

National and International Weekly Current Affairs 03 to 09 September 2023

National News

13 Himalayan States

- The Indian Himalayan Region is spread across 13 Indian States/Union Territories and stretches across 2500 km.

Why in the news?

- The Centre to form a 13-member technical committee to evaluate the "carrying capacity" of 13 Himalayan States.
- To mitigate and prevent disasters in these states.

Names of 13 Himalayan States:

- Jammu and Kashmir,
- Ladakh,
- Uttarakhand,
- Himachal Pradesh,
- Arunachal Pradesh,
- Manipur,
- Meghalaya,
- Mizoram,
- Nagaland,
- Sikkim,
- Tripura,
- Assam and
- West Bengal

Article 370

Why in the news?

- Because of recent SC hearings and verdict.
- Many petitions also challenged the Jammu and Kashmir State Reorganization Act, by which the state was bifurcated into two Union territories with effect from October 30, 2019.

Background:

- On October 17, 1949, Article 370 was added to the Indian constitution.
- It was added as a 'temporary provision', which exempted Jammu & Kashmir, permitting it to draft its own Constitution and restricting the Indian Parliament's legislative powers in the state.
- It was introduced into the draft constitution by N Gopalaswami Ayyangar as Article 306 A.
- Under Article 370: The Constituent Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir was empowered to recommend which articles of the Indian Constitution should apply to the state,
- The J&K Constituent Assembly was dissolved after it drafted the state's constitution.
- Clause 3 of the article 370 gives the President of India the power to amend its provisions and scope and therefore in 2019, Article 370 was abrogated and J&K was given the status of UT with legislature.

Nyaya Sanhita bill

- The Indian Penal Code was drafted by the first Law Commission which was chaired by **Thomas Babington Macaulay** in 1834. The code came into force in January, 1860.

- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023 will repeal and replace the IPC.
- The BNS Bill proposes several changes in the existing provisions including those related to defamation, offence against women and attempt to commit suicide.
- While the IPC has 511 sections, the BNS Bill contains 356 provisions.

Air pollution responsible for 1.67 million deaths in India in 2019

- 1.67 million pollution related deaths were attributed to air pollution in India in 2019.
- Majority of such deaths were triggered by PM-2.5 – superfine dust particles with a size of 2.5 micron.

Major security threat reported from Idukki Dam

- The Idukki Dam is a double curvature Arch dam constructed across the **Periyar River** in a narrow gorge between two granite hills located in Idukki District in Kerala.
- At 168.91 metres it is one of the highest arch dams in Asia.
- This dam was constructed along with two other dams at Cheruthoni and Kulamavu.
- Together, the three dams and Two saddle dams, Kulamavu Saddle Dam (Near Junction) and Kulamavu Saddle Dam (Right Bank) have created an artificial lake in the area.

Food Processing sector to create 9 million jobs by 2024.

- India's household consumption will quadruple, making it the world's 5th largest consumer of food and food technology.

Aarogya Maitri Cube

- India has built the **world's first portable disaster hospital**, called the "Aarogya Maitri Cube".
- The hospital can be airlifted and assembled into 72 cubes that contain essential medical equipment and supplies.
- The cubes can support 200 survivors for 48 hours during natural disasters or crises.

New Launch
Bilingual



Maharashtra
Test Mate

**MPSC | Saral Seva |
Talathi & Others**

600+ Total Tests

- It has been developed indigenously under the **Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri)**.
- The hospital includes Operation theatres, mini-ICUs, Ventilators, Blood test equipment, an X-ray machine, a Cooking station, Food, Water, a Shelter, Power generator.

About:

- The **“Aarogya Maitri Cube”** is part of “Aarogya Maitri” project. The project aims to provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises.

PM holds talks with leader of Mauritius

- PM Modi along with his counterpart, Pravind Jugnauth Discussed cooperation in sectors like infrastructure, FinTech, culture and more.

Maharashtra State News**Hinglaj Devi Temple**

- Hinglaj Devi Temple at Hinglajwadi Dharashiv taluka has a seventeenth century temple of Lord Shiva Shankar and the Idol of Shiva Shankar in this temple moves round.
- It was built in 1694.
- Circular rotating idol of Lord Shiva Shankar is made of stone.
- At the entrance of the temple, the idol of Hanumanta is carved with excellent craftsmanship

Sushila Devi Salunke

- Founder Sushiladevi's work is inspiring for today's generation, Prof. Dr. Machindra Nagare.

Key Points:

- Sushila Devi Salunke was an Indian educationist and social worker.
- Shri Swami Vivekananda Education Institute, Kolhapur run Ramakrishna Paramahansa College, Osmanabad, the birth anniversary of Institution Mata Sushila Devi Salunke was celebrated with great enthusiasm.
- Mata Sushila Devi Salunke played a major role in setting up Swami Vivekananda Education Institute.

Committee to explore reservation for Marathas

- Maharashtra Govt. forms a committee to explore reservation for Marathas.

Key Points:

- CM Eknath Shinde said his government has constituted a panel that will submit a report telling how Marathas from Marathwada region can be included in the OBC category and given the Kunbi Caste Certificate.
- The Kunbi is a generic term applied to castes of traditional farmers in Western India. They are largely found in the state of Maharashtra but also exist in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala and Goa.

Expedite redevelopment proposals of old buildings

- The self-redevelopment of old buildings in Maharashtra will now be expedited as the State government recently instructed its authorities to approve such proposals within three months.
- The resolution was passed by Maharashtra Housing Department
- The resolution says: “Once resolution is passed by the housing societies within a majority, the competent authority shall issue notice to landowner or builder to expedite the process of self- development”

Ayushman Bhava Arogya yojancha

- It was launched by Sarpanch Didi Kale of the rural hospital.
- Ayushman Bhava Yojana is a new health care program launched by the Government of India in September 2023.
- The program aims to provide health insurance coverage of up to Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year to all Indian citizens.

International Culture Awareness Day:

- International Culture Awareness Day: Maharashtra's first vulture conservation and breeding center to come up near Pune.
- For the first time in Maharashtra, a vulture conservation and breeding center will be set up at Pingori near Pune.
- IVAD is celebrated on the first Saturday in September each year.
- The aim of IVAD is to raise awareness about the plight of vultures and the threats they face.

National Award to Teachers 2023 for Higher Education.

- IITB 'night teacher' to receive national award to teachers 2023 for higher education.
- Night teacher Raghavan Sunoj from the India Institute of Technology Bombay will go on to accept the National Award to Teachers 2023 for Higher Education.
- The National Award to Teachers carries a cash prize of Rs. 50,000, a certificate of merit, and a silver medal.
- The awardees are also invited to the award ceremony by the President of India.

Soybean Crop Insurance

- Soybean Crop Insurance: 21 more circles have been included for Soybean Advances after earlier 52.

Key Points:

- Soybean advance crop insurance has been approved in 73 out of 86 circles.
- Now in 73 out of 86 circles it has been decided to get advance crop insurance for the soybean crop and the survey of remaining 13 circles is still going on.
- Soybean crop insurance is a type of crop insurance that protects farmers against financial losses due to crop failures caused by natural calamities such as drought, flood, hailstorm, and pests

Manoj Jarange

- Manoj Jarange Patil's hunger strike continues.

Key Points:

- Maratha protester Manoj Jarange Patil's hunger strike continues. Today is the ninth day of his fast.
- The protestors are aggressive due to the non-resolution of the reservation.
- Maratha reservation is likely to have repercussions across the state even today.
- More than 3515 winners of the 4082 house draw of the Mumbai Board of MHADA were distributed online by the Mumbai Board on Monday.

Shiromani Akali Dal

Shiromani Akali Dal to join India alliance; Big events in Delhi.

Key Points:

- Shiromani Akali Dal will join the India Alliance. A meeting in this regard will be held at the residence of NCP chief Sharad Pawar in Delhi and the entry of Shiromani Akali Dal into India Aghadi will be sealed.
- Sharad Pawar is an Indian Politician. He is a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Double- Deck Buses

- Mumbai's iconic double-deck buses to shut operations in October.

Key Points:

- The iconic double-deck buses are set to bid adieu on September 15.
- The Open-Double-deckers, which are hit with tourists for joy rides to Gateway of India and Marine Drive, will also be phased out by 15 October.
- BEST is currently operating 16 air-conditioned e-double-decker buses manufactured by Switch Mobility.

Nutritional Status of MH Children

- According to the survey, Over 63,000 children are suffering from moderate and severe anaemia,
- Over 8,137 were obese,
- Over 7,800 children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM)
- Over 1,000 have goitre and
- Over 22,000 are Vitamin A deficient.

As per recent survey by MH State health department-

- Nutritional deficiency found in many children across Maharashtra.
- Of 2.25 crore children screened, 1.76 lakh found to be deficient in some or the other nutrient.
- Anaemia, Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), goitre obesity and Vitamin A deficiency were among the top five issues.

POSHAN Abhiyaan

- It is the central government's flagship initiative.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan focuses on the nutritional needs of pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children under the age of six years in a comprehensive manner.

Do you know?

- Union ministry of women and child development is observing month-long POSHAN Abhiyaan event - **6th Rashtriya Poshan Maah (National Nutrition Month)**

MH declares Silver Pomfret as its State Fish

- Maharashtra government on Sept 5, 2023 declared the silver pomfret (a.k.a sarangi or paplet) as the state fish.

Key Points:

- As per International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the population of silver pomfret are declining.
- Major objective for declaring it as state fish - to conserve the fish as its numbers are declining in the region.
- Silver pomfret is mainly found in the coastal areas of MH and Gujarat.

Maharashtra to implement cyber security project at Rs 837 crore

- MH govt. decides to implement a cyber security project worth Rs 837 crore.
- Objective - to curb cyber crime and make the state a "cyber safe" state.

Patgaon village of Maharashtra

- It is the only village from Maharashtra selected in the 'Best Rural Tourism Village' competition organized by the Union Ministry of Tourism.

Key Points:

- The village is implementing a pilot project of sustainable development through their initiative 'Madhache Gaon Patgaon' in five village panchayats.
- It helped the locals to be self-reliant and employed through the production, sale and tourism of pure and natural honey.

Do you know?

- To make Patgaon and surrounding villages self-sufficient by employing women including honey producers and sellers, '**Patgaon Madhutpadak Shetkari Company**' has been established at this place with the cooperation of NABARD.

BILINGUAL

MAHARASHTRA
PRIME
TEST PACK

300+ TOTAL TESTS

Maharashtra to set up 5 international ITIs

- It will be established in Govandi, Sambhajnagar, Pune, Nagpur and Nashik.
- Maha govt. to set up **5 international Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)**
- It helps to meet global demand for skilled labour
- Maharashtra's ministry of skills, employment, entrepreneurship and innovation has set up an international placement centre, called **Maharashtra International**.

Maharashtra govt. approves Rs 837 crore cyber safety project

- MH's cyber safety project aims to bring all modern technologies under one umbrella, which will also include a control and command centre, technology-assisted investigation, a centre of excellence, a Computer Emergency Response Team, a cloud-based data centre, a security operations centre, the government said in a statement.

12-member panel for Nag River Pollution Abatement project headed by Satish Wate

- Maharashtra government approved the decision to appoint a 12-member panel of environmentalists.
- The panel is headed by former NEERI director **Satish Wate**, for monitoring Nag, Pora and Pili rivers pollution abatement programme.
- The panel of experts will provide suggestions and guide the NMC for implementing ₹1,923.99 crore Nag River Pollution Abatement project.

Do you know?

- For implementing the project, the government is taking loan from **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**.
- The expert panel, which will work free of cost, would provide advice and guidance from an environmental perspective for controlling pollution at all the three rivers of Nagpur.

Shivaji Maharaj's Wagh Nakh to return to India

- UK to give back the dagger shaped like tiger claws —used by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to kill Afzal Khan, general of the Bijapur sultanate, in 1659.

Do you know?

- Shivarai's Jagadamba Talwar and Vaghankhe are in London.
- The tiger claws is kept in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Vijayawada railway station gets coveted Platinum rating of IGBC

- In an incredible achievement, Vijayawada Railway Station was certified with a Platinum rating by IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) in September.

- In the recertification process this year, Vijayawada railway station outperformed and immensely improvised its amenities in almost all aspects compared to the 2019 Gold Standard Rating and clinched the Platinum standard IGBC Rating.

'Arpita' of Aurangabad's Siddharth Zoo gave birth to three calves

- Three cubs have been born to a pair of tigers Veer and Arpita of Aurangabad Municipal Corporation's Siddharth Zoo.
- The white tigress, Arpita, of the Siddharth Zoo of the Municipal Corporation gave birth to three white calves
- Arpita the tigress and the calf have been examined by the zoo veterinarian.

Pandharpur Temples Act doesn't affect religious rights

- Pandharpur Temples Act doesn't affect religious rights: Maharashtra to HC
- The Maharashtra government told the Bombay High Court that the Vitthal and Rukmini temples in Solapur are open to people of all faiths and that the Pandharpur Temples Act of 1973, does not impair or curtail the rights of the devotees or pilgrims but was introduced in the interest of the general public.
- The Pandharpur Temples Act, 1973 is an Act of the Maharashtra legislature that was enacted to provide for the better administration and management of the Pandharpur temples.

State News**E-Adhigam Scheme**

- Initiative by Haryana Govt.
- Under this, nearly 3 lakh students will be receiving tablet computers to aid their online education.
- Free 2GB internet data is also being given per day.

Nagarhole Tiger Reserve

- Nagarhole is an important **Tiger Reserve in Karnataka** and is a major hub of conservation under Project Tiger and Project Elephant.
- Nagarhole Tiger Reserve previously known as Rajiv Gandhi National Park was named after the river Nagarhole.
- This tiger reserve forms a critical connecting habitat for tigers and elephants to other areas of the Western Ghats through the Brahmagiri wildlife sanctuary and to the Eastern Ghats through the Bandipur Tiger reserve.
- Flora: It consists mainly of moist deciduous forests with predominating trees of teak and rosewood.
- Fauna: Tiger, Leopard Asiatic, Wild Dog, Sloth Bear, Asiatic Elephant, Gaur, Sambar Chital Muntjac, Four Horned Antelope etc.

Mizoram Assembly opposes to Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023

- It aims to bring significant changes to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, which is a crucial central statute for the conservation of forests in India.

Mukhyamantri Kamdhenu Bima Yojana

- It is a new scheme by the Rajasthan Government.
- Families who have milch animals (i.e. milk animals) will be given free insurance of ₹40000.
- The main objective of this scheme is that animals do not die from most diseases.
- Maximum 2 milch animals in a family will be given insurance cover under this scheme.

Parivar Pehchaan Patra (PPP)

- PPP is a scheme by Haryana Government.
- The primary objective of Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) is to create authentic, verified and reliable data of all families in Haryana.
- PPP scheme was formally launched in July 2019 to achieve Haryana government's vision for 'paperless' and 'faceless' delivery of schemes, services and benefits offered by the state government.
- Under this, each family is considered a single unit and gets an 8-digit unique identification number, called family ID.
- Family IDs are also linked to independent schemes like scholarships, subsidies and pensions, so as to ensure consistency and reliability.
- It also enables automatic selection of beneficiaries of various schemes, subsidies and pensions.

Clear illegal constructions in ESZ, buffer zone of Bandipur What are eco-sensitive zones (ESZ)?

- An area around a protected area like a national park or wildlife sanctuary
- To conserve the biodiversity and ecosystems of protected areas by regulating human activities
- The government can regulate and restrict certain activities in ESZs through guidelines and laws

Bandipur Tiger Reserve

- It was **established in the 1930s** as a wildlife sanctuary, which became a tiger reserve in 1973 **under Project tiger**.
- It is **situated in Karnataka** and located at the tri-junction area of the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- This area has the River Kabini in its north and River Moyar in its south.
- It comprises diverse vegetation of dry deciduous to tropical mixed deciduous. It includes rosewood, Indian kino tree, sandalwood, Indian laurel, clumping bamboo and giant clumping bamboo etc.
- It is a shelter for the largest population of wild Asian elephants in South Asia. It comprises other mammals such as Bengal tiger, gaur, sloth bear, golden jackal, dhole and four-horned antelope etc.

Kuki Tribe

- It is one of the ethnic groups that inhabit the northeastern regions of India, Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- They are mainly found in the states of Manipur and Mizoram in India, Chin State in Myanmar, and Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh.
- They are also known as Chin or Mizo people, and they share a common ancestry and culture.
- They are part of the larger Zo people, along with the Chin and Mizo tribes.
- The Kuki tribe has a rich and diverse history, culture and tradition that reflect their adaptation to the hilly and forested terrain they live in.
- They speak various dialects of the Chin-Kuki-Mizo language family, which belong to the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan languages.

Meitei Tribe

- The Meitei people, also known as the Manipuri people, are the predominant ethnic group of Manipur State.
- They speak the Meitei language (officially called Manipuri), one of the 22 official languages of India and the sole official language of Manipur State.
- The Meiteis primarily settled in the Imphal Valley region in modern-day Manipur, though a sizable population has settled in the other Indian states of Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Mizoram.
- There is also a notable presence of Meitei in the neighbouring countries of Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- It represents about 53% of Manipur's population.

International News

Impacts of Climate Change

- According to UN and International Labour Organization study (2019) - By 2030, 2.2 percent of total working hours worldwide will be lost to high temperatures, a productivity loss equivalent to 80 million full-time jobs.
- Across genders, women are considered to be highly vulnerable and disproportionately affected by climate change than men.
- Women in developing and less developed countries (especially in low-income areas) are more vulnerable to climate change because of their dependence on natural resources and labour-intensive work for their livelihood.
- There could be 1.2 billion climate refugees by 2050.

Solutions: Invest in women's education, training; Women's participation in climate policy decision-making; Gender and Climate Change Development Programme.

Countries in news- Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali

Why in the news?

- Some bloc of West African countries is threatening to invade Niger.

U.K. set to ban Russia's Wagner Group as 'terrorist' organisation

- The Wagner Group first surfaced during Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014.
- Essentially a network of contractors that supply soldiers for hire, the group isn't registered anywhere and its source of funding remains unknown.
- The organisation's owner and head is Yevgeny Prigozhin.
- Apart from Ukraine, Wagner Group is reportedly also active in West Asia and several countries in Africa.
- According to media reports, it provides its services to different governments often in exchange for access to gold and diamond mines.

Black Sea Grain Initiative

- It is **associated with the Russia-Ukraine war**.
- It was set up to **resume vital food and fertilizer exports from Ukraine** to the rest of the world.
- It was brokered between Russia and Ukraine by the United Nations and Turkey.

Do you know?

- The Initiative allowed exports of grain, other foodstuffs, and fertilizer, including ammonia, to resume through a safe maritime humanitarian corridor from three key Ukrainian ports: Chornomorsk, Odesa, and Yuzhny/Pivdennyi, to the rest of the world.

Philippines opposes 'militia vessels' in South China Sea

- An arm of the western Pacific Ocean that borders the Southeast Asian mainland.
- Bordered by Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.
- It is connected by the Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by the Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea (both marginal seas of the Pacific Ocean).
- Comprise three archipelagoes, namely, the Spratly Islands, Paracel Islands, Pratas Islands and Macclesfield's Bank and Scarborough Shoal.

China slows fertilizer exports, raising concerns in India

- State owned China National Off-shore Oil Company(CNOOC) has decided to proactively decrease exports and channelise the supply to its domestic market.
- This is a concern for India as India imports about 30% of urea needed annually and China is its second largest supplier.

Economy News**CBDCs**

- A Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), or national digital currency, is simply the digital form of a country's fiat currency.
- Instead of printing paper currency or minting coins, the central bank issues electronic tokens.
- This token value is backed by the full faith and credit of the government.
- It is also known as National Digital Currency.

India's forex reserves jump \$4.03 bn to \$598.89 bn

- According to the recent reports by Reserve Bank India's foreign currency assets rose by \$3.442 billion to \$530.691 billion
- Gold reserves rose \$584 million to \$44.939 billion.
- Special Drawing Rights climbed by \$1 million to \$18.195 billion.
- India's reserve position with the IMF rose \$12 million to \$5.073 billion.

RBI decides to discontinue I-CCR in a phased manner.

- The Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio will be discontinued in a phased manner.
- The measure was intended to absorb surplus liquidity generated by various factors, including the return of Rs.2000 notes to the banking system.

Agreement news**Center signs MoU with Adobe to train children in classroom**

- Adobe will provide schools across the country with free access to Adobe Express Premium.

Summits & Conferences News**G20 (Group of 20)**

- Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, **India**, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.

Key points:

- The G20 or Group of Twenty is an intergovernmental forum comprising **19 countries and the European Union (EU)**.
- The G20 is composed of most of the world's largest economies, including **both industrialized and developing nations**.

TEST SERIES

MARATHI & ENGLISH

NAGAR PARISHAD
BHARTI 2023महाराष्ट्र नगरपरिषद
भरती

10 Full Length Tests

- G20 Grouping accounts for around 90% of gross world product (GWP), 75-80% of international trade, two-thirds of the global population, and roughly half the world's land area.

Background:

- G20 was **founded in 1999** in response to several world economic crises.
- Since 2008, it has convened at least once a year, with summits involving each member's head of government or state, finance minister, foreign minister, and other high-ranking officials; the EU is represented by the European Commission and the European Central Bank.

18th G20 Summit 2023

- To be held in New Delhi (September 9 and 10)
- Chinese President for the first time may skip a G-20 summit.
- It will be attended by delegates from 40 countries (including the 20 member states)
- It will focus on global solutions based on the theme of "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**," meaning One Earth, One Family, One Future.
- The theme highlights unity, sustainability, and cleaner living.

Critical global issues during 18th G20 Summit 2023

- **Focus areas:** Green development, climate finance, including Low-carbon Technologies for Fighting Epidemics (LiFE), economic growth across all segments of society, accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and women's empowerment.

BRICS

- BRICS is an acronym for the **grouping of the world's leading emerging economies**, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- In 2001, the British Economist Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC to describe the four emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- The grouping was formalized during the first meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers in 2006.
- South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010, after which the group adopted the acronym BRICS.
- BRICS marked its 15th summit by expanding its membership from five to eleven countries, reflecting a concerted effort to enhance its global standing.
- Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Ethiopia, and Argentina joined the BRICS fold, amplifying the group's representation across the Middle East, Africa, and South America.
- Full membership will take effect on January 1, 2024.

New data for BRICS-

- BRICS now will have 46% of the world population
- Global GDP- 37%
- Global exports - 26.7%
- Global imports -22%
- Oil production -42%

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Why in the news?

- PM attended the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and the 18th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Jakarta on 7 September 2023.

About ASEAN

- ASEAN is an important regional organization in the Asia-pacific region.
- It was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.
- Brunei Darussalam then joined on 7 January 1984, VietNam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, making up what is today the **ten Member States of ASEAN**.
- The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
- 8th August is observed as ASEAN Day.
- ASEAN Secretariat is situated in Jakarta, Indonesia

10 ASEAN countries

- Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam

East Asia Summit (EAS)

- PM attended the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and the 18th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Jakarta on 7 September 2023.

About EAS

- EAS was **established in 2005** as an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (**ASEAN**)-led initiative.
- EAS is the only leader-led forum in the Indo-Pacific that brings together all key partners to discuss political, security and economic issues of strategic importance.
- The idea of an East Asia Grouping was first proposed by then Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in 1991.
- The first summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14 December 2005.

Members:

- The EAS comprises 18 members: the 10 ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and eight dialogue partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States).

Global Biofuel Alliance

- Global Biofuel Alliance is one of the priorities under India's G20 Presidency, under which Brazil, India, and the United States, will work together during the next few months towards the development of a Global Biofuels Alliance along with other interested countries.
- The Alliance shall work in collaboration with and complement the relevant existing regional and international agencies as well as initiatives in the bioenergy, bioeconomy, and energy transition fields more broadly, including the Clean Energy Ministerial Biofuture Platform, the Mission Innovation Bioenergy initiatives, and the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP).

International Biofuel Alliance Objectives:

1. Promoting the use of sustainable biofuels.
2. Development and strengthening of the biofuel market
3. Facilitating global biofuel trade.
4. Development of Biofuel policy.

G20 could pave way for crypto regulation, financial inclusion

- A cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security.
- It is a decentralized currency, meaning it is not controlled by any government or institution.
- Some examples of cryptocurrencies include Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Litecoin.

African Union to join G-20 as Sherpas reach a deal

- The African Union (AU) is a continental body consisting of the **55 member states** that make up the countries of the **African Continent**.
- It was officially **launched in 2002** and replaced its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which was founded in 1963.
- Primary Objective: To promote unity, cooperation, and development among African nations while advancing the continent's interests on the global stage.
- It aims to strengthen political, economic, and social integration among African countries, with a vision of achieving an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa.
- Headquarters: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

G-20 Structure**Finance Track**

- It is headed by the finance ministers and central bank governors, who usually meet four times a year, with two meetings being held on the sidelines of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) meetings.
- It mainly focuses on fiscal and monetary policy issues such as the global economy, infrastructure, financial regulation, financial inclusion, international financial architecture, and international taxation.

TEST SERIES

MARATHI & ENGLISH



महाराष्ट्र राज्य
उत्पादन शुल्क भरती 2023

जवान, लघुलेखक आणि
लघुटंकलेखक

07 Full Length Tests

Sherpa Track

- It was established after the forum became a leaders' summit **in 2008**.
- It consists of representatives of heads of state, and it focuses on socio-economic issues such as agriculture, anti-corruption, climate, digital economy, education, employment, energy, environment, health, tourism, trade, and investment.

The unofficial track comprises engagement or civil groups.

Do you know?

The G20 works in three major tracks — two of them are official and one is unofficial

1. Sherpa Track
2. Finance Track
3. Engagement groups or civil society groups (Unofficial)

Concert of rare instruments planned at Presidents dinner for G-20

- Bharat Vadya Darshanam - by Sangeet Natak Akademi
- Instruments include-
- Kamaicha used by Manganiar community of Rajasthan
- Naltarang
- Rudra Veena
- Surbahar

We have a lot to bring to the G-20 table : African Union Chief

- Azali Assoumani affirmed that the African Union is confident to become a full time member of the G-20.
- According to him, G-20 should invest in industrialisation of Africa.
- He urged the G-20 economies to utilise African resources to manufacture products in Africa.

About African Union

- The African Union (AU) is a continental body consisting of the **55 member states** that make up the countries of the **African Continent**.
- It was officially **launched in 2002** and replaced its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which was founded in 1963.
- Primary Objective: To promote unity, cooperation, and development among African nations while advancing the continent's interests on the global stage.
- It aims to strengthen political, economic, and social integration among African countries, with a vision of achieving an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa.
- Headquarters: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Schemes and Committees News**PMUY (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana)**

- Scheme by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- It provides LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.
- The scheme was originally launched on May 1, 2016, in Uttar Pradesh by the PM with a target of releasing 8 crore connections by March 2020.

- During Ujjwala 1.0, a target was set to provide LPG connections to 5 crore women members of BPL households.
- Subsequently, the scheme was expanded in April 2018 to include women beneficiaries from seven more categories (SC/ST, PMAY, AAY, Most backward classes, tea garden, forest dwellers, Islands).
- Also, the target was revised to 8 Crore LPG connections.
- The PMUY 2.0 was launched in the financial year 2021-22 making a provision for the release of additional one crore connections.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme.

Defense News

India-Sri Lanka Maritime Exercise

- INS Delhi conducts maritime partnership exercise with Sri Lanka Navy Ship Vijayabahu

Key points

- A clean-up drive at Crow Island beach (Sri Lanka) was jointly undertaken by India's INS and Sri Lanka's SLN.
- The Commanding Officer of INS Delhi interacted with Rear Admiral Suresh De Silva, Commander Western Naval Area (COMWEST).
- As part of India's 'Aarogya Maitri' initiative, which aims to provide essential medical supplies to friendly countries, the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay, presented a state-of-the-art Arogya Maitri Cube to the Speaker of Sri Lanka Parliament.
- These medical cubes have been indigenously developed under the Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri).

Modi, Biden welcome progress in defense ties

- Both the leaders welcomed the completion process of a commercial agreement between General Electric Aerospace and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.(HAL) to manufacture GE F-414 jet engines of India.
- A settlement was also reached on the seventh and the last WTO outstanding dispute between the two countries.
- President Biden welcomed the issuance of a Letter of Request from the Ministry of Defence of India to procure 31 General Atomics MQ-9B, remotely piloted aircraft and associated equipments.
- US industry to invest more in India's maintenance, repair and overhaul capacities and facilities for aircraft.
- On space cooperation, establishment of a working group for commercial space collaboration under the existing India-US Civil Space Joint Working group between NASA and ISRO.

Ranks & Reports News

Heat Index

- Heat Index will calculate the temperature along with the humidity levels to provide a more accurate measure of what the temperature actually feels like.

Important fact:

- As per a report by UNESCO in 2018, **42 languages are heading towards extinction in India.**

Sports News

4*400m relay Athletes who reached finals of World Championship in Budapest

- Rajesh Ramesh
- Muhammed Ajmal Variyathodi
- Amoj Jacob
- Muhammad Anas Yahiya

Science and Technology News

COVAX

- It is co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- Aim: To accelerate the development and manufacture of Covid-19 vaccines and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world.
- COVAX is the vaccines pillar of the Access to Covid-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.
- The ACT Accelerator is a global collaboration to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to Covid-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.

Miscellaneous News

Laicite

- A french principle of secularism
- The term was coined in the 19th century.
- It is understood as a formal separation of the State and the Church

Important facts about Contemporary India

- No. of Indian rural households with tap water connections reached 13 Crore, the target is 19.23 Cr.
- Increase in the no. of space startup- from 4 in 2014 to more than 150 in 2023.
- India's space economy is valued at \$8 billion.

Water Hyacinth

- Water hyacinth (Pontederia crassipes) is an **invasive species native to South Africa.**
- The plant has naturalised itself in many other parts of the world.
- Water hyacinth **acts as a water purifier by removing heavy metals from water** when present in small quantities.
- However, the **plant is a prolific spreader** and when it covers the entire surface of a water body, it does not allow sunlight to penetrate the water and also starts depleting oxygen.

- This leads to death of aquatic animals and plants, which in turn decompose and further reduce oxygen levels
- The presence of water hyacinth indicates that there are high nitrogen levels in the water.
- It is a symptom of an underlying problem and how the water nutrients behave.

Crocodiles (Mugger or Marsh Crocodile)

- An egg-laying and hole-nesting species, also known to be dangerous.
- Mainly restricted to the Indian subcontinent where it may be found in a number of freshwater habitat types and also in coastal saltwater lagoons and estuaries.
- It is already extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar.
- IUCN List of Threatened Species: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

Estuarine or Saltwater Crocodile:

- Considered as the Earth's largest living crocodile species, infamous globally as a known man-eater.
- Found in Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park, the Sundarbans in West Bengal and the Andamans and Nicobar Islands.

- Also found across Southeast Asia and northern Australia.
- IUCN List of Threatened Species: Least Concern
- CITES : Appendix I (except the populations of Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, which are included in Appendix II).
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 : Schedule I

Gharial:

- Sometimes called gavials, are a type of Asian crocodilian distinguished by their long, thin snouts which resembles a pot (ghara in Hindi).
- The population of Gharials is a good indicator of clean river water.
- Known to be a relatively harmless, fish-eating species.
- Mostly found in fresh waters of the himalayan rivers.
- The Chambal river in the northern slopes of the Vindhya mountains (Madhya Pradesh) is known as the primary habitat of gharials.
- Other himalayan rivers like Ghagra, Gandak river, Girwa river, Ramganga river and the Sone river are secondary habitats.
- IUCN List of Threatened Species: Critically Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule

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KRUSHI VIBHAG 2023
लघुटंकलेखक व लघुलेखक भरती

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