



01 December 2023

National and International News

Paul Lynch wins 2023 Booker Prize



Context

- Irish author **Paul Lynch, 46**, won the 2023 Booker Prize for Fiction for his novel "**Prophet Song.**"

Key points

- Lynch is the **fifth Irish writer** to win this prestigious literary award.
- Previous winners include Salman Rushdie, Margaret Atwood, and Hilary Mantel.
- The award includes **£50,000 (around \$63,000)** and significantly boosts Lynch's profile.
- "**Prophet Song**" is set in a near-future Dublin, portraying a mother's struggle to protect her family from totalitarianism.

Booker Prize Details:

- The Booker Prize is open to fiction by writers of any nationality, **written in English and published in the U.K. or Ireland.**
- The 2023 shortlist included two Americans, a Canadian, a Kenyan, and another Irish author.
- The Booker Prize, **first awarded in 1969**, has a legacy of recognizing outstanding fiction.
- Previous Irish winners include Iris Murdoch, John Banville, Roddy Doyle, and Anne Enright.

Trapped Workers in Uttarakhand Tunnel

Context:

41 construction workers building a tunnel for a road widening project in Uttarakhand got trapped, and it has been two weeks since the incident.

Key Points:

- **The Silkyara Bend Tunnel is part of the Char Dham Pariyojana** in Uttarakhand, aiming to improve connectivity to pilgrimage sites. The trapped workers were extending National Highway 134 to reduce travel time.
- **Concerns Raised:**
  - Even before the mishap, environmentalists, scientists, and locals criticized the **Char Dham Pariyojana.**
  - The 900 km road widening project through the Himalayas raised concerns



	<p>about landslides and disasters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Approval Controversy:</b> Despite Supreme Court approval for "national security" reasons, the project avoided a <b>comprehensive environment impact assessment (EIA)</b>, leading to criticism.</li> </ul> <p><b>Way forward:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Silkyara tunnel disaster highlights the need for better scrutiny, expertise, and monitoring in infrastructure development in fragile terrains, emphasizing the importance of weighing risks against benefits in future projects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Time to revamp the structure of the Supreme Court</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b> <b>Understanding the Supreme Court of India:</b></p> <p><b>Jurisdictions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original, appellate, and advisory are the three jurisdictions of the Supreme Court.</li> <li>• Acts as a <b>Constitutional Court</b> and Court of Appeal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Benches:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution Benches (five, seven, or nine judges) decide on constitutional issues according <b>Article 145(3)</b>.</li> <li>• Division Benches (two judges) and full Benches (three judges) handle various topics.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pending Cases:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presently, <b>79,813</b> cases are pending before 34 judges, prompting discussions on structural changes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Historical Background:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established on January 28, 1950, under <b>Article 124</b> of the Constitution.</li> <li>• Evolved from three Supreme Courts during colonial times to the current structure.</li> </ul> <p><b>Current Challenges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overburdened court with a backlog of cases.</li> <li>• Calls for a <b>Final Court of Appeal and a permanent Constitution Bench for greater consistency</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dollarisation</b></p>	<p><b>Hyperinflation Solution:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dollarisation can help stop hyperinflation by replacing the local currency with dollars.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This change <b>breaks the link between rising prices and the government printing more money.</b></li> <li>• This prevents political interests from using excessive money for their benefit.</li> </ul> <p><b>Positive Impact on Growth:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dollarisation encourages the economy to focus on <b>exports and attract foreign investment.</b></li> <li>• Access to dollars becomes limited to foreign trade and capital inflows.</li> <li>• A stable dollar value encourages long-term planning for both local and foreign economic activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Problems:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopting the dollar means <b>losing control over local monetary policy.</b></li> <li>• Countries can't use <b>depreciation</b> to boost exports, relying solely on export promotion.</li> <li>• This loss of policy leverage can be seen as positive, pushing governments to boost productivity during economic downturns instead of changing exchange rates.</li> </ul> <p><b>Do you know?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three fully dollarised economies are <b>Ecuador, Panama and El Salvador</b> have had successful economic outcomes following dollarisation.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Fibre optic cables</b></p>
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<p><b>What is an Optical Fibre?</b></p> <p><b>Composition:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optical fibres are <b>slender strands</b> made of glass, similar in diameter to a human hair.</li> </ul> <p><b>Functionality:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These fibres transport various digital information forms, including text, images, videos, and phone calls, over long distances at nearly the speed of light.</li> </ul> <p><b>Durability:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite their <b>thin appearance</b>, properly manufactured optical fibres, when encased in protective layers, are robust, lightweight, and flexible.</li> <li>• They can be <b>buried, submerged, or coiled without damage.</b></li> </ul>
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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

### Historical Significance:

- **Physicist Charles Kao's** vision, proposed almost 60 years ago, foresaw glass fibres replacing copper wires for telecommunication.
- Today, his foresight is a reality, recognized with a **Nobel Prize in physics in 2009**.

### How do Optical Fibres Work?

#### Light Behavior:

- Light, an **electromagnetic wave**, can be guided through optical fibres.
- When light hits a glass surface, it partially passes through and partially reflects.

#### Total Internal Reflection:

- The **refractive index** difference between glass and air enables total internal reflection.
- This phenomenon allows light to traverse long distances within the glass without significant power loss.

#### Fibre Optic Communication System:

- Comprising a **transmitter** (encodes information), an optical fibre (transports signals), and a **receiver** (reproduces information), this system achieves high data-transmission rates (**terabits per second**) with resistance to external interference.

#### Advantages:

- Optical fibres, unlike traditional communication mediums, are **unaffected by weather and external disturbances, making them highly reliable for data transmission**.



Kerala Regional News

World AIDS Day



Context:

- **World AIDS Day** is observed annually on **December 1st**
- It is a **global health awareness day** dedicated to **raising awareness** of the **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)** and **acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)**, as well as honoring those who have lost their lives to the disease.
- It was initiated in **1988** by WHO
- **World Health Organization (WHO)**, alongside communities and partners, will mark World AIDS Day 2023, under the theme **“Let communities lead”**

Significance:

1. **Raising Awareness**
2. **Preventing New Infections**
3. **Combating Stigma and Discrimination**
4. **Celebrating Progress**



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Cyriac John, who established Krishi Bhavans throughout Kerala, dies at 90



Context:

- Veteran Congress leader and Kerala's former Minister for Agriculture, **P Cyriac John dies at 90**
- Cyriac's term as **Agriculture Minister** saw the **establishment of Krishi Bhavans** in every panchayat in the state.

About Krishi Bhavans:

- **Krishi Bhavans, also known as Agricultural Extension Centers**, are the **primary grassroots-level institutions** of the **Department of Agriculture in Kerala**.
- They play a crucial role in **disseminating agricultural knowledge and technologies to farmers**, providing them with essential support services.
- **Each Krishi Bhavan is headed by an Agricultural Officer**, who is supported by a team of technical staff, including Subject Matter Specialists (SMSs) in various disciplines, such as agronomy, horticulture, and animal husbandry.
- Krishi Bhavans are **typically located at the panchayat level**, making them easily accessible to farmers in rural areas.

Govt recommended to Revise fair value of land every 5 years

Context:

- **Kerala Administrative Reforms Commission** has recommended the state government to **revise the fair value/price of land every five years**.
- It was in the wake of the finding that **improper price revision has been causing financial loss** to the state government.



# Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

## 79 bird species make wetlands near Tirurangadi their home



### Context:

- A recent **bird survey**, overseen by the **Malappuram social forestry division**, has identified the **presence of 79 species in the wetlands of Cherumukku-Venchali**, near Tirurangadi.
- It also found an **increase in the populations of the Oriental darter and the black-headed ibis**.
- **The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** lists the Oriental darter and the Black-headed ibis as **"Near Threatened"**.
- **The Wildlife Protection Act 1972:Schedule-IV**

## First National Transplant Games



### Context:

- The **inaugural of National Transplant Games** in Kochi will bring together approximately **350 organ recipients** and donors from across the country, to **celebrate the 'Gift of Life.'**
- It is modeled on the World Transplant Games
- **Preeti Unhale**, the **longest-surviving heart transplant recipient in the country**, is set to participate in the event

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