

National and International Weekly Current Affairs 24 to 30 September 2023

National News

National Population Register (NPR) & Census**National Population Register (NPR)**

- The National Population Register (NPR) is a register of usual residents of the country.
- It includes both Indian citizens as well as a foreign citizen.
- The categorisation of residents done According to the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003'.
- A usual resident is a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.

Census

- Population Census provides basic statistics of state on various elements
- It includes the data on human resources, demography, culture and economic structure at all levels.
- The responsibility of conducting the decadal census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.
- It comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Did you know?

- The first synchronous census was taken under British rule in 1881, by W.C. Plowden, Census Commissioner of India.

The government has passed the bill in Lok sabha as well Rajya sabha.

- The amendment bill seeks to amend the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 which provides for registration and regulation of birth and death.
- The Bill adds that the Registrar General will maintain a national database of registered births and deaths.
- The Bill amends the provision of obtaining extract to provide for obtaining a birth or death certificate (electronically or otherwise) instead of extracts.
- The Bill adds that, in cases of births, the specified persons shall provide the Aadhaar number of the parents and the informant
- District registrar is the appealing authority
- It introduces a significant shift towards digital birth certificates.

Did you know?

- The registration of births and deaths falls under the Concurrent List, giving powers to both Parliament and state legislatures to make laws on the subject

Rules will be framed for ASI monuments

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport Tourism and Culture has asked the government to revise the rules to make them realistic

Key facts :

- The existing rules declare the 100m area as prohibited and 300 m is regulated.
- The provisions apply to all significant and non-significant monuments.
- The rules are hindering the construction and renovation process of locals living around the marked area.

Did you know?

- The prohibited and restricted area provision was introduced in 2010 through an amendment to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958.

Global rating agency Moody's flags concerns about India's Aadhaar

- Global rating agency Moody's Investors Service has flagged concerns about security and privacy vulnerabilities in centralised identification systems such as India's Aadhaar programme.

Key points

- According to them the unique ID system often results in "service denials" in humid conditions and the biometric is also unreliable at that time.
- It also faces the burden of establishing authorisation.
- This can lead to Aadhaar-based payments problems for labourers.



Aadhaar

- Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- It serves as proof of identity, which is linked to the individual's biometric and demographic information.
- It is now mandatory for a number of government services

Did you know?

- It is the world's largest digital program that is helping in covering the leakages in transfer of subsidy.

House panel asks govt. to monitor activities of ESIC

- Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Labour, has asked the Union government to strictly monitor the activities of the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), so that social security benefits reach more workers.

ESIC:

- It is set up under the Employee State Insurance Act of 1948.
- It is responsible for overseeing the ESI plan.
- It works under the Ministry of Labour & Employment
- Its aim is to provide socio-economic protection to the worker population and immediate dependent or family covered under the ESI scheme.

Maharashtra State News**Pune civic body decided to launch 'Signature Walk' to Sinhadgad Fort and Shivrushti.**

- Pune civic body decided to launch 'Signature Walk' to Sinhadgad Fort and Shivrushti to take citizen to these iconic destination

Key points:

- It is in the wake of the positive response received for the civic body's Heritage Walk initiative.
- Shivrushti is a historical theme park located in pune and founded by babasaheb purandare.
- Shivrushti is dedicated to the life and achievements of shivaji maharaj
- The Signature Walk will involve arranging buses from Swargate, providing guided tours to these historic sites, and offering participants insights into their rich histories

Did you Know?

- Sinhadgad Fort is also known as Kondhana Fort and was built in 17th century by Shivaji Maharaj

Maharashtra government puts a hold on women empowerment scheme within 24 hours of announcement

- The scheme "Mukhyamantri Mahila Sashaktikaran Abhiyan" was to be implemented in the state from October 2, 2023, to October 1, 2024 but is now being put on hold by MH government

About scheme:

- Mukhyamantri Mahila Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (MMSSA) program of the Government of maharashtra.
- The scheme aims to empower women by providing them with vocational training, skills development, and employment opportunities.

Objective - to make women self-reliant and economically independent.

1. To enhance the social, economic, and educational status of women.
2. To rehabilitate women affected by disasters, violence, or other vulnerabilities into the mainstream of society

In Maharashtra, this year, till the end of September, as many as 30 tigers have died due to various reasons.

- The tiger is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- The tiger occupancy has increased from 1758 cells of 100 km² in 2018 to 1792 cells of 100 km² in 2022.

Did you know?

- A total of 142 tigers had died in the country during the entire year 2022 till sep 2023.

Two more tunnels will be made on Borghat on Pune-Mumbai Expressway.

- 2.5 thousand crores for eight tiers has been allocated
- The two more lanes are to increase the number of vehicles on the expressway and for future growth
- The 'Missing Link' project was started by the Road Development Corporation and is to break the deadlock as is in its final stage.
- It is a 12.1-kilometre-long stretch of road that will connect the Mumbai-Pune Expressway to the Yashwantrao Chavan Expressway,
- It will bypass the ghat section of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway.
- The project consists of two tunnels, two viaducts, and a cable-stayed bridge.

Govt schools in state can now be adopted by private & public sector for 5 or 10 years

- The school education department issued a government resolution forming state and zonal level coordinating committees to give over 62,000 government schools in the state for adoption of govt schools.

Key points

- The school adoption scheme is part of the National Education Policy, s 'Vidyanjali' initiative.
- Right from arranging for repair, maintenance and painting of schools to increasing enrollment by focusing on health, hygiene and use of modern technology will be included in the adoption scheme.

Vidyanjali Initiative

- It aims at strengthening schools through community and private sector involvement across the country.
- Corporate houses can adopt schools through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.

The police have given a tribute to the martyrs of the Chirner Jungle Satyagraha situated in the Raigad district of maharashtra.

- This year the program was held in a simple manner as the government is ignorant about the event.
- This year it was 93rd Memorial Day.

About Chirner Jungle Satyagraha

- It was a **non-violent civil disobedience movement** in pre pre-independence era .
- It was organized against the British colonial government in India.
- It took place on September 25, 1930, in the village of Chirner in the Raigad district of Maharashtra.
- It was launched in response to the number of forest laws enacted by the British government that restricted the access of local people to forest resources, including firewood.

Did You Know?

- Keshav Mahadev Joshi was a local leader who organized the satyagraha
- Mahatma Gandhi and Nagya Katkari also participated in the Satyagrah

Clean food day is observed on 24th of sept

- On the occasion of Clean Food Day, health inspectors conducted a special inspection campaign of canteens at railway stations in Bhusawal division
- The inspection campaign is a part of Swachhata Pakhwada program run by Indian railway.

Did you know?

- The swachhata pakhwada campaign is run on the theme of **swachhata hi seva.**

Recently deputy CM of Maharashtra gave a call for Change in Mathadi Act

- On the occasion of Mathadi Mela , he talked about the change required in the Mathadi Labor Act.

- He expressed a strong opinion that changes in the Mathadi Act are essential, in order to bring the industry to the state and sustain it, without touching the core

About mathadi act

- The Maharashtra Mathadi, Hammal and other Manual Workers (Regulation of Employment and Welfare) Act, 1969 is also known as the Matadi Act,
- It regulates the employment of unprotected manual workers employed in certain occupations in Maharashtra.
- It aims to protect the interests of these workers, who are often exploited and denied their basic rights.

Did you Know?

- Mathadi Mela was organized on the occasion of **Annasaheb Patil's 90th birth anniversary.**

Bird study and research center is to be set up in the name of the great ornithologist Salim Ali at Kihim in Alibag taluka

- Aim is to promote the growth of tourism.
- To convey the information to the people
- To provide employment opportunities
- 60% work has been completed so far

Did you Know?

- Salim Ali is called as the 'Birdman of India'
- He was the pioneer ornithologist and environmentalist of the country.

Recently a Israeli scientist Mikhal Yakir visits Kaas Plateau

- Eminent Israeli botanist, scientist and well-known homeopath Dr. Mrs. Mikhal Yakir visited the well-known Kaas Plateau.
- He also visited the world famous Toseghar Falls along with Kumudini Lake.

Bilingual

New Launch



Maharashtra

Test Mate

MPSC | Saral Seva |
Talathi & Others

600+ Total Tests

About kaas plateau

- The Kaas Plateau is a plateau situated 25 kilometers west from Satara city in Maharashtra, India.
- It falls under the Sahyadri Sub Cluster of the Western Ghats
- It was declared as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site in 2012.

Did you know?

- The plateau is known for its unique biodiversity, with over 850 species of flowering plants, of which 60% are endemic to the Western Ghats

Very rare 'Povla snake' found in Panchgani.

- The scientific name of this snake is Calliophis beddomei Smith.
- This snake is endemic to the entire Western Ghats
- It is a very rare snake
- It is a venomous snake and is nocturnal

Did You Know?

- Povla Snake is called as Munga Saap in Hindi

Dayal became Sangli's city bird in Atiti's contest, securing 561 votes

- After the counting of votes for the City Bird Election, Dayal won by 4 votes
- The Dayal (Mycopsthes cafer) is also known as the Grey-headed Myna

Did you Know?

- Dayals are **omnivores** and their diet includes fruits, insects, and small animals.

Gecko lizards are seen in the Pench tiger reserve.

- Gecko lizard found in the Chorbahuli hill range of Pench tiger reserve
- It is the first record of this reptile species in Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR), Maharashtra.

About Gecko lizard

- The lizard is called Giri's geckoella (Cyrtodactylus varadgiri),
- It is a species of the gecko in the gekkonidae family.
- It is nocturnal, insectivorous and terrestrial.
- It is endemic to India and found in parts of western and Central India, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and MP.
- The gecko was first discovered in 2016.

The first Sangeet Gurukul in the state will be established in Meera-Bhainder

- State's First Music Guruku will open in the name of Bharat Ratna Lata mangeskar
- It will be built in the Mira-Bhayander near Mumbai
- The building of this music gurukula is also going to be designed in a way that suits the music field.

- A three-year course in Music Education will be taught here.
- A request has been made to the Chief Minister so that music degree can be obtained in Meera Bhayander itself.

World Pharmacist Day" celebrated at Govindrao Nikam College of Pharmacy in Chiplun

- The day is celebrated every year on 25th September worldwide
- It recognizes and appreciates the important role of **pharmaceutical manufacturers in the healthcare system.**
- This year's theme highlights the important role that pharmacists play in supporting strong and resilient healthcare systems.

Did you Know?

- The theme for World Pharmacist Day 2023 is "Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems".

Scientists from Pune have discovered a species of unique plant with medicinal properties.

- It is found in the forest of Kurung Kume district of Arunachal.
- The name of this species is 'Smilax turban'.
- Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) plant scientists have rediscovered the 'Smilax turban' species.
- Smilax turbans is a flowering plant species in the genus Smilax.
- It is a shrub
- It is native to the Eastern Himalayas and Assam in India.
- It is used in traditional Ayurvedic medicine to treat a variety of ailments, including skin diseases, rheumatism, and arthritis.

Did you Know?

- After about 100 years, this species has been rediscovered.

Breastfeeding and nutrition program

- To reduce malnourishment in children, district authorities in Nashik decided to run a nutrition program.

Key facts

- There are around 2597 undernourished children in the district.
- 423 children in the age of zero to five are under the severe category.

About program

- It will be conducted in the collaboration of IIT Mumbai
- Under the program 59 guides and 30 facilitators have been selected

- The training will be provided to the officers and employees of all health departments through selected guides
- 89 people have been selected for breastfeeding, nutrition focus, health care worker training for malnutrition relief.

Did you know?

- The special app is designed for this program with the help of artificial intelligence.

Hi-Tech System in Patrolling Boats

- Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra has decided to go for **underwater surveillance and detection systems**.

Key Points:

- It was in view to tackle illegal fishing in the Totladoh dam reservoir.
- Totladoh, also called Meghdoot Reservoir
- It is part of the pench tiger reserve.
- As per the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972 The Supreme Court ordered that fishing is banned inside the reserve.

About system

- It is a combination of underwater surveillance units and cameras coupled with high-resolution displays.
- It will be used to detect and seize boats of the fishermen.

Did you Know?

- The sonar can detect objects up to 600 feet away and works in three modes — forward, down, and side scanning.

The state government announced the Rs 12000 cr under Modi Awas Yojana for OBC category.

- The scheme was designed by the OBC Welfare Department for OBC
- It is also to be implemented for Special Backward Classes (SBC) along with Other Backward Classes.
- Its aim is to provide rightful housing to rural areas belonging to the OBC category.
- Under this scheme, one million houses will be constructed in 3 years.

The Chief Minister's Agriculture and Food Processing Scheme

- The Chief Minister's Agriculture and Food Processing Scheme is being **extended by five years**.

Key facts

- The scheme will continue till the end of the coming financial year 2026-27.

- 148 projects worth about 645 crores were approved for various types of agricultural projects.

About scheme:

- The scheme was launched in 2017
- It is implemented by the State Agriculture Department.
- It is under the ministry of food processing
- Eligible entrepreneurs can receive a subsidy of up to 30% of the total project cost.
- Another option is a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh, for setting up food processing units.

Special voter registration campaign, Pune

- A special voter registration campaign will be held to raise awareness among the tribals of Pune district to get registered.

Key facts

- Special voter registration drive will be conducted by the district administration to register more voters.
- The special campaign is to help increase the percentage of voters in the nomadic castes and free tribes of the district.
- The campaign is in consonance with the central government's voter registration drive.
- The drive is conducted annually.

Did you know?

- The Central Election Commission has amended the Representation of the People Act, 1950 to conduct a drive

IT Act Amendment rules, 2023

- Recently Bombay High Court has shown concern about some provisions under amendments to IT Rules 2021 as there are many petitions filed against the amended rule 2023.

Key fact:

- The appeal cannot be made against the fact checking unit formed under the amended rule 2023.

About amended Rules 2023.

- No platform can allow harmful unapproved online games and their advertisements.
- No platform should share false information about the Indian government, as confirmed by a fact-checking unit.
- The platform should ensure that online games do not involve any gambling or betting elements.
- An online intermediary should make "reasonable efforts" to not host content related to the Central Government that is "identified as fake or misleading" by a "fact check unit" that may be notified by the IT Ministry.

Soybean crop in this kharif season is attacked by the 'Yellow Mosaic Virus'.

- The virus has infected the Soybean crop not only in Vidarbha but also parts of Telangana and Madhya Pradesh.
- According to Agricultural experts, pest attack is due to the hot and humid environment in the atmosphere.
- According to farmers the "Sangam Phule" variety of soybean distributed by agricultural department could resist pest attack

About Mosaic virus

- It is called the Mungbean virus.
- It is a plant pathogenic virus.
- It is one of the various viral diseases that infects legume crops.
- It turns crops yellow and dries up during the growing season Yellow
- mosaic virus (YMV) is transmitted by whiteflies, which are small, flying insects.

Did you know?

- Yield losses from YMV can be as high as 90%.

Person in news: Dr. Dilip Pandharpatte

- Recently Dilip Dnyaneshwar Pandharpatte has been given additional charge of the Chairman of Maharashtra Public Service Commission by the Governor of Maharashtra.

Key facts

- The charge was given to him as the duration of permanent chairman was completed in mid sept.
- He will hold the office until the appointment of a permanent member is done by the governor.

About Dilip Pandharpatte

- Dr. Pandharpatte is a 1987 State Service batch officer.

BILINGUAL

MAHARASHTRA PRIME TEST PACK

300+ TOTAL TESTS

Sangli railway station tops in cleanliness

- Sangli was declared as the cleanest and most beautiful station Under 'Mera Station Mera Abhiman 2023' of Railway.
- Vathar station in Satara district won the award in small station category
- Sangli railway station has won this award many times

Did you know?

- Mera Station Mera Abhiman is a campaign launched by the Indian Railways in 2017
- Aim is to promote cleanliness and passenger satisfaction at railway stations.
- The campaign also aims to make railway stations more user-friendly and welcoming for passengers,

State News

Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

- It was established in 1940
- It is bordered in the west by wayanad sanctuary, in the north by Bandipur national park and in the east by Sigur reserve forest.
- The Moyar river flows through the reserve
- It was originally a national park area
- Later it declared as Tiger Reserve
- It is at the tri-junction of three states, viz, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve

- Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve is the first Biosphere Reserve to be declared in 1986.
- It is UNESCO world heritage site
- It is spread across three states, Tamil nadu, karnataka and Kerala.
- A biosphere reserve consists of
 1. The Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary,
 2. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary,
 3. Bandipur National Park,
 4. Nagarhole National Park,
 5. Mukurthi National Park and
 6. Silent Valley.

Did you know?

- It is home to Nilgiri tahr

International News

International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)

- The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is the multimodal freight transportation corridor among India, Russia, Iran, Europe, and Central Asia.
- The corridor spans around 7200 km.

- The primary goal of INSTC is to enhance connectivity and promote trade and economic cooperation among these regions
- The INSTC is designed to provide an alternative and shorter trade route between South Asia and Northern Europe.
- It connects the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea and further extends to Northern and Western Europe.
- The route begins in Mumbai and goes to Bandar Abbas in Iran and reached to Petersburg by crossing Caspian Sea.

Black Sea Grain Initiative

- Recently during the 78th session of UNGA, QUAD countries have backed the UN's efforts to restart the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

Black Sea Grain Initiative

- It is an agreement among Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and the United Nations.
- The Black Sea Grain Initiative endeavors to tackle escalating food prices emanating from supply chain disruptions.
- The deal was to secure the exports from Ukraine and Russia.
- The central idea was to calm markets by ensuring an adequate supply of grains, thereby limiting food price inflation.
- The Black Sea Grain Initiative deal brokered by the United Nations (UN) and Turkey, was signed in Istanbul in July, 2022.

Did you know?

- Ukraine is one of the world's major grain producers, especially wheat.

ILO's Forced Labour Convention/ C29

- It is one of the Eight fundamental Conventions of ILO for abolition of forced labour.

International Labour Organisation:

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency for the world of work.
- Its mandate is to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards.
- Motto: ILO's mandate as the basis for peace is expressed today as Decent Work for all.
- HQ: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Parent organization: Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

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Five Eyes Alliance

- The recent allegations by Canadian PM on the Indian government for the killing of Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar is based on the information given by the Five Eyes Alliance.

Key points

- The Five Eyes intelligence alliance, consists of the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.
- They share intelligence through a secret collective database known as 'Stone Ghost.'
- Its objectives include exchanging views on mutual interests, sharing best practices, exploring cooperation, and engaging with non-Five Eyes countries.
- It is both surveillance-based and tracks signals intelligence (SIGINT).
- Intelligence documents shared between the member countries are classified as 'Secret—AUS/CAN/NZ/UK/US Eyes Only,' which gave the group its title 'Five Eyes.'

Economy News

Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs)

- NFTs are unique cryptographic tokens that exist on a blockchain and cannot be replicated.
- They can represent digital or real-world items like artwork, photograph, song, video, real estate, individuals' identities, property rights, and more.
- Thus, NFTs are assets that have been tokenized via a blockchain.
- They are assigned unique identification codes and metadata that distinguish them from other tokens.
- NFTs can be traded and exchanged for money, cryptocurrencies, or other NFTs.

Centre softens angel tax rules

- A term used to refer to the income tax payable on the capital raised by unlisted companies.
- It is levied on the capital raised via the issue of shares from an Indian investor.

- This tax predominantly affects start-ups and the angel investments they attract.
- It derives its genesis from section 56(2) (viib) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

In news

- The government has eased some of the provisions of the angel tax introduced in this year's Budget on investments into start-ups by non-resident investors at a premium over their fair market value.

Summits & Conferences News**A five point consensus was reached at the ASEAN conference**

- It is the ASEAN's policy on Myanmar.
- This includes:-
 1. An immediate end to violence in the country;
 2. Dialogue among all parties;
 3. The appointment of a special envoy;
 4. Humanitarian assistance by ASEAN; and
 5. The special envoy's visit to Myanmar to meet with all parties.

Did you know?

- Myanmar is a part of BIMSTEC but not SAARC.

13th Indo-Pacific Army Chiefs Conference

- India to host 13th Indo-Pacific Army Chiefs Conference.

Key points:

- IPACC is being held in New Delhi from September 25 to 27 where over 30 countries will be represented from September 25 to 27.
- The event is aimed at exchanging views and developing mutual understanding among the Indo-Pacific partners.

Did you know?

- The 47th Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar and 9th Senior Enlisted Leaders Forum (SELF) are also being held alongside the IPACC.

Urban-20 (U20): Investment in urban development

- President of India informed that overall investment in urban development has increased by more than 10 times over the last decade.

Key points

- Under the G20, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs had organized the Urban 20 event.
- U20 is an important city diplomacy initiative, which reinforces the role of cities in taking the sustainable agenda forward.
- U20 is a subgroup of the G-20, which is working to establish a practice of collaboration between cities.

- It was launched on December 12, 2017, at the One Planet Summit in Paris.

Did you know?

- U20 2023 Cycle was chaired by the City of Ahmedabad.

Schemes and Committees News**Parliamentary panel on NEP**

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, headed by MP Vivek Thakur has tabled a report in parliament.

Key suggestions of panel

- The panel suggested that by 2030, every district in the country should have at least one multidisciplinary Higher Education Institutes(HEI)
- The Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education, including vocational education, should be increased from 26.3% in 2018 to 50% by 2035.
- Allocation of suitable funds for the education of Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs).
- Improving the effectiveness and impact of the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) in funding HEIs
- The panel also suggested that the multiple entry, multiple exit may not be suitable for India

Did you know?

- J&K is the first country to implement national education policy from 2022 in all higher education departments.

Defense News**19th edition of "Exercise Yudh Abhyas" began in Fort Wainwright, Alaska (USA).**

- It is an annual joint military exercise between India and the USA.
- 19th edition is held in USA (Alaska) from September 25 to October 8 2023

TEST SERIES**MARATHI & ENGLISH****NAGAR PARISHAD
BHARTI 2023****महाराष्ट्र नगरपरिषद
भरती****10 Full Length Tests**

- The theme of the Exercise is 'Employment of an Integrated Battle Group in Mountain/ Extreme Climatic Conditions' under Chapter VII of United Nations mandate'.

Iran military's new imaging satellite

- Iran's Revolutionary Guards successfully launches a new military imaging satellite.
- The Nour-3 imaging satellite was placed in orbit 450 kilometers above earth.

Ranks & Reports News

Pacific Islands Forum

- It is an intergovernmental and premier political and economic policy organisation.
- Its aim is to cooperation between countries and territories of oecania
- It is founded in 1971,
- it comprises 18 members and 21 dialogue partner

AR6 Synthesis Report by IPCC

- According to AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023 released by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in March 2023 -
- Climate change increases the chances of infectious diseases (For example - Multiple outbreaks of mosquito-borne disease, Nipah virus etc.)
- Changes in temperature, rainfall, and humidity disrupt the patterns of disease transmission. (climate and disease are closely linked)

Key points:

- IPCC is the United Nations' global organization for assessing the science related to climate change.
- IPCC is made up of 195 member countries.
- IPCC's AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023 summarizes five years of reports on global temperature rises, fossil fuel emissions and climate impacts.

Did you know?

- In the last twenty years, India has enhanced its ability to report and manage outbreaks.
- Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) are India's disease surveillance and information system.

Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)

- IDSP is a nationwide disease surveillance system in India incorporating both the state and central govts.
- Aim - early detection and long-term monitoring of diseases.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with the World Bank, launched IDSP in 2004.

- Part of 12th Plan (2012-17) under the National Health Mission.

Did you know?

- With the aim of improving digital surveillance capabilities, the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) was launched in a number of states in November 2019.

Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP)

- IHIP is an advanced disease surveillance system.
- IHIP is refined version of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)
- Launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2019.
- It is in sync with the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).

Indians eat more salt than WHO recommendation

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation - daily salt intake up to 5 g is good.
- Daily salt intake in India stands at 8 g (8.9 g a day for men and 7.1 g a day for women)

UNFPA's India Ageing Report 2023

- Report is published by UN Fund For Population (UNFPA)
- About 18.7% of the elderly in India live in the poorest wealth quintile
- According to a report, 20% of the population in India will be aging by 2050.

FATF reports used to target NGOs

- Amnesty International alleges that Indian authorities are exploiting the recommendations of FATF to target civil society groups and hinder their work

Amnesty International

- Amnesty International (AI) is a non-governmental organization.
- Its headquarters is in the United Kingdom
- It is focused on human rights.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization.
- It was formed in 1989 by the G7 Summit which was held in Paris.
- It was originally established to combat money laundering.
- Later terrorist financing and other related threats were also covered.
- Currently it has 39 members.
- The FATF is a policy-making body that works with governments to bring about national legislation and regulatory reforms in these areas.

Awards News

Dadasaheb Phalke award for Waheeda Rehman

- For outstanding contribution to Indian cinema, Waheeda Rehman will be conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2021.
- Rehman is also a recipient of the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan.

Did you know?

- She bagged the national award for the best female actor in 1971.

About Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- It is part of the National Film Awards, a highly coveted collection of honours in the film industry.
- The Award is named after Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, the pioneering filmmaker who gave India its first film- 'Raja Harishchandra', in 1913.
- The award is considered the highest honour in the Indian film fraternity. It is awarded for "its outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema.

India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC) 2022

- The ISAC recognizes and rewards the cities, projects and innovative ideas that are promoting sustainable development across the 100 smart cities.

Winners:-

- Indore - Best smart city award
- Madhya Pradesh - Best State Award
- Chandigarh - Best UT award

Science and Technology News

Genome sequencing

- Genome sequencing is figuring out the order of DNA nucleotides, or bases, in a genome.
- It has the order of Adenine, Cytosine, Guanines, and Thymine that make up an organism's DNA.
- It is the process that involves deciphering the exact order of base pairs in an individual. This "deciphering" or reading of the genome is what sequencing is all about.

Advantages

- Early diagnostic and targeted treatment of disease
- Genetic risk of developing disease can be detected earlier helps manage inherited disease
- It can guide specific lifestyle changes and can prevent the appearance of certain diseases.

Galactic tides

- Tides experienced by the universe's galaxies are called Galactic tides.

- Galactic tides are caused by gravitational forces within a galaxy,
- They arise due to the interactions between celestial objects such as stars and gas clouds.
- They can reshape a galaxy structure by creating tidal tails and bridges, promoting star formation, and disrupting smaller star systems.

Did you know?

- The Andromeda galaxy is heading towards the Milky Way at 110 km/s and will collide in four billion years.

NASA's first asteroid samples land on earth.

- NASA's first asteroid samples of Bennu were fetched from deep space parachuted into the Utah desert

OSIRIS-Rex Mission:

- The Origins Spectral Interpretation Resource Identification Security - Regolith Explorer was launched by NASA in 2016 for the journey to Bennu.
- The spacecraft travelled to a near-Earth asteroid named Bennu and brought back a sample to Earth for study.
- The mission will help scientists investigate how planets formed and how life began, as well as improve our understanding of asteroids that could impact Earth.

Did you know?

- Till now only japan and USA could bring asteroid samples.

Disease X

- Disease X is often seen in the news.
- Scientists across the world are issuing warnings about a new potential pandemic called 'Disease X'.
- They say this disease could be 20 times deadlier than the Wuhan Virus.

About:

- Disease X is a mystery **pathogen**, that has been added to the WHO's Blueprint priority diseases.

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- It could be **related to zoonotic disease** likely an **RNA virus**, emerging from an area where the epidemiological triad - environment host favours sustained transmission.

Section 67A of the Information Technology Act

- Section 67A of the Information Technology Act is in news as the Supreme Court is examining the use of vulgar language in a YouTube series or OTT platform amounts to a "sexually explicit act".

Key points:

- Section 67 of the IT Act provides for punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form.
- Section 67A of the IT Act stipulates punishment for publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit acts, etc.

KX to help harness potential of GenAI

- U.K. and New York-based KX, has entered the Indian market with software offerings to help enterprises and developers harness the full potential of generative AI (GenAI).

Generative AI

- Generative Artificial Intelligence is a type of AI system that can create new content or data that resembles human-made content, such as text, images, music, code, etc.
- It works by using neural networks to learn from large amounts of data and then generate outputs based on the patterns and rules it has learned.
- ChatGPT, DALL-E, and Bard are examples of generative AI applications that produce text or images based on user-given prompts or dialogue.

Books and Authors News

The book called 'Fiction and beyond' was launched to mark the 92nd birth anniversary of Ashokamitran.

- Fiction and Beyond, a collection of fiction and non-fiction works of the prominent Tamil writer and Sahitya Akademi winner Ashokamitran was launched recently.

About Ashokamitran

- Ashokamitran was the pen name of Jagadisa Thyagarajan.
- He was an Indian writer regarded as one of the most influential figures in post-independent Tamil literature.
- He has written over 200 short stories, nine novels, and some 15 novellas besides other prose writings.

Did you know?

- Ashokamitran was a sahitya academy award winner which is the most prestigious award in the field of literature

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

- It replaces National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986.
- The National Education Policy 2020 proposes various reforms in school and higher education, including technical education.
- This policy is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- It aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower

Miscellaneous News

Alternative Dispute Resolution(ADR)

- The process of resolving conflicts through negotiation between parties without going to the courts is known as alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

Modes of Alternative Dispute Resolution

Arbitration

- Arbitration is a process in which the parties dispute is presented to an arbitral tribunal,
- The award of ruling is binding on the parties involved.

Mediation

- In mediation, a third party who is impartial to both sides of the conflict works with the parties to arrive at an agreeable resolution.
- It is a voluntary informal, out-of-court settlement,
- The outcome is not always legally binding.

Conciliation

- Conciliation is a way of settling disputes where the parties work with a conciliator to reach an agreement.
- The conciliator's job is to get the parties to agree to put their differences aside and come to a mutually agreeable settlement on the terms.

Did you know?

- The arbitration and conciliation act was last amended in 2021

Kafala system

- Media reports have focused on the working conditions and deaths of migrant workers building Gulf countries's infrastructure and in the Middle East at large.

What is the Kafala System?

- It is a sponsorship system that binds migrant workers to one employer
- It is practiced in many countries of West Asia Like Gulf countries

- It emerged in the 1950s
- objective to provide temporary and rotating laborers in the period of economic boom.
- The Kafala system based on migrant workers, employer and contractual period
- A migrant worker is legally bound to his employer.
- A worker cannot enter or leave the country without permission of the employer

Did you know?

- ILO report called it modern-day slavery.

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

- The Supreme Court allowed Chhattisgarh to withdraw its petition challenging the legality of provisions of the PMLA.

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA):

- It is an Act to prevent money laundering and to provide for the confiscation of property derived from or involved in money laundering.
- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, is responsible for investigating the offenses of money laundering under the PMLA.

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