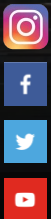


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LawEx

01-15 JUL, 2023

ISSUE - 10



CHANDRAYAAN-3 MOON MISSION



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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

Chandrayaan-3 was successfully launched on July 14 at 2.35 pm from the Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC) in Sriharikota. In India, 415 million poor people moved out of poverty from 2005-2006 to 2019-2021, with incidence falling from 55.1% in 2005-2006 to 16.4% in 2019-2021. India still has more than 230 million people who are poor and the Department of Telecommunications has launched Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) to drive innovation and collaboration in next-generation wireless technology. Keep reading for more information.

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CONTENTS

QUICK BOOSTERS

CHANDRAYAAN-3 MISSION	01-02
CENTRE PROPOSES DRAFT RULES FOR GREEN CREDIT PROGRAMME	03
FUKUSHIMA WATER RELEASE PLAN	04
OPEN MARKET SALE SCHEME FOR RICE AND WHEAT IN STATES	05
INDIA DECIDED TO JOIN THE ARTEMIS ACCORDS.....	06
ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX 2023	07
BHARAT 6G ALLIANCE	08
DHARMA CHAKRA PRAVARTANA DIVAS CELEBRATIONS ON ASHADHA PURNIMA.....	09
TAMIL NADU GOVERNOR DISMISSED ARRESTED DMK MINISTER.....	10
INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE RUPEE	11-12
PERFORMANCE GRADE INDEX REPORT 2021-22	13-14
STANDING UP FOR NATIONAL ANTHEM	15
GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI) 2023	16-17
THIRD G20 CULTURE WORKING GROUP (CWG) MEET	18
ANTHROPOCENE EPOCH	19

QUICK FACTS

CONTEMPORARY EVENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE	20-22
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	23-24
ARTS & CULTURE AND HISTORICAL EVENTS	25

TEST ZONE

PASSAGE -1 (Contemporary Events of Significance)	26
PASSAGE -2 (International Affairs)	27
PASSAGE -3 (Arts & Culture and Historical Events)	28

CROSSWORD CORNER

CROSSWORD -1	29
CROSSWORD -2	30



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QUICK BOOSTERS



CHANDRAYAAN-3 MISSION

WHY IN NEWS?

- Chandrayaan-3 was successfully launched on July 14 at 2.35 pm from the Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC) in Sriharikota.
- It is a follow-up to the 2019 Chandrayaan-2 mission, which partially failed after its lander and rover couldn't execute a soft-landing on the Moon.

Key Objectives

- Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on to the unsuccessful Chandrayaan-2 mission, and it has the same objective—to demonstrate the capability of soft landing on the Moon by delivering a lander (Vikram) and a rover (Pragyaan) to the lunar surface.
- The Chandrayaan-2 mission ended in tears on September 6, 2019, when the mission's Vikram lander failed to make a soft landing. The failure happened about 13 minutes after the spacecraft began its descent.
- The Chandrayaan-3 mission has a long distance to cover. The lander which is carried by the spacecraft is expected to make a soft landing on the Moon on either August 23 or August 24.

Why the South Pole of the Moon?

- Chandrayaan-3 mission will be the first-ever mission to land on the South Pole of the Moon, an area that remains largely unexplored by humans.
- If everything goes well, the Chandrayaan-3 will become the world's first mission to soft-land near the lunar south pole.
- The polar regions of the Moon, however, are a very different, and difficult, terrain. Due to their rugged environment, the polar regions of the Moon have remained unexplored.
- Many parts lie in a completely dark region where sunlight never reaches, and temperatures can go below 230 degrees Celsius. Lack of sunlight and extremely low temperatures create difficulty in the operation of instruments.
- In addition, there are large craters all over the place, ranging from a few centimetres in size to those extending to several thousands of kilometres.
- The extremely cold temperatures here mean that anything trapped in the region would remain frozen in time, without undergoing much change. The rocks and soil in Moon's north and south poles could therefore provide clues to the early Solar System.

Chandrayaan-3 Spacecraft

- The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft consists of three parts—the lander module, the propulsion module and a rover.
- The lander is designed to make a soft landing at a specific site on the Moon and deploy the rover. The rover will carry out a chemical analysis of the lunar surface.
- Both the lander and the rover carry many scientific payloads for experiments on the lunar surface.
- The propulsion module has one main function—to carry the lander and rover from “launch vehicle injection” to a 100-kilometre circular polar lunar orbit before it separates from the other modules.
- The propulsion module also has a scientific payload that will begin operation after separation.
- The Chandrayaan-3 will use an orbiter already hovering over the Moon that was launched with Chandrayaan-2 for its communications and other support for terrain mapping.

Chandrayaan-3's LVM-3

- LVM-3 or Launch Vehicle Mark-III, is a three-stage medium-lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO and earlier known as the GSLV Mark III.
- It is the most powerful rocket in the space agency's stable and used to launch the Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- The vehicle is 43.5 metres tall and has a diameter of 4 metres. It has a lift-off mass of 640 tonnes. It can carry a payload of upto 8,000 kilograms to a low-Earth orbit.
- Going further, it is capable of carrying about 4,000 kilograms of payload to a geostationary transfer orbit.

Unlike the Earth, whose spin axis is tilted with respect to the plane of the Earth's solar orbit by 23.5 degrees, the Moon's axis tilts only 1.5 degrees. Because of this unique geometry, sunlight never shines on the floors of a number of craters near the lunar north and south poles. These areas are known as Permanently Shadowed Regions, or PSRs.





DID YOU KNOW?

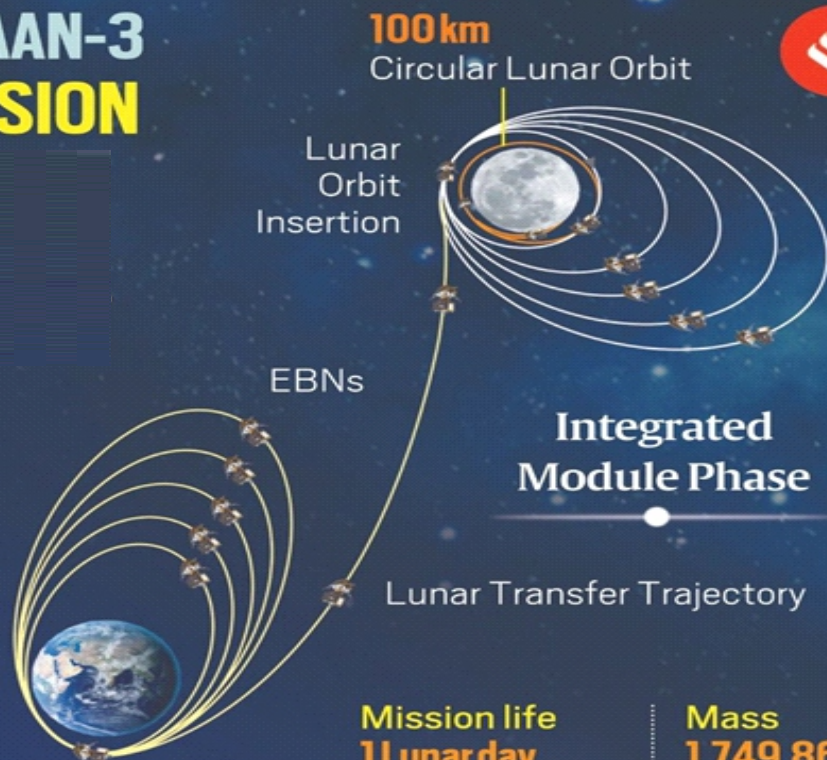
- So far, only three countries have actually managed to land on the Moon—the United States, the erstwhile Soviet Union and China.
- China's Chang'e 4, which became the first spacecraft to land on the far side of the moon — the side that does not face the earth — landed near the 45-degree latitude.
- Chandrayaan-1, in 2008, discovered the presence of water on the lunar surface.
- So far, landings have been possible only on the Moon, Mars and Venus. All other planetary bodies have been studied through orbiter or flyby missions.
- The first landing on the moon was accomplished on January 31, 1966, by the Luna 9 spacecraft of the then USSR. It also relayed the first picture from the Moon's surface.
- So far only NASA of the United States has been able to land human beings on the moon. Six teams of two astronauts each landed on the moon, all between 1969 and 1972.
- After that, no attempt has been made to land on the Moon. But with NASA's Artemis III, currently planned for 2025, humanity is set to once again to the lunar surface in more than 50 years.

CHANDRAYAAN-3 MOON MISSION



Take of from
Sriharikota

**LVM3-M4
Vehicle**
Height
43.5 m
Lift-off
Mass
642 t



Mission life
1 Lunar day
(14 Earth days)

Mass
1,749.86 kg
including
Rover



Lander
Module
& Rover

Propulsion
module

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CENTRE PROPOSES DRAFT RULES FOR GREEN CREDIT PROGRAMME

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change notified the draft 'Green Credit Programme Implementation Rules 2023'.

Key Points

- The main objective of the Green Credit Programme is to create a market-based mechanism for providing incentives in the form of Green Credits to individuals, farmer producer organisations, cooperatives, forestry enterprises, sustainable agriculture enterprises, urban and rural local bodies, private sectors, industries and organisations for environment positive actions.
- The programme also envisages to create a mass movement around environment-positive actions and realise the vision of "Mission LiFE" through pro-planet people and entities.
- Green Credits will be tradable outcomes and will act as incentives.
- In the beginning, Green Credits will be made available to individual and entities, engaged in selected activities and who undertake environmental interventions. These Green Credits will be made available for trading on a domestic market platform.
- The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education shall be the administrator of the programme and will develop guidelines, processes and procedures for the implementation of the programme.

Key Green Credit Activities

S.No.	Sector	Objectives/Activity
1.	Tree Plantation-based GC	Increase of green cover through tree plantation and related efforts.
2.	Water-based GC	Water conservation, harvesting, efficiency, and wastewater treatment and reuse.
3.	Sustainable Agriculture based GC	Natural and regenerative agricultural practices, and land restoration.
4.	Waste Management based GC	Sustainable and improved waste management practices.
5.	Air Pollution Reduction based GC	Reduction of air pollution and other pollution abatement activities.
6.	Mangrove Conservation and Restoration based GC	Conservation and restoration of mangroves.
7.	Ecomark based GC	Encouragement to manufacturers to obtain the Ecomark label for their goods and services.
8.	Sustainable building and infrastructure based GC	Construction of sustainable buildings and infrastructure using eco-friendly technologies and materials.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Carbon markets allow the trade of carbon credits with the overall objective of bringing down emissions. These markets create incentives to reduce emissions or improve energy efficiency.
- One carbon credit is equal to one metric ton of carbon dioxide, or in some markets, carbon dioxide equivalent gases (CO₂-eq).
- Under the Kyoto Protocol, the predecessor to the Paris Agreement, carbon markets have worked at the international level as well.
- Greenwashing is the process of conveying a false impression or misleading information about how a company's products are environmentally sound. The term was first used in 1986 by Jay Westerveld, an American environmentalist and researcher.



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FUKUSHIMA WATER RELEASE PLAN

WHY IN NEWS?

- Japan is set to begin pumping out more than a million tonnes of treated water from the destroyed Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, a process that will take decades to complete.
- The United Nations nuclear agency, International Atomic Energy Agency, recently concluded that Japan's plan to release treated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea meets international standards and will have a “negligible radiological impact”.

What is Treated Water?

- The radioactive water has built up at the plant since the 2011 tsunami destroyed electricity and cooling systems at the power station, triggering the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl.
- Some was used to cool the three damaged reactors, while the rest is from rain that has fallen onto the contaminated site, and groundwater.
- An extensive pumping and filtration system known as ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System) ensures the melted uranium fuel rods remain cool and extracts tonnes of newly contaminated water every day, filtering out most of the radioactive elements.
- The water is collected, treated and stored in about 1,000 tanks, which will reach their capacity in early 2024.

Concerns

- Fishing unions in Fukushima have urged the government for years not to release the water, arguing it would undo work to restore the damaged reputation of their fisheries.
- Neighbouring countries have also expressed concern. China has been the most vocal, calling Japan's plan irresponsible, unpopular and unilateral.
- South Korea fears that the water release will contaminate its waters, salt and seafood, affecting its fishing industry and public health.

What Radioactive Isotopes are in the Water?

- The ALPS process removes most of the radioactive isotopes to ensure the wastewater meets international safety guidelines.
 - But it cannot remove some, including tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen.
- Tritium is considered to be relatively harmless because it does not emit enough energy to penetrate human skin. But when ingested it can raise cancer risks, a Scientific American magazine article said in 2014.
 - The half-life of tritium – the time needed for one half the atoms of a radioactive isotope to decay – is 12.3 years. In humans, it has an estimated biological half-life of 7-10 days.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1986, the Chernobyl disaster took place at Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine.
- In 1979, the Three Mile Island Accident took place at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station in Pennsylvania when a partial meltdown of the reactor's core resulted in the release of radioactive gases.
- In 1957, Kyshtym Disaster took place at the Mayak Production Association in the Soviet Union (now Russia) when a significant amount of radioactive materials was released into the environment after the explosion of the nuclear waste storage tank.
- India is the only developing nation to have indigenously developed, demonstrated and deployed nuclear reactors for electricity generation.
- The world's first thorium-based nuclear plant, "Bhavni," using Uranium-233, is being set up at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu.
- Nuclear energy is the fifth-largest source of electricity for India which contributes about 3% of the total electricity generation in the country.

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OPEN MARKET SALE SCHEME FOR RICE AND WHEAT IN STATES

WHY IN NEWS?

- Karnataka recently demanded immediate resumption of the Open Market Sale scheme-Domestic (OMSS-D) for rice and wheat in states.

Background

- In June 2023, the Karnataka government sought 2.28 lakh metric tonnes from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to provide 10 kg of food grains per person per month to all BPL families free of cost under the Anna Bhagya scheme.
- In response, FCI agreed to supply around 2.22 lakh metric tonnes.
- A day later, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, directed FCI against selling grains to state governments.
- On June 14, the FCI cancelled its orders to allocate rice to Karnataka.
- On June 23, 2023, the Centre directed the FCI to conduct the e-auctions of wheat and rice to check inflationary trends in prevailing retail prices as a part of market intervention.
- In the e-auction conducted on July 5, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) received bids for only 170 MT of rice against a quantity of 3.86 lakh MT on offer.

DID YOU KNOW?

- According to the NSSO Survey of 2011-12, the all-India average monthly consumption stood at 5.976 kg in rural areas and 4.487 kg in urban areas.
- FCI is a statutory body set up in 1965 under the Food Corporations Act of 1964. It was established against the backdrop of a major shortage of grains, especially wheat.
- The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was launched in March 2020 to provide free 5 kg foodgrains per person per month to about 80 crore beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) to reduce their hardship during the lockdown period.
- The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, legally entitles up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.

What is the Open Market Sale Scheme?

- Under the Open Market Sale Scheme, the FCI from time to time sells surplus food grains from the central pool especially wheat and rice in the open market to traders, bulk consumers, retail chains and so on at pre-determined prices.
- The Corporation does this through e-auctions where open market bidders can buy specified quantities at the prices set at the start of a cycle and revised routinely.
- Usually, states are also allowed to procure food grains through the OMSS without participating in the auctions, for their needs beyond what they get from the central pool to distribute to NFSA beneficiaries.
- Recently, the Centre decided to restrict the quantity that a single bidder can purchase in a single bid under the OMSS.
- While the maximum quantity allowed earlier was 3,000 metric tonnes (MT) per bid for a buyer, it will now range from 10-100 metric tonnes (MT).

Discontinued the Scheme for States

- First, the Centre had decided to reduce the quantity a particular bidder can purchase under the OMSS, but on June 13, in a notification sent to the States on June, it stopped the sale of rice and wheat from the Central pool under the OMSS to state governments, also disallowing private bidders to sell their OMSS supplies to state governments.
- The rationale given for the same by the Corporation is to ensure that the inflationary trends are kept under control while ensuring adequate stock levels in the Central pool.



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INDIA DECIDED TO JOIN THE ARTEMIS ACCORDS

WHY IN NEWS?

- India has decided to join the Artemis Accords, which brings like-minded countries together on civil space exploration.

What are the Artemis Accords?

- Based on the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 (OST), the Artemis Accords were established by the US State Department and NASA with seven other founding members — Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom— in 2020 for setting common principles to govern civil exploration and use of outer space, the moon, Mars, comets, and asteroids, for peaceful purposes.
- 28 countries have signed the Accords as of June 2023.
 - The 28 signatories are the US, Australia, Canada, India, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the United Arab Emirates, the UK, Ukraine, South Korea, New Zealand, Brazil, Poland, Mexico, Israel, Romania, Bahrain, Singapore, Colombia, France, Saudi Arabia, Rwanda, Nigeria, Czech Republic, Spain, and Ecuador.

Commitments under the Accords

- The signatories will implement the memorandum of understanding (MOUs) between governments or agencies to conduct space activities for peaceful purposes in accordance with international law.
- The signatories recognise common exploration infrastructure to enhance scientific discovery and commercial utilisation.
- All relevant space objects must be registered by the signatories and they must openly share scientific data in a timely fashion. Private sectors are exempted from sharing scientific data unless they are performing space activities on behalf of a signatory.
- The utilisation of space resources, including recoveries from the surface of the moon, Mars, comets, or asteroids should be done in support of safe and sustainable space activities.
- The members are expected to preserve outer space heritage, including historic human or robotic landing sites, artefacts and evidence of activity on celestial bodies.
- Members must plan for mitigation of orbital debris, including safe and timely disposal of spacecraft at the end of missions.

Activities under Artemis Programme

- The initial three missions of the programme are Artemis-I, II and III.
- Under Artemis-I, NASA launched its spacecraft 'Orion' directly to the moon on a single mission. The Orion completed a lunar flyby, performing a half revolution around the moon before returning to the earth's orbit and splashing down on December 11, 2022, in the Pacific Ocean.
- In 2024, NASA's Artemis-2 programme will mark the first crewed mission.
 - The mission involves the multiple manoeuvres on an expanding orbit around the Earth, conducting a lunar flyby and returning to the earth.
 - The crew will perform tests on systems like communication, life support, and navigation and perform a proximity operations demonstration which will help in docking and undocking for Artemis-III.
- Under Artemis-III, humans will return to the moon in 2025.
 - This mission will witness the four-member crew land on the moon, conduct a week-long lunar exploration, perform a lunar flyby, and return to earth.
- In future missions under the Artemis programme, NASA aims to land a second crew on the moon in 2028 and establish a Lunar Gateway station where astronauts will land in 2029.
- NASA also aims to set up a permanent base on the lunar surface and then proceed to send astronauts to Mars.

India and Artemis Programme

- With India signing the Artemis Accords, it will be a part of the US attempt to land humans on the moon by 2025.
- Moreover, ISRO is likely to collaborate on further Artemis missions including the Lunar Gateway, Mars landing and establishing a permanent lunar base.
- India also aims to establish its own space station similar to the ISS and China's Tiangong space station.

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ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX 2023

WHY IN NEWS?

- The World Economic Forum ranked India at 67th place globally on its Energy Transition Index 2023.

Key Findings

- Sweden topped the list and was followed by Denmark, Norway, Finland and Switzerland in the top five on the list of 120 countries.
- France (7) was the only G20 country in the top 10, followed closely by Germany (11), the U.S. (12), and the U.K. (13).
- Global average ETI scores increased by 10% since 2014 but showed only marginal growth in the past three years.
- Only 41 countries have made steady progress in the past decade.
- The global energy transition has plateaued amid the global energy crisis and geopolitical volatilities, but India is among the countries that have made significant improvements.
- Besides India, Singapore is the only other major economy showing “true momentum by advancing sustainability, energy security and equity in a balanced way”.

DID YOU KNOW?

- At the COP26 of the UNFCCC in 2021, India has set itself an ambitious long-term goal of reaching net zero emissions by 2070.
- Net zero means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out.
- India has signalled a commitment to clean energy with ambitious targets like 500GW of non-fossil, including 450 GW Renewable Energy (RE) capacity addition and 43% RE purchase obligation by 2030.
- In 2022, the NITI Aayog launched the State Energy and Climate Index (SECI) to track the efforts made by states and UTs in the climate and energy sector.

India's Performance

- India is the only major economy with energy transition momentum accelerating across the Energy Transition Index's equitable, secure and sustainable dimensions.
- Achieving universal access to electricity, replacing solid fuels with clean cooking options and increasing renewable energy deployment have been primary contributors to the improvement of India's performance.
- India also emerged relatively less affected from the recent energy crisis, largely due to the low share of natural gas in power generation and increased use of existing generation capacities.

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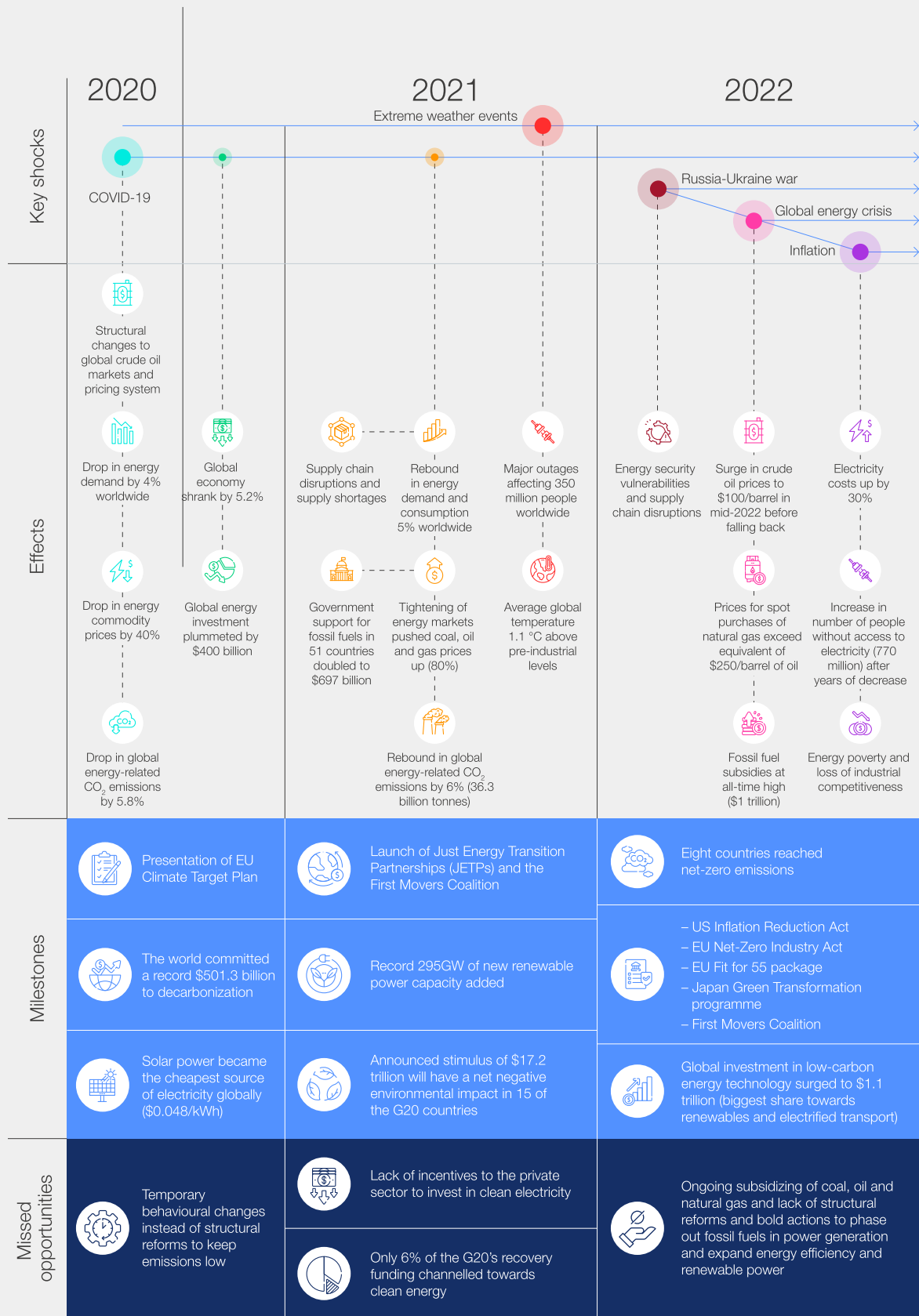
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BHARAT 6G ALLIANCE

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Department of Telecommunications has launched Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) to drive innovation and collaboration in next-generation wireless technology.
- Mobile services have seen the transformation from 2G to 3G to 4G to 5G and 6G is on the horizon.

What is Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)?

- B6GA is a collaborative platform consisting of public and private companies, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations.
- The primary objective of it is to understand the business and societal needs of 6G beyond technical requirements, foster consensus on these needs, and promote high-impact open research and development (R&D) initiatives.
- B6GA will also forge coalitions and synergies with other 6G Global Alliances.
- It also aims to establish consortia of Indian startups and companies that derive design, development and deployment of 6G technologies in India.

About 6G

- 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.
- As opposed to 5G, which at its peak can offer internet speeds up to 10 gigabits per second, 6G promises to offer ultra-low latency with speeds up to 1 terabits per second.
 - Latency, which 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), is not far off from the speed of light itself on existing networks.
- It seeks to utilize the terahertz band of frequency which is currently unused. Terahertz waves fall between infrared waves and microwaves on the electromagnetic spectrum.

Bharat 6G
Alliance

DID YOU KNOW?

- To further strengthen its position in the global telecom space, India aims to have 10% of the intellectual property rights (IPR) in 6G technology.
- In India, telecom service providers started providing high-speed 5G services in October 2022.
- Gujarat becomes the first state in India to get true-5g in 100% of district headquarters under the 'true 5g for all' initiative.
- In March 2023, the government of India also set up Bharat 6G Project to roll out high-speed 6G communication services by 2030.
- The 6G project is proposed to be implemented in two phases: the first one from 2023 to 2025 and the second one from 2025 to 2030.



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DHARMA CHAKRA PRAVARTANA DIVAS CELEBRATIONS ON ASHADHA PURNIMA

WHY IN NEWS?

- On the occasion of Dharma Chakra Pravartana Divas celebrations (3rd July 2023), the President of India called upon the youth to draw inspiration from the teachings of Buddha, empowering themselves to make significant contributions toward building a peaceful society, nation, and world.

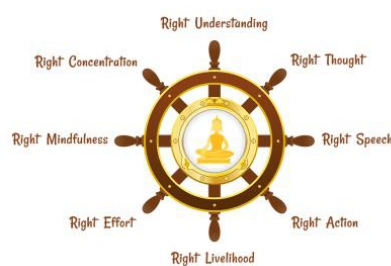
Key Points

- The official programme was organised by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India at the National Museum, New Delhi.
- The President highlighted the importance of following Lord Buddha's three teachings: Sheel, Sadhachar, and Pragy.
- She also emphasized the significance of studying and comprehending Lord Buddha's first sermon delivered in the sacred land of Sarnath to gain a deep understanding of Buddha Dhamma.
- The President reflected on how Lord Buddha planted the seeds of the middle path of the Dhamma through his first sermon on Asadha Purnima.
- During his Dhamma talk on the Significance of Asadha Purnima, His Holiness The 12th Chamgon Kenting Tai Situpa said, "We celebrate the first teachings of Buddha, which impart the deepest common sense: to overcome suffering and strive for peace, harmony, and compassion."
- On the auspicious day of Asadha Purnima, an announcement was made regarding the award of the construction contract for the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage (IICBCH) in the Monastic Zone of Lumbini.

About Ashadha Purnima

- Ashadha Purnima marks Buddha's first teaching after attaining Enlightenment to the first five ascetic disciples (pañcavargiya) on the full-moon day of Ashadha at 'Deer Park', Rīṣipatana Mrigadaya in the present-day Sarnath, near Varanasi, India.
- This teaching of Dhamma Cakka- Pavattana Sutta (Pali) or Dharma Cakra Pravartana Sutra (Sanskrit) is also known as the Turning of Wheels of Dharma and comprises the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eight-Fold Path.
- The Rainy Season retreat (Varsha Vassa) for the Monks and Nuns also starts with this day lasting for three lunar months from July to October, during which they remain in a single place, generally in their temples dedicated to intense meditation.
- The day is also observed as Guru Purnima by both Buddhists and Hindus as a day to mark reverence to their Gurus.

THE NOBLE EIGHTFOLD PATH



The Division of Wisdom

- 1.) Right Understanding
- 2.) Right Thought

The Division of Ethical Conduct

- 3.) Right Speech
- 4.) Right Action
- 5.) Right Livelihood

The Division of Mental Discipline

- 6.) Right Effort
- 7.) Right Mindfulness
- 8.) Right Concentration

The Four Noble Truths



1. **Dukkha**
The truth of suffering.
2. **Samudaya**
The truth of the origin of suffering.
3. **Nirodha**
The truth of the end of suffering.
4. **Magga**
The truth of the path to the end of suffering.

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TAMIL NADU GOVERNOR DISMISSED ARRESTED DMK MINISTER

WHY IN NEWS?

- Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi recently dismissed arrested DMK minister V Senthil Balaji from the council of ministers.
- The Governor later backtracked on his decision late in the night, keeping the "dismissal" order in abeyance.

Governor's Powers to Dismiss Ministers

- Article 164 of the Constitution says the chief minister shall be appointed by the Governor and other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the chief minister's advice.
 - It states that the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor, and the other ministers are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. Additionally, ministers hold office at the pleasure of the Governor.
- The Article implies that the Governor cannot appoint an individual Minister according to his discretion. Therefore, the Governor can dismiss a Minister only on the advice of the Chief Minister.
- Former Lok Sabha Secretary General and Constitution expert PDT Achary told that, "Governor has to act on the aid and advice of the chief minister. Governor can dismiss the government only when it loses majority and refuses to step down."

Supreme Court Judgments

- In Shamsher Singh versus State of Punjab (1974), a seven-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court held that there cannot be a parallel administration within the state by allowing the Governor to go against the advice of the council of ministers.
- In Sanjeevi Naidu vs State of Madras, it was held that the Governor is essentially a constitutional head, and the government is run by the Council of Ministers. All the matters in which the Governor is specifically required to act in his discretion have to be decided by Council of Ministers.
- In Nabam Rebia vs Deputy Speaker And Ors of 2016, the Supreme Court said that the Governor can act only on the advice of the Council of Ministers.
 - The Supreme Court ruled that Article 163 of the Constitution does not give the Governor a general discretionary power to act against or without the advice of his Council of Ministers.

What does the "pleasure" of the Governor mean?

- The phrase "the ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor" does not mean the Governor has the right to dismiss the Chief Minister or ministers at will.
- But it cannot be interpreted that the Governor can withdraw the pleasure on his own. He can do so only at the recommendation of the Chief Minister, who represents the Council of Ministers.





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INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE RUPEE

WHY IN NEWS?

- A Reserve Bank of India-appointed working group recently recommended various measures, including the inclusion of the rupee in the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket and recalibration of the foreign portfolio investor (FPI) regime to accelerate the pace of internationalisation of the rupee.

Key Recommendations

- The working group, headed by RBI Executive Director Radha Shyam Ratho, has recommended a slew of short to long-term measures to accelerate the pace of internationalisation of the rupee.
- For the short term, the group has suggested-
 - adoption of a standardised approach for examining the proposals on bilateral and multilateral trade arrangements for invoicing,
 - settlement and payment in the rupee and local currencies,
 - encouraging the opening of the rupee accounts for non-residents both in India and outside India and integrating Indian payment systems with other countries for cross-border transactions.
- It suggested strengthening the financial market by fostering a global 24x5 rupee market and recalibration of the FPI (foreign portfolio investor) regime.
- Over the next two to five years, the group has recommended a review of taxes on masala (rupee-denominated bonds issued outside India by Indian entities) bonds, international use of Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) for cross-border trade transactions and inclusion of Indian Government Bonds in global bond indices.
- For the long term, the group has recommended that efforts should be made for the inclusion of the rupee in IMF's (International Monetary Fund) SDR (special drawing rights).

The SDR is an international reserve asset created by the IMF to supplement the official reserves of its member countries. The value of the SDR is based on a basket of five currencies — the U.S. dollar, the euro, the Chinese renminbi, the Japanese yen, and the British pound sterling.

What does the Internationalisation of the Rupee mean?

- Internationalisation is a process that involves increasing the use of the rupee in cross-border transactions.
- It involves promoting the rupee for import and export trade and then other current account transactions, followed by its use in capital account transactions. These are all transactions between residents in India and non-residents.
- The internationalisation of the currency, which is closely interlinked with the nation's economic progress, requires further opening up of the currency settlement and a strong swap and forex market.
- More importantly, it will require full convertibility of the currency on the capital account and cross-border transfer of funds without any restrictions. India has allowed only full convertibility on the current account as of now.
- Currently, the US dollar, the Euro, the Japanese yen and the pound sterling are the leading reserve currencies in the world.
- China's efforts to make its currency renminbi has met with only limited success so far.

The Dominance of the US Dollar

- The US dollar enjoys the highest privilege among all currencies in the world. It is used in most global transactions.
- The dollar's position is supported by a range of factors, including the size of the US economy, the reach of its trade and financial networks, the depth and liquidity of US financial markets, and a history of macroeconomic stability and currency convertibility.
- Dollar dominance has also benefited from the lack of viable alternatives.
- The RBI's working group said that the "obvious" challenger to the US dollar is the Chinese renminbi. However, it will depend on how the trade war between the two countries pans out.

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Advantages of Internationalisation of the Rupee

- The use of the rupee in cross-border transactions mitigates currency risk for Indian businesses.
- Protection from currency volatility not only reduces the cost of doing business, it also enables better growth of business, improving the chances for Indian businesses to grow globally.
- While reserves help manage exchange rate volatility and project external stability, they impose a cost on the economy. Internationalisation of the rupee reduces the need for holding foreign exchange reserves.
- Reducing dependence on foreign currency will make India less vulnerable to external shocks.
- As the use of the rupee becomes significant, the bargaining power of Indian businesses would improve, adding weight to the Indian economy and enhancing India's global stature and respect.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Indian rupee was the legal tender in the Gulf countries, including Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and UAE, till the early 1970s. In 1959, the Centre allowed the RBI to issue special notes only for the Gulf region.
- Indians could also take the Indian rupee notes when they went on the Haj pilgrimage and exchange them freely for Saudi riyals. Later, the Centre introduced special notes for the pilgrimage with the word "HAJ" inscribed on it. These were called "Haj notes".
- When the Indian currency is used to make payments and buy things in a foreign country, it does not signify internationalisation.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed banks from 18 countries to settle payments in the rupee. This includes names like Sri Lanka, Israel, Russia, Germany, Singapore and the United Kingdom. Apart from this, 64 other countries have expressed their intent to trade with India in rupee.



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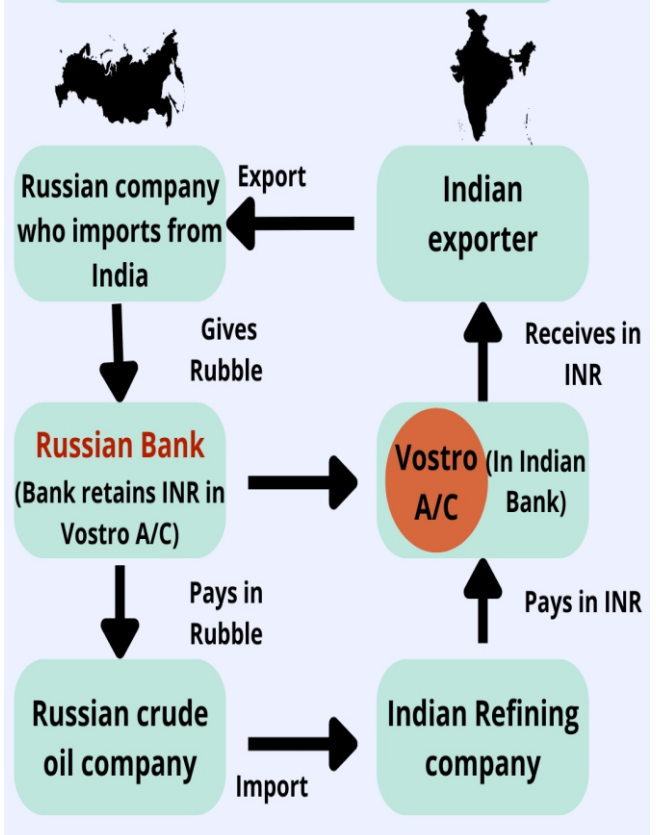
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Global trade settlements in rupees



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PERFORMANCE GRADE INDEX REPORT 2021-22

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education released the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) combined report for 2020-21 & 2021-22.
- The Ministry of Education has also released a report on Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 for States/UTs for the year 2021-22.

About PGI-D

- PGI-D assesses the performance of the school education system at the District level by creating an index for comprehensive analysis.
- The PGI-D structure comprises of total weightage of 600 points across 83 indicators, which are grouped under 6 categories viz., Outcomes, Effective Classroom Transaction, Infrastructure Facilities & Student's Entitlements, School Safety & Child Protection, Digital Learning and Governance Process.
- The report has 10 grades under which districts are categorized-

Scores (% of total points)	Score range	Grade
91% to 100%	941-1000	Daksh
81% to 90%	881-940	Utkarsh
71% to 80%	821-880	Atti-Uttam
61% to 70%	761-820	Uttam
51% to 60%	701-760	Prachesta -1
41% to 50%	641-700	Prachesta -2
31% to 40%	581-640	Prachesta -3
21% to 30%	521-580	Akanshi-1
11% to 20%	461-520	Akanshi-2
Up to 10%	401-460	Akanshi-3

Key Findings of PGI-D

- No state or UT could make it to the top five grades.
- While none of the districts were able to earn the top two grades — Daksh and Utkarsh — in the latest report.
- 121 districts were graded as Ati-Uttam for 2020-21, though this number fell by more than half in 2021-22, with just 51 districts making the grade.
- Further attesting to the pandemic effect, while 2020-21 had 86 districts under Prachesta-2 (sixth-highest grade), this number rose to 117 in 2021-22.

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About PFI 2.0

- It is a comprehensive assessment tool devised by the MoE for evaluating the performance of the school education system at the State/UT level.
- It was first released for the year 2017-18. The PGI structure comprises of total weightage of 1000 points across 73 indicators, which are grouped under 2 Categories viz., Outcomes and Governance & Management.

Categories	Domain	Indicators	Total Weight
1. Outcomes	Learning Outcomes and Quality (LO)	12	240
	Access (A)	7	80
	Infrastructure & Facilities (IF)	15	190
	Equity (E)	16	260
2. Governance Management (GM)	Governance Processes (GP)	15	130
	Teacher Education & Training (TE&T)	8	100
Total		73	1000

Key Findings of PGI 2.0

Grades (Scores)	Names of States/ UTs attaining the respective Grades							Total States/UTs in respective grade
Daksh (941 - 1000)	None							NIL
Utkarsh (881 - 940)	None							NIL
Atti - Uttam (821 - 880)	None							NIL
Uttam (761 - 820)	None							NIL
Prachesta - 1 (701 - 760)	None							NIL
Prachesta - 2 (641 - 700)	Chandigarh	Punjab						2
Prachesta - 3 (581 - 640)	Gujarat	Kerala	Maharashtra	Delhi	Puducherry	Tamil Nadu		6
Akanshi - 1 (521 - 580)	A & N Islands Karnataka	Andhra Pradesh Lakshadweep	Chhattisgarh Madhya Pradesh	DNH & DD Rajasthan	Goa Sikkim	Haryana West Bengal	Himachal Pradesh	13
Akanshi - 2 (461 - 520)	Assam Nagaland	Bihar Odisha	J & K Telangana	Jharkhand Tripura	Ladakh Uttarakhand	Manipur U.P.		12
Akanshi - 3 (401 - 460)	Arunachal Pradesh	Meghalaya	Mizoram					3

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STANDING UP FOR NATIONAL ANTHEM

WHY IN NEWS?

- An executive magistrate in Srinagar has sent 11 men to jail for a week after they were held by J-K Police for allegedly not rising for the national anthem at a June 25 event attended by J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.
- According to the administration, twelve persons have been generally bound down for good behaviour under sections 107/151 of CrPC.

Sections under Law

- Section 107 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 allows an Executive Magistrate to ask any person who is “likely to commit a breach of the peace or disturb the public tranquillity or to do any wrongful act that may probably occasion a breach of the peace or disturb the public tranquillity...to show cause why he should not be ordered to execute a bond...for keeping the peace” for up to a year.
- Section 151 CrPC allows a police officer who knows of a design to commit a cognizable offence to “arrest, without orders from a Magistrate and without a warrant, the person so designing”.

In legal terms, to be “bound down” means to be required to appear before the investigating officer or the court on a given date. The expression is usually used in court orders to indicate that an accused is “bound” by the surety or personal guarantee to appear before authorities.

What the Supreme Court has Ruled?

Bijoe Emmanuel & Ors vs State Of Kerala & Ors (1986)

- The court granted protection to three children belonging to the millenarian Christian sect Jehovah's Witnesses, who did not join in the singing of the National Anthem at their school.
- The court held that forcing them to sing the Anthem violated their fundamental right to religion under Article 25 of the Constitution.
- Their parents pleaded before Kerala HC that the Jehovah's Witnesses sect of Christianity permitted worship of only Jehovah (Hebrew name for God). Since the anthem is a prayer, they could stand up in respect, but could not sing.
- The SC held that standing up respectfully but not singing oneself neither prevents the singing of the National Anthem nor causes disturbance to people assembled to sing. Hence, it does not constitute an offence under PINH Act 1971.

Shyam Narayan Chouksey vs Union of India (2018)

- While hearing the case in 2016, the Supreme Court passed an interim order that “All the cinema halls in India shall play the National Anthem before the feature film starts and all present in the hall are obliged to stand up to show respect to the National Anthem.”
- The court had also ordered that “entry and exit doors shall remain closed” when the Anthem is played, and that “when the National Anthem shall be played...it shall be with the National Flag on the screen”.
- However, in its final judgment in the case passed on January 9, 2018, the court modified its 2016 interim order and said that playing the National Anthem prior to the screening of feature films in cinema halls is not mandatory, but optional or directory.

DID YOU KNOW?

- National Anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' is composed by Rabindranath Tagore.
- On December 27, 1911, Tagore performed the anthem for the first time in an INC session in Calcutta.
- It was adopted as the national anthem on January 24, 1950, announced by the then President Dr Rajendra Prasad.
- 'To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem' is enshrined as one of the Fundamental Duties under Article 51A (Part IVA) of the Indian Constitution.
- Prevention of Insults to National Honour (PINH) Act, 1971 stated that strict punishment will be meted out for disrespecting the national anthem and breaking its restrictions.

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GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI) 2023

WHY IN NEWS?

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative released their latest edition of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

Global Findings

- According to the 2023 release, globally, 1.1 billion out of 6.1 billion people (just more than 18%) live in acute multidimensional poverty across 110 countries.
- Sub-Saharan Africa (534 million) and South Asia (389 million) are home to approximately five out of every six poor people.
- Children under 18 years old account for half of MPI-poor people (566 million).
 - The poverty rate among children is 27.7 per cent, while among adults it is 13.4 per cent.
- As per Index, 25 countries, including India, successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years, showing that rapid progress is attainable.
 - These countries include Cambodia, China, Congo, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and Vietnam.
- Poverty predominantly affects rural areas, with 84% of all poor people living in rural areas. Rural areas are poorer than urban areas across all regions of the world.

Updated Global Poverty Lines

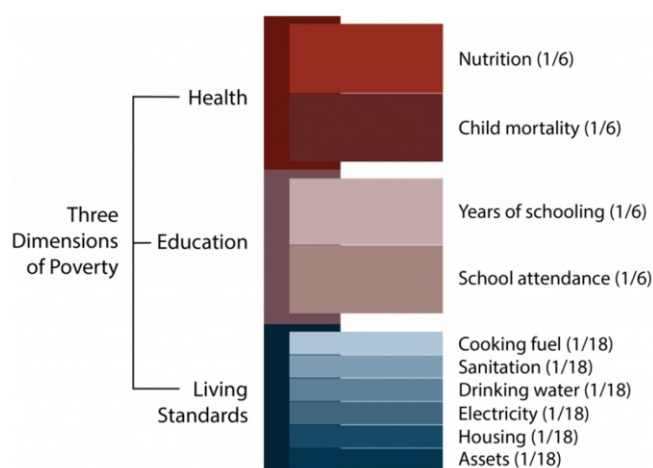
- The World Bank updated the global poverty lines in September 2022. The decision follows the release in 2020 of new purchasing power parities (PPPs)—the main data used to convert different currencies into a common, comparable unit and account for price differences across countries.
- The new extreme poverty line of \$2.15 per person per day, which replaces the \$1.90 poverty line, is based on 2017 PPPs.
- The international poverty line is periodically updated to reflect changes in prices across the world.
 - The rise in the international poverty line reflects an increase in the costs of basic food, clothing, and shelter needs in low-income countries between 2011 and 2017, relative to the rest of the world.
 - In other words, the real value of \$2.15 in 2017 prices is the same as \$1.90 was in 2011 prices.

India's Performance

- In India, 415 million poor people moved out of poverty from 2005-2006 to 2019-2021, with incidence falling from 55.1% in 2005-2006 to 16.4% in 2019-2021.
 - India still has more than 230 million people who are poor.
- According to the report, people who are multidimensionally poor and deprived under the nutrition indicator in India declined from 44.3% in 2005-2006 to 11.8% in 2019-2021, and child mortality fell from 4.5% to 1.5%.
- India progressed significantly in all the three deprivation indicators: Health, Education, Standard of living.

About MPI

- The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is an international measure of acute multidimensional poverty covering over 100 developing countries.
- It complements traditional monetary poverty measures by capturing the acute deprivations in health, education, and living standards that a person faces simultaneously.
- A person is multidimensionally poor if she/he is deprived in one third or more (means 33% or more) of the weighted indicators (out of the ten indicators). Those who are deprived in one half or more of the weighted indicators are considered living in extreme multidimensional poverty.



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DID YOU KNOW?

- Poverty estimation in India is carried out by NITI Aayog's Task Force.
- A common method used to estimate poverty in India is based on the income or consumption levels and if the income or consumption falls below a given minimum level, then the household is said to be Below the Poverty Line (BPL).
- In India, poverty line estimation is based on consumption expenditure and not on income levels.
- In 2015 the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 set out to overcome the greatest global challenge: ending poverty in all its forms.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY IN 2023

WHERE DO POOR PEOPLE LIVE?

Across 110 countries,
1.1 billion out of **6.1 billion**
people are poor.



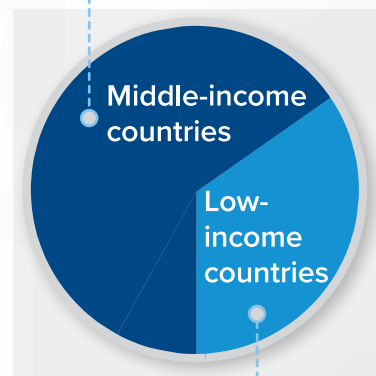
That is, just over **18%**
are estimated to live in
acute multidimensional poverty.



534 million
out of 1.1 billion poor people
—half of all poor people—
live in **Sub-Saharan Africa.**



730 million
—nearly two-thirds
of all poor people
live in...



...host **over one-third**
of all poor people—

387 million.



Over a third of
all poor people
live in **South Asia**—that's
389 million people.



POVERTY REDUCTION IS POSSIBLE.

25 countries
halved
their global

MDI
IVIPI

VALUE well **within 15 years.**

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THIRD G20 CULTURE WORKING GROUP (CWG) MEET

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Third G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting was held recently in Hampi, Karnataka.

Key Points

- The G20 Culture Ministers met for the first time in 2020 and highlighted culture's cross-cutting contribution to advancing the G20 agenda.
- The G20 Culture Working Group stands among the 13 thematic Working Groups set up by the Indian Presidency to frame the G20 process in 2023 as part of the Sherpa Track.
- The Culture Working Group is working with delegates of the G20 members, guest nations and international organisations through an inclusive process of in-depth discussions. These deliberations aimed to reaffirm critical areas for collaborative action and to further develop tangible recommendations and best practices for Sustainable Development.
- The first two CWG meetings were held at Khajuraho and Bhubaneswar respectively.
- The CWG meetings center around 4 main priority areas that have been outlined as part of the Culture Track during India's G20 Presidency.
- The 4 priority areas are –
 - Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property
 - Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future
 - Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy
 - Leveraging Digital Technologies for the Protection and Promotion of Culture
- The G20 CWG is also espousing 'Culture for LiFE', an initiative for an environment-conscious lifestyle and a concerted action towards sustainability.
- The Fourth G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting will be held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

- As part of the third G20 culture working group (CWG) meeting in Hampi, a Guinness world record was created for the 'largest display of Lambani items'.
- Over 450 women artisans and cultural practitioners from Lambani — a nomadic community inhabiting Karnataka — came together to create embroidered patches with GI-tagged Sandur Lambani embroidery, creating 1,755 patchwork pieces.

What is Lambani Art?

- The Lambani embroidery is an intricate form of textile embellishment characterised by colourful threads, mirror-work and stitch patterns practised in several villages of Karnataka such as Sandur, Keri Tanda, Mariyammanahalli, Kadirampur, Sitaram Tanda, Bijapur and Kamalapur.
- The Lambani craft tradition involves stitching together small pieces of discarded fabric to create a beautiful fabric.
- The sustainable practice of patch-work is seen in many textile traditions of India and around the world.
- The embroidery traditions of the Lambanis are shared in terms of technique and aesthetics with textile traditions across Eastern Europe, West, and Central Asia.
- Sandur Lambani embroidery, a specific type of Lambani art from the Sandur region of Karnataka, received a Geographical Indication tag in 2010.

About Lambani Community

- The Lambani community is found in Karnataka.
- It is said that Lambanis — who are also called 'Lambadis' or 'Banjaras' — were once nomadic tribes who arrived from Afghanistan to India, mainly Rajasthan (in the Mewar region) and then spread themselves across the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- Banjaras live in several states and are known by different names like Lambada or Lambadi in Andhra Pradesh, Lambani in Karnataka, Gwar or Gwaraiya in Rajasthan, etc.
- They are believed to have assisted the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb to carry goods to the southern part of the country in the 17th century, and that is when some of them settled there.
- The Banjaras speak 'Gor Boli' — also called 'Lambadi'. Since it has no script, it is written either in Devanagari or in the local languages, like Telugu or Kannada.
- As mentioned earlier, it is a community that loves to adorn. They wear clothes that have a lot of thread embroidery, buttons, shells, sequins, silver beads, etc. Not only their clothes but their homes are interestingly styled, too.

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ANTHROPOCENE EPOCH

WHY IN NEWS?

- In a major development that could change the Earth's official geological timeline, geologists announced that sediments from Crawford Lake, located in Canada's Ontario, have provided evidence of the beginning of the Anthropocene epoch — a proposed geological epoch that began when the human impact started to radically alter the Earth's ecosystem and geology.

Key Points

- Members of the Anthropocene Working Group (AWG), which has been working since 2009 to make the Anthropocene part of the planet's time scale, the 35 geologists have estimated that the new epoch started sometime between 1950 and 1954.
- They revealed the findings after analysing the lake's bottom sediments, which have over the years captured the fallouts of large-scale burning of fossil fuels, explosion of nuclear weapons and dumping of plastic and fertilisers on land and in water bodies.
- The data show a clear shift from the mid-20th century, taking Earth's system beyond the normal bounds of the Holocene (the epoch that started at the end of the last ice age 11,700 years ago).

What is the Anthropocene Epoch?

- The Anthropocene epoch as a term was first coined by Nobel Prize-winning chemist Paul Crutzen and biology professor Eugene Stoermer in 2000 to denote the present geological time interval, in which the Earth's ecosystem has gone through radical changes due to human impact, especially since the onset of the Industrial Revolution.
- There are numerous phenomena associated with this epoch, such as global warming, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, mass-scale soil erosion, the advent of deadly heat waves, deterioration of the biosphere and other detrimental changes in the environment.
- Many of these changes will persist for millennia or longer and are altering the trajectory of the Earth System, some with permanent effects.
- They are being reflected in a distinctive body of geological strata now accumulating, with the potential to be preserved into the far future.
- The Anthropocene — derived from the Greek terms for 'human' and 'new' — shows the power and the hubris of humankind.

What is the Geological Time Scale?

- The Earth's geological time scale is a fundamental tool used by geologists, palaeontologists and other scientists to study the planet's past.
- It is a system that divides the history of the Earth into discrete intervals of time, based on events, such as the evolution and extinction of different living beings and processes that have occurred.
- It is divided into five broad categories - eons, epochs, eras, periods, and ages.
- While eon is the broadest category of geological time, age is the smallest category.
- Each of these categories is further divided into sub-categories. For instance, Earth's history is characterised by four eons, including Hadean (oldest), Archean, Proterozoic, and Phanerozoic (youngest).
- As of now, at least officially, we're in the Phanerozoic eon, Cenozoic era, Quaternary period, Holocene epoch and the Meghalayan age.

Quaternary Period with the Anthropocene Epoch

Eon/ Eon	Era/ Era	System/ Period	Series/ Epoch	Stage/ Age	millions of years ago
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Anthropocene ¹		1950 CE
			Holocene		0.0117
			Pleistocene	Upper	0.126
				Middle	0.781
				Calabrian	1.806
Gelasian	2.588				

¹In August 2016 the Anthropocene Working Group (AWG), a special body created within the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS), recommended that the Anthropocene Epoch be made a formal interval within the International Chronostratigraphic Chart. The AWG recommended that the year 1950 be used as the starting point of the Anthropocene Epoch.





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The Question Bank



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

QUICK FACTS



1. **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, approved the **PM-PRANAM scheme**, aimed at restoring and nurturing Mother Earth through the use of biofertilizers. Furthermore, the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane has been increased by Rs 10 to Rs 315 per quintal for the 2023-24 season starting from October.
2. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister approved the introduction of the **National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023** in the Parliament. The approved Bill will pave the way to establish NRF that will seed, grow and promote Research and Development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.
3. The **India pavilion** at the **World Mining Congress (WMC)**, held in **Brisbane, Australia**, was designed to showcase the country's technological prowess in the mining, energy sector and its commitment to sustainable development practices. The World Mining Congress provides the right platform for global industry leaders, experts and organizations to exchange ideas, foster innovations, and envision the future of mining. The WMC was inaugurated in 1958 by Prof. Bolesław Krupiński, a prominent Polish scientist and mining engineer.
4. With a view to strengthening the farmer-based disease reporting system and improving the reporting of aquatic animal diseases in the country, the Union Ministry for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched the **Report Fish Disease (RFD) App**. The RFD app will help the farmers in reporting the incidence of diseases in finfish, shrimps, and molluscs on their farms with field-level officers and fish health experts. Surveillance for aquatic animal diseases is essential for the early detection of diseases, thereby minimizing their impacts.
5. **India added 664 animal species to its faunal database** in the year 2022. These comprise 467 new species and 197 new records (species found in India for the first time). The country also added **339 new plant taxa** – 186 taxa that are new to science and 153 taxa as new distributional records from the country in 2022. The faunal discoveries have been compiled in a publication by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) titled Animal Discoveries - New Species and New Records 2023, whereas floral discoveries are contained in Plant Discoveries 2022 published by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI).
6. Recently, the Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj released the **Report on Panchayat Development Index (PDI)** at the National Workshop on Panchayat Development Index in New Delhi. Panchayats are categorized into four grades: D (scores under 40%), C (40-60%), B (60-75%), A (75-90%), and A+ (above 90%). The PDI considers nine themes, including poverty-free and enhanced livelihood, healthy village, child-friendly village, water-sufficient village, clean and green village, self-sufficient infrastructure, socially just and secured villages, good governance, and women-friendly village.
7. **India** reaffirmed their dominance in the world of kabaddi as they captured the **Asian Kabaddi Championship** title for the **eighth time** in nine editions by defeating Iran. The final match took place at the Dong-Eui Institute of Technology Seokdang Cultural Center in Busan, South Korea. The Indian kabaddi teams will now set their sights on the upcoming Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, scheduled from September 23 to October 8, 2023. The 1st Asian Kabaddi Championship was held in 1980 and was included as a demonstration game in the 9th Asian Games, New Delhi in 1982.
8. The Centre has asked e-commerce companies to not use **“dark patterns”** on their platforms that may deceive customers or manipulate their choices. The government has set up a 17-member task force to prepare guidelines to protect consumers. Dark patterns, also known as deceptive patterns, is a term used to describe ways or tricks implemented by websites or apps to make users do things that they didn't intend to, or discourage behaviour that's not beneficial for companies.
9. Recently, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, reviewed the project process of the **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC), Lothal in Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. NMHC is one of the major projects of the Sagarmala Programme under MoPSW and will be the world's biggest

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Maritime Museum complex. NMHC under the Sagarmala Programme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is being developed in an area of about 400 acres with an estimated cost of Rs. 4500 crore.

10. Taking another step of strengthening marketing support for products made by women of Self-help Groups (SHGs), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NRLM**) launched **eSARAS mobile App** which will add to eCommerce initiatives for products made by the SHGs.
11. **Neeraj Chopra**, the Olympic gold medalist, **clinched first place in the javelin event in the Lausanne Diamond League 2023** by achieving a remarkable throw of 87.66 m. The Lausanne meet was Neeraj Chopra's second competition of the season and the first since the Doha Diamond League. Lausanne Diamond League 2023 was the sixth meet of the Diamond League athletics series, which took place at the Athletissima stadium in Switzerland.
12. The **Odisha government** launched '**Mo Jungle Jami Yojana**' to saturate recognition of rights pertaining to the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and speed up the post-rights recognition activities within the prescribed time frame. Under the scheme, it has been decided to constitute forest rights cells at the tehsil and district level with human resources to ensure and assist in the effective implementation of FRA, 2006.
13. The **seventh edition** of the bilateral **Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23)** hosted by the Indian Navy, conducted at/ off Visakhapatnam. This edition marks the 11th anniversary of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012. JIMEX 23 brings together units from the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Indian Navy.
14. Officials plan to shift some **African cheetahs from Kuno National Park (KNP)** in Madhya Pradesh to the **Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary** located on the northern border of Mandsaur and Nimach districts, in the same state. The decision to relocate the cheetahs comes after the Supreme Court's directive to distribute cheetahs across a broader geographic range, following the deaths of three cheetahs within a 45-day period earlier this year.
15. In 2022, the Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), an institution under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) started working on a kind of early warning system called '**farmers distress index**', a first of its kind for India. The work is in the final stages and the index will be handed over to the central government in the next two-three months. The main aim behind creating such an index is to minimise the agrarian distress in the form of crop loss/failure and income shock.
16. The **Odisha government** deployed armed police personnel at the **Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR)** on July 3, 2023, to protect the 2,700 square kilometre reserve area that is home to unique melanistic tigers. STR was formally designated a tiger reserve in 1956 and brought under Project Tiger in the year 1973. It was declared a biosphere reserve by the Government of India in June 1994. It has been part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves since 2009. It is also a part of the Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve. Geographically, it lies in the eastern end of the eastern ghat.
17. **India's first chatbot Tele-MANAS** was launched by the **UT of Jammu & Kashmir** on July 5. Tele-MANAS is a two-tier system. Tier 1 comprises State Tele MANAS cells, which include trained counsellors and mental health specialists. Tier 2 comprises specialists at District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)/Medical College resources for physical consultation and/or eSanjeevani for audio-visual consultation.
18. A 15-year-old boy in Kerala's Alappuzha district has died due to a rare infection caused by **Naegleria fowleri** or "**brain-eating amoeba**" after a week of high fever and rapid deterioration in his vitals. *Naegleria fowleri*, commonly known as "brain-eating amoeba," is a single-cell organism found in warm freshwater environments such as lakes, hot springs and even in poorly maintained swimming pools.
19. The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, Government of India has been working towards creating an inclusive and equitable society for all its



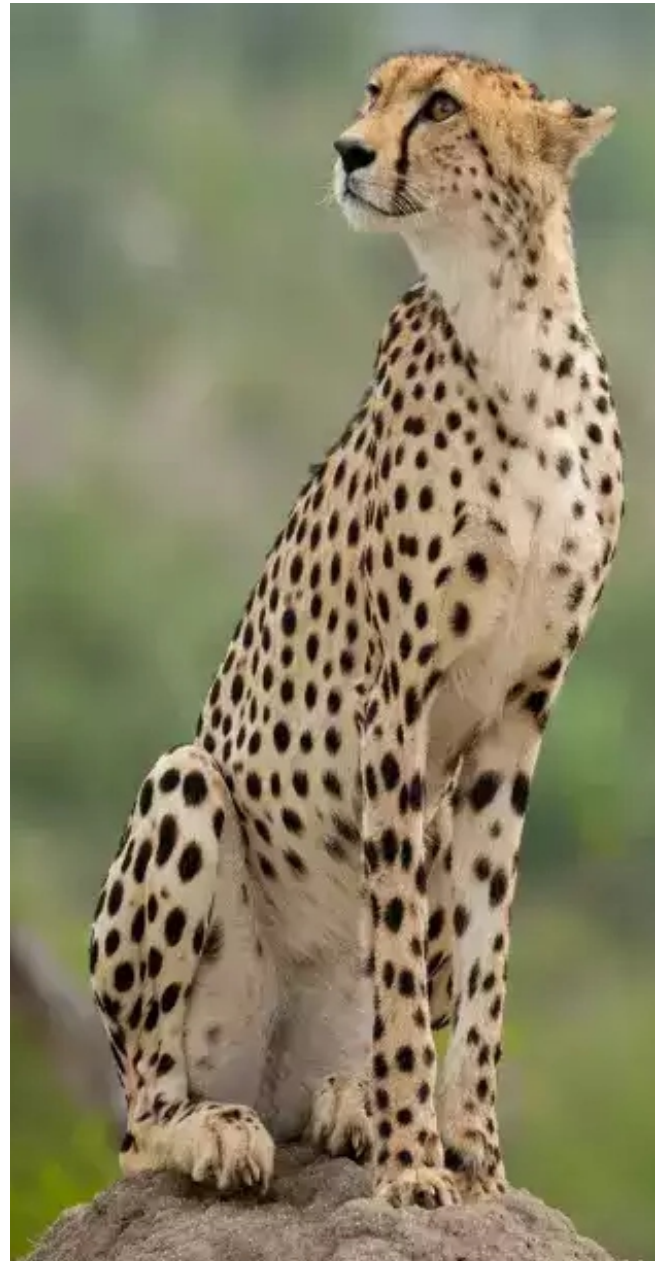


citizens and **Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)** is one of the Schemes in that direction. AVYAY recognizes the invaluable contribution made by the elderly to society and seeks to ensure their well-being and social inclusion. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, being the Nodal Department for the welfare of senior citizens, is implementing various programs and schemes. National Action Plan for Senior Citizens (NAPSrC) had been revamped, renamed as AVYAY and subsumed in April 2021.

20. Recently, the government of India launched a new campaign for banks under Agri Infra Fund (AIF) titled **BHARAT (Banks Heralding Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation)**. The Agriculture Ministry asked banks to promote Rs 1 lakh crore AIF for the creation of necessary infrastructure in the farm sector. The AIF is a financing facility launched on July 8, 2020 for the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farm assets. Under this scheme, Rs 1 lakh crore is to be disbursed by financial year 2025-26 and the interest subvention and credit guarantee assistance will be given till the year 2032-33.
21. In a new research, the **Punjab Agricultural University (PAU)** has successfully bred a new variety of **wheat called PBW RS1**, which contains high levels of amylose starch known to reduce the risks of type-2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.
22. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the indigenously developed **Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) 'Sagar Sampark'** for further strengthening digital transformation of the Indian maritime sector, as part of the Digital India campaign, to bring in efficiency and efficacy of marine operation in the country. The state-of-the-art DGNS system is a terrestrial-based enhancement system which corrects the errors and inaccuracies in the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) allowing for more accurate positioning information.
23. **INS Sunayna** was at Seychelles from 10-12 Jul 23 to participate in **Op Southern Readiness 2023** conducted by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). The visit was aimed at strengthening multilateral

ties and enhancing cooperation through the CMF exercise which is a multinational initiative aimed at enhancing maritime security and countering piracy to ensure safety and freedom of navigation in the region.

24. Recently, the curtain raiser of **India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023** was inaugurated by the Ministry for Communications and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). The seventh edition of Asia's premier digital technology exhibition, IMC, co-hosted by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) will be held from **27th – 29th October** at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi this year with the theme of 'Global Digital Innovation'.



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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

QUICK FACTS



1. **Tam Pà Ling Cave** in the Annamite Mountain range in **Northern Laos** has recently provided groundbreaking insights into the timeline of human arrival in Southeast Asia. Tam Pà Ling Cave features a sloping structure formed by periodic slope wash deposition. The age of the lowest fossil, a fragment of a leg bone found seven metres deep, suggests modern humans arrived in this region between 86,000 and 68,000 years ago. Tam Pà Ling has pushed back the timing of Homo sapiens arrival in Southeast Asia.
2. Recently, the **5th meeting** of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation was convened, between **Indian External Affairs Minister and his Philippines counterpart**. India and the Philippines are exploring various avenues to enhance their defence cooperation, with a particular emphasis on maritime security.
3. **INS Sunayna** visited **Beira, Mozambique** reinforcing India's cordial ties with maritime neighbours and vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (**SAGAR**). The deployment of INS Sunayna also includes a scheduled joint Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) patrol off the coast of Mozambique, enhancing the security cooperation between the two countries. SAGAR was launched in 2015.
4. The **International Seabed Authority** — the United Nations body that regulates the world's ocean floor — is preparing to resume negotiations that could open the international seabed for mining, including for materials critical for the green energy transition. Countries manage their own maritime territory and exclusive economic zones, while the high seas and the international ocean floor are governed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas. It is considered to apply to states regardless of whether or not they have signed or ratified it. Deep sea mining involves removing mineral deposits and metals from the ocean's seabed.
5. The **20-member Africa Expert Group (AEG)**, established by the Vivekananda International Foundation, recently presented the VIF Report entitled '**India-Africa Partnership: Achievements, Challenges and Roadmap 2023**'. The report highlights India's significant partnership with Africa and emphasizes the importance of regular policy review and implementation to strengthen the relationship. With Africa accounting for around 17% of the global population and projected to reach 25% by 2050, India recognizes its crucial role in the partnership as a rising global power. In the past 15 years and especially since 2014, India-Africa relations have developed steadily but more progress is achievable.
6. **Indian refiners** have begun paying for some **oil imports** from Russia in **Chinese yuan**. Indian Oil Corporation, the country's biggest buyer of Russian crude oil, in June became the first state refiner to pay for some Russian purchases in yuan. The rise in yuan payments has given a boost to Beijing's efforts to internationalise its currency, with Chinese banks promoting its use specifically for Russian oil trade.
7. Scientists have come up with a new tool, **Data Carbon Ladder**, that can calculate carbon emissions caused by digital data, especially by companies that want to offset their carbon footprint. Data Carbon Ladder can help businesses measure the carbon dioxide output of their digital data. By 2025, it is estimated that the global data will surpass 180 zettabytes and the amount of digital data is doubling every two years.
8. India chaired the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (**SCO**) **virtual Summit on July 4**. The grouping's decision to induct **Iran** as its ninth and latest member was one of a number of agreements signed at the summit. The SCO grouping now comprises China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
9. **Indian football team** lifted its ninth **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship** trophy by defeating Kuwait 5-4 in a penalty shootout after the final was tied at 1-1 after regulation time. India, who are 100th in the latest FIFA rankings, won their ninth SAFF Championship 2023 in 14 editions. SAFF was formed in 1997 by founding Member Associations from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
10. Recently, **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais told that there are discussions with 4 new countries, **Azerbaijan, Malaysia, Brunei and Mexico**, to join the organization. OPEC, which was established in 1960 with founding members Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela, now consists of 13 member states.
11. The three-day **International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023)** was held in **New Delhi**. The conference was organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, in partnership with the Ministry of

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Petroleum and Natural Gas, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and the Confederation of Indian Industry. The fundamental aim of the Conference is to explore how we can establish a Green Hydrogen ecosystem and foster a systemic approach for meeting the global goals for decarbonization through Green Hydrogen.

12. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), **the Government of India**, and The Public Service Division, of **the Republic of Singapore** signed a Protocol Document on 6th July, 2023, extending for five years the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration till 2028. The areas of collaboration include Administrative Reforms & Public Sector Transformation, Public Service Delivery, Leadership and Talent Development, E-Governance, Capacity Building, and Training.
13. On **July 6, World Zoonoses Day** is celebrated every year to observe the special day when the first vaccination came to be developed to fight Zoonoses. French Chemist and Microbiologist Louis Pasteur successfully developed the first vaccination against the Rabies virus on July 6, 1885. Rabies virus is a Zoonotic disease and is known to spread through species. Be it vector-borne or food-borne, Zoonotic diseases are known to spread rapidly among animals and humans.
14. The **Seventh edition** of the Indian Navy – US Navy (IN – USN) Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, **SALVEX** was conducted from 26 Jun – 06 Jul 23 at Kochi. IN and USN have been participating in joint Salvage and EOD exercises since 2005. Other exercises between India and US include Yudhabhayas, Vajra Prahar, Malabar (Multilateral), Red Flag 16-1, and Exercise Cope India.
15. In a significant step aimed at boosting economic linkages, **Taiwan** recently announced it would open its third representative office in India in **Mumbai**, more than a decade after it last expanded its presence in India. The move, which involves establishing a TECC, is aimed at enhancing economic linkages and strengthening bilateral cooperation between Taiwan and India. The TECC was established in **New Delhi**, India, in 1995 as the first TECC in South Asia. Taiwan later opened another TECC in **Chennai** in 2012.
16. **China** is escalating its chip war with the United States by imposing export controls on the overseas sales of **gallium and germanium**, elements essential to making semiconductors. This action is seen as a response to export controls implemented by the United States, Japan, and the Netherlands, who express national security concerns and accuse China of military use and human rights violations. According to the US Geological Survey, China is the world's leading producer of both gallium and germanium as it accounted for 98 per cent of the global production of Gallium and 68 per cent of the refinery production of germanium.
17. The **United States** has decided to send **cluster munitions to Ukraine** to help its military push back Russian forces entrenched along the front lines. A cluster munition is a bomb that opens in the air and releases smaller “bomblets” across a wide area. The bomblets are designed to take out tanks and equipment, as well as troops, hitting multiple targets at the same time.
18. **World Population Day** is observed every year on **July 11** in order to raise awareness about global population issues, including population control. The theme for World Population Day 2023 is '**Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities**'. World Population Day focuses on the urgency and importance of population issues. It was established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989, after the Day of Five Billion — the day the world approximately reached the population of five billion — which was observed on 11 July 1987.
19. India topped the medals tally at the **34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO)** 2023 held in Al Ain, UAE from 3 July to 11 July 2023, by virtue of every student winning a gold medal! This is the first time that India has turned in an all-gold performance at IBO. It is also the first time that India has topped the medals tally at the Olympiad.
20. '**Lord Hanuman**', one of the most revered Gods in India, will be the official mascot of the **Asian Athletics Championships** starting here on July 12. The event was held on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Asian Athletics Association (established in 1973). The 25th Asian Athletics Championships 2023 logo indicates the athletes participating in the games, skills, teamwork of athletes, showcase of athleticism, dedication, and sportsmanship.





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

QUICK FACTS



1. **British children's writer** and performance poet **Michael Rosen** has been awarded the prestigious **PEN Pinter Prize 2023**, given to a writer from the UK, Ireland and the Commonwealth whose work is committed to a fearless exposition of truth about contemporary life. Rosen is known for making poetry accessible to children through his work and performances. His themes are often social, political and ethical. The PEN Pinter Prize was established in 2009 by English PEN, the founding centre of a global literary network that promotes literature and human rights.
2. **President Droupadi Murmu** attended the closing ceremony of the **125th birth anniversary of legendary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the year-long 125th birth anniversary celebration of Sitarama Raju in Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh, on July 4, 2022. Born on July 4, 1897, Alluri Sitarama Raju is remembered for his fight against the British, in order to safeguard the interests of the tribal communities in the Eastern Ghats region (in Andhra Pradesh). He had led the Rampa rebellion, which was launched in 1922. He is referred to as "Manyam Veerudu" (Hero of the Jungles) by the locals.
3. Prime Minister of India paid homage to **Swami Vivekananda on his Punya Tithi** (death anniversary) and hailed his inspiring principles for a strong India. Swami Vivekananda attained Mahasamadhi (death) on July 4, 1902, at the age of 39. He founded the Ramakrishna Math and Mission, which promotes spiritual and social service, and inspired millions of people with his speeches and writings.
4. A **gold stud, a bone point and a carnelian bead** have been unearthed by archaeologists at Porpanaikottai in Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu. A **Sangam-age fort** is believed to have existed at the site. The stud is believed to be used as a nose ornament whereas the bone point was probably used for weaving in the Sangam Age. The discovery of the red round-shaped carnelian bead is a pointer to domestic trade; they were usually sourced from Gujarat.
5. **Ker Puja** is a religious festival that is celebrated in the state of **Tripura**. The guardian God, called Ker, is worshipped at this time. It is held a few days after the Kharchi Puja. The celebration is primarily centered in Agartala. On the day of the festival, the city's entrance is locked and people from outlying areas are restricted from entering the area.



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TEST ZONE



PASSAGE - 1

India has decided to join the Artemis Accords, which brings like-minded countries together on civil space exploration, and NASA and ISRO have agreed to a joint mission to the International Space Station in 2024, the White House said Thursday (June 22). "On space, we will be able to announce that India is signing the Artemis Accords, which advance a common vision for space exploration for the benefit of all humankind," a senior administration official said hours before the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden in the Oval Office.

Grounded in the Outer Space Treaty (OST), the Artemis Accords are a non-binding set of principles designed to guide civil space exploration and use in the 21st century. It is an American-led effort to return humans to the moon by [1], with the ultimate goal of expanding space exploration to Mars and beyond.

The official said that NASA and the ISRO are developing a strategic framework for human spaceflight cooperation this year. In addition, NASA and ISRO have agreed to a joint mission to the International Space Station in the year 2024, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "India joins Artemis Accords, will launch ISRO-NASA space mission to ISS in 2024, says White House", The Hindu]

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

A 2024

B 2025

C 2026

D 2027

Q.2 Artemis Accords builds upon the foundation of the Outer Space Treaty. In which year did India join Outer Space Treaty?

A 1982

B 1975

C 1995

D 1967

Q.3 Recently, NASA and ISRO have agreed to a joint mission to the International Space Station in the year 2024. By which year is India planning to launch its own space station?

A 2030

B 2047

C 2035

D 2050

Q.4 Chandrayaan-3, launched on July 14, carried a lander and a rover for scientific research. What is the name of the rover which will carry out in-situ chemical analysis of the lunar surface during its mobility?

A Vikram

B Dhawan

C Pragyan

D Prarambh

Q.5 So far only _____ has been able to land human beings on the moon.

A CNSA

B NASA

C ROSCOMOS

D ESA

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

Answers

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PASSAGE - 2

The Ministry of Education's (MoE) Performance Grading Index (PGI) released recently had 10 grades — with Daksh being at the top (scoring above 940 out of 1,000 points) and Akanshi-3 at the bottom (up to 460 points). None of the States managed to achieve the top five grades in the rankings.

Since 2017-18, MoE has released five annual reports that provide insights on the status of school education in States and UTs. The key domains are learning outcomes and quality, access, infrastructure and facilities, equity, and governance processes of schools based on five parameters.

The first parameter relates to 'learning outcomes', that is how children do in language, math, science, social science, etc. The second is 'access to education' which includes Net Enrolment Ratio (NER), retention, transition from primary to upper primary level and secondary, and mainstreaming of out of school children. The third parameter, 'infrastructure', encompasses the availability of science labs, computer labs, book banks, vocational education subjects, supply of mid-day meal, functional drinking water facility, availability of uniforms, free textbooks, etc. The fourth parameter, 'equity', considers student performances between minorities, Scheduled Castes, Tribes, and those of general category. It also relates to whether schools have ramps, disabled-friendly toilets etc. The last parameter, 'educational governance and management', includes digital capture of daily attendance, percentage of single-teacher primary schools, vacancies in educational posts, inspections, teacher evaluation and so on. Based on their scores, States can take domain-wise action to improve their score in future, the report states.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "States fail to get top grade in school education", The Hindu]

Q.1 Which of the following states/UTs was the top performer in school education for the year 2021-22, according to the Performance Grading Index?

A Gujarat

B Chandigarh

C Kerala

D Puducherry

Q.2 Which of the following educational institutions secured the top spot in the overall ranking as per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Ranking 2023?

A IIT Madras

B IISc Bangalore

C IIM Ahmedabad

D IIT Bombay

Q.3 Which of the following Indian educational institutions achieved a significant milestone by breaking into the world's top 150 universities in the 2023 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking?

A IIT Madras

B IIT Delhi

C IIT Bombay

D IISc Bangalore

Q.4 As per the latest edition of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021, which of the following states topped the list in terms of the number of students enrolled?

A Maharashtra

B Tamil Nadu

C Madhya Pradesh

D Uttar Pradesh

Q.5 In which year was the Midday Meal Scheme renamed as the 'Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman' scheme (PM Poshan Scheme)?

A 2014

B 2018

C 2021

D 2023

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

Answers

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PASSAGE - 3

The third G20 Culture Group (CWG) meet began in Hampi, Karnataka and, in a media briefing on the event, Govind Mohan, secretary, Ministry of Culture, said the 3rd Culture Working Group Meeting under India's G20 presidency would be hosted by the city from July 9 to 12. He informed further that the meeting will be attended by delegates from G20 members, guest nations and several international organisations.

On the event's theme -- 'Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property', he said, "The UNESCO convention enjoins on signatory parties to voluntarily return those artefacts or antiquities belonging to other countries which have been taken there because of colonial plunder, or because of post-colonial misappropriation like smuggling, theft etc", as per an official release.

The secretary for the Culture Ministry stated further that the 3rd CWG meeting will now try to achieve a consensus on the recommendations and best-shared practices pertaining to the 4 priorities of the CWG. He informed that the Culture Working Group's meetings centre around 4 main priority areas that have been outlined as part of the Culture Track during India's G20 Presidency.

"The four priority areas are - Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property; Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future; Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy; and Leveraging Digital Technologies for the Protection and Promotion of Culture," he added.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Will bring back 150 artifacts from US: Ministry of Culture after G20 meeting in Karnataka's Hampi", by Yamini CS, Hindustan Times]

Q.1 The Fourth G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting will be held in –

A Saurashtra, Gujarat

B Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

C Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh

D Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Q.2 Which international convention prohibits and prevents the illicit trafficking of cultural property?

A Hague Convention

B The UNESCO's 2003 Convention

C Geneva Convention

D The UNESCO's 1970 Convention

Q.3 Recently, women of the nomadic Lambani community have set a new Guinness World Record for producing the highest number of embroidery patches. Lambani community is found in –

A Karnataka

B Rajasthan

C Maharashtra

D Goa

Q.4 Which of the following Indian cities has been declared the first tourism and cultural capital of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?

A Kolkata, West Bengal

B Bhubaneswar, Odisha

C Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

D Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh

Q.5 The world's largest museum, Yuge Yugeen Bharat will be set up in which city?

A New Delhi

B Varanasi

C Lothal

D Lucknow

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

Answers

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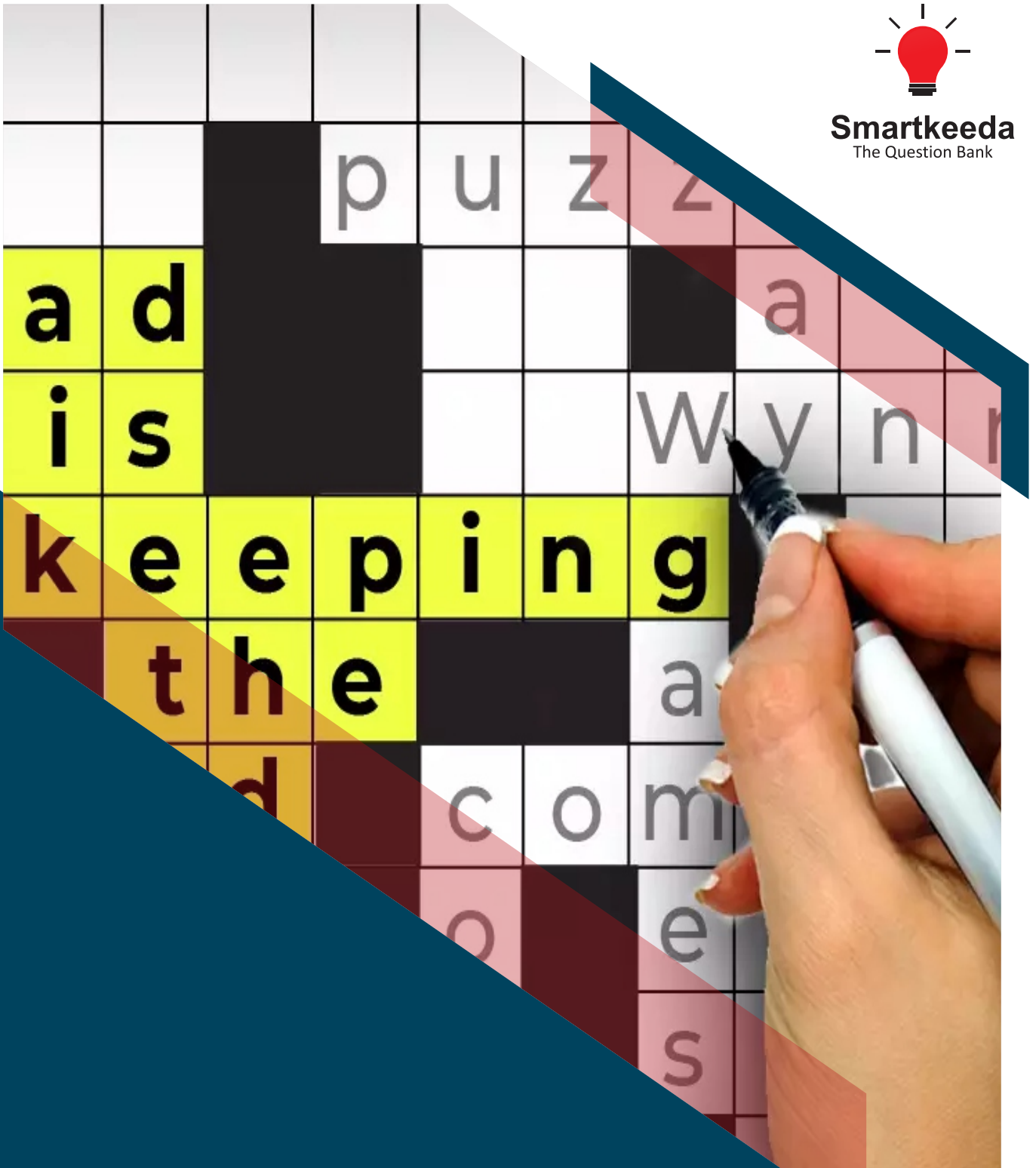
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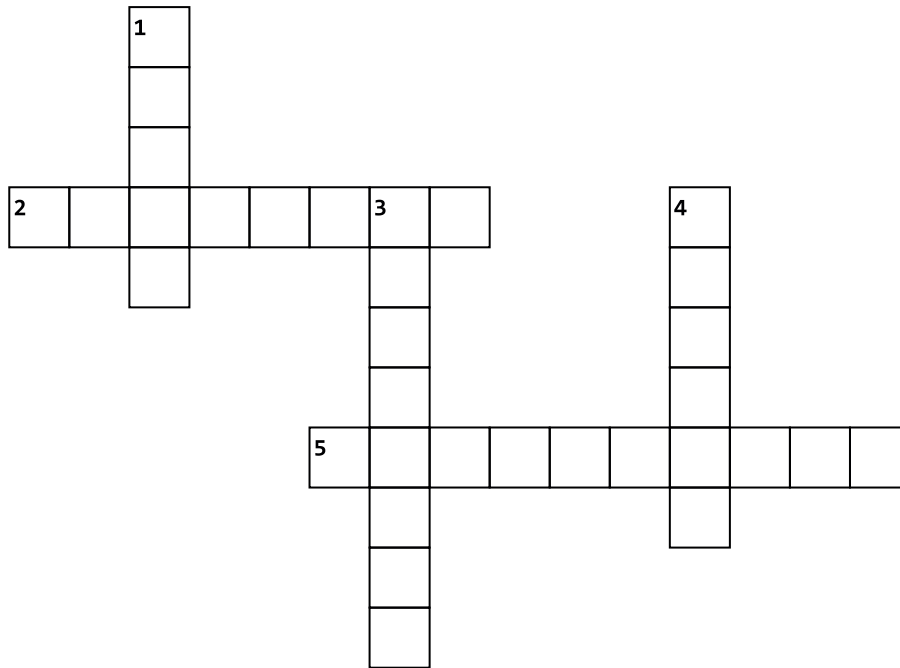
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CROSSWORD CORNER



CROSSWORD - 1



Across

- 2.** World Mining Congress 2023
5. India's first chatbot launched by the UT of Jammu & Kashmir

Down

- 1.** Winner of Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023
3. International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023)
4. National Maritime Heritage Complex is being built

Answers

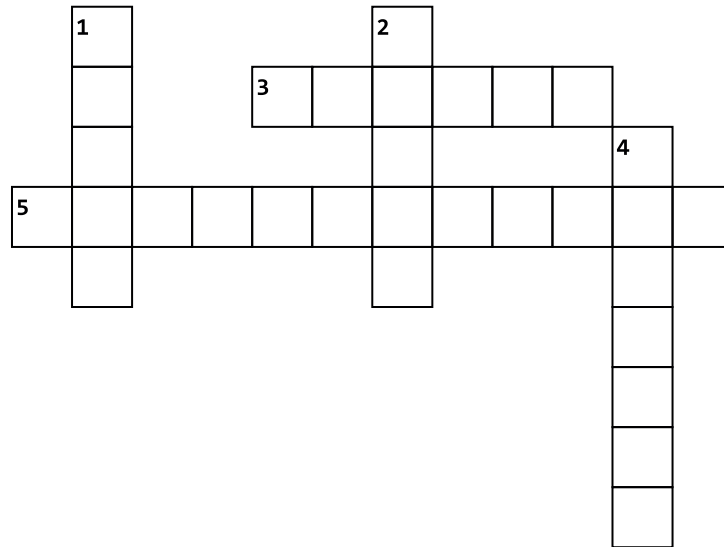
- | | |
|---|------------|
| 3 | New Delhi! |
| 2 | Brisbane |
| 1 | India |
| 5 | Tele-MANAS |
| 4 | Lothal |

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CROSSWORD - 2



Across

- 3. World Population Day
- 5. Winner of PEN Pinter Prize 2023

Down

- 1. Winner of South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship 2023
- 2. World Zoonoses Day
- 4. Religious festival is celebrated in Tripura

Answers

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 3 | 11 July |
| 2 | 6 July |
| 1 | India |
| 5 | Michael Rosen |
| 4 | Ker Puja |

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