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AFFAIRS BOOSTER FOR LAW EXAMS

LawEx

16-31 APRIL, 2023

ISSUE - 05



[Cover Story]

SAURASHTRA TAMIL SANGAMAM



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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

Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam held in Gujarat, National Quantum Mission approved by the Union Cabinet, India is set to overtake China to become the world’s most populous country in the middle of 2023, West Bengal tops in terms of the number of water bodies among states. For more information, keep reading.

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The Question Bank



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

QUICK BOOSTERS



SAURASHTRA TAMIL SANGAMAM

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India addressed the closing ceremony of Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam via video conferencing.

Background

- The genesis of the programme lies in the vision of the Prime Minister of promoting the spirit of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" through initiatives which bring out and help rediscover the age-old links between people in different parts of the country. With this in mind, the Kashi Tamil Sangamam and the Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam organised by the government.
- Centuries ago, many people migrated to Tamil Nadu from the Saurashtra region and establish new settlements in Tamil Nadu's districts around Madurai, now known as Tamil Saurashtrian.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The initiative 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' was launched on 31st October, 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- Ministry of Education in collaboration with MyGov has developed a mobile app 'Bhasha Sangam' under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, to foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat by enabling people across India to learn different languages of different states of India and come closer to their culture.
- The Statue of Unity, tallest statue in the world, was inaugurated on 31st October, 2018 to mark the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Patel. In January 2020, it was added in the 'Eight Wonders' of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Key Points

- Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam was similar to the Kashi Tamil Sangamam.
- The Gujarat government organised the 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam' during which thousands of people in the southern State, with roots in Saurashtra, visited the places of their ancestors in special trains organised by the Government of India.
- The 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam' described as the "confluence of nationalist fervour of Sardar Patel and (famed Tamil poet) Subramania Bharati.
- The Sangamam aimed to highlight India's cultural diversity and strength and reconnect people with pilgrimage destinations and cultural heritage.

**Experience the Spiritual Harmony
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**सौराष्ट्र तमिल संगम
செளராஷ்டிர தமிழ் சங்கமம்**

Date
17th April to
26th April 2023

Venue
Somnath, Dwarka,
Statue of Unity (Gujarat)

#STSangamam

For More Detail: saurashtra.nitt.edu

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DIGITAL HEALTH SUMMIT 2023

WHY IN NEWS?

- Digital Health Summit 2023 was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and co-branded with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at Goa.

Theme

- The theme of the event was 'Building One Health together – Improving Health equity', with the objective of bringing together policy makers, industry leaders, and global healthcare experts and thought leaders to deliberate upon key issues confronting the digital health space.

Key Points

- This Summit aligns with India's G20 Health Working Group agenda on Digital Health Innovations and solutions to aid Universal Health Coverage and improve healthcare service delivery towards One Earth, One Family, One Future.
- The Summit highlights the importance of digital health innovations. Digital innovations are powering game changers in exponential medicine, including 3D printing, point-of-care diagnostics, robots, bioinformatics, and genomics.
- It emphasised the need for "citizen-centric" digital health systems with equitable access to high-quality treatments.
- Emerging technologies like AI, the Internet of Things (IoT), Blockchain, 3-D printing in medical device manufacturing, etc., can help create a more holistic health ecosystem that improves health outcomes.
- It also highlighted that health tech is the most significant aspect of the fourth Industrial Revolution, and taking preemptive steps remains the key.

What is Digital Healthcare?

- It is a system of medical care delivery that uses an array of digital technologies to make quality medical care services accessible, affordable, and sustainable.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), e-Sanjeevani Teleconsultation service, Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and CoWIN are the government initiatives related to digital health.
- The WHO Global Strategy on Digital Health, adopted in 2020 by the World Health Assembly, presents a roadmap to link the latest developments in innovation and digital health, and put these tools to action in order to improve health outcomes.



AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION

PM NARENDRA MODI TO ANNOUNCE
nationwide rollout on September 27

- Under this, **a unique digital health ID will be provided**, which will contain all the **health records of the person**
- This health account will contain details of **every test, every disease, the doctors visited, the medicines taken and the diagnosis**
- National digital health mission includes **health ID, Digi doctor, telemedicine, e-Pharmacy, healthcare registry & personal health records digitally store**

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NATIONAL QUANTUM MISSION

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister, approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) at a total cost of Rs.6003.65 crore from 2023-24 to 2030-31.

Key Features of NQM

- Four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) will be set up in top academic and National R&D institutes in the domains–
 - I. Quantum Computing
 - II. Quantum Communication
 - III. Quantum Sensing & Metrology
 - IV. Quantum Materials & Devices
 - The hubs will focus on generating new knowledge through basic and applied research and promote R&D in areas that are mandated to them.
- The new mission targets developing “intermediate scale” quantum computers with 20-50 physical 'qubits' in three years, 50-100 physical qubits in five years and 50-1,000 physical qubits in eight years in various platforms like supercomputing and photonic technology.
- The NQM will also help develop–
 - Satellite-based secure quantum communications between ground stations over a range of 2000 kilometres within India
 - Long-distance secure quantum communications with other countries
 - Inter-city quantum key distribution over 2000 km
 - Multi-node Quantum networks with quantum memories
- The mission will help develop magnetometers with high sensitivity in atomic systems and Atomic Clocks for precision timing, communications and navigation.
- The NQM will also support the design and synthesis of quantum materials such as superconductors, novel semiconductor structures and topological materials for the fabrication of quantum devices.
- Single photon sources/detectors and entangled photon sources will also be developed for quantum communications, sensing and metrological applications.

About NQM

- The NQM aims to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT).
- The NQM is the only mission, so far, wherein Indian scientists will develop indigenous technology, systems, devices, and materials required to propel research and development in quantum technology.
- Though India will need international cooperation, it will be mainly for knowledge exchange.
- The NQM will be implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) between 2023-24 and 2030-31 under the Ministry of Science & Technology.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Just like bits (1 and 0) are the basic units by which computers process information, 'qubits' or 'quantum bits' are the units of the process by quantum computers.
- India's first quantum computing-based telecom network link is now operational between Sanchar Bhawan and the National Informatics Centre office located in CGO Complex in New Delhi.
- India will be the seventh country to have a dedicated quantum mission after the US, Austria, Finland, France, Canada and China.
- The physicists Alain Aspect, John Clauser and Anton Zeilinger have won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics for experiments that proved the profoundly strange quantum nature of reality. Their experiments collectively established the existence of a quantum phenomenon known as entanglement, where two widely separated particles appear to share information despite having no conceivable way of communicating.



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CABINET DECISIONS

19 April 2023

National Quantum Mission

Cabinet approves National Quantum Mission



Benefits

- » Seeding, nurturing and scaling-up scientific and industrial R&D
- » Creation of vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology
- » Acceleration of QT led economic growth
- » Making India a leading nation in development of quantum technologies & applications

4/4

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INDIA'S STAND ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

WHY IN NEWS?

- A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court (SC), headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, recently began hearing a batch of petitions seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage.

Background

- The petitioners cited the Special Marriage Act, 1954, which provides a civil marriage for couples who cannot marry under their personal law, and appealed to the Court to extend the right to the LGBTQIA+ community, by making the “marriage between any two persons” gender neutral.

What is Civil Union?

- A “civil union” refers to the legal status that allows same-sex couples specific rights and responsibilities normally conferred upon married couples.
- Although a civil union resembles a marriage and brings with it employment, inheritance, property, and parental rights, there are some differences between the two.

Difference Between Civil Union and Marriage

- These civil unions would be accompanied by rights such as inheritance rights, employment benefits to spouses, joint parenting or joint ownership rights, and the right to abstain from testifying against one's partner — similar to the spousal privilege given under Section 122 of the Indian Evidence Act, when it comes to disclosure of communication between two spouses.
- A big difference between civil unions and marriages was that the former was recognised solely by issuing states and not by federal law. This created a situation where such couples could not enjoy the benefits of being in a civil union, uniformly, across all states. Since the US had a system where states had to determine their own marriage laws, this disparity of recognition existed.
- In the wake of the legalisation of same sex marriages, several civil unions were converted into marriages.

Centre's Stand

- The Centre has opposed same-sex marriage and said judicial interference would cause “complete havoc with the delicate balance of personal laws”.
- The government said that decriminalisation of Section 377 (Navtej Singh Johar -2018) IPC does not give rise to a claim to seek recognition for same-sex marriage.
- The Centre contested the maintainability of the petitions, and also the judiciary's right to confer legal recognition on the “socio-legal institution” of marriage. However, the CJ clarified that the hearing's scope would be limited to developing a notion of a “civil union” that finds legal recognition under the Special Marriage Act.

DID YOU KNOW?

- *KS Puttaswamy v Union of India, 2017* - Supreme Court held that the Sexual Orientation of any individual comes under his/her Right to Privacy. This Landmark judgement became the basis of declaring Sec 377 of IPC – under which Homosexuality was a crime – unconstitutional.
- *Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India, 2018* - The Supreme Court struck down the Sec 377 of IPC to the extent it criminalized homosexuality.
- *Deepika Singh vs Central Administrative Services, 2022* - In this case, the Supreme Court expanded the definition of a family and observed that familial relationships may also include unmarried partnerships or queer relationships and these atypical families should enjoy equal protection and benefits under the law.
- Moreover, the Supreme Court in various judgements such as *Lata Singh vs State of UP (2006)*, *Safin Jahan vs Ashokan (2018)*, *Shakti Vahini vs Union of India (2018)* and *Laxmibai Chandarangi vs State of Karnataka (2021)* has held that choosing a life partner is a Fundamental Right under Article 21.

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STATE OF WORLD POPULATION REPORT 2023 : UNFPA

WHY IN NEWS?

- The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has released its "State of World Population Report, 2023 - '8 Billion Lives, Infinite Possibilities'".

Key Findings

- The population of the world is 8,045 million, of which the largest share (65%) is of people between the ages of 15 and 64 years, followed by those in the 10-24 years group (24%). 10 per cent of the population is above 65 years of age.
- The world's two most populous regions are Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, with 2.3 billion people, representing 29 per cent of the global population; and Central and Southern Asia, with 2.1 billion (26 per cent).
- China and India accounted for the largest populations in these regions, with more than 1.4 billion each in 2022.
- Central and Southern Asia is expected to become the most populous region in the world by 2037.
- The global population could grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 10.4 billion in 2100.
- More than half of the projected increase in global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in eight countries — the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- Countries of sub-Saharan Africa are expected to continue growing through 2100 and to contribute more than half of the global population increase anticipated through 2050.

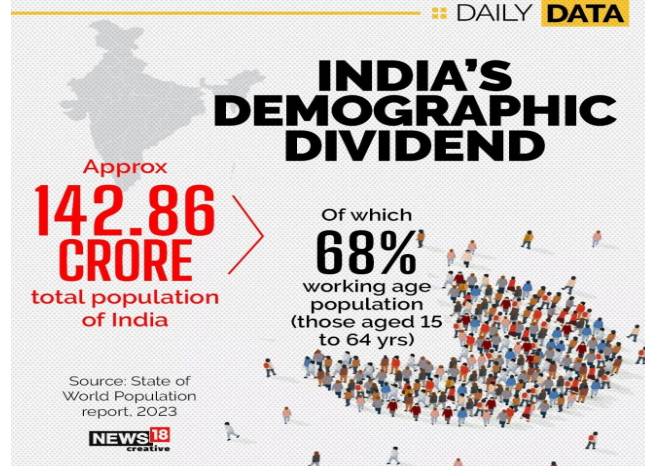
India's Performance

- India is set to overtake China to become the world's most populous country by the middle of 2023. India's population is pegged to reach 142.86 crore against China's 142.57 crore. This shows India will have 29 lakh more people than its Asian neighbour.
- As much as 68% of India's population belongs to the 15-64 years category and 26% in the 10-24 years group, making India one of the youngest countries in the world.
- The fertility rate in India has been steadily dropping. The National Family Health 5 Survey (2019-21) found that India attained a Total Fertility Rate of 2.0 for the first time, less than the replacement level of 2.1, falling from 2.2 in NFHS 4 (2015-16).

DID YOU KNOW?

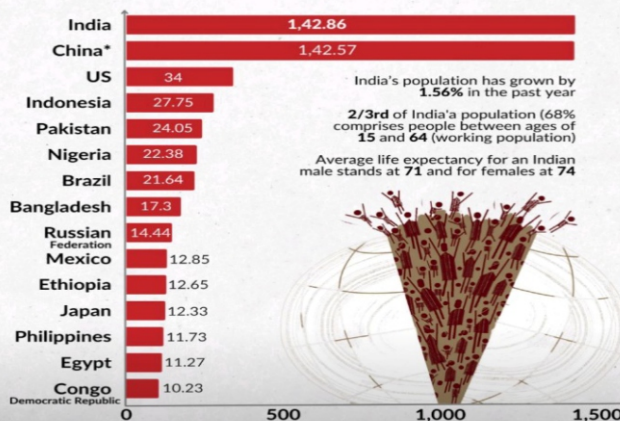
- The United States is a third-populated country, with a population of 340 million.
- Life expectancy for men in India is the same as the global life expectancy of 71 years, while it is marginally lower for women at 74 years.
- Globally, life expectancy among men now stands at 71 years, while among women, it stands at 76 years.
- UNFPA is a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly, and the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) establishes its mandate.

DAILY DATA



India is the most populous nation

Countries with population of over 10 crore:



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SANGATHAN SE SAMRIDDI CAMPAIGN

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Ministry of Rural Development's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) launched "Sangathan Se Samridhhi- Leaving no Rural Woman Behind", a national campaign under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Samaveshi Vikaas.

Key Points

- The campaign's primary objective is to mobilise disadvantaged rural communities unaware of the benefits of the DAY-NRLM program. It includes the mobilisation of ten crore women from eligible rural households.
- The campaign will be organised in all states, with the expectation of forming more than 1.1 lakh SHGs during the period through interventions like-
- Organising General Body Meetings of Village Organizations
- Experience sharing by SHG champions to motivate left out households to join SHGs
- Community Resource Person drives
- Mobilising eligible women from PMAY-G beneficiary households, training new SHG members, reviving defunct SHGs
- Opening SHG bank accounts and creation of a common database of SHGs promoted by other stakeholders

Need

- The rural population accounts for 65% of India's total population. Hence, it is extremely important that women from these areas are accorded all possible opportunities to enable them to contribute significantly into making our country a 5 trillion economy.
- When ten crore women become SHG members, it will automatically have a considerable effect on the country's GDP.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a Centrally Sponsored Programme. It was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2011.

Sub-components of (DAY-NRLM)

- Mahila Kisan Shashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)
- Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)
- Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)
- Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY)
- Rural Self Employment Institutes (RSETIs)

Ministry of Rural Development
Government of India

G20
INDIA 2023

MILLETS
2023

LIFE
Lifestyle for Environment

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav
• Inclusive Development

Sangathan Se Samridhhi
Leaving no rural woman behind
Launch Date : 18th April, 2023
Mobilizing 10 crore rural women
into SHGs by 2023-24

#SangathanSeSamridhhi #InclusiveDevelopment #SamaveshiVikas #amritMahotsav #AKAM

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FIRST CENSUS OF WATER BODIES IN INDIA

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the first Census of Water Bodies in convergence with the sixth Minor Irrigation (MI) Census under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Irrigation Census", a comprehensive database of ponds, tanks, lakes, and reservoirs in the country.
- The Census was conducted in 2018-19 and enumerated more than 2.4 million water bodies across all states and Union Territories.

Key Findings of the Census

Total water bodies -

- 24,24,540 water bodies have been enumerated in the country, out of which 97.1% (23,55,055) are in rural areas and only 2.9% (69,485) are in urban areas.
- Top five States in terms of the number of water bodies are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam, which constitute around 63% of the total water bodies in the country.
- Top five States in terms of the number of water bodies in urban areas are West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura.
- Top five States in terms of the number of water bodies in rural areas are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam.

Ownership-

- 55.2% of water bodies are owned by private entities, whereas 44.8% of water bodies are in the domain of public ownership.
- Top five States which lead in the private owned water bodies are West Bengal, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand

Under Pisciculture and Irrigation-

- Most of the water bodies are used in pisciculture, followed by irrigation, ground water recharge and domestic/drinking purpose.
- Top five States wherein major use of water bodies is in pisciculture are West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- Top five States wherein the major use of water bodies is in irrigation are Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal and Gujarat.

Man-made and Natural-

- 78% of water bodies are man-made water bodies, whereas 22% are natural water bodies.

Encroachment of Water Bodies-

- 1.6% (38,496) water bodies out of all the enumerated water bodies are reported to be encroached out of which 95.4% are in rural areas and remaining 4.6% in urban areas.
- Uttar Pradesh accounted for almost 40% (15,301) of water bodies under encroachment, followed by Tamil Nadu (8,366) and Andhra Pradesh (3,920).
- No encroachment was reported from West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Chandigarh.

WATERBODY COUNT

STATES WITH MOST WATERBODIES

State	No. of water bodies
West Bengal	7,47,480
Uttar Pradesh	2,45,087
Andhra Pradesh	1,90,777
Odisha	1,81,837
Assam	1,72,492
Jharkhand	1,07,598
Tamil Nadu	1,06,957

STATES/UTs WITH LEAST WATERBODIES

Sikkim	134
Chandigarh	188
Delhi	893
Arunachal Pradesh	993

WATERBODIES LOST TO ENCROACHMENTS

Uttar Pradesh	15,301
Tamil Nadu	8,366
Andhra Pradesh	3,920



No encroachment on waterbodies was reported from West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Chandigarh



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LOGISTIC PERFORMANCE INDEX 2023

WHY IN NEWS?

- India has climbed six places on the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI) 2023, now ranking 38th in the 139 countries index.

What is LPI?

- The LPI was released by the World Bank every two years from 2010 to 2018, with a break in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The LPI covers 139 countries and measures the ease of establishing reliable supply chain connections and the structural factors that make it possible.
- It considers the following parameters -
 - Customs performance
 - Infrastructure quality
 - Ease of arranging shipments
 - Logistics services quality
 - Consignment tracking and tracing
 - Timeliness of shipments

DID YOU KNOW?

- PM Gati Shakti Initiative, a National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity, was launched in October 2021, to reduce logistics costs and boost the economy by 2024-25.
- National Logistics Policy (NLP) was launched in 2022 to ensure quick last-mile delivery, end transport-related challenges, save the manufacturing sector's time and money, and ensure desired speed in the logistics sector.
- India's first multi-modal logistics park is being set up in Chennai.
- India's first international multi-modal logistics park is being set up in Jogighopa, Assam.
- Other initiatives
 - Bharatmala project
 - Sagarmala project
 - Multi-modal Logistics Park
 - Dedicated Freight Corridor

Key Findings

- India's rank moved up five places in infrastructure score from 52nd in 2018 to 47th in 2023. It climbed to the 22nd spot for international shipments in 2023 from 44th in 2018 and moved four places up to 48th in logistics competence and equality.
- The average dwell time for containers between May and October 2022 was three days for India and Singapore, much better than in some of the industrialised countries. The dwell time for the U.S. was seven days and for Germany, it was 10 days.
 - Dwell time is how long a vessel spends at a specific port or terminal. It may also refer to the amount of time that a container or cargo spends at a port or terminal before being loaded onto a vessel or after being unloaded from a vessel.
 - The shorter the dwell time, the lower the vessel and marine-terminal operating costs.
- Modernisation and digitalisation as a reason for emerging economies, like India, to leapfrog advanced countries. NICDC Logistics Data Services Limited applies radio frequency identification tags to containers and offers consignees end-to-end tracking of their supply chain.
- Technology has been a critical component of India's progress, with implementation under a public-private partnership of a supply chain visibility platform, which contributed to remarkable reductions of delays.

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CENTRE INTENSIFIED ITS CRACKDOWN AGAINST DRUGS

WHY IN NEWS?

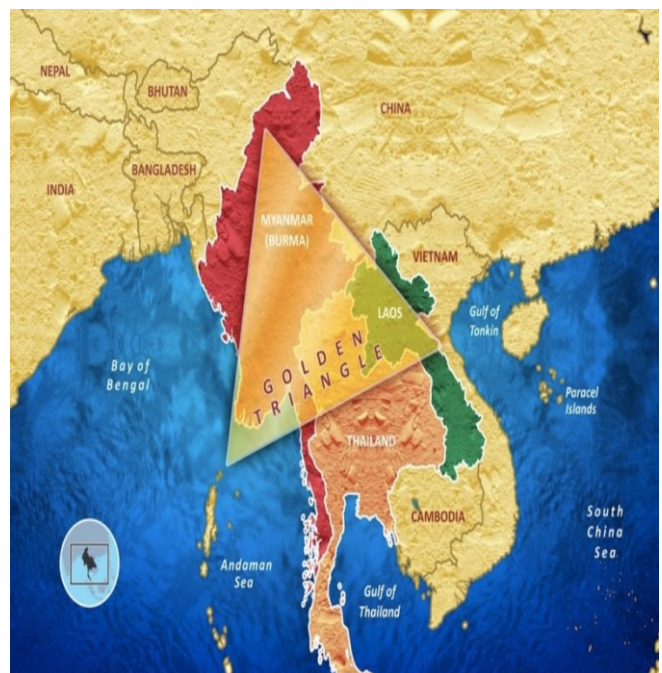
- Aiming to make India “drug-free” by 2047, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) plans to link recovery and usage of narcotics and banned substances in a particular area to the annual appraisal report of a District Superintendent of Police.
- Opium and cannabis cultivation in area the size of over 89,000 football fields has been destroyed in the past three years as the Union government intensifies its crackdown against drugs.

Key Points

- According to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), in the past three years, 35,592 acres of poppy cultivation and 82,691 acres of cannabis cultivation have been destroyed across the country.
- The States where the crops were destroyed are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tripura, and Telangana.
- Manipur has seen the highest-ever destruction of such crops in the past three years.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs is encouraging the liberal application of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (PITNDPS), 1988, which includes a provision to detain an individual for up to two years without a court's intervention.
- The NCB said the use of the 'dark net' and cryptocurrency in illegal drugs is increasing, and in 2020, 2021 and 2022, the agency investigated 59 such cases.
- A sub-group on the counter-terrorism portal, the Multi-Agency Centre (MAC), has been created to share inputs on the use of the dark net and cryptocurrency for trade in narcotics.
- Following the directives by Union Home Affairs, all States have created dedicated Anti-Narcotics Task Forces (ANTF).
- The National Narcotics Coordination Portal (NCORD) highlights the source and destination of drugs, and information up to the district levels is maintained.
- Another database, called NIDAAN, has the photographs, fingerprints, court orders, information and details of all suspects and convicts arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act so far, which can be accessed by State and Central law enforcement agencies.

DID YOU KNOW?

- According to World Drug Report 2022, India had the 4th largest quantity of opium seized in 2020.
- According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), India accounted for 7% of the global opium seizures and 2% of the global heroin seizures in 2019.
- Two major drug-producing regions are Golden Crescent (Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan) and Golden Triangle (Thailand-Laos-Myanmar).
- India is situated between these two major drug-producing regions, which makes it vulnerable to illicit drug trafficking.



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DIMA HASAO PEACE PACT

WHY IN NEWS?

- An Assam-based insurgent group — Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA)/Dimasa People's Supreme Council (DPSC)- recently signed a peace agreement with the State Government and the Union Government.

Background

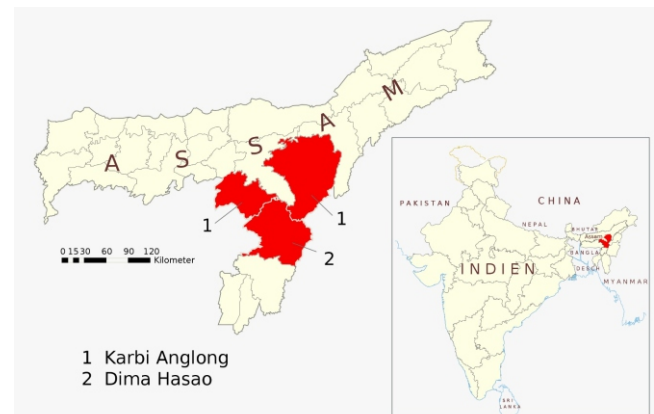
- In September 2021, the DNLA declared a unilateral ceasefire for a period of six months “for better peaceful environment, development talks and co-relation among us”, after which talks began with the government.
- This was a significant claim for a state which has seen insurgency by various tribal militant groups, particularly from the 1980s onwards. The core demand of most of these groups has been greater political autonomy, primarily through separate statehood demands.
- There are 15 recognised tribes in the autonomous districts of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills and 14 recognised tribes in the rest of the state. Of these, the major tribes are Bodo (35% of the state's tribal population), Mishing (17.52%), Karbi (11.1%), Rabha (7.6%), Sonowal Kachari (6.5%), Lalung (5.2%), Garo (4.2%), and Dimasa (3.2%).
- Of these, the most sustained and violent movement for autonomy has been carried out by Bodo groups, but there have also been Karbi and Dimasa groups that waged militant operations over the decades.
- The peace process has been a long one and the claim of ending insurgency in tribal areas comes after a string of peace settlements with different groups in recent years.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution establishes Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) for the administration and safeguarding the rights of the tribal population of four northeastern states, namely Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- This special provision is provided under Article 244(2) and Article 275(1) of the Constitution.
- These councils are empowered to make laws in respect of areas under their jurisdiction, which cover the land, forest, cultivation, inheritance, indigenous customs and traditions of tribals, etc. and also to collect land revenues and certain other taxes. These councils also have specific powers and responsibilities in respect of all three arms of governance: Legislature, executive and judiciary.

Key Highlights of the Agreement

- The DNLA representatives have agreed to give up violence, surrender, including the surrender of arms and ammunition, disband their armed organisation, vacate all camps occupied by DNLA cadres and join the mainstream.
- Dimasa Welfare Council will be set up by the Government of Assam to protect, preserve and promote a social, cultural, and linguistic identity to meet political, economic and educational aspirations and will ensure speedy and focused development of the Dimasa people residing outside the jurisdiction of the Autonomous Council.
- The agreement also provides for the appointment of a Commission under Paragraph 14 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India to examine the demand for the inclusion of additional villages contiguous to the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) with the Council.
- The agreement also provides for necessary measures to be taken by the Government of India and the Government of Assam to rehabilitate the surrendered armed cadres of DNLA.
- A Special Development package of ₹500 crore each, will also be provided by the Government of India and the Government of Assam over a period of five years, for all-round development of NCHAC as well as Dimasa people residing in other parts of the State.
- Along with the economic rehabilitation of surrendered cadre, the criminal cases for non-heinous offences will be withdrawn, and criminal cases for heinous offences will be reviewed on a case to case basis.



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G7 MINISTERS AND CARBON-FREE POWER BY 2035

WHY IN NEWS?

- Ahead of the G7 summit, Climate and Energy Ministers and envoys from Group of Seven (G7) countries on April 16 committed to work towards ensuring carbon-free electricity production by 2035 and "accelerating" the phase-out of coal.

Key Points

- The member countries agreed to accelerate solar and wind energy investments to produce 1,000 gigawatt (GW) by 2030 from solar power and 150 GW of wind power from off-shore platforms in line with recent reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that repeat the need to ensure that global temperatures do not increase by more than 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels by the end of the century.
- Recognising the current global energy crisis and economic disruptions, the agreement reaffirm the commitment to accelerating the clean energy transition to net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050.
- The G7 states cited the urgent need to reduce GHG emissions by around 43% by 2030 and 60% by 2035.
- They also reaffirmed that fossil fuel subsidies are inconsistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement and committed to eliminating inefficient fossil fuel subsidies by 2025.

DID YOU KNOW?

- India was also invited in the summit as a 'guest', in the context of its G20 presidency.
- Group of Seven (G7, an intergovernmental organisation, was set up in 1975.
- G7 consists of seven major advanced economies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Japan holds the presidency of the G7 in 2023.

Government of India's Initiatives to Combating Climate Change

- Government of India's Initiatives to Combating Climate Change
- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FEMA) Scheme
- SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) initiative for boosting production and availability of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG)
- Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA)
- Green Energy Corridor (GEC)
- National Hydrogen Mission
- National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)
- National Smart Grid Mission (NSGM) and Smart Meter National Programme (SMNP)
- Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT)
- Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme
- National Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- As per the updated NDC, India now stands committed to reduce Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030, from 2005 level
- Achieve about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030
- Indian Railways has set a target of making itself 'net zero' by 2030
- India is committed to reach net zero emissions by 2070.

G7 COUNTRIES



ITALY



UNITED KINGDOM



GERMANY



UNITED STATES



CANADA



FRANCE



JAPAN

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LOCKBIT RANSOMWARE

WHY IN NEWS?

- On April 16, reports emerged that LockBit ransomware was found to be targeting Mac devices, in a first.
- Cybercriminals have developed new ransomware encryptors designed to target macOS devices, making this the first major ransomware operation to specifically target Apple computers.
- The new encryptors target both older Macs and newer ones running on Apple Silicon.

What is Lock Bit ransomware?

- First reported in September 2019 and dubbed the "abcd" virus, due to the file extension used when encrypting victim's files, the LockBit ransomware is designed to infiltrate victims' systems and encrypt important files.
- The virus is categorised as a "crypto virus" due to its requests for payment in cryptocurrency to decrypt the files on the victim's device.
- The ransomware is therefore typically deployed against victims who feel hindered enough by the disruption to pay heavy sums in exchange for access and can afford to do so.
- In the past, LockBit ransomware has been used to target enterprises and organisations in the U.S., China, India, Ukraine, and Indonesia. Attacks have also been recorded throughout Europe, including in France, Germany, and the U.K.

Why is LockBit targeting macOS?

- Historically, ransomware has targeted Windows, Linux, and VMware ESXi servers. However, the LockBit is now working to create encryptors targeting Macs for the first time.
- Analysis of the encryptors revealed they were put together as a test, rather than an actual ready-to-use ransomware. Experts believe that, after launching multiple attacks across Europe and Asia, the gang is developing tools to target macOS and further increase the scope of attacks to bring in more financial gains for the operation.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Indian cyber security agency, CERT-In, recently issued a warning against the "Royal ransomware" virus that attacks critical sectors such as communications, health care, education and even individuals and seeks pay-off in Bitcoins for not leaking personal data in the public domain.
- Ransomware is a type of malware that prevents or limits users from accessing their system, either by locking the system's screen or by locking the users' files until a ransom is paid.

LOCK FILE

ALL YOUR IMPORTANT FILES ARE ENCRYPTED!

Any attempts to restore your files with the third-party software will be **fatal for your files!**
Restore your data possible only buying private key from us.

There is only one way to get your files back:

01. contact us

🔒 UTox ✉ Email
qTox ID:
<https://tox.chat/download.html>
 Email: contact@contipauper.com

02. Through a Tor Browser - recommended

- Download Tor Browser - <https://www.torproject.org/> and install it.
- Open link in Tor Browser -
- This link only works in Tor Browser!
- Follow the instructions on this page

ATTENTION!

- Do not try to recover files yourself. this process can damage your data and recovery will become impossible
- Do not rename encrypted files.
- Do not waste time trying to find the solution on the Internet. The longer you wait, the higher will become the decryption key price
- Decryption of your files with the help of third parties may cause increased price (they add their fee to our).
- Tor Browser may be blocked in your country or corporate network. Use <https://bridges.torproject.org> or use Tor Browser over VPN.
- Thanks to the warning wallpaper provided by lockbit, it's easy to use



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THE BIG CATCH-UP AND PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE FOR EMERGING THREATS INITIATIVE (PRET)

WHY IN NEWS?

- Two initiatives – The Big Catch-up and Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats Initiative (PRET) have been launched for better preparation for future outbreaks of the pandemic, as well as to boost vaccination rates among children.

About "The Big Catch-up initiative"

- Global partners like World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a new effort – "The Big Catch-up" – to vaccinate millions of children and restore immunisation progress lost during the pandemic along with Immunization Agenda 2030.
- It aims to protect populations from vaccine-preventable outbreaks like -measles, diphtheria, polio and yellow fever - save children's lives and strengthen national health systems.

About Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats Initiative (PRET)

- The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a new initiative, Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats Initiative (PRET), to help strengthen countries' ability to plan for, and deal with, another deadly pandemic like COVID-19.
- Three Tiers of Pandemic Preparedness -
 - I. those that are cross-cutting for all or multi-hazards
 - II. those that are relevant for groups of pathogens (respiratory, arboviruses etc.)
 - III. those that are specific to a pathogen

Steps for respiratory pathogen pandemic planning



DID YOU KNOW?

- In Feb 2023, WHO published a 'Zero-Draft' of the Pandemic Treaty to bring in Global and National-Level Pandemic Preparedness.
- World Immunization Week is a health campaign coordinated by the WHO and celebrated every year in the last week of April.
- In 2022, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0 to cover more than 3 crore pregnant women and 2.6 crore children through the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).
- The Immunization Programme in India was introduced in 1978 as 'Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In 1985, the Programme was modified as 'Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)'.
- India is expected to roll out the indigenously developed CERVAVAC vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer among girls aged 9-14 years through their schools by mid-2023.
- WHO on 24th February 2012 removed India from the list of countries with active endemic wild poliovirus transmission and in 2014, India was declared Polio free.

THE BIG
CATCH-UP!

Vaccines protect
children from
diseases like
measles, polio
and diphtheria.

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INDIA-UK 'NET ZERO' INNOVATION VIRTUAL CENTRE

WHY IN NEWS?

- During the India-UK Science & Innovation Council meeting, India and the United Kingdom announced the establishment of the India-UK "NET Zero" Innovation Virtual Centre.
- It aimed to achieve climate change and environmental targets on time.

Key Points

- The India-UK 'NET Zero' Innovation Virtual Centre will provide a platform to bring stakeholders from both countries together to work in some of the focus areas, including the decarbonisation of manufacturing processes and transport systems and Green Hydrogen as a renewable source.
- It will support the goal of achieving net zero emissions, balancing the amount of greenhouse gases emitted and removed from the atmosphere.
- The UK has emerged as India's second-largest international research and innovation partner.
- The India-UK Science & Technology (S&T) collaboration has been growing at a rapid pace, and the joint research programme has gone from an almost zero base to close to £300-400 million.
- The collaboration between the two countries strengthened through an ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' that provides a framework for UK-India relations across health, climate, trade, education, science and technology, and defence.
- India is fast moving to become an economic powerhouse, driven by its extraordinary technological and innovative capabilities, which the world has begun to acknowledge, particularly after the COVID vaccine success story.
- In India's net zero journey, energy efficiency and renewable energy are central pillars. India has already taken the lead through various initiatives like India Solar Alliance, Clean energy mission etc.
- Recently, the Government of India has launched several flagship initiatives such as the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (ICPS); Quantum Computing and Communication; National Mission on Supercomputing, Electric Mobility, Green Hydrogen etc., which provides newer opportunities for collaboration.
- India is committed towards Environmental goals which include consistent efforts towards the development of mitigation & monitoring solutions for environmental pollution and techno-based pathways for reducing carbon emissions and achieving the ambitious net zero targets.
- Further, the cooperation will provide an opportunity for Indian and UK academia and industry to develop newer products/processes together for the economic growth of both nations.

DID YOU KNOW?

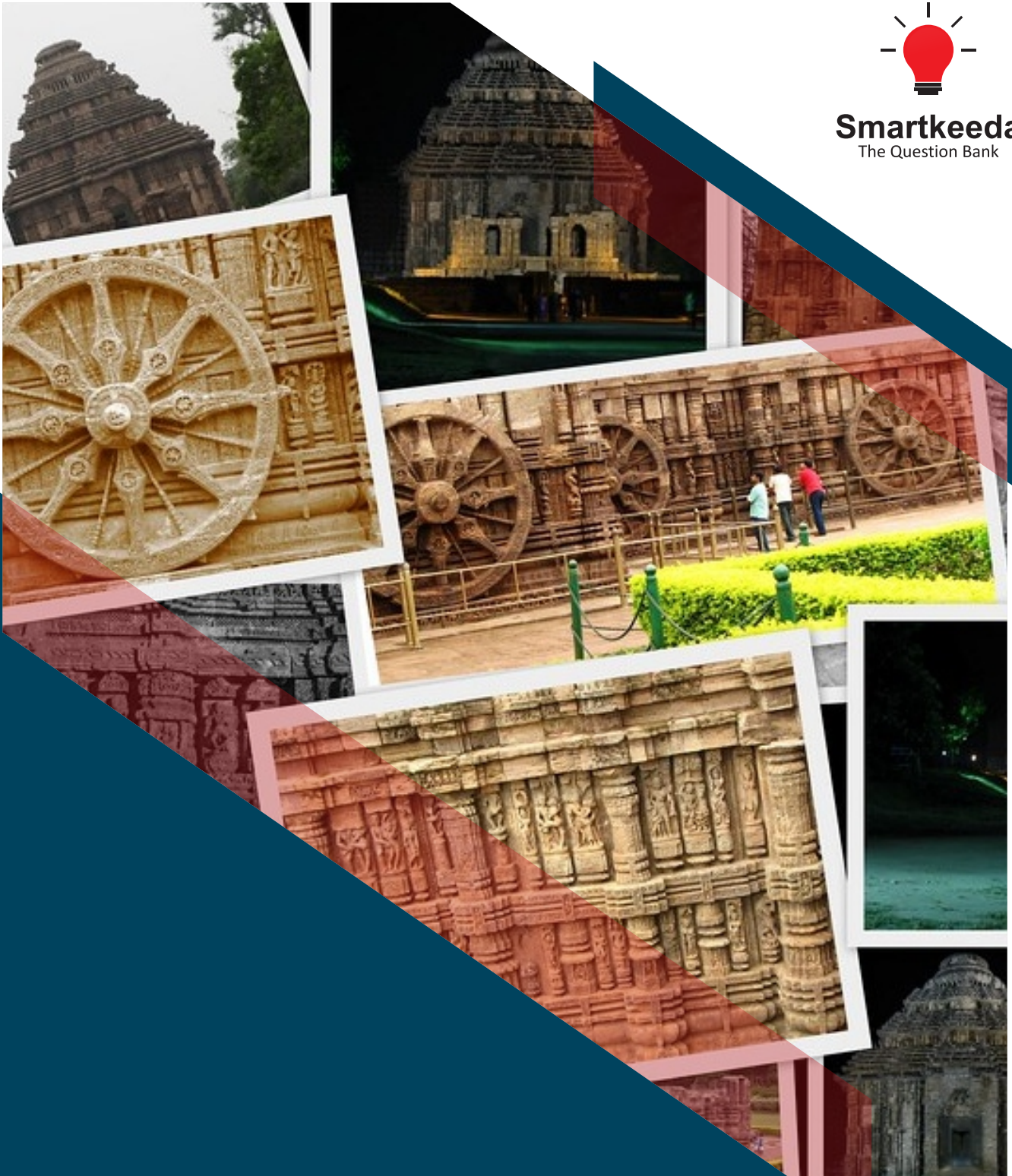
- Under Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), India is committed -
 - To reduce Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030, from 2005 level
 - To achieve about 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.
 - To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
 - To achieve net zero emissions by 2070.
 - Indian Railways is also set to achieve a net zero target by 2030.

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

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FIRST GLOBAL BUDDHIST SUMMIT

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), organised the first Global Buddhist Summit (GBS) on 20-21 April.

Key Points

- The theme of the Summit was “Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis.”
- Four sub-themes were -
 - Buddha Dhamma and Peace
 - Buddha Dhamma: Environmental Crisis, Health and Sustainability
 - Preservation of Nalanda Buddhist Tradition
 - Buddha Dhamma Pilgrimage, Living heritage and Buddha Relics: a resilient foundation to India's centuries-old cultural links to countries in South, Southeast and East Asia
- The prime vision of the Summit was to look into the teachings of the Shakyamuni Buddha that have been continuously enriched over the centuries with the practice of Buddha Dhamma. The aim was to set up a forum for lay Buddhist scholars and Dharma Masters.
- It seeks to delve into Buddha's message for Peace, Compassion and Harmony with the objective of working towards Universal Peace and Harmony, in accordance with the core values of Dharma and produce a document for further academic research, to study its viability for use as a tool for the conduct of international relations on the global stage.
- The Dalai Lama attended the Summit and addressed delegates from 30 countries which, include monks, Buddhist scholars and practitioners and heads of Buddhist organisations from across the globe.
- Over 170 delegates from foreign countries, including Mexico, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Japan, and 150 from India participated in the conference.
- The Summit also served as a medium to enhance the cultural and diplomatic relationship of India with other countries, especially with the countries which embrace the Buddhist Ethos.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Gautam attained Bodhi (enlightenment) under a pipal tree at Bodhgaya, Bihar.
- Buddha gave his first sermon in the village of Sarnath, near Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. This event is known as Dharma Chakra Pravartana (turning of the wheel of law).
- Teachings of Buddha include the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path.
- Four noble truths - The truth of suffering (Dukkha); The truth of the origin of suffering (Samudaya); The truth of the cessation of suffering (Nirodha); and The truth of the path to the cessation of suffering (Magga).
- Noble Eightfold Path - Right View, Right Resolve, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness, and Right Concentration.

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION

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*“ Responses to Contemporary Challenges:
Philosophy to Praxis ”*

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HAKKI PIKKI TRIBAL COMMUNITY

WHY IN NEWS?

- More than 181 members of the Hakki Pikki tribal community from Karnataka are stuck in violence-hit Sudan, even as the government is making efforts to bring them back.

Who are the Hakki Pikki?

- The Hakki Pikki is a tribe that lives in several states in west and south India, especially near forest areas.
- Hakki Pikkis (Hakki in Kannada means 'bird' and Pikki means 'catchers') are a semi-nomadic tribe, traditionally of bird catchers and hunters.
- According to the 2011 census, the Hakki Pikki population in Karnataka is 11,892.
- Hakki Pikki people are believed to hail originally from the bordering districts of Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- The Hakki Pikki tribe is believed to have originated from Gujarat and Rajasthan and migrated to south India via Andhra Pradesh.
- The 4 clans are Gujaratia, Panwar, Kaliwala and Mewaras and can be equated with castes in the traditional Hindu society.

Rituals and Customs

- Hakki Pikkis in Karnataka follow Hindu traditions and celebrate all Hindu festivals.
- The usual age of marriage is 18 for women and 22 for men. The society is matriarchal, where the groom gives dowry to the bride's family.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The fighting that has erupted in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere in the country is a direct result of a vicious power struggle within the country's military leadership.
- The clashes are between the regular army and a paramilitary force called the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).
- Sudan is in north-east Africa and is one of the largest countries on the continent. It is also one the poorest countries in the world.
- The government of India has started "Operation Kaveri" to evacuate Indian citizens who are stranded in Sudan. On 6th May, India wrapped up " Operation Kaveri" with the evacuation of 3862 Indians.

The Hakki Pikki tribe

IN KANNADA, HAKKI IS 'BIRD' AND PIKKI 'CATCHER'

- A nomadic tribe, the Hakki Pikki people go by other names such as Mel Shikari in northern Karnataka and Maharashtra
- Members of the tribe speak Vaghri (an unclassified tribal Indo-Aryan language of south India), Kannada and Hindi.
- Before wildlife laws came into existence, the tribe lived inside forests and hunted animals

They are mostly based in Shivamogga, Hassan, Davangere and Mysuru districts of Karnataka. There were **11,892** Hakki Pikki people in Karnataka according to the 2011 Census.

Rehabilitated around the 1950s, the tribe shifted to the outskirts of cities in Karnataka

- Its members are largely engaged in manufacturing and selling plant extracts and alternative medicines in India and abroad

Prabhu S (far right), one of the members of the Hakki Pikki tribe, with other members at their rented house in Sudan, where they are stuck



SREE MAHAVISHNU TEMPLE AT THIRUNELLY, KERALA

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has urged the government to conserve the 600-year-old 'Vilakkumadom', an exquisite granite structure, at the Sree Mahavishnu Temple at Thirunelly in Wayanad district of Kerala.
- The ongoing renovation of the temple has raised concerns about the preservation of its heritage.

Key Points

- The structure has a rich history dating back to the 15th century AD, and its key elements have not been given due consideration during the renovation process.
- The possible completion of the Vilakkumadom structure and the total destruction of 'Chuttambalam' had resulted in a loss of heritage creating a gap in its value and importance that could be forgotten or misinterpreted in the future.
- The incomplete structure that stood as testimony to a rich cultural heritage has been remodelled in an insensitive way.
- It is said that the work was launched by the king of Coorg without the permission of the temple's custodian, the Kottayam Raja. Later, the Kottayam Raja ordered to stop the construction work, and the structure remained untouched afterwards

About Thirunelli Temple

- Thirunelli Temple is a Vishnu temple. It is also known as Amalaka or Sidha Temple, Sahyamala Kshetram or Kashi of the South.
- The Thirunelli temple's architecture follows the traditional Kerala style. The temple has an inner sanctum, surrounded by a tile roof structure, and an open courtyard around it.
- The east entrance of the temple is decorated with a granite lamp post. The outer wall of the temple is bound by granite pillars that are cut in cubicle style, which is not commonly seen in Kerala.

DID YOU KNOW?

- India has been elected as a member of the United Nations World Heritage Committee for the term 2021-25.
- The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India, launched the 'Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan' scheme in 2017 to develop selected monuments and heritage and tourist sites across India with the help of public sector companies, private sector firms as well as individuals.
- At present, we have 40 monuments in India that have been recognised as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. In present-day Gujarat, the Harappan city of Dholavira named the 40th Indian site in 2021.



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

QUICK FACTS



1. In a significant and innovative move, the **Union Health Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, has requested states/UTs to develop **100 food streets in 100 districts across the country**. This initiative is being taken up as a pilot project to create an example for other such streets to come up across the country to ensure hygienic and safe food practices. The aim of this project is to encourage safe and healthy food practices among food businesses and community members, thus, reducing foodborne illnesses and improving overall health outcomes. This initiative will not only support the **“eat right campaign”** and food safety but also enhance the credibility of local food businesses. The initiative will be implemented through the **National Health Mission (NHM)** in convergence with the **MoHUA** and with technical support from the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**.
2. The Government of India commemorates '**Civil Services Day**' every year on **April 21**. The day is marked to celebrate the exemplary work done by our civil servants and as an opportunity for them to recommit themselves to the cause of citizens. The **theme** for this year's Civil Services Day is '**Viksit Bharat: Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile**'. National Civil Services Day was first celebrated on **April 21, 2006**. April 21 was chosen because it is on this day that the first Home Minister of Independent India, **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, 1947 addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers at Metcalf House in Delhi. He referred to the civil servants as the **“steel frame of India.”**
3. **Heatwaves** in India are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change, with over 90 percent of the country in the **“extremely cautious” or “danger zone”** of their impacts, according to a new study. Most parts of Delhi recorded a heat index from 44 to 49 degrees Celsius in April last year, data used for a research article on heatwaves showed. **Heat index** is a measure of how hot it feels when humidity is factored in along with the air temperature, and the figures were calculated using data from the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**.
4. The **Supreme Court** recently dismissed the Kerala government's appeal against the order of the Kerala High Court directing that **Arikomban, the “rice tusker” of Munnar, be relocated to the Parambikulam tiger reserve**. India's first radio-telemetry study of a translocated problem elephant was conducted in 2006 on a large male shifted from the cropland of West Midnapore in South Bengal to the Mahananda Sanctuary in Darjeeling district. **Karnataka has the highest number of elephants, followed by Assam and Kerala**. Project Elephant was initiated by the Indian government in 1992 to safeguard elephants and their natural habitat in India. **World Elephant Day is observed every year on August 12**.
5. For the **first time in South Asia**, Indian scientists working in the **Garbh-Ini programme**, an interdisciplinary group for advanced research on birth outcomes, have identified 19 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), or genetic markers, that have been found to be associated with preterm — or premature — birth. The study, published in the Lancet Regional Health-South East Asia journal, reported that five of these SNPs have been found to “confer increased risk of early preterm birth (birth before 33 weeks)” and can predict premature births.
6. Edtech decacorn **BYJU'S**, foodtech platform **Swiggy** and fantasy gaming company **Dream11** are India's top unicorns, according to the **Global Unicorn Index 2023 by Hurun**. The list, which was released recently, revealed that **India retained its position** as the country with the **third-largest number of unicorns in the world after the US and China**. India also has the third-highest number of gazelles, but was fifth when it came to the number of Hurun Global 500 companies.
7. The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** participated in **Exercise INIOCHOS-23**, a multi-national air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force (**Greece**) from April 24 to May 4. The IAF is currently participating in exercise Cope India with the US, as well as a multilateral exercise Orion hosted by France. The IAF participated in INIOCHOS-23 with four Su-30 MKI and two C-17 aircraft. The objective of the exercise was to enhance international cooperation, synergy and interoperability among the participating Air Forces.
8. The government recently launched the fifth round of the regional air connectivity scheme to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas. Under **UDAN 5.0**, viability gap funding (VGF) will be capped at 600 kilometres of stage length for both priority and non-priority areas, which was earlier capped at 500 km. Under the fifth round of Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) or Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), the focus will be on **Category-2 (20-80 seats) and Category-3 (more than 80 seats)**. The release said the earlier stage length cap of 600 kilometres is waived, and there is no restriction on the distance between the origin and destination of the flight.

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9. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Saturday successfully launched its **PSLV-C55/TeLEOS-2 mission**, sending two Singapore-made satellites into the space. It is a 'dedicated commercial' mission undertaken by **ISRO through NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, the space agency's commercial arm. TeLEOS-2 has been developed under a partnership between the Government of Singapore and Singapore Technologies Engineering Limited. Once deployed and operational, it will support the satellite imagery requirements of various agencies under the Government of Singapore.
10. **Earth Day**, observed **every April 22**, is a worldwide annual event that serves to increase environmental awareness and inspire individuals to take action in protecting our planet. In **2009**, the United Nations designated 22nd April as '**International Mother Earth Day**. The **theme for Earth Day 2023 is "Invest in our planet,"** which calls on businesses, investors, financial markets, and governments to lead the way in building a healthier and more equitable global system. Today, Earth Day is globally coordinated by **EARTHDAY.ORG**, a non-profit organisation formerly known as Earth Day Network.
11. The **National Panchayati Raj Day**, recognised annually by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on **24th April**, commemorates the **73rd Amendment Act, 1992** of the Constitution coming into effect in the year 1993. This day celebrates national, local self-governance and democratic decentralisation. The Prime Minister also inaugurated an integrated **e-GramSwaraj and GeM portal** for public procurement at the Panchayat level on National Panchayati Raj Day 2023. The objective of eGramSwaraj-GeM Integration is to enable the Panchayats to procure their goods and services through GeM leveraging the eGramSwaraj platform.
12. **Delhi** is all set to implement the **Safe City Project**. The project aims to curb crime against women and address safety issues sensitively. It aims to use technology and ensure the prompt availability of professionally equipped police personnel to reach women in distress. 10,582 CCTV cameras will be installed in places frequented by women. The Delhi project is **fully funded by the Central government** and will be **implemented by the Delhi Police** through the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
13. As many as 28 States / UTs have adopted the **National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) for Land Records**. As per the Department of Land Resources (DoLR), eRegistration is being done in these States/UTs or they have started sharing data with the national portal of NGDRS through User Interface / API. According to the latest data provided by the Land Resources Division of the DoLR, **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) or Bhu-Aadhar** has been adopted by 26 States/UTs and pilot testing done in 7 more States /UTs. Some States are also using ULPIN in **SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas)** portal.
14. On April 25, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **first phase of the Kochi Water Metro** — a first of its kind public boat service in India integrated with a metro rail network. The Kochi Water Metro is a project being implemented by Kochi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRL) with the **assistance of a German funding agency, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau**. The water metro boat service will operate in the backwaters of Kochi, connecting 10 nearby islands with the mainland of Kochi, the commercial hub of Kerala.
15. The Prime Minister inaugurated the **6th Edition of One Earth One Health – Advantage Healthcare India 2023 meet**. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry has co-branded the 6th edition of One Earth One Health - Advantage Healthcare India 2023 with India's G20 Presidency. It further aimed to **showcase India's strength in the field of medical value travel (MVT) as an exporter of healthcare workforce** providing value-based healthcare services and its emergence as a major hub for world-class healthcare and wellness services.
16. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed the major milestone in the **Northeast Gas Grid project** with construction of 24-inch diameter natural gas pipeline through Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method **under Brahmaputra River**. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is about to setting a **record for the longest hydrocarbon pipeline river crossing in Asia and the second-longest in the world**. the natural gas pipeline will link Jorhat and Majuli, marking a significant milestone in constructing the Northeast Gas Grid to connect the Northeast to the national gas grid. The length of the pipeline across the main water channel of the Brahmaputra river is 4080 metres.

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17. On April 25, Bengaluru experienced a 'Zero Shadow Day', when vertical objects appear to cast no shadow. This was because the sun was at its zenith, and so the shadow was directly under the object. On April 25, 2023, the Sun reaches exactly overhead at (12:17 pm) in Bengaluru and at all places along the 130 north Latitude. The shadow of any vertical object would disappear at that instant. Zero Shadow Day occurs on different days in places away from 130 latitude. For every point on Earth between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, there are two Zero Shadow Days a year. For Bengaluru, the next one is on August 18. The Zero Shadow Day is restricted to locations between the tropics, and so places north of Ranchi in India are out of it.
18. The Supreme Court recently modified its judgment to have mandatory eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) of a minimum of one kilometre around protected forests, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries across the country. In June 2022, the SC ordered that ESZs of a minimum of one kilometer should be declared around protected forests, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries across the country. However, the court made it clear that “mining within the national park and wildlife sanctuary and within an area of one kilometre from the boundary of such national park and wildlife sanctuary shall not be permissible”.
19. Opium and cannabis cultivation in area the size of over 89,000 football fields has been destroyed in the past three years as the Union government intensifies its crackdown against drugs. The government aims to make India “drug-free” by 2047.
20. The Support for Up-gradation Preventive Repair and Maintenance of Equipment (SUPREME), a first-of-its-kind programme launched by the Ministry of Science and Technology, extends financial support for repair, upgradation, maintenance, retrofitting, or acquiring additional attachments to increase functional capabilities of existing analytical instrumentation facilities. Such facilities at institutions recognised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) are eligible to apply for grants under SUPREME.



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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

QUICK FACTS

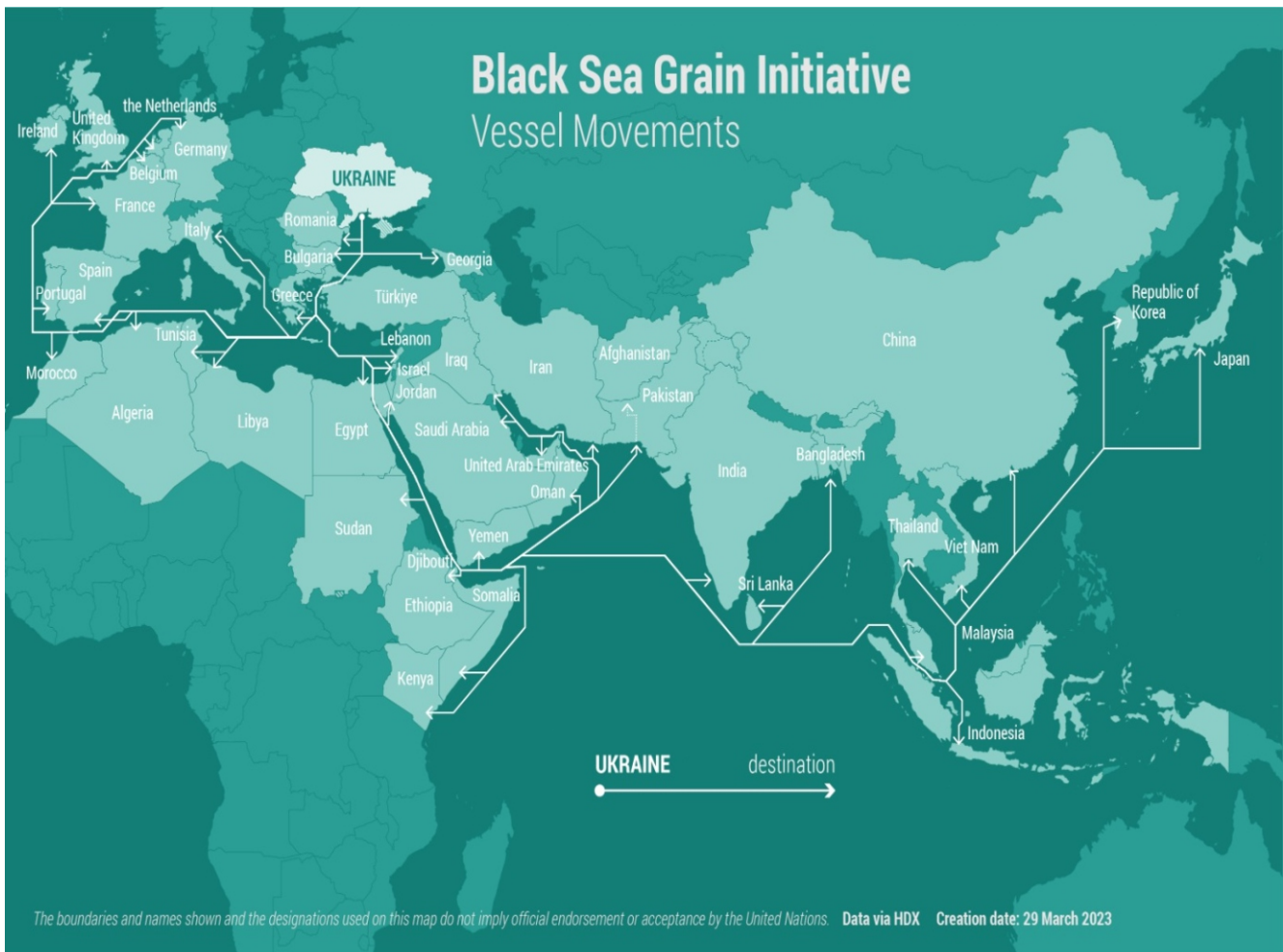


1. According to the recently released report, “**The Status Of Women In Agrifood Systems**”, women make up a significant proportion of the agricultural workforce, accounting for **around 40% of the global agricultural labour force**. The report is released by **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**. **FAO, founded in 1945**, is a specialised agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
2. The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, whose food security has been built on imports from global markets, is now focusing on the twin objectives of food access and readiness to confront supply chain crises. **India, the world's second-largest food producer**, is an essential partner in the UAE's ambition to strengthen food security. The India-UAE food security partnership stands to benefit from multiple points of convergence.
3. The leaders meeting of **Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate Change**, was convened virtually by **United States of America on 20th April 2023**. The meeting was chaired by President Joe Biden, USA and was attended by Heads of State and Ministers from across the world. The International Energy Agency, stressed the urgency for climate action to limit global temperature rise and mentioned the Indian **Prime Minister's call for LiFE**, a lifestyle for the environment.
4. The **8th India-Thailand Defence Dialogue was held in Bangkok on April 20, 2023**. The progress on various bilateral defence cooperation initiatives was reviewed. The co-chairs identified means to enhance existing areas of collaboration, especially in the field of defence industry, maritime security and multinational cooperation. Thailand expressed confidence in the capability of Indian defence industry. The two chairs also articulated steps in the direction of emerging areas of cooperation and issues pertaining to global commons. In the **ASEAN region, Thailand ranks as India's 5th largest trading partner after Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia**.
5. The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** have been speeding up research for almost 60 years to develop new climate-tolerant agricultural crop varieties. In a new milestone, **two varieties of seeds — arabidopsis and sorghum — sent to space** to make them climate-tolerant by exposing them to harsher surroundings last year **returned to the Earth on March 4, 2023**. Plants naturally evolve to thrive in their surroundings, but in the past few decades, they have been struggling to keep up with the current pace of climate change. Now, scientists at IAEA and FAO will examine the possibilities of developing resilient crops that can help provide sufficient food amid a climate crisis. They will also examine the impacts of cosmic radiation on accelerating the natural genetic adaptation of much-needed crops.
6. Recently, **China convened** an online meeting of trade ministers of the grouping known as **C+C5 — China and the five Central Asian republics**, namely Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Kyrgyzstan. It was the latest in a series of diplomatic engagements by Beijing with the region since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The first C+C5 summit was held in virtual format on January 25 last year, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Two days later, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted a virtual summit of the C5 — India's first engagement with the Central Asian nations** collectively at the highest level.
7. Recently, **Elon Musk's SpaceX** successfully launched an uncrewed test flight of its next-generation Starship cruise vessel from the company's new **Super Heavy rocket**. However, within minutes of launch, the vehicle exploded when the upper-stage Starship failed to separate from the lower-stage Super Heavy. The spacecraft manufacturer's Starship spacecraft (the carrier) and Super Heavy rocket (the booster), are collectively referred to as **Starship**.
8. The **Group of Seven (G7) economic powers** have called for the “extension, full implementation and expansion” of a critical deal to export Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea. Brokered by the United Nations and Turkey, the **Black Sea Grain Initiative** was signed in **Istanbul last July**, allowing Ukraine to export more than 27 million tonnes of grain from several of its Black Sea ports. **Russia**, which invaded its neighbour in February 2022, has strongly signalled **that it will not allow the deal to continue beyond May 18** because a list of demands to facilitate its own grain and fertiliser exports has not been met.





9. **World Malaria Day** is celebrated on **25 April** every year with an aim to raise awareness about the disease and the impact malaria has globally. World Malaria day was **first established in 2007** by the World Health Organization (WHO), which also marks the date of the adoption of the WHO's Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030. The **theme for World Malaria Day 2023** is **"Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement"**.
10. Ministers and high-level representatives from **India** and the **European Free Trade Association (EFTA) States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland)** discussed the prospects of resuming their negotiations towards a **Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)**. The potential benefits of a TEPA between India and EFTA states are significant. The agreement will foster a strong partnership and increase trade between trusted democratic partners that share values such as promoting sustainable development and gender equality. EFTA is committed to making these trade talks our priority and aims for a swift process towards a balanced agreement with strong political involvement and guidance.



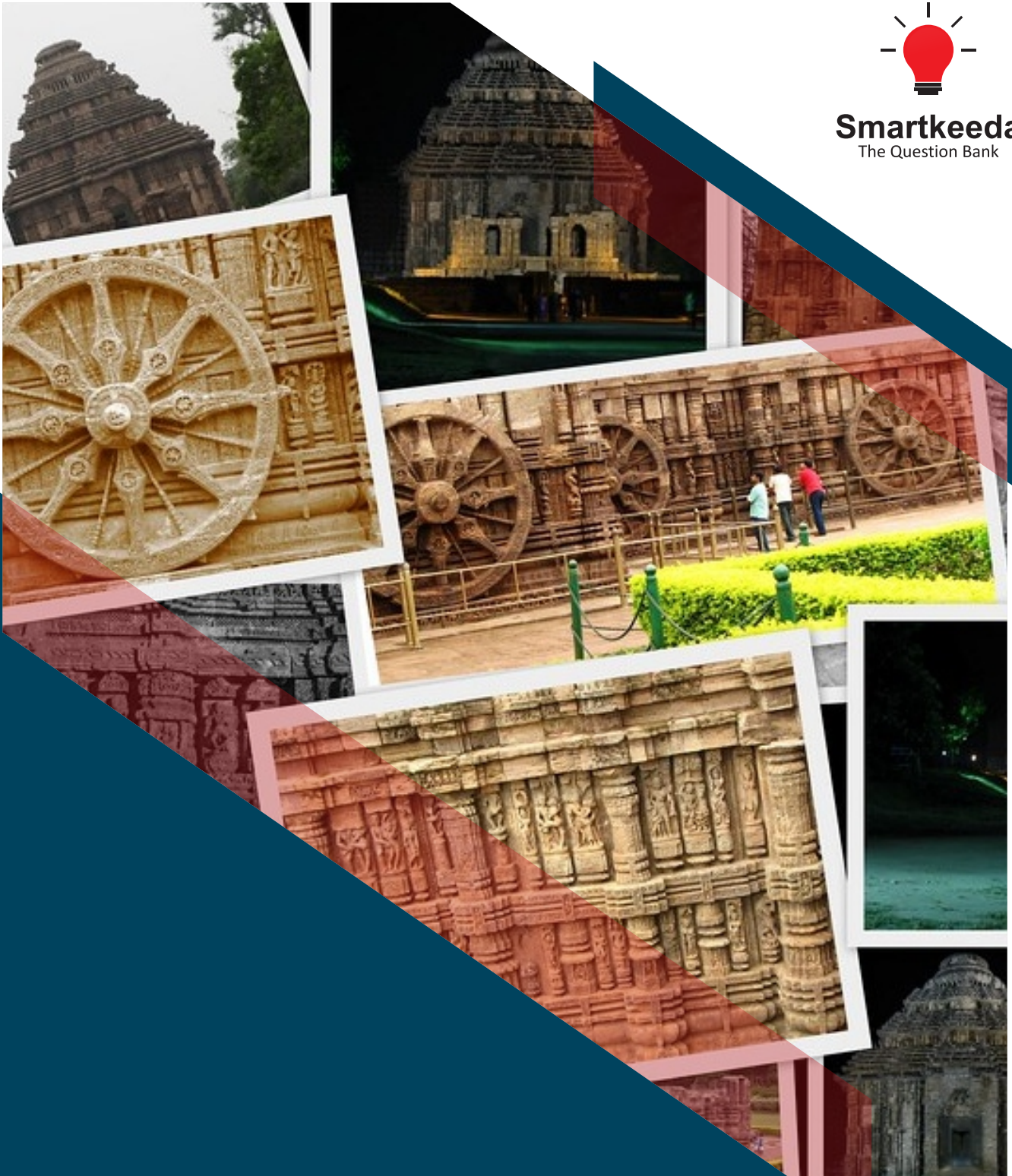
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**ARTS & CULTURE AND HISTORICAL EVENTS
OF CONTINUING SIGNIFICANCE**

QUICK FACTS



1. The **132nd birth anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar** was celebrated on **April 14, 2023**. Dr. B R Ambedkar Jayanti is celebrated every year on April 14. He is known as the '**Father of the Indian Constitution**'. He is also remembered as the architect of the Indian Constitution. He chaired the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly and was the first law minister of India. The jurist also played an instrumental role in the formation of the Reserve Bank of India. **In 1924, he started an Association for the welfare of the depressed classes and in 1927, he started the Bahishkrit Bharat newspaper to address the cause of the depressed classes.**
2. A "**hybrid**" solar eclipse called the **Ningaloo Eclipse** happened on **April 20**. The Ningaloo Eclipse is called a hybrid solar eclipse because in some parts of the world, it will go from an annular eclipse to a total before going back to an annular eclipse. **During an annular eclipse, the Moon does not fully cover the Sun, instead, it will appear as a smaller dark disc superimposed on the Sun, creating a "ring of fire" effect.** A total eclipse will only be visible in one town—Exmouth on the Western coast of Australia, according to the government of Western Australia.
3. Recently, the **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)**, Leh, unanimously passed a **resolution seeking a ban on entry** of media houses and individuals to Leh who tried to "**malign the image**" of the **Dalai Lama**. Dalai Lama is a title given by the Tibetan people for the foremost spiritual leader of the Gelug or "Yellow Hat" school of Tibetan Buddhism, the newest of the classical schools of Tibetan Buddhism.
4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to **Jagadguru Basaveshwara** on the sacred occasion of **Basava Jayanthi**. It is a festival celebrated in honour of the philosopher, statesman, social reformer, and saint in the Shaivism Bhakti movement during the 12th century. Basaveshwara is well-known for his teachings of gender equality, social reforms, eradication of social discrimination, clarification of superstitions, and unnecessary rituals. Basaveshwara, who stood against gender and caste discrimination, is believed to be the driving force **behind the rise of Lingayatism**.
5. The seminal ruling in **Kesavananda Bharati**, in which the **Supreme Court laid down the "basic structure" doctrine** on the limits of Parliament's power to amend the Constitution, **completed 50 years**. Since **1973**, the year of the Kesavananda Bharati judgment, the Constitution has been amended more than 60 times. In these five decades, the Supreme Court has tested constitutional amendments against the doctrine of basic structure in at least 16 cases.
6. Recently, the Prime Minister paid tributes to **Sri Ramanujacharya on his Jayanti**. Ramanujacharya, born in 1017 in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu, is widely respected as a Vedic philosopher and social reformer. He is renowned for advocating social equality and justice, which was revolutionary for his time, and for his propagation of the Bhakti movement. He was instrumental in reviving the **Vishishtadvaita subschool of Vedanta philosophy**, which posits non-dualism of the qualified whole. Because of his work to promote social equality, the **213-foot tall statue of Ramanujacharya in Hyderabad is known as the Statue of Equality**.
7. Prime Minister of India paid tributes to **Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya** on his birth anniversary. He is considered to be **the founder of the Advaita Vedanta school of philosophy**, which emphasises the ultimate unity and oneness of all existence. Shankaracharya is credited with reviving Hinduism and restoring its philosophical and spiritual foundation.
8. The **12-day Pushkaralu festival of Telugu-speaking people** commenced on April 22 in Varanasi. The festival, in which pilgrims worshipped their ancestors and the river Ganga, was organised in Kashi this **year after a gap of 12 years due to a special combination of planetary transits**. It is the second event of the recent past to be organised in Varanasi, after the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam. As per the legend, after severe penance, the devotee Pushkara was blessed by Lord Shiva with the ability to live in water, and purify holy rivers. On a request from Bṛhaspati (Jupiter), **Pushkara decided to enter one of the 12 sacred rivers** — Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Bhima, Tapti, Narmada, Saraswati, Tungbhadra, Sindhu, and Pranhita. Each river has its zodiac sign. The river for each year's festival is decided in accordance with Brihaspati travel from one zodiac sign to another.



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TEST ZONE



PASSAGE - 1

The National Quantum Mission (NQM) is the only mission in the country where technology has not been adopted from any advanced country, said Akhilesh Gupta, in-charge of the NQM, which was approved by the Union Cabinet last week. In the past, India had adopted technologies developed abroad and implemented them here, but the NQM has a distinction.

Under the NQM, there will be four thematic hubs (T-hub) operating for each of the four verticals: quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing and metrology, and quantum materials and devices. The NQM will be spearheaded by the DST between 2023-24 and [1]. The mission is expected to benefit communication, health, finance, and energy as well as drug design and Space applications.

The mission targets the development of intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50-1,000 physical qubits in eight years in various platforms like superconducting and photonic technology. Satellite-based secure quantum communications between ground stations over a range of 2,000 kilometres within India, long-distance secure quantum communications with other countries, inter-city quantum key distribution over 2,000 km as well as multi-node quantum networks with quantum memories are among the other deliverables.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Indian scientists to develop own technology under National Quantum Mission", The Hindu]

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

A 2027-28

B 2030-31

C 2035-36

D 2040-41

2. With the launch of the National Quantum Mission (NQM), India will be the _____ country in the world to have a dedicated quantum mission.

A Fifth

B Sixth

C Seventh

D Eighth

3. The units of the process by quantum computers are known as –

A Bits

B Quantum

C Hertz

D Qubits

4. President Draupadi Murmu recently launched India's latest supercomputer in the North East region under the National Computing Mission. What is the name of this latest supercomputer?

A Param Kamrupa

B Param Siddhi-AI

C Param Ganga

D Param Parvega

5. The National Computing Mission is being implemented by the Department of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) through the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). The National Computing Mission was launched in _____.

A 2014

B 2015

C 2016

D 2017

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

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PASSAGE - 2

Energy and environment ministers of the Group of Seven (G-7) wealthy nations vowed Sunday to work to hasten the shift toward cleaner, renewable energy, but set no timetable for phasing out coal-fired power plants as they wrapped up two days of talks in the northern Japanese city of Sapporo. The officials issued a 36-page communique laying out their commitments ahead of a G-7 summit in Hiroshima in May.

Japan won endorsements from fellow G-7 countries for its own national strategy emphasising so-called clean coal, hydrogen and nuclear energy to help ensure its energy security. "Recognising the current global energy crisis and economic disruptions, we reaffirm our commitment to accelerating the clean energy transition to net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 at the latest," the communique says.

The leaders reiterated the need to urgently reduce carbon emissions and achieve a "predominantly decarbonised power sector" by [1]. The call to action comes as China and other developing countries step up demands for more help in phasing out fossil fuels and stabilising energy prices and supplies amid disruptions from Russia's war on Ukraine.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "G-7 vows to step up moves to renewable energy, zero carbon", CNBC]

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

A 2030

B 2035

C 2040

D 2045

2. Which country holds the presidency of the Group of Seven (G-7) for the year 2023?

A Canada

B United States of America

C Germany

D Japan

3. By which year India is committed to net-zero emissions?

A 2035

B 2047

C 2060

D 2070

4. The Group of Seven (G-7) is an informal bloc of industrialised democracies—France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States, and _____.

A Canada

B China

C Singapore

D Australia

5. Which country holds the presidency of the Group of Twenty (G-20) for the year 2023?

A Japan

B Italy

C India

D South Africa

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

Answers

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PASSAGE - 3

Gujarat Higher and Technical Education Minister Rushikesh Patel said Saturday that the Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam (STM), launched last month, was an attempt to throw light on the roots of the Saurashtrian Tamils of Tamil Nadu and thereby to project the unity of the country.

Referring to attempts by the Gujarat government since 2005 to highlight the roots of Saurashtrian Tamils, Patel said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, even while he was chief minister, highlighted the linkages between Gujarat's Saurashtra region and a section of Tamil society in the southern state.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the STM in Chennai on the March 19 by opening a registration portal as well as unveiling the logo of this cultural exchange event being organised jointly by the central and the Gujarat governments as part of the Ek Bharat, Shreshta Bharat (one India, best India) initiative. Eight Gujarat ministers, including Patel, have subsequently led roadshows in Tamil Nadu to invite people to the STM.

As part of the STM, a train with around 300 people from Tamil Nadu will depart from Madurai every day between April 17 and April 26 and arrive in Gujarat after two days. These Tamilians, largely Saurashtrian Tamils, will be taken to the Somnath temple near Veraval in Gir Somnath district, Jagat Mandir and the Nageshwar temple at Dwarka in Devbhumi Dwarka and the Statue of Unity in south Gujarat.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam an attempt to throw light on Saurashtrian Tamils' roots: Gujarat minister", The Indian Express]

1. Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam is organised jointly by the central and the Gujarat governments as part of the Ek Bharat, Shreshta Bharat Initiative. Which ministry has been designated as the nodal ministry for the co-ordination of the Ek Bharat, Shreshta Bharat Initiative?

A Ministry of Education

B Ministry of Culture

C Ministry of Home Affairs

D Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

2. The Statue of Unity was inaugurated on 31st October, 2018 to mark the 143rd birth anniversary of –

A Mahatma Gandhi

B Narendra Modi

C Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

D Ramanujacharya Swamy

3. The Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam is similar to the Kashi Tamil Sangamam. In which year was Kashi Tamil Sangamam held?

A 2020

B 2021

C 2022

D 2023

4. Who among the following is the current Governor of Gujarat?

A Mangubhai C. Patel

B Acharya Devvrat

C Kalraj Mishra

D Anandiben Patel

5. Who among the current Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu?

A YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

B K. Chandrashekar Rao

C N. Chandrababu Naidu

D M. K. Stalin

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

Answers

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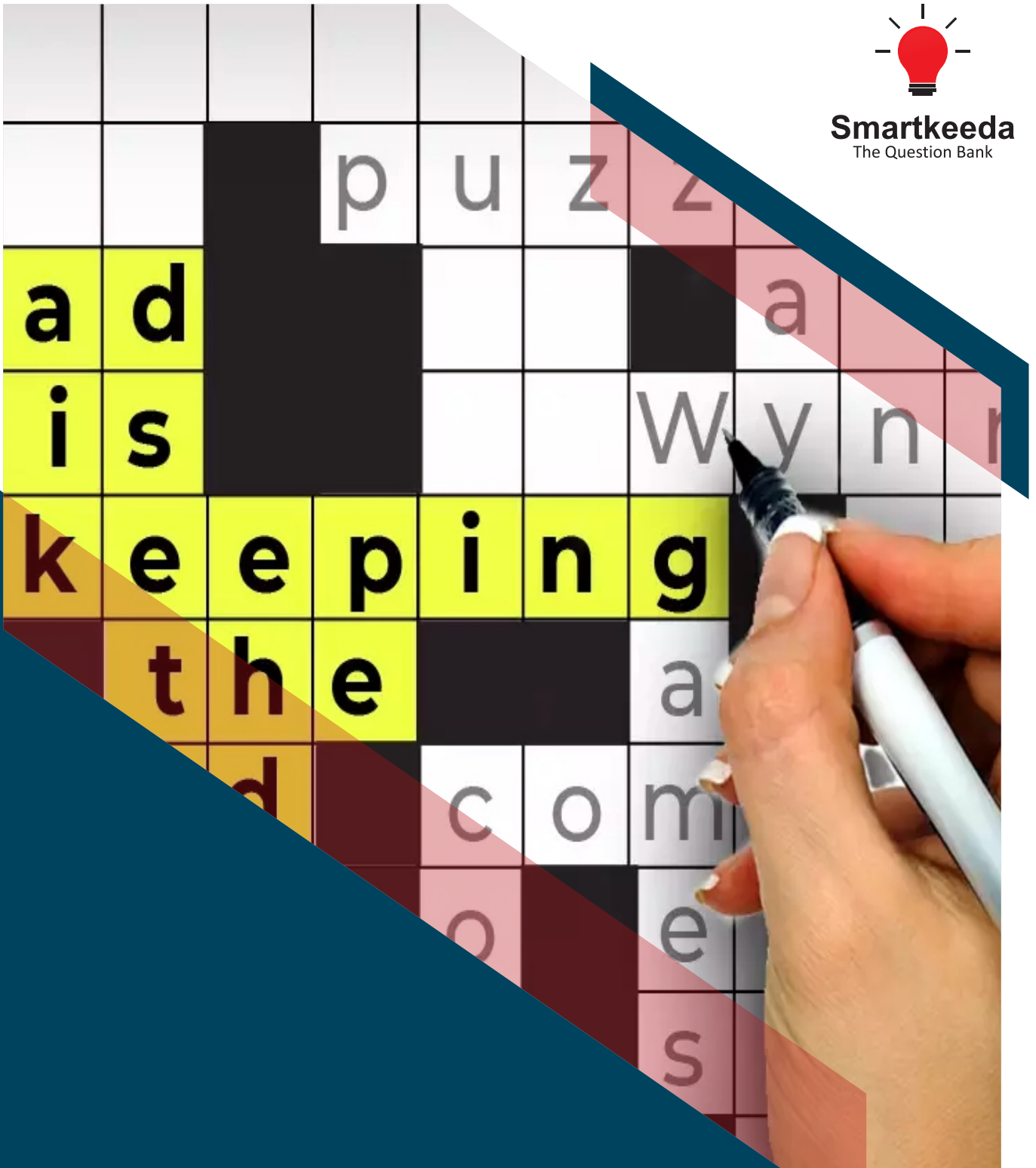
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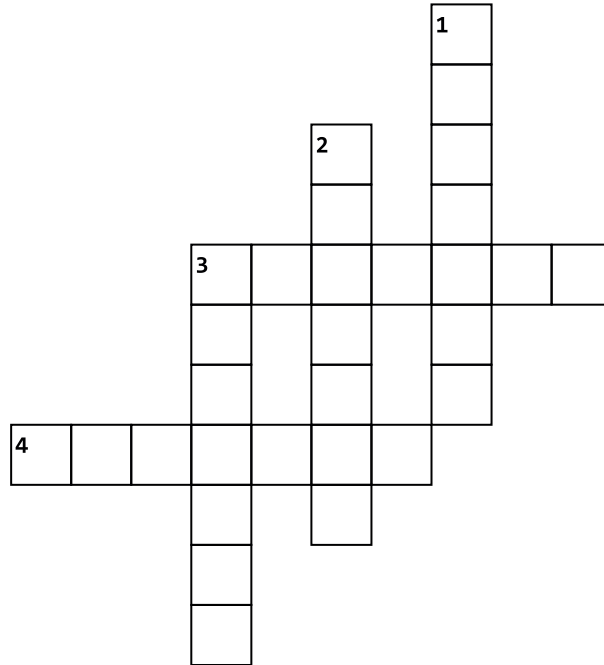
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CROSSWORD CORNER



CROSSWORD - 1



Across

3. Zero Shadow Day
4. World Malaria Day

Down

1. National Panchayati Raj Day
2. International Mother Earth Day
3. Civil Services Day

Answers

4 25April
3 21April (Down) / 25April (Across)

2 22April
1 24April



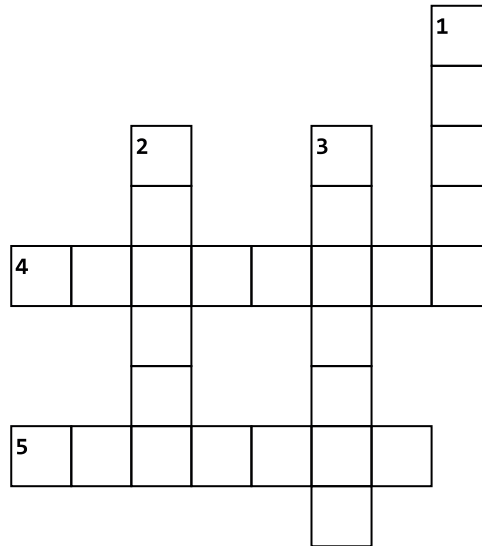
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CROSSWORD - 2



Across

- 4.** 12-day Pushkaralu festival of Telugu-speaking people celebrated
- 5.** "Hybrid" solar eclipse called the Ningaloo Eclipse happened

Down

- 1.** Safe City Project launched
- 2.** India's first water metro
- 3.** Birth anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar

Answers

6
20 April
Varanasi

3
14 April
2
Kerala
1
Delhi

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