

# National and International Weekly Current Affairs 17 to 23 September 2023

## National News

### Santiniketan declared UNESCO World Heritage site

- Santiniketan, the famed place in West Bengal where poet Rabindranath Tagore built Visva-Bharati over a century ago, has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

#### Key points

- Established in 1901 by poet and philosopher Tagore, Santiniketan was a residential school and centre for art based on ancient Indian traditions and a vision of the unity of humanity transcending religious and cultural boundaries.
- A 'world university' was established at Santiniketan in 1921, recognising the unity of humanity or "Visva Bharati".
- Distinct from the prevailing British colonial architectural orientations of the early 20th century and of European modernism, Santiniketan represents approaches toward a pan-Asian modernity, drawing on ancient, medieval and folk traditions from across the region.

### India becomes 13th nation that can issue OIML certificates

- India joins an exclusive club of 12 nations, today. India is now authorized to issue the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) - an international standard-setting body- approval certificates.

#### Key points

- India now can support its domestic manufacturers of weighing and measuring products like weighing devices, taxi meters, speedometers, agricultural measuring devices such as cereal moisture meters, health-related devices such as exhaust measurements and alcohol content of drinks, etc., to export to the international market.

**New Launch** **Bilingual**

**Maharashtra**

**Test Mate**

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

**600+ Total Tests**

### The International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)

- It is an intergovernmental organisation that was created in 1955 to promote the global harmonisation of the legal metrology (science of measurement) procedures that underpin and facilitate international trade.
- It has 63 Member States and 64 Corresponding Members. India became a member in 1956.
- India is now an exclusive group of nations, including Australia, Switzerland, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, France, United Kingdom, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, and Slovakia, as the 13th country worldwide, authorized to issue OIML approval certificates.

### India's non-communicable diseases (NCD) burden will be nearly \$4 trillion by 2030.

- Infant mortality has improved by four times, maternal mortality has improved by seven times and the average life expectancy of an Indian is up nearly 30% from 55 years to over 70 now.
- Today, India has world-class health-care infrastructure along with incredible clinical talent that delivers the best in class clinical outcomes at incredible scale and at a fraction of the global price.
- India's expertise in highly specialised areas such as organ transplants, cardiology, oncology and more has made the country a fast-growing destination for medical value travel (MVT), not just for the price but also for the speed of access and the sheer quality of care.
- AI expenditure in India is expected to reach \$11.78 billion by 2025. It is expected to add \$1 trillion to India's economy by 2035.

### Kuno cheetahs to be released into the wild in winter with collars on

- The cheetahs in Kuno are likely to be released into the wild after the onset of winter, and they will have their collars fitted back on them

#### Key points

#### Kuno Palpur National Park:

- Kuno National Park lies in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh in Central India near the Vindhyan Hills.
- With an area of 748 sq. km, the park is located within the larger Kuno Wildlife Division.
- Initially established as a wildlife sanctuary, it was only in 2018 that the government changed its status into a national park.
- Named after the Kuno River (One of the main tributaries of the Chambal River) that cuts across it, Kuno is primarily a grassland region.

- Flora and Fauna: The protected area of the forest is home to the jungle cat, Indian leopard, sloth bear, Indian wolf, striped hyena, golden jackal, Bengal fox and dhole, along with more than 120 bird species
- Kuno National Park was selected under 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India'.

#### Ni-kshay 2.0 portal

- The Ni-kshay 2.0 portal provides a digital platform for extending community support to persons with TB and leveraging Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) opportunities.
- 'Differentiated TB Care' as a part of the initiative is aimed at assessing and triaging patients to decide whether people with TB need ambulatory care or admission in a health facility.

#### Women's quota Bill in Lok Sabha

- Central government passed the women's reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha to reserve **one-third of the seats in the Lower House and in the legislative Assemblies for women.**

#### Key points

- It is tabled as the Constitution **(One Hundred and Twenty Eighth) Amendment Bill, 2023.**
- It would be implemented only **after the 2026 delimitation exercise** using data from the Census to be conducted.
- The reservation in the Lok Sabha can hence be **implemented only in the Lok Sabha election in 2029** and not in 2024.
- The women participation will then go to 181 from the current participation of 82 members.

#### Did you know?

- **It was first introduced in the parliament in 1996 by Deve Gowda government**

#### Important facts about Delimitation Commission

- The 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2023 will be implemented after the 2026 delimitation.

#### Key points

- Delimitation deals with adjusting the boundaries of constituencies according to the population.
- **Article 82 and Article 170 of the Constitution empowers the Parliament** to readjust the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of States respectively, after every census.

#### About Delimitation Commission

- It is a high-powered committee entrusted with the task of drawing and redrawing boundaries of different constituencies for state assembly and Lok Sabha election.
- It is **appointed by the President** and works in collaboration with the Election Commission.
- The Commission consists of – A retired or working **Supreme Court Judge** (chairperson), **Election Commissioner** and Concerned **State Election Commissioners**

#### Did you know?

- The Commission's orders **cannot be called in question before any court.**

#### Census and Delimitation

- Government has decided to implement the women's reservation bill only after **census and delimitation** work is done which are **going to be conducted after LS 2024 polls.**

#### About Census :

- Census is the process of collecting, compiling, analyzing and disseminating demographic, social, cultural and economic data relating to all persons in the country, at a particular time.
- It provides basic statistics on the state of human resources, **demography, culture and economic structure** at all levels.
- The first synchronous census was taken under British rule in **1881, by W.C. Plowden**, Census Commissioner of India.
- The responsibility of conducting the decadal census rests with the **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs**

#### Delimitation

- Delimitation is the process of **redrawing the boundaries of territorial constituencies** in a nation.
- It reflects the changes in population.
- The Constitution requires that the **Commission's decisions be final and cannot be challenged in court**
- The Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly cannot modify the Delimitation Commission's orders once they have been laid before them.

#### About delimitation commission

- Delimitation literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country
- In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted **4 times** under **delimitation commission act**
- The **first delimitation commission was constituted in 1952** under delimitation commission act of 1952
- **Article 82 and Article 170 of the Constitution the Parliament** must pass delimitation commission act for LS and state legislature

#### Did you know?

- It is appointed by the President
- The Ex- officio member of Commission
  1. a SC court judge,
  2. chief election commissioner of India
  3. election commissioner of concerned state

**Number of mineral exploration projects approved by NMET**

- The National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) has approved 309 projects worth ₹2,100 crore.

**Key points**

- Of the projects approved, 151 have been completed, while the rest are in progress

**About District Mineral Foundation(DMF)**

- As per the **Mine and Minerals Development Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2015**, the state government shall constitute DMF
- It should be constituted in every affected district
- It was established as a **non-profit body** to be called the District Mineral Foundation.
- DMF Funds-it constitutes **one third of royalty** from every license holder to DMF as per rates prescribed by the Central Government.
- This **fund will be used for welfare of the people affected** in the mining affected areas

**Constitution Bench has decided to check the validity of 104th AA**

- Constitution Bench decided to examine whether Parliament can use its constituent power to repeatedly amend Article 334

**Key points**

- **Article 334** of the constitution is related to the **reservation of seats for SC/ST in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies** to cease after a certain period.
- It was originally provided for ten years but the article has been amended several times to continue the reservation.

**Did you know?**

- Article 15(4) and Article 16(4) of the Indian Constitution allows the federal government and state governments to reserve seats in government services for members of the SC and ST communities.

BILINGUAL

# MAHARASHTRA PRIME TEST PACK

300+ TOTAL TESTS

**Maharashtra State News****Maharashtra government to implement NaMo 11-point programme**

- Maharashtra government to implement **NaMo 11-point programme** as an array of welfare measure to **commemorate PM Modi's 73rd birthday**.

**Key Points:**

- The NaMo 11-point programme is a **set of welfare schemes** announced by the Maharashtra government in September 2023, on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 73rd birthday.
- The programme is aimed at **benefiting all sections of society, including farmers, women, youth, and the underprivileged**.

**The 11 schemes included in the NaMo 11-point programme are:**

1. NaMo Women Empowerment Mission
2. NaMo Construction Worker Welfare Mission
3. NaMo Farm Pond Mission
4. NaMo Self-sufficient and Solar Energy Village Campaign
5. NaMo Poor and Backward Class Dignity Mission
6. NaMo Village Secretariat Mission
7. NaMo Smart Tribal School Mission
8. NaMo Divyang Shakti Abhiyan
9. NaMo Sports Ground and Garden Mission
10. NaMo City Beautification Project
11. NaMo Pilgrim and Fort Protection Mission

**Awareness about the water conservation is the theme of Ganesh festivities**

- **Water conservation campaign** to be highlight of Ganesh festivities.
- Awareness of water conservation would be at the center of Ganesh festivities in **Maharashtra's Latur district**, which has not received enough rainfall this monsoon
- The campaign is part of the '**Jal Saksharta Abhiyan**'.

**Key Points:**

- **Jal Saksharta Abhiyan (JSA)** is a nationwide campaign launched by the Government of India in 2022 to raise awareness about water conservation and management.
- The campaign aims to **educate and empower all citizens, especially women and children** to understand the importance of water and to take action to protect and conserve this precious resource.

**Did you know?**

- **Jalyukt shivar yojana** is the water conservation campaign of maharashtra

### The Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST)

- BEST to replace regular electric meters with **prepaid smart meters** to enhance **accuracy in data collection on electricity consumption.**

#### Key Points:

- The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) is a **public transport and electricity provider based in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.**
- It was **originally set up in 1873 as a tramway company** called "Bombay Tramway Company Limited".

### Maharashtra millet mission

- To celebrate the eve of the international year of millet 2023, the **Maharashtra government also launched its mission on millet 2023.**

#### Key Points:

- The year 2023 is being celebrated as 'International Year of Nutritious Cereals'.
- It is a comprehensive issue that covers all aspects of nutritious cereals, from their nutritional value to their cultivation and consumption.
- The issue also includes articles by experts from various fields, including agriculture, nutrition, and public health.

#### Did you know :

Maharashtra is the leading producer of jowar

### Nashik District Onion Traders Association NOT to be a part of Onion auction

- The Nashik District Onion Traders Association have decided not to participate in the onion auction as the central government entered the trade.
- Onions procured through NAFED and National Consumers' Cooperative Union (NCCF) are sent to the domestic market, traders' goods are not sold abroad.
- 40 percent tax has slowed down exports.

#### Key Points:

- The **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)** is the apex cooperative marketing organization in India.
- It was established in 1958 with the objective of promoting the cooperative marketing of agricultural produce and to provide better returns to farmers.
- NAFED is a member-based organization, with its members being state cooperative marketing federations, national cooperative federations, and primary cooperative marketing societies.

### Trafficking of "Common Crane" Birds

- Trafficking of "Common Crane" Birds on rise in Maharashtra region.
- It has been revealed that the smuggling of these birds, which are being smuggled from West Bengal to Mumbai city, is at an international level.

#### Key points:

- 'Common Crane' is a bird protected under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.**
- The common crane (*Grus grus*) is a large, long-legged wading bird in the family Gruidae.
- It is the only crane commonly found in Europe besides the demoiselle crane (*Grus virgo*) and the Siberian crane (*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*) that only are regular in the far eastern part of the continent.
- **IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern.**
- Common Cranes are medium-sized cranes that weigh between 3-6kg.

### Drought Like Conditions in Maharashtra

- Drought-like condition in thirteen districts; Severe shortages in Nagar, Sangli, Satara, Jalna, Beed.
- Out of 36 districts of the state, drought-like conditions have arisen in 13 districts.
- According to the India Meteorological Department, the state received nine percent less rainfall than the average from June 1 to September 18

**Major reason for this** - El-Nino phenomenon.

#### About El-Nino:

- El Niño is the warming of seawater in the central-east Equatorial Pacific that occurs every few years.
- During El Niño, surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific rise, and trade winds — east-west winds that blow near the Equator — weaken.
- Normally, easterly trade winds blow from the Americas towards Asia.
- Due to El Niño, they falter and change direction to turn into westerlies, bringing warm water from the western Pacific towards the Americas.
- It occurs every 3-6 years and lasts for about 9-12 months.
- It can cause droughts, flooding, and changes in temperature.
- It can lead to below-normal rainfall, which affects India's agricultural sector.

### India Meteorological Department

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is the national meteorological service of India.
- It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The IMD is headquartered in New Delhi

The IMD provides a wide range of meteorological services, including:

1. Weather forecasting for the general public, aviation, maritime, and other sectors
2. Climate monitoring and research
3. Monsoon forecasting
4. Severe weather warnings and advisories
5. Agrometeorological services
6. Environmental monitoring



**Maratha quota panel**

- MH state government has formed a 20-member team to assist the panel headed by retired Justice Sandeep Shinde to meet the demand of recognising Maratha community as Kunbi and grant them OBC certificates

**Key Points:**

- The team includes officials of a deputy secretary and under-secretary rank. Deputy secretary (home) Vijay Powar, under secretary (finance) Rasik Khadse and under secretary (civil supplies) Pooja Mankar are among those appointed on the team.
- The state has issued a resolution granting the team a month's time to carry out the work.
- The appointment of the staff is till the completion of the given assignment.

**Secessionist movement**

- The term separatism was first coined by Pandit Nehru in a speech in Colombo in 1954.
- Abstention from militaristic and factional politics in the international arena is separatism. Detachment can be interpreted as 'affirmative neutrality'

**Key Points:**

- A secessionist movement is a political movement that advocates for the withdrawal of a territory from a state or nation.
- Secessionist movements can be motivated by a variety of factors, such as ethnic nationalism, religious differences, or economic grievances.

**Person in news: Rajnish Seth (New MPSC Chairman)**

- Director General of Police Rajnish Seth to be MPSC New Chairman
- Rajnish Seth, the current State Director General of Police, is likely to be appointed as the Chairman of the State Public Service Commission (MPSC).

**Historic (Shri Ganapati) silver coin**

- Historians are reminded of the silver coin inscribed 'Shri Ganapati' when Ganapati Bappa was welcomed with great enthusiasm.
- This very rare coin belongs to the Maratha Empire.
- 1759 to 1806 was the reign of Mughal Emperor Shah Alam (II).
- According to history scholar Ashok Thakur, this coin was produced by **Patwardhan of Miraj Sansthan**, a Maratha ruler.

**World Bamboo Day is observed on September 18 every year to raise awareness about bamboo worldwide.**

- A success story written by the women of Melghat reflects how Bamboo supports 'Chitri' economy.
- Bamboo, which has been developing as an important natural resource in the last few years, has started to transform the economy of Chitri village in Melghat.
- Money has started coming into the hands of the women here through the production of various bamboo products.

**Key Points:**

- Chitri is a village of barely 70 houses and population of 462 in Dharani taluk of Melghat.
- Majority of the population of Bhilala, Korku, Gond, Gawli communities are in this village. Agriculture, labor and livestock management are the major sources of income.
- The entire bamboo center trained 60 people from 23 households in this village to make various items from bamboo.

**Fungus destroyed 30% of soybeans in MH**

- Due to Sudden increase in the temperature, soybeans were attacked by fungi.
- Crops have turned yellow, and have started to dry up.
- Around 30 percent of soybeans are lost due to fungus.

**Key Points:**

- Experts are saying that this fungal disease is being seen for the first time in hundred years.
- Fungus infestation has increased in Wardha district.
- Soybeans are currently being affected by mealybug, whitefly, camel worm, leafhopper, tobacco leaf-eating worm, cutworm, yellow mosaic disease.

**Alleviate Water Scarcity in Marathwada**

- The Shinde-Fadnavis government recently approved some water resources projects to solve the water shortage in Marathwada.

**Key Points:**

- Efforts are being made to bring water from North Konkan to Marathwada.
- Accordingly, diversion of a total of 22.9 TMC of water from North Konkan river basins to Godavari basin through **flow diversion scheme and Upsa river connection/diversion schemes** will be undertaken on priority.
- A total fund of Rs 14,040 crore will be allotted for this.

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**महाराष्ट्र नगरपरिषद  
भरती**

**10 Full Length Tests**

**Flow Diversion Scheme**

- A flow diversion scheme is a water management project that diverts water from one river basin to another.
- This can be done for a variety of reasons, such as to provide irrigation water to arid regions, to generate hydropower, or to improve water quality.
- Flow diversion schemes can be complex and expensive to build, and they can also have a significant impact on the environment.
- For example, diverting water from one river basin can reduce the flow of water in that basin, which can harm downstream ecosystems.

**Upsa river connection/diversion schemes**

- The Upsa river is a tributary of the Krishna river. It flows through the Telangana state in India.
- The Upsa river connection/diversion schemes are a series of proposed projects that would divert water from the Upsa river to the Krishna river basin.
- The goal of the Upsa river connection/diversion schemes is to provide additional water to the Krishna river basin, which is facing a water shortage.
- The schemes would also generate hydropower and improve water quality in the Krishna river basin.

**The BEST initiative has decided to preserve the last non-AC double decker bus in the BEST fleet.**

- Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST) is a public transport company that operates buses in Mumbai, India.
- The BEST initiative is a program launched by the Maharashtra government in 2016 to improve the quality and efficiency of BEST bus services.

**Did you know?**

The last non ac bus will be kept in the museum as a part of memories of mumbaikar.

**The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) conducted a test run of 'Deccan Odyssey 2.0'.**

- Deccan Odyssey 2.0' will run up to Delhi along with Konkan.
- The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) conducted a test run of 'Deccan Odyssey 2.0'.
- The train has been tested between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus and Panvel.

**About deccan odyssey**

- It is one of the luxurious trains of the country.
- It was first launched in 2005 in collaboration between maharashtra government and Indian railway to boost tourism
- It is operated by MTDC
- This luxurious train covers the tourist spots of Maharashtra and lets travelers get a glimpse of the state's rich cultural heritage.

**Gold Award for 'Lokmat Times'**

- The award was given to 'Lokmat Times' for the initiative called , '**Because Local Issues Matter More**' in the newspaper category.
- The event, held under the aegis of 'Asian Customer Engagement Forum and Awards' (ACEF)
- This multifaceted initiative became part of the relaunch edition of Lokmat times which was launched on gandhi jayanti
- The motto of initiative is "Wherever we live, local issues affect us and touch our hearts".

**International University in the name of Lata mangeskar**

- The state government has decided to establish an international music school in name of Lata Mangeshkar
- An international university to be established in Sangli district of maharashtra
- Necessary space will be provided through Ganpati Panchayat.

**Ban to take sugarcane to foreign states, MH**

- Export of sugarcane ban by Maharashtra government has double crisis for farmers along with drought

**Key facts**

- Lack of expected rainfall affected the state's sugar belt this monsoon.
- The yield and production got affected due to lack of rainfall
- In the backdrop of the situation , the Maharashtra government implemented a notification banning factories from other states from importing sugarcane.
- No export policy of government will affect remuneration of farmers

**About Sugarcane pricing**

- Sugarcane is a tropical grass that is grown in tropical and subtropical areas.
- The FPR (Fair and Remunerative price) is administered to the sugarcane crop instead of MSP
- The sugarcane crop price is decided by the cabinet committee on economics chaired by PM.

**World Tourism Center, Pune**

- Recently the deputy CM of Maharashtra has announced that the **Kuswali plateau in Maval taluka in the Pune district** will become a world tourist center.

**Key points:**

- A World Tourism Center (WTC) is a city or region that is a major destination for international tourists.
- WTCs are typically characterized by their rich cultural heritage, natural attractions, and well-developed infrastructure.
- They offer a variety of tourism products and services.
- WTCs play an important role in the global tourism industry and importantly in **employment generation**
- They attract millions of visitors each year and generate billions of dollars in revenue.

**Nandadeep Foundation' in Yavatmal**

- Nandadeep Foundation' in Yavatmal is going to start activities like treatment and counseling and self employment -small industry center for psychiatric patients!

**Key Points about Nandadeep Foundation**

- It is a non-profit organization that works to help homeless mentally ill people in Yavatmal, Maharashtra.
- It was founded in 2015 by **Sandip and Nandini Shinde**, who were inspired by their own experiences with mental illness.
- Nandadeep Foundation provides a variety of services to mentally ill people

**Did you know?**

- It also works to raise awareness about mental illness and to promote social inclusion of mentally ill people.

**Trailguard AI' technology**

- As the human-wildlife conflict in India's tiger habitats continues to grow, artificial intelligence-based camera alert technology has been developed.

**About Trailguard AI**

- 'Trailguard AI', has been developed by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority, Global Tiger Forum, NGO Resolve and Clemson University**.
- TrailGuard AI is a **camera-based wildlife monitoring system** that uses artificial intelligence (AI) **to detect and identify animals**.
- It is designed to help rangers and conservationists to **protect wildlife from poaching and other threats**.

**Did you know?**

**MSTRIP** is the project for tigers.

**APMCs**

- Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) are **statutory bodies** established by state governments in India to regulate the marketing of agricultural produce.
- They were established under the **Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act, 1964**.
- APMCs play an important role in protecting the interests of farmers by ensuring that they get a fair price for their produce.
- They also help to regulate the supply of agricultural produce to the market and to prevent exploitation of farmers by middlemen.

**Scrub typhus cases reported in MH**

- 16 cases of Scrub typhus cases reported from Maharashtra after other states

**Key Points:**

- Cases are reported in three districts: Aurangabad, Jalna, and Buldhana.
- With several states in India grappling with an outbreak of this disease ,
- The Maharashtra public health department has alerted all districts to increase surveillance.

**Scrub typhus**

- Scrub typhus is a **mite-borne rickettsial disease** that is caused by the **bacteria Orientia tsutsugamushi**.
- It is found in tropical and subtropical regions of Asia, Africa, and South America.
- Scrub typhus is transmitted to humans through the **bite of infected chiggers (larval mites)**.
- Chiggers attach to the skin and feed on blood, injecting the bacteria into the bloodstream.
- The bacteria then multiply in the lymph nodes and spread to other parts of the body

**Symptoms:**

- The symptoms of scrub typhus typically develop 5-14 days after being bitten by an infected chigger.

Symptoms include:

- ❖ Fever
- ❖ Headache
- ❖ Muscle Aches
- ❖ Rashes

**PM Atma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana**

- 'Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana' (PMASBY) scheme was announced on 1st February, 2021, with an outlay of about Rs.64,180 Cr over six years (till FY 25-26).
- This will be in addition to the National Health Mission.

**The main interventions under the scheme to be achieved by FY 25-26 are:**

- Support for 17,788 rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 High Focus States
- Establishing 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centres in all the States.
- Setting up of Integrated Public Health Labs in all districts and 3382 Block Public Health Units in 11 High Focus states;
- Establishing Critical Care Hospital Blocks in 602 districts and 12 Central Institutions;
- Strengthening of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), its 5 regional branches and 20 metropolitan health surveillance units;
- Expansion of the Integrated Health Information Portal to all States/UTs to connect all public health labs;
- Operationalisation of 17 new Public Health Units and strengthening of 33 existing Public Health Units at Points of Entry, that is at 32 Airports, 11 Seaports and 7 land-crossings;
- Setting up of 15 Health Emergency Operation Centres and 2 mobile hospitals; and
- Setting up of a national institution for One Health, a Regional Research Platform for WHO South East Asia Region, 9 Bio-Safety Level III laboratories and 4 regional National Institutes for Virology.

## State News

**Centre plans to recall RAF from Manipur**

- The Union government is considering a **phased withdrawal of the Rapid Action Force (RAF)**, a specialized anti-riot Central armed police force, from violence-hit Manipur.

**Key points**

- At present, 10 companies of the RAF are deployed in Manipur.
- An internal report sent by the RAF highlights the crisis.
- The report flags the injudicious use and inappropriate deployment of the RAF in high-risk areas, with the absence of senior police officers and magistrates at the scene of the incidents.

**Rapid Action Force (RAF)**

- The Rapid Action Force (RAF) is a **specialised wing of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** to deal with riot and crowd control situations.
- RAF was raised on 11 December 1991 with **headquarters in New Delhi**.
- It became fully operational on 7 October 1992, to deal with riots, riot like situations, crowd control, rescue and relief operations, and related unrest.
- Its motto is **"Serving Humanity with Sensitive Policing"**
- RAF battalions are based in various parts of the country in order to cut down response time and rush the teams in shortest possible time to counter an incident.
- RAF is headed by an officer of the rank of Inspector-General of Police (IGP).
- The RAF has a distinctive uniform with a blue-coloured camouflage pattern which symbolises peace.

**Nipah cases: Central team to carry out field investigations in Kozhikode**

- GoI's Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), to carry out field investigations in Kozhikode district, Kerala.

**Key points**

- Nipah is a zoonotic disease affecting both humans and animals.
- The DAHD has directed the team to submit daily reports and advise the Animal Husbandry Department on measures for disease prevention.
- The Central team will be joined by a team from the State Institute for Animal Diseases (SIAD), Palode.
- the State Animal Husbandry department had stepped up surveillance in the livestock sector in view of the cases.
- The department had also issued a set of guidelines for farmers and the public.
- In pigs, for instance, the disease affects the respiratory system and the nervous system.
- Steps were taken to identify pig farms near the epicentre of the outbreak and put them under surveillance for symptoms.

**Three Hoysala temples declared World Heritage Sites**

- The Hoysala temples at Belur, Halebid, and Somanathapura in Karnataka were declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

**Key points**

- The **Chennakeshava temple at Belur** and the **Hoysaleswara temple at Halebid** — both in Hassan district — and the **Keshava temple at Somanathapura in Mysuru district** are given this tag.
- The Hoysala temples are known for their unique temple i.e **Stellate plan** on raised platform .
- The material used in temple construction is **soapstone**

**Chennakeshava Temple, Belur:**

- Construction commenced in 1117 AD and took 103 years to complete.
- The temple is **dedicated to Lord Vishnu**
- Theme on the temple narrates **scenes from life of Vishnu and his incarnation and epics of Ramayana and mahabharata** and some of shiva

**Hoysaleswara Temple, Halebidu:**

- Built in **1121CE** during the reign of **Vishnuvardhana Hoysaleswara**.
- The temple is **dedicated to Shiva**,
- It was built by wealthy citizens and merchants of **Dwarasamudra**.
- Halebid has a walled complex containing three **Jaina Basadi** (temples) of the Hoysala period as well as a stepped well.

**Keshava Temple, Somanathapura:**

- It is a beautiful Trikuta Temple **dedicated to Lord Krishna**.

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महाराष्ट्र राज्य  
उत्पादन शुल्क भरती 2023  
जवान, लघुलेखक आणि  
लघुटंकलेखक

07 Full Length Tests



**The first floating solar project in Karnataka will be built in Karwar**

- The first floating solar power project in the state will be set up on the water of **Kadra Dam** in the **Karwar** district. Plans are being made to install solar panels to generate **100 megawatts** of electricity in the water of a reservoir built on the Kali river near Kadra in Karwar district.

**Key Points**

- **100 MW** power generation target
- The biggest scheme of the decade
- A total of **270 MW** will be produced

**Oldest fossils of a plant-eating dinosaur found in Rajasthan**

- Scientists from IIT Roorkee have characterized the dinosaur fossils from the **Middle Jurassic period**.
- They discovered that they had uncovered remains of a **sauropod dinosaur**.
- They are the same as **Clade**, the long-necked **herbivores in Jurassic Park**.
- It may be the oldest known fossil of this kind.
- These fossils are the **first sauropods** of the Dicraeosaurus family to have been found in India.
- At 167 million years old, they are **the oldest known diplodocus fossils in the world**.
- The scientists named the dinosaur Titanosaurus indicus, with Tharo deriving from the Thar desert.

**Geological survey of india**

- It was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways.
- Its HQ in kolkata
- Over the years, it has grown into a repository of geoscience information required in various fields in the country..
- It also emphasizes systematic documentation of all geological processes, both surface and subsurface, of India and its offshore areas.
- The main functions of the GSI relate to the creation and update of national geoscientific information and mineral resource assessment.
- Presently, GSI is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines.

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**CM Chouhan unveils 'Statue of Oneness' in Omkareshwar**

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled a gigantic statue of Adi Guru Shankaracharya on the Mandhata hillock at Omkareshwar in Khandwa district.

**Key points**

- It is called the Ekatmata ki Murti (Statue of Oneness).
- The 108-feet-tall statue portrays the 8th-century Indian philosopher and theologian, who consolidated the **doctrine of Advaita Vedanta**.
- The unveiling is **part of the ambitious Ekatma Dham project of the State government** and marks the initiation of its first phase.
- The government wants to develop it along the lines of the **Mahakal Lok corridor as a major destination for spiritual-religious tourism**.

**Adi Shankaracharya**

- He was an Indian philosopher and theologian, Sankara (Jagatguru), and was a firm believer in ancient Hinduism.
- He took guidance from guru Govinda Bhagavatpada under whom he studied '**Gaudapadiya Karika**', 'Brahmasutra', Vedas, and Upanishads.
- Shankara propagated 'Advaita Vedanta' and 'Dashanami Sampradaya

**Did you know?**

- **Advaita vedanta school advocates monism i.e soul and brahman are not distinguish but one**

**International News****Former French Colonies Mali, Niger And Burkina Faso Create Military Alliance**

- Leaders of the former French colonies Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger inked a charter to form a military alliance of Sahel states in defiance to the Western nations after overthrowing the ruling governments and forging closer cooperation amongst the Junta rulers.

**Key points**

- African states have decided to militarily assist each other, individually or collectively to depose external aggression or internal threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their nations.
- The document signed by the three nations read that an "attack on the sovereignty or territorial integrity of one or more parties to the charter will be regarded as aggression against the other parties and will require their assistance, including the use of military force."
- The charter also stated that the signatories would effectively fight terrorism and any organised terror activity in the Sahel states.

**India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed to establish the 'India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor' (IMEC) recently.

**IMEC**

- IMEC is envisioned as a network of transport corridors comprising railway lines and sea lanes to promote economic integration between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe.
- This initiative is part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII).
- It aims to fund infrastructure projects in developing countries through public and private investments, offering an alternative to the BRI.

**Countries Involved** - India , Saudi Arabia, UAE Countries, USA, European Union, Germany, Italy and France and Israel through port.

**Key Facts :**

1. Currently all trade between India and Europe happens via sea route through the Suez Canal.
2. Due to the corridor , Indian goods can reach Europe in 10 days - 40% faster than the Suez Canal .
3. Ports involved :
  - India - Kandla , Mundhra and Jawaharlal Nehru port
  - Saudi Arabia: - Damman and Ras Al Khair
  - UAE Countries - Fujairah , Jebel Ali and Abu Dhabi .
  - Israel - Haifa
  - European - Messina (Italy) , Marseilles(France) and Piraeus(Greece) .

**Did you know?**

- Though Israel and the UAE are part of this corridor , they were rivals for a long time. And have signed the **Abraham Accord** to conclude peace.

**Agreement News****Three years of the Abraham Accords**

- The sept 2023 marks the **three years of the Abraham Accords** signed between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain, under the auspices of the U.S. government.

**Key point:**

- On account of Abraham Accords, trade between Israel and other West Asian countries increased by 74%.
- Tourism has increased as the UAE has seen a 172% increase in tourists from Israel.

**About Abraham Accords:**

- It is a series of treaties signed between Israel , UAE ,Baharin, Sudan and Morocco to normalize diplomatic relations.
- This deal, sponsored by the US, was part of the country's regional security agenda to counter Iran.
- As part of the Abraham Accords, Israel agreed to stop further annexation of Palestinian territory.

**Did you know?**

- The treaty so called in honor of "Abraham "was the **patriarch of Judaism, christianity and Islam.**

**Economy News****India's goods exports shrink for the seventh successive month**

- India's goods exports and also services exports are shrinking, while its imports have increased.
- When a country imports more goods than what it exports, it would have a "deficit" on its trade account. In other words, more money is going out of the country than coming in via the trade of physical goods. Hence, India's current account deficit is likely to widen.

**What is Trade Deficit?**

- Simply put, trade deficit or negative balance of trade (BOT) is the gap between exports and imports.
- When money spent on imports exceeds that spent on exports in a country, trade deficit occurs.

**Awards news****Centre floats new science awards**

- The Union government is set to institute the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar** — 56 prizes to felicitate **scientists, technologists and innovators.**

**Key points**

- these awards will bestow a certificate and a medallion on the awardee
- The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar to have **three Vigyan Ratna, 25 Vigyan Shri, 25 Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar** and three **Vigyan Team awards;**
- the awards will be announced every year on May 11 which is **National Technology Day**

**Did you know?**

- These prizes will be awarded **annually for 13 categories**

**Sports News****Top Indian chess player**

1. D. Gukesh
2. Praggnanandhaa
3. Arjun Erigaisi
4. Nihal sarin

**Summits & Conferences News****Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**

- GBA is an **India-led Initiative** to develop an alliance of Governments, International organizations and Industry **to facilitate the adoption of biofuels.**
- **Founding members** - India, Brazil and the US are the founding members of the alliance.
- This Alliance will be aimed at facilitating cooperation and intensifying the use of sustainable biofuels, including in the transportation sector.

## Did you know?

- India, the US and Brazil account for a total of 85 percent of the global ethanol production with the US holding 55 per cent share followed by Brazil 27 per cent and India 3 per cent.

**The 78th session of the UN General Assembly session was held recently.**

- The UNGA is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN.
- All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly.
- UNGA meets annually in session where general debate and discussion is held to which many heads of state attend and address.
- Decisions on important questions, such as admission of new members and budgetary matters require a two third majority of the General Assembly.
- Decisions on other questions are by simple majority.
- The President of the General Assembly is elected each year by assembly to serve a one-year term of office.

## Did you know?

- UNGA is the only body with universal representation.**

**U.N.'s Climate Ambition Summit(CAS)**

- Major economies China, India and the US did not attend the summit.

## Key points

- The CAS happened at the 78th session of UNGA
- China, the United States, and India, collectively responsible for **42% of global greenhouse gas emissions.**
- The CAS aimed to showcase leaders with credible actions and policies **to uphold the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C degree goal** and promote climate justice.

## Did you know?

- India has specified the target of net zero by 2070.

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## Schemes and Committees News

**PM launches Vishwakarma scheme**

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** with a financial outlay of Rs.13,000 crore.
- Time period:** Five years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28).
- Aim:** To strengthen and nurture the Guru-Shishya parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools.
- The scheme also aims at improving the quality, as well as the reach of products and services of artisans and craftspeople and to ensure that the Vishwakarmas are integrated with the domestic and global value chains.
- Under this scheme, the **artisans and craftspeople will be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card**, Credit Support upto Rs.1 lakh (First Tranche) and Rs.2 lakh (Second Tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5%.
- The Scheme will further provide Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentive, Incentive for Digital Transactions and Marketing Support.
- Under the scheme, there will be two types of skilling programmes -- Basic and Advanced and a stipend of Rs 500 per day will also be provided to beneficiaries while undergoing skills training.

**Project Cheetah**

- The cheetah is the fastest land animal, which has the fastest running speed record of 93 and 98 km/h (58 and 61 mph).
- It is considered to be a big cat and belongs to the Felidae family.
- They have a small rounded head, a lightly built body, and a roundly spotted coat.
- They have long thin limbs and long tails.

**Project Cheetah**

- The introduction of cheetahs in India is being done under Project Cheetah, which is the world's first intercontinental large wild carnivore translocation project.

**Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana enrolments highest in 6 years.**

- According to data, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana enrolments highest in 6 years.

**Key points about the Scheme:**

- Launched in 2016.**
- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme.**
- Administered by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.**
- It replaced the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).

**Eligibility:** Farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for coverage.

**Objectives:**

- To provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crops as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases.
- To stabilize the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
- To encourage farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.
- To ensure the flow of credit to the agriculture sector.

**Premium:**

- There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops.
- In the case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%.

### Ranks & Reports News

**Cheetah project on the right path of success: govt. Report**

- A government report was released on the completion of one year of the programme. It says that the project is on the right path to becoming a successful large carnivore conservation, translocation, and population-establishment endeavour. Four of the six criteria established for assessing the short-term success of India's cheetah reintroduction programme have already been met

**Key points**

- The Cheetah Action Plan, published last year, lists six short-term success criteria: survival of 50% of the introduced cheetahs for the first year; establishment of home ranges in the Kuno National Park; successful cheetah reproduction in the wild; survival of wild-born cheetah cubs past one year; successful first-generation breeding; and cheetah-based revenues contributing to community livelihoods.
- The report noted that the project achieved 50% survival; establishment of home ranges; birth of cubs; and direct revenue contributions to local communities through the engagement of cheetah trackers and indirect appreciation of land value in surrounding areas.

**Evasive nutritional support for TB patients**

- According to recent report, **Undernutrition is the leading risk factor for TB disease.**
- Undernutrition contributes to 55% of annual TB incidence in India.
- 45% of people in India are undernourished, accounting for nearly 1.2 million TB cases each year.

**Nikshay Poshan Yojna**

- The NPY was **launched in 2018** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- It aims to support every Tuberculosis (TB) Patient by **providing a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Rs 500 per month** for nutritional needs.

**Nikshay Mitra Initiative**

- It is an **initiative under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan.**
- Aimed to provide aid to TB-afflicted patients on three levels of nutritional, additional diagnostic, and vocational support.

**Objective:**

- It aims to eradicate the existing societal stigma and discrimination against TB patients and provide them with much-needed nutritional and social support, and help them lead a normal life.
- It also aims to encourage elected representatives, corporates, NGOs, and individuals to come forward as donors/sponsors to help the patients complete their journey toward recovery.

**WHO releases report on global impact of high BP**

- World Health Organization (WHO) released its first-ever report on hypertension.
- According to **report four of every five people** with hypertension are not adequately treated
- Hypertension is the most important risk factor for death and disability in **India**
- The WHO **report states that hypertension affects one in three adults worldwide.**
- This condition **leads to stroke, heart attack, heart failure, kidney damage** and many other health problems.
- The number of people living with **hypertension doubled between 1990 and 2019**, from 650 million to 1.3 billion.
- More than **three-quarters of adults with hypertension live in low- and middle-income countries.**

**Did you know?**

- FSSAI has launched an awareness campaign called **Heart Attack rewind** to educate people
- India's rank 87 in economic freedom index**
- India has fallen one notch to the 87th position out of 165 countries.

**Key facts:**

- The 'Economic Freedom of the World: 2021 Report' released by Canada's Fraser Institute.
- It is released annually

**About economic freedom index**

- It is to measure the degree of economic freedom enjoyed by the nation
- As the economic freedom protect the liberty of an individual to pursue their own economic interest
- Economic freedom promotes greater prosperity for larger society.

**Did you know?**

According to the report the poor rank shows the country's dependability



## Science and Technology News

**Gravitational instabilities could affect evolution of galaxies**

- A study conducted by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) could help understand how gravitational instabilities are connected to galaxy evolution.

**Key points**

- The study compared the star formation rate, gas fraction, and timescale for the growth of gravitational instabilities of nearby galaxies
- It also investigated the stability levels of a sample of 175 galaxies taken from the Spitzer Photometry and Accurate Rotation Curves (SPARC) database.
- This Study can help the researchers trace the role of dark matter in regulating the stability levels of the galaxies

**Did you know?**

- The study, which compared the stability levels in the nearby galaxies, could help to understand the role of gravitational instabilities in the evolution of galaxies.

## Important Days

**The 15th of September was celebrated as an international day of democracy.**

- This year's theme of the day was “**Empowering The Next Generation**”.
- The theme focuses upon the young people's essential role in advancing democracy.

**Did you know?**

- The **United Nations** has developed a **democracy fund** which is used to finance those projects which ensure a vibrant democracy.

**World Alzheimer's Day, which is observed every 21 September**

- **September 21** is observed as World Alzheimer's Day to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease globally.

**About Alzheimer's disease.**

- Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder
- It **affects the brain** which leads to memory loss, cognitive decline, behavioral changes, problems with words in speaking or writing, poor judgment, changes in mood and personality, confusion with time or place, etc.
- Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of **dementia**, accounting for 60-80% of dementia cases.
- There's **currently no cure** for Alzheimer's disease.
- **Medicine and supportive therapies** available can **temporarily reduce the symptoms**.
- **In India**, the number of people with dementia and Alzheimer's is set to rise to 7.6 million by 2030 as the population ages

## Miscellaneous News

**For sickle cell patients, an elusive disability certificate**

- A plan to issue permanent disability certificates to those above the age of five with sickle-cell disease has been stuck in a quagmire at three Union Ministries for nearly three years.
- In a report tabled during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, a Standing Committee of Parliament urged the government to take a quick decision.

**Key points**

- The Health Ministry is responsible for determining the criteria and rules for disability certificates, while the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry issues the certificates, which are required for getting reservation and benefits of schemes.
- Given that sickle cell disease, a debilitating genetic blood disorder, is especially prevalent among tribal populations across India, the Tribal Affairs Ministry is keen on ensuring that the certificates are issued to patients with chronic anaemia, pain, and complications arising out of tissue and organ damage.

**Key points about Moonquakes**

- It is seismic tremors or vibrations that occur on the Moon's surface.
- **It is less intense than earthquakes on Earth.**
- The strongest moonquakes can reach magnitudes of up to 5.5 on the Richter scale, but most are much weaker.
- It is measured using seismometers placed on the Moon's surface by Apollo missions.
- It has helped scientists learn about the Moon's internal structure, composition, and history.

**Did you know?**

- The Moon has quakes too. They're not called earthquakes but moonquakes. They are caused by the gravitational influence of the Earth.
- Unlike quakes on Earth that last only a few minutes at most, moonquakes can last up to half an hour. They are much weaker than earthquakes though.

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**Maharashtra  
ka mahapack****Live classes, Test series  
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