discovery, and activity-based and interactive classroom learning
- Foundational stage (5)** multilevel, play/activity-based learning

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ARAVALLI GREEN WALL PROJECT

WHY IN NEWS?

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the Aravalli Green Wall Project to celebrate the International Day of Forests at Tikli Village in Haryana.
- The Union Minister also unveiled the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Through Forestry Interventions.

About Aravalli Green Wall Project

- The Aravalli Green Wall Project is part of the Union Environment Ministry's vision to create green corridors across the country to combat land degradation and desertification.
- The project covers states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi - where the Aravalli hills landscape span over 6 million hectares of land.
- It is an ambitious plan to create a 1,400km long and 5km wide green belt buffer around the Aravali Mountain range.
- The project will involve planting native species of trees and shrubs on scrubland, wasteland and degraded forest land, along with rejuvenating and restoring surface water bodies such as ponds, lakes and streams.
- The project will also focus on agroforestry and pasture development to enhance the livelihoods of local communities.
- The plan is inspired by Africa's 'Great Green Wall' project, running from Senegal (West) to Djibouti (East), which came into effect in 2007.

Key Objectives

- To prevent the eastward expansion of the Thar Desert and to reduce land degradation by creating green barriers that will prevent soil erosion, desertification and dust storms.
- Contribute to India's commitments under various international conventions such as UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) and UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).
- The government's commitment to achieve the national goal of creating an additional 2.5 billion tonnes of carbon sink by 2030.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Aravallis, is the oldest fold mountains on Earth. It spans over 800km from Gujarat to Delhi (through Rajasthan and Haryana).
- The highest peak in the Aravalli Range is Guru Peak on Mount Abu.
- Participated countries in Africa's 'Great Green Wall' project are - Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Senegal. Africa's 'Great Green Wall' project was launched by African union.
- The project plans 8km wide band of trees stretching 8,000km across Africa.





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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

QUICK BOOSTERS



THE REMOVAL OF MEHUL CHOKSI'S NAME FROM THE INTERPOL DATABASE OF RED NOTICES

WHY IN NEWS?

- The removal of fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi's name from the Interpol database of Red Notices has drawn condemnation from the Opposition parties in India, while the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has sought the restoration of the notice.

Background

- The Red Notice was issued against Choksi in December 2018 after a request from the CBI and Enforcement Directorate. His appeals against the decision were rejected in 2020.
- Mehul Choksi and his nephew Nirav Modi are wanted in the Rs 13,500 crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam.
- Choksi had acquired citizenship of Antigua and Barbuda in 2017 and was living there from 2018.
- However, he went missing from Antigua and Barbuda on 23 May, 2021, and was soon caught in Dominica.
- While Choksi claimed he was kidnapped, he was charged with illegal entry by the police in Dominica. In May last year, Dominica dropped these charges against him.

What is an Interpol Red Notice?

- Criminals or suspects often flee to other countries to evade facing justice. A Red Corner Notice, or Red Notice (RN) alerts police forces across the world about fugitives who are wanted internationally.
- RNs contain information that helps identify wanted persons, such as their names, dates of birth, nationality, and physical attributes such as the colour of their hair and eyes, as well as pictures and biometric data such as fingerprints, if they are available. RNs also mention the crime(s) they are wanted for.
- An RN is only an international wanted persons' notice; it is not an international arrest warrant.



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MEDICAL TOURISM INDEX (MTI) - 2020-2021

WHY IN NEWS?

- India has been ranked 10th in Medical Tourism Index (MTI) for 2020-2021 out of 46 destinations of the world by Medical Tourism Association.

Key Points

- With an aim to improve medical tourism in the country, the Ministry of Tourism formulated a National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism in 2022.
- The strategy has identified the following key pillars for the development of medical-value travel in the country:
 - Develop a brand for India as a wellness destination
 - Strengthen the ecosystem for medical and wellness tourism
 - Enable digitalisation by setting up an Online Medical Value Travel (MVT) Portal
 - Enhancement of accessibility for Medical Value Travel
 - Promoting Wellness Tourism
 - Governance and Institutional Framework

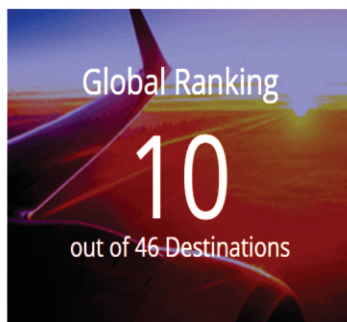


DID YOU KNOW?

- In order to provide dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical Tourism, Ministry of Tourism has constituted a National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board with the Minister (Tourism) as its chairman.
- 'Medical Visa' has been introduced, which can be given for specific purpose to foreign travellers coming to India for medical treatment. To promote Medical Tourism in the country, Government of India is extending e-medical visa facility to the nationals of 156 countries.
- Ministry of Tourism provides financial Assistance under Market Development Assistance Scheme to Medical Tourism Service Providers accredited by NABH for participation in Medical/ Tourism Fairs, Medical Conferences, Wellness Conferences, Wellness Fairs and allied Road Shows.
- As per information provided by the Ministry of Tourism, the number of foreign tourists arriving in India for medical purposes was 1.83 lakh in 2020 and 3.04 lakh in 2021.



This destination is one of 46 global destinations ranked within the 2020-2021 Medical Tourism Index. Below is a snapshot of this destination's ranking.



Destination
Environment

21

out of 46 Destinations

Medical Tourism
Industry

6

out of 46 Destinations

Quality of Facilities
& Services

6

out of 46 Destinations

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WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2023

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN) released the World Happiness Report 2023, ranking 137 countries on happiness.

Key Findings

- Finland was named the world's happiest country for the sixth year running.
- Northern Europe once again dominated the top spots — with Denmark in second place, followed by Iceland.
- Israel occupied the fourth position, up five spots from last year.
- Knocking France off the 20th spot, Lithuania became the only new country in the top 20, with Estonia at number 31, up from 66 in 2017.
- Afghanistan was ranked as the unhappiest nation, followed by Lebanon, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe, respectively.

About the Report

- The World Happiness Report, first published in 2012, is based on people's own assessment of their happiness, as well as economic and social data.
- The report considers six key factors: social support, income, health, freedom, generosity, and absence of corruption.
- It assigns a happiness score based on an average of data over a three-year period.

India's Position

- India was ranked 126th on the report, below neighbours China, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- Last year, India was ranked 136.

DID YOU KNOW?

- International Day of Happiness is celebrated every year on March 20th. The day is celebrated to promote the importance of happiness, well-being, and mental health in our lives.
- The theme for the 2023 International Day of Happiness is "Be Mindful. Be Grateful. Be Kind."
- The General Assembly of the United Nations on July 12, 2012, proclaimed 20 March the International Day of Happiness. For the first time, the International Day of Happiness was celebrated in 2013.
- The resolution was initiated by Bhutan, a country which recognized the value of national happiness over national income since the early 1970s and famously adopted the goal of Gross National Happiness over Gross National Product.



BE
MINDFUL



BE
GRATEFUL



BE
KIND

#InternationalDayOfHappiness

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ONE WORLD TB SUMMIT 2023

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Prime Minister of India recently inaugurated the 'One World TB Summit' at Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- The 'One World TB Summit' embodies the Indian philosophical principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', a Sanskrit phrase that means 'the world is one family'.
- It is imperative for us to embrace this philosophy and strive to create a world where everyone can live with equality and dignity, and free of the ill health and infectious diseases such as TB.

DID YOU KNOW?

- World Tuberculosis Day is observed annually on March 24th to raise awareness about the disease and encourage timely action to combat the global TB epidemic.
- "Yes! We can end TB!" is the theme for 2023, which aims to urge leaders from around the world to act to stop the TB epidemic.
- India aims to make the nation TB-free by 2025, whereas the Global Target for TB elimination is 2030.
- Tuberculosis is a deadly infection caused by a bacterium that primarily affects the lungs. Tuberculosis (TB) is an airborne disease that spreads like a nefarious whisper in the wind when an infected person unleashes a cough, sneeze, or even just speaks
- Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre in Varanasi was constructed with Japan's Grant Aid through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

About India's Progress

- The Prime Minister unveiled the "Annual India TB Report 2023" which is a compilation of the country's efforts towards making India TB-free by 2025.
- The public participation through initiatives like 'Ni-kshay Mitra' has played a very important role in the fight against tuberculosis. Nikshay Poshan Yojna was launched in 2018.
- The Prime Minister also launched the TB-Mukt Panchayat initiative to leverage the support of over 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats to raise awareness about TB, eliminate the stigma attached to the disease and help monitor and improve uptake of services.
- A new Treatment Preventive Therapy was also launched to prevent the development of active TB – thereby stemming the spread of the disease. Alongside, a family-centric care model was also announced to ensure the wellbeing of families affected by TB.
- The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the National Centre for Disease Control & High Containment Laboratory and inaugurated the site for the Metropolitan Public Health Surveillance Unit in Varanasi.



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MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPA) IN ANTARCTICA

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, has announced that India will support setting up two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in Antarctica to protect marine life and its ecosystem services.

About MPA

- MPA is a defined region managed for the long-term conservation of marine resources, ecosystem services or cultural heritage.
- Within the region, certain activities are limited or entirely prohibited to meet specific conservation, habitat protection, ecosystem monitoring or fisheries management objectives.

Key Points

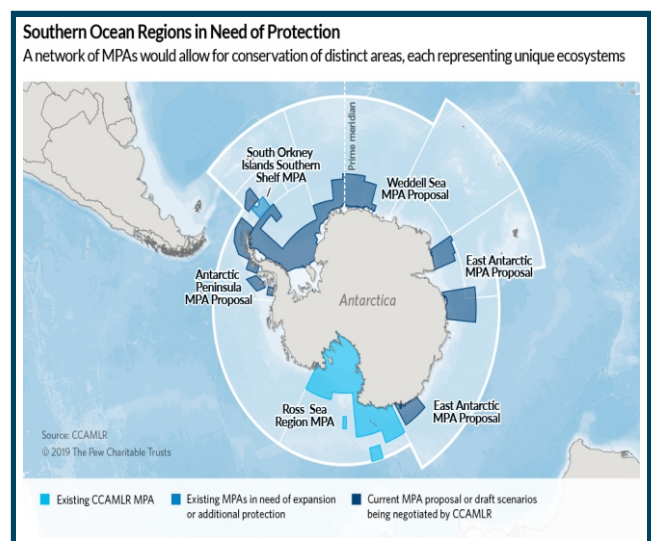
- The Southern Ocean that encircles Antarctica covers around 10 per cent of the global ocean and is home to nearly 10,000 unique polar species. But it is changing.
- Climate change is altering habitats such as sea ice and the sheltered seafloor under ice shelves that are home to a variety of species.
- Commercial fishery harvests krill, a shrimp-like crustacean that can grow to 6 centimetres in length, to produce a fish meal for feeding farmed fish and nutritional supplements for people.
- Increased harvesting of krill threatens animals that feed on them. These include fish, whales, seals, penguins and other seabirds.
- A 2022 study that analysed over forty years of krill fishery data found that krill fishing was highest in the regions surrounding the Western Antarctic Peninsula and near the South Orkney Islands.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Krill are small, shrimp-like crustaceans that are found in all the world's oceans. They are an important part of the marine food chain, serving as a primary food source for many species of fish, birds, and whales.
- CCAMLR is an intergovernmental body set up in 1982 to conserve Antarctic marine life. It has 27 members and 10 more countries have acceded to the Convention.

Current Status

- The Southern Ocean has two MPAs — one in the southern shelf of the South Orkney Islands and the other in the Ross Sea. These fully protect only 5 per cent of the ocean.
- All types of fishing, other than scientific research, are prohibited within the southern shelf of the South Orkney Islands MPA. Discharges and dumping from fishing vessels are also not allowed.
- In the Ross MPA, 72 per cent of the waters are closed to commercial fishing.
- Since 2012, the European Union and Australia have proposed an MPA in East Antarctica. An MPA was proposed in the Weddell Sea by the EU and Norway and in the waters surrounding the Antarctic Peninsula by Chile and Argentina.
- In 2021, India extended its support for designating East Antarctica and the Weddell Sea as MPA.
- But according to media reports, China and Russia blocked these efforts at the 41st annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).





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

QUICK BOOSTERS



SANDALWOOD BUDDHA STATUE

WHY IN NEWS?

- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi presented a sandalwood Buddha statue to Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida during his two-day state visit to India.

About Statue

- The Buddha figure, made of pure sandalwood, has hand carvings along with traditional designs and natural scenes.
- In this posture, Buddha is sitting in 'dhyana mudra' under the Bodhi tree. The 'dhyana mudra' is the mudra of meditation and the attainment of spiritual perfection.
- According to tradition, this mudra derives from the one assumed by the Buddha when meditating under the Bodhi tree before his enlightenment. The obverse of the image has an intricate carving of the Bodhi tree.
- The Kadamwood Jali Box in which the statue was encased is also considered auspicious in Indian culture. Imprints of birds and animals, the leitmotif of Indian art for countless generations, add a special quality to the final product.

About Sandalwood

- The sandalwood tree, a species native to India, has been an important part of Indian culture for centuries and is widely regarded as one of the most valuable and prized woods in the world.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The art of sandalwood carving is an exquisite and ancient craft that has been practised in Karnataka for centuries.
- Its earliest origins can be traced back to the 3rd century B.C. when sandalwood was used to make wooden idols and carvings for temples and other religious sites.
- The state has also set up a Sandalwood Development Board to ensure that the resources are sustainably managed.
- Buddhism is among the most dominant religions in Japan. India has been building on Buddhist ties with several South Asian countries through spiritual tourism offerings and craft traditions, including Nepal, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Cambodia, besides Japan and China.



Sandalwood Buddha Statue in Kadamwood Jali Box



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INDIA'S NEW YEAR FESTIVALS

WHY IN NEWS?

- The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu has conveyed her greetings to her fellow citizens on the eve of Chaitra Sukladi, Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, Cheti Chand, Navreh and Sajibu Cheiraoba.

Key Points

- The first day of the New Year in the Hindu traditional calendar is Chaitra Sukladi/Navratri, also known as Ugadi or Gudi Padwa.
- Chaitra Sukladi marks the beginning of the new year of the Vikram Samvat also known as the Vedic (Hindu) calendar.
- Ugadi formed by combining two Sanskrit words – 'Yuga' and 'Adi' - means new beginnings. While the day has a special significance for the people of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka who celebrate the day as Ugadi, people in Maharashtra and Goa celebrate the festival as 'Gudi Padwa'.
- Indian mathematician Bhaskaracharya had identified Ugadi as the beginning of the new year, new month, and a new day in the 12th century.
- Cheti Chand, also known as Jhulelal Jayanti, is a festival celebrated by Sindhi Hindus on the first day of the Sindhi month of Chet, which falls on the second day of Chaitra Shukla Paksha.
- Navreh is the lunar new year which is celebrated in Kashmir. This word is derived from Sanskrit Nava Varsha, meaning the new year.
- Cheiraoba is considered one of the most important festivals of Manipur. It is celebrated with great pomp and joy, especially, by the Meiteis of the state. Usually celebrated in the month of April, it marks the beginning of the lunar new year for the Meiteis residing in Manipur and elsewhere.



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SCHEME OF SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP FOR PROMOTION OF ART AND CULTURE

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Ministry of Culture is implementing a Scheme by the name of 'Scheme of Scholarship and Fellowship for Promotion of Art and Culture' to protect all genres of artists including folk song artists.

Key Points

- The scheme consist of three components-
 - Award of Scholarships to Young Artists in Different Cultural Fields (SYA)
 - Award of Senior/Junior Fellowships to outstanding persons in different cultural fields
 - Award of Tagore National Fellowship for cultural research (TNFCR)
- About SYA
 - Under this scheme component, a Scholarship of Rs.5000/- per month is provided to selected beneficiaries in the age group of 18-25 years, in four equal six monthly installments for a period of 2 years.
 - The candidates should have undergone training under any Guru or Institution for a minimum period of five years.
 - The scholars are selected on the basis of their performance in a personal interview/interaction before an Expert Committee for Scholarship constituted by the Ministry.
- About Award of Senior/Junior Fellowships to outstanding persons in different cultural fields
 - Under this scheme component, Senior Fellowship is provided to selected Fellows in the age group of 40 years and above in four equal six monthly installments @ Rs.20,000/- p.m for 02 years for cultural research.
 - Junior Fellowship is provided to selected Fellows in the age group of 25 to 40 years in four equal six monthly installments @ Rs.10,000/- p.m for 02 years.
 - Upto 400 Senior & Junior Fellowships are awarded in one batch year. The Fellows are selected by an Expert Committee for Sr / Jr Fellowship constituted by the Ministry.
- About TNFCR
 - Under this scheme component, the candidates are selected under two categories viz. Tagore National Fellowship and Tagore Research Scholarship to work on cultural research by affiliation under different participating institutions in four different groups.
 - Selection of Fellows and Scholars are made by National Selection Committee (NSC).
 - Selected Fellows are paid financial assistance @Rs.80,000/- p.m. + Contingency Allowance and Scholars are paid @Rs.50,000/- p.m. + Contingency Allowance for a maximum period of 2 Years.
 - The financial assistance is released in four equal six monthly installments.
- Under the scheme of "Project Grants to Individuals for Research in the Performing Arts", the Sangeet Natak Akademi provides financial assistance to individuals on recommendation of the Advisory Committee.



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HYBRID GAMOSA

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Bangla Sahitya Sabha, Assam (BSSA) recently felicitated guests at a function with “hybrid gamosas” made up of Assamese gamosas and Bengali gamchhas cut in half and sewn together.
- The organisation issued an apology after a controversy erupted in the state over this.

Key Points

- The BSSA is a newly formed literary and cultural society with the aim of serving as a “meeting point for Bengalis of Assam”.

About Assamese Gamosas

- The traditional Assamese Gamosa/Gamusa or Gamucha is one of the most recognisable cultural symbols of Assam.
- It is a white rectangular piece of cloth with embroidered red borders. There are a total of nine types of Gamosas used for different occasions, and the most popular among them are the red and white ones with a Phulam known as the 'Gamocha design'.
- The word 'Gamusa' originated from the Sanskrit word “gatro Marjuni,” which translates to 'a cloth to wipe the body.'
- The Gamocha is also used during the Bihu festival, which is the most important festival of Assam.
- It was granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, which is a recognition of its origin and unique characteristics.



About Bengali Gamchhas

- Bengali Gamcha traditional handwoven cotton towel, which is an integral part of Assamese culture and tradition.
- It is a rectangular piece of cloth. It comes in a red-and-white chequered pattern.



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

QUICK FACTS



1. In a move that could potentially change the landscape of legal practice in the country, the **Bar Council of India (BCI)** has **allowed foreign lawyers** and law firms to practise in India. Although they cannot appear in court, they can advise clients on foreign law and work on corporate transactions. The Bar Council of India (BCI) has notified Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022, allowing foreign lawyers and law firms to practice in India.
2. The **Tribal Affairs Ministry** on March 15 insisted once again that the current procedure set out by the **Lokur Committee** for inclusion of communities in the Scheduled Tribes list was “adequate” and there is **no need for revision**. The Lokur Committee in 1965 decided whether a community could be included in the ST list. These criteria include - indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large, and backwardness.
3. Taking note of the **drastic cut** in allocation for the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation Scheme (MGNREGS)** in the Union Budget, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development questioned the government's rationale behind the reduction in the allocation for the scheme. The Budget Estimate for the MGNREGS was reduced by ₹29,400 crore for the 2023-24 fiscal year compared with the Revised Estimate of 2022-23.
4. **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has launched seven of its services (Current Weather, Nowcast, City Forecast, Rainfall Information, Tourism Forecast, Warnings and Cyclone) with '**UMANG**' mobile App for use by the public. Moreover, in 2020, IMD developed mobile App '**MAUSAM**' for weather forecasting, '**Meghdoot**' for Agromet advisory dissemination and '**Damini**' for the lightning alert.
5. The government of India allotted an amount of Rs. 2177 crore for implementation of the **Ocean Services, Modelling, Applications, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)** scheme during a period of 5 years i.e. 2021-22 to 2025-26. Various ocean observational platforms, including Argo floats, XBT/XCTDs, Wave Rider Buoys, Automatic Weather Stations, Drifters, Moored Buoys, Tide Gauges, and Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers, were deployed.
6. Stepping up from its ongoing initiative of providing potable water in **six islands of Lakshadweep** using **Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD)** technology, the **Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)** is working at making this process free of emissions. Currently the desalination plants, each of which provides at least 100,000 litres of potable water every day, are powered by diesel generator sets — there being no other source of power in the islands.
7. The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has launched the first series of **Lesson Plans** under Learning Science via Standards. This initiative focused on demonstrating the use of scientific concepts, principles and laws to help students understand their practical applications in manufacturing, functioning and testing of quality characteristics of different products. The Lesson Plans cover a wide range of subjects, including Cement, Football, Gas Stoves, Helmets, LED Bulbs, LPG Cylinders, and Pulverized Fuel Ash Cement Bricks.
8. **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** – NITI Aayog launched **ATL Sarthi**, a comprehensive self-monitoring framework to strengthen the ever-growing ecosystem of **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)**. AIM is establishing ATLs in schools across India to foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination in young minds; and inculcate skills such as design thinking mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing etc. As of date, AIM has funded 10,000 schools to establish ATLs.
9. Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)** have developed a **low-cost star sensor for astronomy and small CubeSat class** satellite missions. The star sensor named **Starberry-Sense** can help small CubeSat class satellite missions find their orientation in space. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) said that the Starberry-Sense is ready for launch on the PS4-Orbital Platform by ISRO and can be used for CubeSats and other small satellite missions in the future.
10. Border Roads Organisation (**BRO**) opened the strategic **Zojila Pass** on the **Greater Himalayan Range** on 16 March 2023. The pass at 11,650 feet which acts as a gateway between **Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir** was kept open for traffic till January 06, 2023 through relentless snow clearance operations. Likewise, **Razdan Pass** which provides the only road connectivity between the **Gurez Sector and the Kashmir Valley** has also been successfully reopened on 16 Mar





- 2023 after a gap of just 58 days. Other important passes at Sadhna, Pharkiyani Gali and Zamindar Gali have been kept open throughout the winter season.
11. **Horseshoe crabs**, medicinally priceless and one of **oldest living creatures** on the earth, appear to be disappearing from their familiar spawning grounds along **Chandipur and Balaramgadi coast in Odisha's Balasore district**. The blood of Horseshoe crab is very important for the preparation of rapid diagnostic reagent. All injectables and medicines are tested with the help of Horseshoe crabs.
 12. **INS Dronacharya**, the Gunnery School of the Indian Navy awarded the prestigious **President's Colour** on 16th March 23 by the President of India. The President's Colour or the Nishan is considered the highest honour that the Supreme Commander, President of India, bestows on a unit for its exceptional service to the Nation. INS Dronacharya is entrusted with the training of officers and sailors of the Navy, Coast Guard and friendly foreign maritime forces on all aspects of gunnery and missile warfare.
 13. An umbrella scheme **Research, Education and Training Outreach (REACHOUT)** is being implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences for capacity building. It consists of the following sub-schemes - R&D in Earth System Science (RDESS), International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOcean), and Program for Development of Skilled Manpower in Earth System Sciences (DESK).
 14. The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the 24th issue of the publication titled **"Women and Men in India 2022"**. The publication "Women and Men in India" is a comprehensive and insightful document that provides data on a wide range of topics such as education, health, employment, and political participation, among others. It presents data disaggregated by gender, urban-rural divide, and geographical region, which helps us understand the disparities that exist between different groups of women and men.
 15. **Inland Water Transport (IWT)** is the most economical mode of transportation, especially for bulk cargo like coal, iron ore, cement, food grains and fertiliser. Presently, it remains underutilised at a share of 2% in India's modal mix. The government intends to increase the **share of IWT to 5% as per Maritime India Vision (MIV)-2030**.
 16. Recently, the **dead coral reefs** were observed near Kurusadai, **Tamil Nadu**, one of the 21 uninhabited islands that form the **Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park** along the Tamil Nadu coastline, shows them to be grey and eerie. Corals usually come in shades of green, brown, pink, yellow, red or blue.
 17. **India** has gone from being a marginal sugar exporter five years ago to **No. 2 in the world**, behind **only Brazil**. Between 2017-18 and 2021-22, exports have soared from USD 810.9 million to USD 4.6 billion. Sugar exports may cross USD 5.5 billion in the current fiscal year.
 18. **Tamil Nadu** has pioneered an initiative across the State to reduce the mortality rate among people with tuberculosis. The initiative — **TN-KET (Tamil Nadu Kasanoi Erappila Thittam, meaning TB death-free project)** — which began in April 2022 in 2,500-odd public healthcare facilities that diagnosed TB in 30 districts, has already achieved significant reduction in the number of early TB deaths.
 19. The **President of India** inaugurated the silver jubilee celebration of 'Kudumbashree' - one of the world's largest women's self-help networks. She also launched 'Unnathi' – an umbrella programme to create opportunities for employment and self-employment among the youth belonging to SC and ST communities. She also witnessed the release of technical, engineering and diploma books translated into Malayalam.
 20. Under the **Namami Gange Program**, the development of river front on **River Gandak (Narayani River)** in the district of Gopalganj, Bihar has been undertaken, and two Ghats have been constructed at a total cost of Rs. 6.62 crore. River Gandak (Narayani River) was declared as **National Waterway (NW)-37 from Bhaissalotan Barrage to Gandak and Ganga river confluence** at Hajipur along with 111 NWs in the country vide National Waterways Act, 2016.
 21. The Government of India has launched a monthly allowance of **₹20,000** for up to one year for **women-led Startups** under the **'herSTART'** platform. The platform was introduced to promote women StartUps and to encourage women entrepreneurs. According to the government, at least 36 unicorns and potential unicorns in India has at least one woman founder or co-founder.





22. Carnatic vocalist **Bombay Jayashri** has been selected for the **Sangita Kalanidhi Award** of the **Music Academy for 2023**. The Nritiya Kalanidhi Award for dance will go to Vasanthalakshmi Narasimhachari. Sangita Kalanidhi Award is considered the highest accolade in the field of Carnatic music, and it came into **existence in 1942**. The award comprises a gold medal and a birudu patra (citation).
23. The **INS Androth**, the second in a series of **eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)**, was launched in Kolkata. It was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE). The primary role is to conduct anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, low-intensity maritime operations and mine-laying operations. The first ship of the series, the **INS Arnala**, was launched three months ago. INS Androth draws its name from the largest and longest island from **Andrott Island**, also known as Androth Island, in the **Lakshadweep archipelago**.
24. The **Kerala government** recently announced the **State's first Waste-To-Energy project** in Kozhikode. The planned facility is expected to be built in two years and generate about 6 MW of power.
25. The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** launched the '**City Finance Rankings 2022**'. The 'City Finance Rankings 2022' have been launched to evaluate, recognise and reward municipal bodies across the country on the basis of the quality of their current financial health and improvement over time in financial performance.
26. **Sarus Crane, Uttar Pradesh's state bird**, was recently rescued and transported to **Raebareli's Samaspur Bird Sanctuary**. The scientific name of Sarus Crane is *Grus Antigone*. It is the tallest flying bird in the world, standing 152-156 cm tall with a wingspan of 240cm. The sarus crane is listed in **Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972** and as **vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List.
27. **Konkan 2023**, a joint maritime exercise, was conducted between the **Royal Navy of Britain** and the **Indian Navy**, and it exhibited op-readiness, enhanced interoperability and conducted joint operations. The annual military drill was held from March 20 to 22, 2023 off the **Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea**.
28. The Government of India extended the **₹200 per LPG cylinder subsidy** under the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** by one year in the wake of high prices of petroleum products in the international market. PMUY is a government flagship scheme launched **in 2016** by the Government of India with the aim to make LPG available to economically weaker households in India.
29. The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has announced India's plan to become a global hub for **green shipbuilding by 2030** with the launch of the **Green Tug Transition Programme**. The Minister said the target has been set for the initial Green Tugs to start working in all major ports by 2025. At least, 50% of all the Tugs are likely to be converted into Green Tugs by 2030, which will considerably reduce emission as the country move towards achieving sustainable development. He also inaugurated **India's first National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS) in Gurugram, Haryana**.
30. The Central Government has launched the **National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP)** to prevent and control Rabies. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India jointly launched '**National Action Plan For Dog Mediated Rabies Elimination (NAPRE) from India by 2030**'. The Central Government has framed the **Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2023** which is to be implemented by the local authority to control the population of stray dogs.
31. The **first cable-stayed railway bridge** of India is expected to be ready by **May this year** on the **Anji river in Jammu and Kashmir**. Anji bridge between Katra and Reasi stations falls in the Reasi district of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The upcoming structure is part of the ambitious **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla-Rail Link (USBRL)** project.
32. India wrapped up the **Women's World Boxing Championships** in New Delhi with **four gold** medals. **Nikhat Zareen (2nd world title)**, **Lovlina Borgohain (1st world title)**, **Nitu Ghanghas**, and **Saweety Boora** won four gold medals for India. **Nikhat Zareen** has become only the **second Indian woman boxer after Mary Kom** to bag more than one world titles. The Women's World Boxing Championship was organised by the International Boxing Association (IBA).



33. A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said an **affinity test** is **not an essential** part of the process of the determination of the correctness of a **caste or tribe** claim in every case. An affinity test cannot be the litmus test to decide a caste claim. An affinity test mandates the study and preparation of a report by authorities on caste/tribe claims based on the peculiar anthropological and ethnological traits, deities, rituals, customs, mode of marriage, death ceremonies, methods of burial of dead bodies, etc, of the particular caste or tribe and the applicants knowledge of them.
34. As per the **Ministry of Education**, after nearly two decades, school students at all levels will learn from updated textbooks to be **introduced in the 2024-25 academic** year. This is in keeping with the **National Education Policy 2020** and **National Curriculum Framework (NCF)** released in August 2022. Currently, the government has released NCF for pre-school to Class 2, for children aged between three and eight years.
35. The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** is planning to issue **Heat Index (HI)** readings for weather stations across the country, including Delhi, this summer, as well as colour-coded forecasts in addition to the day's maximum and minimum temperatures. The IMD has conducted a study on the impact of meteorological factors on heatwaves and the "heat wave hazard zonation" of the country. Heat Index will calculate the temperature along with the humidity levels to provide a more accurate measure of what the temperature actually feels like.
36. The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**, in March 2023, imposed a penalty of Rs 10 crore on the Kerala government for failing to protect the **Vembanad** and **Ashtamudi lakes**, which are included in the **Ramsar list of wetlands**. The two wetlands have long been susceptible to massive encroachments, pollution and depletion of ecosystems.
37. The **Indian Coast Guard** conducted **Regional Search and Rescue exercise during 28 -29 March 2023 at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh**. The aim of the exercise was to simulate a real time maritime distress scenario and highlight the functioning of Search and Rescue (SAR) organisation for a mass rescue operation. The exercise involved all stakeholders with effective use of available resources towards **M-SAR (Maritime Search and Rescue)** contingency efficiently.



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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

QUICK FACTS



1. **India and Australia** have reached a major milestone in working towards investment in **critical minerals** projects to develop supply chains between the two countries. Critical minerals are elements that are the building blocks of essential modern-day technologies and are at risk of supply chain disruptions.
2. Every year on **March 14**, the **International Day of Action for Rivers** is observed to promote awareness of the importance of the river systems on the planet earth. This year marks the 26th International Day of Action for Rivers. The focus is given to river protection with the involvement of the community.
3. The **United States, Canada, India, Japan, and South Korea** conducted joint anti-submarine warfare drills. These drills aimed at strengthening their alliance with Washington against threats from China and North Korea. **The Sea Dragon 23 exercises** were also conducted as part of it.
4. Scientists discovered evidence of **active volcanoes on Venus**, also known as **Earth's "twin"**, while closely studying the archival images of the planet. The images were captured by **NASA Magellan spacecraft** in the early 1990s while it was circling the planet. A new analysis of the perspective of the orbiter of a region close to the Venusian equator revealed a volcanic vent which changed shape and increased in size in the period of eight months.
5. The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russian official Maria Lvova-Belova for an alleged scheme to deport Ukrainian children to Russia. This is the first time the ICC has issued an arrest warrant against one of the five permanent United Nations Security Council members.
6. **OpenAI** has introduced its **ChatGPT Plus subscription for Indian users**. The new premium version of ChatGPT will be based on the **latest GPT-4 language model**. The ChatGPT Plus edition was listed in India days before its official announcement. Now, Indian users will have early access to new features including GPT-4.
7. The **International Day of Forests**, also known as **World Forests Day** is celebrated each year on **March 21** to raise awareness about the importance of forests and trees for the survival of humanity and the planet. The **theme for 2023 is 'forests and health.'** The history of the International Day of Forests can be traced back to 1971 when the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) established World Forestry Day.
8. According to the **tenth Global Terrorism Index (GTI)** report, **Afghanistan** continues to be the country most affected by terrorism for the 4th year in a row, even though attacks and deaths have decreased. India ranked **13th on the index**, marking only a marginal decrease from the previous year. The GTI report is produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) using data from TerrorismTracker and other sources.
9. **India and the Maldives** conducted the **4th Defence Cooperation Dialogue (DCD)** in **Male** on March 19, 2023. This DCD is the highest institutionalised interactive mechanism between the two countries. During the interaction, ongoing bilateral defence cooperation activities were reviewed and both sides expressed satisfaction at the increasing engagements.
10. Every year on **March 20**, people celebrate **World Sparrow Day**. It is designated to raise awareness about sparrow conservation and protection, as their numbers are declining globally. The first commemoration of the day occurred in **2010**. The **theme** of World Sparrow Day 2023 is **"I Love Sparrows"**, with the goal of encouraging more people to appreciate the relationship between humans and sparrows.
11. **World Water Day (WWD)** is celebrated on **22nd March** Every Year. The theme for WWD 2023 is **'Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis'**, emphasising the necessity of taking stern action to address the global water crisis. According to the United Nations, the idea behind celebrating the day is to "support the achievement of sustainable development goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030."
12. **World Down Syndrome Day** is observed on **21 March** each year in order to raise public awareness of Down syndrome. The day has been celebrated since 2012 with the recommendation of the United Nations General Assembly. The **Theme** for World Down Syndrome Day 2023 is **"With Us Not for Us"**. Down syndrome happens when an extra copy of the 21st chromosome leads to physical and intellectual disabilities.
13. **March 21**, globally is marked as the **International Day for the Elimination against Racism**. The 2023 theme of International Day focuses on the urgency of combatting racism and racial discrimination **75 years** after the adoption of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**.





14. **World Meteorological Day** is celebrated globally on **23rd March** to commemorate the establishment of the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, which was created in **1950**. This year marks WMO's 150th anniversary. The **theme** for World Meteorological Day 2023 is **"The future of weather, climate, and water across generations."**
15. **World TB Day** is observed annually on **March 24** to raise awareness about TB and efforts to end the global epidemic, marking the day in 1882 when the bacterium causing TB was discovered. The **theme for 2023** is **'Yes! We can end TB!'**. **India aims** to make the nation TB-free by **2025**, whereas the **Global Target for TB** elimination is **2030**.
16. **North Korea** claimed to have tested a nuclear-capable underwater drone designed to generate a gigantic **"radioactive tsunami"** that would destroy naval strike groups and ports. The drone **named "Haeil,"** a Korean word meaning tidal waves or tsunamis designed to generate a gigantic **"radioactive tsunami"**. A radioactive tsunami is a speculative phenomenon that could occur if a nuclear explosion occurred underwater.
17. **Luis Caffarelli** has won the **2023 Abel Prize** "for his seminal contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations including free-boundary problems and the Monge-Ampère equation". First **awarded in 2003**, the Abel Prize "recognises pioneering scientific achievements in mathematics". It is named after Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel (1802-29), who, in his short life, made pioneering contributions in a multitude of fields. It is often considered to be an **equivalent of the Nobel Prize** – which does not have a category for mathematics – and has been modelled as such.
18. Recently, five planets - **Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Uranus** aligned near the **moon** in the sky which is often called a planetary parade or alignment. The last time these five planets aligned was in **2004**. A similar alignment occurred in **June 2022**, where five planets - **Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn** - aligned. However, this lineup will not occur again until 2040.
19. **California** has experienced an exceptionally wet winter, with **11 atmospheric rivers** battering the State since late December. Atmospheric rivers are relatively long, narrow regions in the atmosphere – like rivers in the sky – that transport most of the water vapour outside of the tropics. One well-known atmospheric river called the **"Pineapple Express"** picks up warm, moist air near Hawaii. When the Pineapple Express hits land in the Western United States and Canada, it can cause heavy rain and snow. In California, it can cause up to 5 inches of rain in a day.
20. **Earth Hour** is a special global event. It is held annually to raise awareness about the importance of protecting our planet. The event is a timely reminder of the need to take action on climate change. It is organised on **the last Saturday of March** as a symbol of commitment to the planet. **Earth Hour 2023** took place on **Saturday, 25th March** at 8:30pm.
21. On March 29, **Saudi Arabia's cabinet** has approved a memorandum on granting the kingdom the status of a **dialogue partner in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**. **Iran** also signed documents for full membership last year. Dialogue partner status will be a first step within the organisation before granting the kingdom full membership in the mid-term. The SCO was **formed in 2001** by Russia, China, and former Soviet states in Central Asia, and has since expanded to include India and Pakistan.



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

QUICK FACTS



1. **Bumchu** is an annual holy water vase ritual commemorated in **Tashiding Monastery**, one of the most sacred Buddhist pilgrimage sites, located on a hilltop overlooking the **Rangiet River** in **Sikkim**. Bumchu means “pot of sacred water” in Tibetan. The water inside the vase is shared among the worshippers. The water is thought to have healing qualities and to grant luck and riches to those who drink it.
2. India mooted an action plan to mark 2023 as the year of tourism development in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (**SCO**) region at the **tourism ministers' conference in Varanasi**. The meeting also adopted the Action Plan for '**Year of Tourism Development in the SCO Space in 2023**'. Interestingly, **Kashi** has been declared as **the first tourism and cultural capital of SCO**. The **next meeting of the SCO Heads of Tourism Administrations** will be held in **Kazakhstan** in **2024**.
3. **Matua mela** was organised in West Bengal to celebrate the **212th birth anniversary of Sri Sri Harichand Thakur**, the founder of the Matua sect. Harichand Thakur was born in peasant farmer family of the Thakur community (SC community). He founded a sect of Vaishnavite Hinduism called 'Matua'. This was adopted by members of the Namasudra community, also known as Chandalas and considered untouchable.
4. **March 23** is celebrated as **Martyrs' Day** or **Shaheed Diwas** to commemorate the martyrdom of Bhagat Singh, Shivram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar, who were hanged to death by the Britishers. The trio was found guilty of the murder of deputy police superintendent JP Saunders in 1928, to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.
5. Home Minister Amit Shah e-inaugurated **Mata Sharda Devi temple**. Sharda Peeth, a revered site for the Hindu community, is located in Neelum Valley in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) across Teetwal village in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, along the Line of Control (LoC). The idol of Sharda Maa was donated by the Sringeri Math on January 24. It is one of the **18 Maha Shakti Peethas** and is considered to be the abode of the **Hindu Goddess Saraswati**. Sharda peeth is the most revered religious place for Kashmiri Pandits.
6. A site located in Arizona, United States and sacred to the Hopi Native American Nation has been awarded a '**Water and Heritage Shield**' by the International Committee On Monuments and Sites International Science Committee. The Shield was awarded to the **Black Mesa Trust (BMT)**, a Hopi grassroots organisation, on **March 25, 2023**. The purpose of the Shield is to help the public become aware of the significance of water and indigenous sacred sites all over the world and the right to cultural and historical memory.
7. The Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Area (**SHRESHTA**) and Support for Marginalised Individual for Livelihood and Enterprise (**SMILE**) are being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. SHRESHTA provides financial assistance to NGOs for education projects related to students belonging to Scheduled Castes, with three types of projects covered they are Residential Schools, Non-Residential Schools, and Hostels, both for Primary and Secondary Students. The scheme has been revised, and a new component, Mode-I, has been added for quality residential education for meritorious SC students in top-class residential High Schools through a nationwide entrance test conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA). SMILE, on the other hand, supports marginalised individuals for livelihood and enterprise but does not specifically cover persons belonging to Scheduled Castes.
8. On **March 30, 2023**, the death anniversary of Shri **Shyamji Krishna Varma** was commemorated. Shyamji Krishna Varma was a prominent Indian revolutionary who played a significant role in the country's freedom struggle against British colonial rule. He was known for his strong nationalist ideals and courage, which inspired many other leaders of the time. He also established the Indian Home Rule Society in London, which provided a platform for Indian students to voice their opposition to British rule.
9. **Tiwa tribesmen in Assam** celebrate the **Yangli festival** once every three years to mark the beginning of the sowing season. The Yangli festival, which is related to agriculture, is a significant event for the Tiwas as farming is the main source of income for their community. During the festival, the Tiwas perform dances and offer prayers for a successful harvest, seeking protection for their crops from pests and natural calamities.





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TEST ZONE



PASSAGE - 1

Three States have commenced joint action to stop illegal sand mining in the National Chambal Sanctuary, situated at the trijunction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and [1], which is known for its population of critically endangered gharials. The Chambal River cuts through the mazes of ravines and hills in the sanctuary.

Coordination among the three States was discussed at a high-level meeting in Jaipur on Tuesday with emphasis on protecting the fragile lotic ecosystem critical for breeding of gharials, which are fish-eating crocodiles. Illegal sand mining is threatening flora and fauna in some parts of the sanctuary.

Rajasthan Chief Secretary Usha Sharma said a prompt exchange of information among the officials would help prevent the mining activities, while manual checking of vulnerable places would stop the entry of people with questionable credentials. The sanctuary is listed as an 'Important Bird and Biodiversity Area' and is also a proposed Ramsar site. About 320 species of resident and migratory birds inhabit the sanctuary, and migratory birds from Siberia form part of its rich avian fauna.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Three States begin joint action to stop illegal sand mining in the Chambal sanctuary", The Hindu]

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

A Uttar Pradesh

B Gujarat

C Haryana

D Chhattisgarh

2. 'Important Bird and Biodiversity Area' is a programme of –

A Bombay Natural History Society

B World Wide Fund for Nature

C Birdlife International

D International Union for Conservation of Nature

3. Which state is known as the 'Tiger State' of India?

A Uttarakhand

B Madhya Pradesh

C Karnataka

D Maharashtra

4. Which Indian state has the maximum number of Ramsar Sites?

A Uttar Pradesh

B Rajasthan

C Madhya Pradesh

D Tamil Nadu

5. Where does the river Chambal originate?

A Rajasthan

B Uttar Pradesh

C Madhya Pradesh

D Haryana

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

Answers

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PASSAGE - 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to work collectively towards tuberculosis (TB) elimination in the spirit of Jan Bhaagidari on a war footing and inaugurated the One World TB Summit 2023. The PM unveiled the “Annual India TB Report 2023” which is a compilation of the country's efforts towards making India TB-free by [1]. He launched a training module on extrapulmonary TB. The module is developed to train healthcare workers of secondary and tertiary levels of India's public and private sectors.

The PM also launched the TB-Mukt Panchayat initiative to leverage the support of over 2.5 lakh gram panchayats to raise awareness about TB, eliminate the stigma attached to the disease and help monitor and improve the uptake of services. A new treatment preventive therapy was also launched to prevent the development of active TB — thereby stemming the spread of the disease.

PM Modi also laid the foundation stone of the National Centre for Disease Control & High Containment Laboratory and inaugurated the site for the Metropolitan Public Health Surveillance Unit in Varanasi. States and districts were also awarded by the PM for making significant progress on key programmatic indicators. Karnataka and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir were awarded in the category of States/UTs and the Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu), Pulwama (J&K) and Anantnag (J&K) were given the district-level awards.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: “PM inaugurates One World TB Summit 2023, urges collective war footing approach in TB elimination”, The Economic Times]

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

A 2030

B 2025

C 2035

D 2040

2. 'World TB Day' is observed annually on –

A 24 March

B 25 March

C 26 March

D 27 March

3. Which city has been declared as the first-ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital?

A Shanghai

B Kazan

C Varanasi

D Astana

4. The 'Global Plan to End TB' is a plan for ending TB as a public health challenge by –

A 2025

B 2035

C 2040

D 2030

5. In _____, the Government of India launched a scheme called the 'Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana' under the same National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

A 2016

B 2018

C 2020

D 2022

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

Answers

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PASSAGE - 3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted Japan's Prime Minister [1], who is on a two-day visit to India, a sandalwood statue of Lord Buddha from [2] in a Kadamwoodi Jali box. The front side of the statue depicts Lord Buddha in a meditative state, with the Bodhi tree being carved on the back side of the statue. The art of sandalwood carving is an exquisite art that has been practised in [2] for centuries.

The craft involves carving intricate designs into blocks of fragrant sandalwood and creating intricate sculptures, figurines & other decorative items. Its earliest origins can be traced back to the third century BCE, when sandalwood was used to make wooden idols and carvings for temples and other religious sites. These sandalwood carvings of Buddha are highly valued by collectors and spiritual seekers alike.

Japan's Prime Minister arrived in Delhi today morning to up bilateral ties in a range of areas and explore the convergence between India's presidency of G20 and Japan's presidency of the G7 to address various global problems. Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to India's G20 Presidency and Japan's G7 presidency as the best opportunity to work for the global good. Prime Minister [1] said he will unveil on "Indian soil" his plan for a free-and-open Indo-Pacific amid China's aggressive behaviour in the region.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "PM Modi Gifts Japan PM Sandalwood Lord Buddha Statue From [2]", by Divyam Sharma, NDTV]

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

A Yoshihide Suga

B Shinzo Abe

C Naruhito

D Funio Kishida

2. The name of which state has been replaced with '[2]' in the passage above?

A Karnataka

B Andhra Pradesh

C Kerala

D Tamil Nadu

3. Which country is not a member of G7?

A Germany

B Italy

C Russia

D Japan

4. One of the primary objectives of the QUAD is to work for a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. QUAD was formalised by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in-

A 2007

B 2017

C 2021

D 2022

5. _____ is sometimes called as 'Gandhara Gudi' or the land of sandalwood.

A Tamil Nadu

B Karnataka

C Kerala

D Andhra Pradesh

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

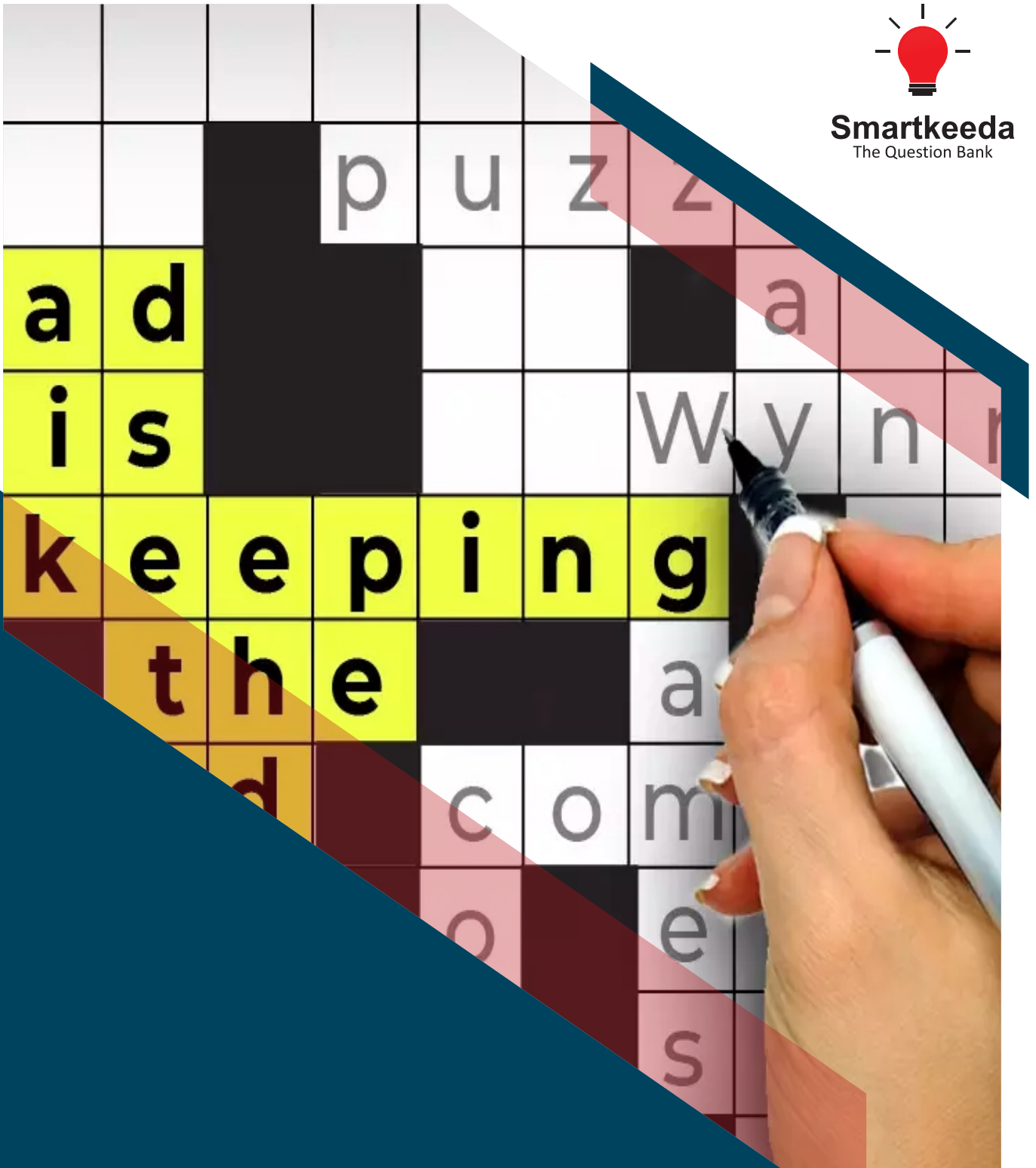
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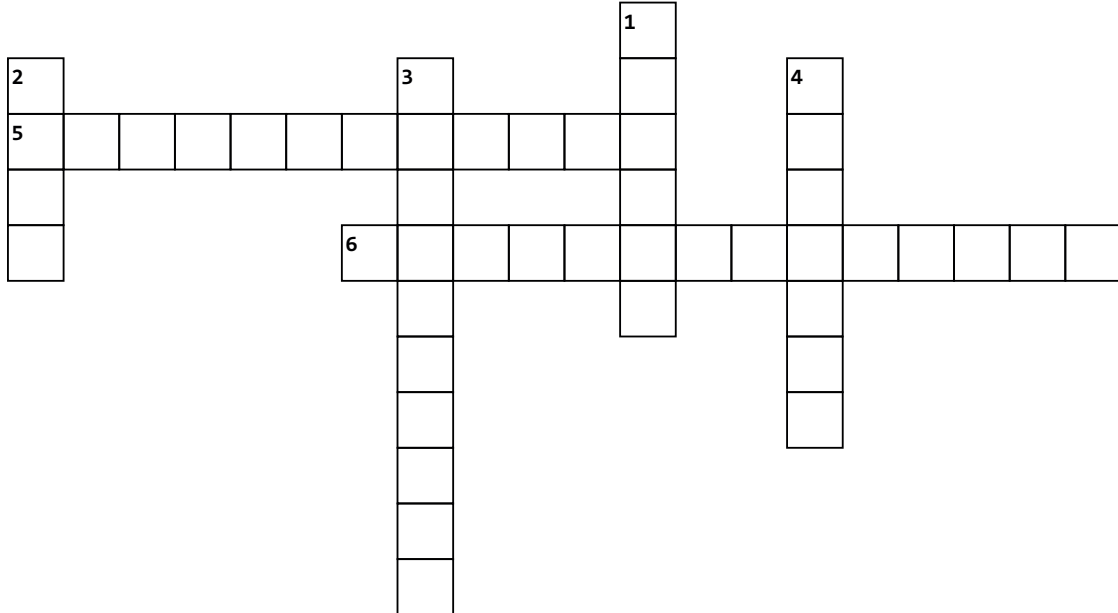
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The Question Bank



CROSSWORD CORNER



CROSSWORD - 1



Across

5. Won the second Women's World Boxing Championships
6. Winner of 2023 Abel Prize

Down

1. Maritime exercise between the Royal Navy of Britain and the Indian Navy
2. India's first cable-stayed railway bridge
3. Uttar Pradesh's state bird
4. World Water Day

Answers

6 Luis Caffarelli
5 Nikhat Zareen
4 22 March

3 Sarus Crane
2 Anji
1 Konkan

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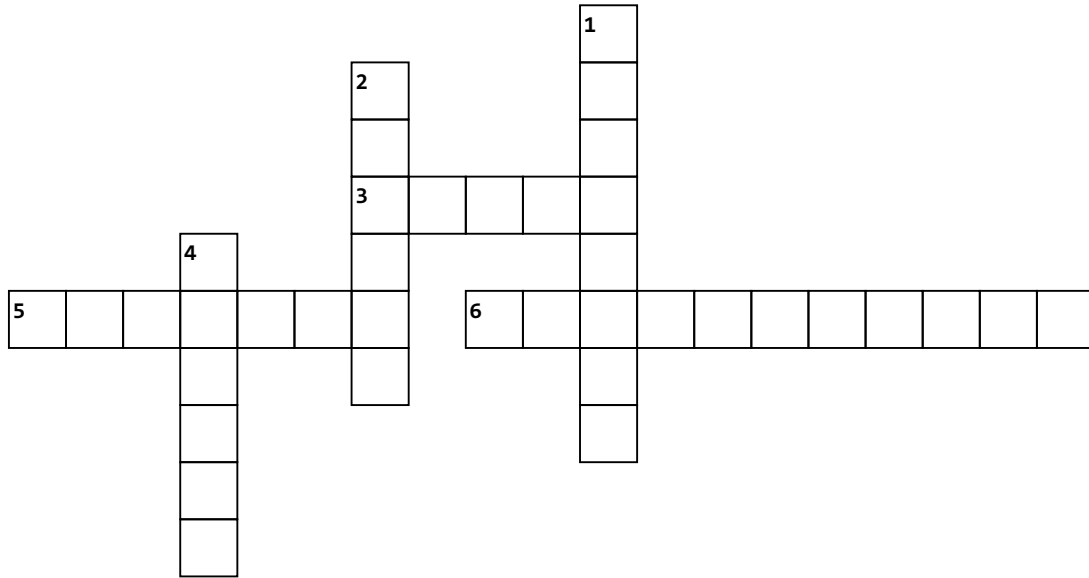
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CROSSWORD - 2



Across

3. Mela organised in West Bengal to celebrate the 212th birth anniversary of Sri Sri Harichand Thakur
5. Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Diwas
6. Located in Neelum Valley in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK)

Down

1. First tourism and cultural capital of SCO
2. Festival celebrated at Tashiding Monastery, Sikkim
4. Festival celebrated by Tiwa tribesmen in Assam

Answers

6 Sharda Peeth
5 23 March
4 Yangli

3 Matua
2 Bumchu
1 Varanasi



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