

Gyankosh

Monthly Current Affairs (National & International)

For MPSC, & Saral Seva Bharti
**Useful for ZP, Nagar Palika, Municipal Corporation &
Other Competitive Exams**



G20 Summit Concludes at New Delhi

ISRO launched the Aditya L1 mission

Waheeda Rehman has received the

Dadasaheb Phalke Award

65th Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2023 Winners List

UK to ban Russia's Wagner Group as a 'Terrorist' organisation

R Madhavan has been appointed as the Chairman of FTII Pune

India is ranked 87th in the Economic Freedom Index

Central Government issued New Science Awards

Three Hoysala temples declared World Heritage Sites

The 78th session of the UNGA was held recently

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers

got Navratna Company status

Bhadarwah Rajma and Ramban Sulai honey from

Jammu and Kashmir got GI tag.

An agreement was signed to establish the

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

Srinivasan K. Swamy elected as

Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulation for 2023-24

India becomes 13th country to issue OIML certificates

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Dnyakosh Current Affairs in English | September 2023

National News

Union Minister Piyush Goyal unveiled the statue of the first Finance Minister of independent India.

- At a function organized by the South Indian Panchayat Association in Coimbatore, Union Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated a statue of RK Shanmugam Chetty, who served as the first Finance Minister of independent India.

India's largest home-built nuclear power plant begins operations.

- In a significant development for India's energy sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the 700 MW nuclear power plant located at Kakrapar in Gujarat has started operating at maximum capacity. This milestone marks a significant moment in India's quest for energy self-sufficiency and underscores the country's commitment to harnessing indigenous nuclear technology.

The Government of India will celebrate the sixth National Nutrition Month in September.

- Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating 6th National Nutrition Month throughout September 2023. This year, the aim is to tackle malnutrition comprehensively through a life-cycle approach.
- The focus of Nutrition Month 2023 is to create wider awareness about the critical stages of human life (pregnancy, infancy, childhood and adolescence). It aims to promote awareness of nutrition across India through the theme "Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sakhat Bharat" (Nutrition-Rich India, Well-educated India, Empowered India).

Cabinet approved PRIP scheme to promote research and innovation.

- The Union Health Ministry has announced an ambitious plan to boost research and innovation in the pharmaceutical and medtech sector. To achieve this objective, they have launched Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech (PRIP) Scheme, which has been approved by the Union Cabinet. The government launched the scheme earlier this month, believing that the Indian pharmaceutical industry has the potential to increase its current 3.4 percent share of the global market to 5 percent by 2030.

The National Policy focuses on three key areas:

- Strengthening the regulatory framework,
- Encouraging investment in innovation, and
- Enabling ecosystem for innovation and research.

Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurated Utkela Airport in Odisha

- On August 31, 2023, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, along with Minister of State for Civil Aviation General Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd), achieved a milestone by inaugurating the Utkela Airport in Odisha. The development comes as part of the ambitious UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagar) scheme, which aims to increase regional air connectivity across India.

ASI launched "Adopt a Heritage 2.0" Indian Heritage App and e-Permit Portal.

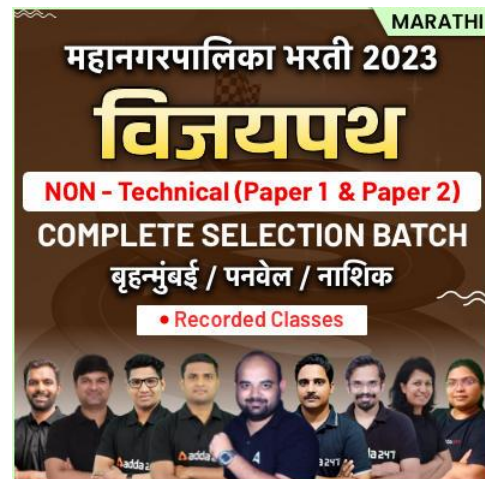
- To ensure preservation and conservation of India's rich cultural heritage and its priceless cultural heritage, ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) will launch "Adopt a Heritage 2.0" program on 4th September 2023 at Joint Auditorium, IGNC.
- The "Adopt a Heritage 2.0" program is a revamped and dynamic initiative building on the foundation laid by its predecessor launched in 2017. The program is designed to facilitate active participation of corporate stakeholders in improving facilities at heritage sites using Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.

13 Himalayan States

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

Why in the news?

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



Names of 13 Himalayan States:

1. Jammu and Kashmir,
2. Ladakh,
3. Uttarakhand,
4. Himachal Pradesh,
5. Arunachal Pradesh,
6. Manipur,
7. Meghalaya,
8. Mizoram,
9. Nagaland,
10. Sikkim,
11. Tripura,
12. Assam and
13. West Benga

Article 370**Why in the news?**

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

Background:

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

Nyaya Sanhita bill

- The Indian Penal Code was drafted by the first Law Commission which was chaired by Thomas Babington Macaulay in 1834. The code came into force in January, 1860.
- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023 will repeal and replace the IPC.

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

Air pollution responsible for 1.67 million deaths in India in 2019

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

Major security threat reported from Idukki Dam

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

Food Processing sector to create 9 million jobs by 2024.

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

Aarogya Maitri Cube

- India has built the world's first portable disaster hospital, called the "Aarogya Maitri Cube".
- The hospital can be airlifted and assembled into 72 cubes that contain essential medical equipment and supplies.
- The cubes can support 200 survivors for 48 hours during natural disasters or crises.
- It has been developed indigenously under the Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri).
- The hospital includes Operation theatres, mini-ICUs, Ventilators, Blood test equipment, an X-ray machine, a Cooking station, Food, Water, a Shelter, Power generator.

About:

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

PM holds talks with leader of Mauritius

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

CMFRI's research on India's marine biodiversity displayed at UN meet

- Research findings of the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) on India's marine ecosystems were showcased at UN Meet.
- United Nations meeting was held at Seoul, South Korea to discuss the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Key points

- India emphasized its commitment to marine ecosystem conservation, particularly mangroves and coral reefs, the identification of marine protected areas, and the promotion of sustainable marine fishing.
- India emphasized about the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) workshop, which is aimed to accelerate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- The report highlighted CMFRI's research in developing a deep learning-enabled image recognition model for classifying underwater coral images as part of efforts to restore ocean ecosystems.
- It also mentioned CMFRI's attempts to map the spatial distribution of aquatic invasive species in the northern Indian Ocean region.

Did you know?

- SOI is a global platform that seeks to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve global goals and targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity.

CBI does not require permission to probe pre-2014 cases too: SC

- A Constitution Bench held that a Supreme Court judgment of 2014 which declared invalid a legal provision mandating the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to take prior permission before investigating corruption cases against senior government officials has a retrospective effect.

Key points

- A five-judge Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said the provision in question, Section 6A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, the statute that governs the CBI, was void from the very day of its insertion on September 11, 2003.

- The 106-page judgment held that Section 6A violated fundamental rights, and once a law is declared to be unconstitutional, being violative of Part-III (fundamental rights) of the Constitution, then it would be held to be void ab initio, still born, unenforceable and non est
- This means that senior government officials involved in corruption cases even before the date of the Supreme Court judgment invalidating the need for prior sanction would no longer be able to avail the protection of prior approval.

Series of disruptive weather and climate phenomenon occurring in India linked to food security**El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle.**

- El Nino and La Nina are complex weather patterns resulting from variations in ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific Region. They are opposite phases of what is known as the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle.
- The ENSO cycle describes the fluctuations in temperature between the ocean and atmosphere in the east-central Equatorial Pacific.
- El Nino and La Nina episodes typically last nine to 12 months, but some prolonged events may last for years.

El-Nino

- El Nino is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- It is the "warm phase" of a larger phenomenon called the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO).
- It occurs more frequently than La Nina.
- El Niño is a loose translation of "little boy" or "Christ child" in Spanish.
- El Niño is the warming of sea waters in Central-east Equatorial Pacific that occurs every few years (Warm phase off the coast of Peru).
- During El Niño, surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific rise
- This weakens the trade winds — east-west winds that blow near the Equator.
- Due to El Niño, easterly trade winds that blow from the Americas towards Asia change direction to turn into westerlies.
- It thus brings warm water from the western Pacific towards America

Special Session to discuss Parliament's 75-year journey, take up Bills on CEC, the Press

- There will be a discussion on "Parliamentary journey of 75 years starting from Samvidhan Sabha — achievements, experiences, memories and learnings".
- The agenda indicates a plan to shift to the new Parliament building.
- Three Bills will be taken up:
 - a) the Post Office Bill, 2023 to "consolidate and amend the law relating to Post Office in India";
 - b) the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, to "regulate the appointment, conditions of service and term of office of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners"; and
 - c) the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2023 to "repeal certain enactments and to amend an enactment".
- In addition to these, the Lok Sabha will take up the Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023.

Activists raise concerns over legal loophole pertaining to sexual assault of animals

- Animal rights activists across India have expressed their concern at the absence of any provision to address sexual crimes against animals in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 Bill that seeks to repeal the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860.

Key points

- While the 2018 judgment removing portions of Section 377 of the IPC decriminalised sex between consenting same-gender adults, it did not address the question of bestiality.
- Currently, Section 377 of the IPC provides for punishment of those found engaging in bestiality.
- It states, "Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine."

Note: The meaning of BESTIALITY is sexual relations between a human being and a lower animal.

National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)

- A Central team of officials from NCDC is expected to visit Maruthonkara and Ayancheri areas in Kozhikode district of Kerala where two persons died due to Nipah infection recently.

Key points

National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC):

- It is an institute under the Indian Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The Director, an officer of the Public Health sub-cadre of Central Health Service, is the administrative and technical head of the Institute.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- It functions as the nodal agency in the country for disease surveillance facilitating prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Constitution articles dealing with language

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that simple and clear Hindi words should be used in office work, adding that the principle of language change says that "language moves from complexity to simplicity".
- The Minister said that the Hindi language had played an unprecedented role in uniting the country during the difficult days of the Independence movement, instilled a feeling of unity in a country divided into many languages and dialects, and played an important role in carrying the freedom struggle from east to west and north to south in the country.

Key points

- Article 343 of the Indian Constitution talks about the Official language of the Union
- Article 344 talks about Commission and Committee of Parliament on official language

SC joins National Judicial Data Grid

- Real-time data on the filing and disposal of cases in the Supreme Court will now be available at the fingertips of the common man, just a click of a mouse away.
- Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud announced the onboarding of the Supreme Court on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

Key points

- The **NJDG portal is a national repository of data** relating to cases instituted, pending and disposed of by the courts across the length and breadth of the country.
- The onboarding of Supreme Court's case data on the NJDG is based on the 'open data policy'.
- Data will be uploaded on the NJDG on a real-time and daily basis.

All reported births, deaths to be digitally registered from Oct. 1

- All reported births and deaths in the country will be digitally registered on the Centre's portal from October 1, 2023.

Key points

- The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023 that paves the way for digital birth certificates will come into effect from October 1.
- The digital birth certificates will be a single document to be used for admission to educational institutions, applications for driving licence, government jobs, passports or Aadhaar, voter enrolment, and registration of marriage, and others.
- The centralised database will also update the National Population Register (NPR), ration cards, property registration, and electoral rolls.

National Population Register (NPR) and 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.
- 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.
- It is being prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003
- The Census is the enumeration of the population of the country and it is being conducted at an interval of 10 years

NPR vs Census

- The decennial census is the largest single source of a variety of statistical information on the different characteristics of the people of India.
- While NPR only contains demographic information, more details are required for the census like information on demography, economic activity, literacy and education, and housing and household amenities among others.

India vs Bharat controversy

- In dinner invitations sent to G-20 summit guests had carried the nomenclature of the President of India as 'President of Bharat'.
- Government critics have alleged that Modi's Govt is planning to change the name to only Bharat.

Key points:

- Article 1 says, "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States".
- Parliament has the absolute power to change the name of the country at any time by amending the Constitution.
- Article 368 deals with the Constitutional Amendment.

Did you know?

- Article 52 says that there shall be a President of India. Therefore, constitutionally speaking, there is no President of Bharat in the country.
- The word 'Bharat' is not used in any of the articles of the Constitution except in the Hindi version, which was published under the authority of the President under Article 394A.
- Article 1 in the Hindi translation of the Constitution says "Bharat means India", which shows that Bharat is treated as the translation of India.

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.

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

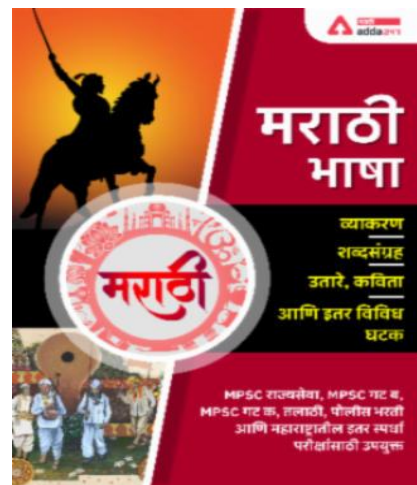
- The National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) has approved 309 projects worth ₹2,100 crore.

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.

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

Hinglaj Devi Temple

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

Sushila Devi Salunke

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

Key Points:

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

Committee to explore reservation for Marathas

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

Key Points:

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

Expedite redevelopment proposals of old buildings

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

Ayushman Bhava Arogya yojanacha

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

International Vulture Awareness Day:

- International Vulture Awareness Day: Maharashtra's first vulture conservation and breeding center to come up near Pune.
- For the first time in Maharashtra, a vulture conservation and breeding center will be set up at Pingori near Pune.

- IVAD is celebrated on the first Saturday in September each year.
- The aim of IVAD is to raise awareness about the plight of vultures and the threats they face.

National Award to Teachers 2023 for Higher Education.

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

Soybean Crop Insurance

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

Key Points:

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

Manoj Jarange

- Manoj Jarange Patil's hunger strike continues.

Key Points:

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

Shiromani Akali Dal

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

Key Points:

- Shiromani Akali Dal will join the India Alliance. A meeting in this regard will be held at the residence of NCP chief Sharad Pawar in Delhi and the entry of Shiromani Akali Dal into India Aghadi will be sealed.

- Sharad Pawar is an Indian Politician. He is a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Double- Deck Buses

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

Key Points:

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

Nutritional Status of MH Children

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

As per recent survey by MH State health department-

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

POSHAN Abhiyaan

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

Do you know?

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

MH declares Silver Pomfret as its State Fish

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

Key Points:

- As per International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the population of silver pomfret are declining.
- Major objective for declaring it as state fish - to conserve the fish as its numbers are declining in the region.

- Silver pomfret is mainly found in the coastal areas of MH and Gujarat.

Maharashtra to implement cyber security project at Rs 837 crore

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

Patgaon village of Maharashtra

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

Key Points:

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

Do you know?

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

Maharashtra to set up 5 international ITIs

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

Maharashtra govt. approves Rs 837 crore cyber safety project

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

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

- Maharashtra government approved the decision to appoint a 12-member panel of environmentalists.

- The panel is headed by former NEERI director Satish Wate, for monitoring Nag, Pora and Pili rivers pollution abatement programme.
- The panel of experts will provide suggestions and guide the NMC for implementing ₹1,923.99 crore Nag River Pollution Abatement project.

Do you know?

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

Shivaji Maharaj's Wagh Nakh to return to India

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

Do you know?

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

Vijayawada railway station gets coveted Platinum rating of IGBC

- In an incredible achievement, Vijayawada Railway Station was certified with a Platinum rating by IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) in September.
- In the recertification process this year, Vijayawada railway station outperformed and immensely improvised its amenities in almost all aspects compared to the 2019 Gold Standard Rating and clinched the Platinum standard IGBC Rating.

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

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

Pandharpur Temples Act doesn't affect religious rights

- Pandharpur Temples Act doesn't affect religious rights: Maharashtra to HC

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

Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project

- National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) is implementing the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.
- The land for the project is spread over three districts – Thane, Palghar and Mumbai Suburban in Maharashtra.
- The 508 km-long Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project is the pet project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL), a joint venture of the central government and participating state governments, is implementing the project.

Thane depot of bullet train project to be built on Japan's Shinkansen depots' standards

- The Thane depot is one of the three depots planned for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.
- The Thane depot, to be designed on the lines of the Japanese Shinkansen depots.
- The Shinkansen, also known as the bullet train in Japan, is famous for its high-speed rail technology and safety standards.

Person in news: Sushiladevi Salunkhe

- Sushiladevi Salunkhe's work is an inspiration for the new generation today.
- National, social and educational work done by Sushiladevi Salunkhe in the pre-independence and post-independence period is unforgettable.
- Mata Sushila Devi Salunkhe played a major role in setting up Sri Swami Vivekananda Education Institute all over Maharashtra along with Education Maharishi Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe.
- Sushila Devi took an active part in the Indian Freedom Movement, Chale Jav Movement, Samyukta Maharashtra Movement

Dhangars' long-pending quota demand

- Dhangars' long-pending quota demand remains a complex issue in Maharashtra.
- The Dhangars, who account for up to 9% of the population and get 3.5% reservation, have been demanding inclusion in the ST category
- The community has for the past several decades been fighting for reservation under the Scheduled Tribe category.

Climate Change impact on Maharashtra

- Climate change: Maharashtra's extreme temperatures, rainfall, cyclones rise 1.5 times more than average
- The climate change has triggered the temperatures across Maharashtra almost three times the usual over 24 days with the overall summer-monsoon (June to August) season witnessing a rise of 1.5 times the average climate activities such as rainfall and wind triggered by the heat.
- The overall departure of long-term average temperature during the season was 0.8 degrees celsius i.e nearly one degree above (0.2 degrees less)

₹837 Crore Project To Deal With Cyber Crimes in MH

- The project aims to bring all modern technologies under one umbrella, which will also include a control and command center, technology-assisted investigation, a center of excellence, a Computer Emergency Response Team, a cloud-based data center, a security operations center
- Under this project, people can register their complaints on a 24x7 call center, according to the decision passed by the state cabinet.

International Literacy Day 2023

- On the occasion of International Literacy Day, Rotary Club Osmanabad distributed the 'Rashtra Prachikar Award' 2023-24 at Rotary Eye Hospital.



Key points:

- It is observed on 8th September.
- UNESCO in November 1966, formally designated September 8th as International Literacy Day.
- The observance of ILD aims to reinforce public opinion in support of the ongoing endeavours against illiteracy.
- International Literacy Day 2023 will be celebrated under the theme "Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies".

National Lok Adalat in Mumbai

- National Lok Adalat in Mumbai awards ₹722 cr. to over 12,000 cases.
- National Lok Adalat has awarded over ₹722 crore by settling more than 12,000 cases here.
- The cases included compoundable criminal offenses, cheque bouncing as well as matters under the Payment and Settlement Act. A total settlement amount of ₹722,82,71,891 was distributed to 12,472 cases.

Did you know?

- National Lok Adalat (NLA) is a forum for amicable settlement of disputes at national level.
- It is organized by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in collaboration with the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs).

Pune, Pimpri Chinchwad register 30% of all EV sales in state.

- Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad now have around 30% of the total number of electric vehicles (EVs) registered in the state, data from the ministry of road transportation.
- In addition, a significant increase has also been seen in the registration of CNG vehicles in the twin cities.
- Around 95,000 of the 3,22,225 EVs registered in the state are in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad alone.

Rs 4,500 crore plan to empower Thane with 24-hour power

- A plan has been drawn to upgrade the power distribution system with a budget of Rs4,500 crore for uninterrupted and round-the-clock power supply to Thane district, said union minister Kapil Patil.
- Under the plan, the power distribution network will be strengthened in the 850 villages of Thane district.
- Work worth Rs1,200 crore will be done in the first two years and the remaining will be completed in next five years.

IIT Council ties up with American univ assn to form research institute

- With a seed fund of \$10 million, the IIT Council on behalf of all higher educational institutes in India has entered into an MoU with the Association of American Universities (AAU) to establish the Indo-US Global Challenges Institute.
- The intent of the institute was announced in June this year, during the US visit of PM Modi.
- This institute will seek to address some of the "consequential" economic, environmental and technological challenges "that have the potential to affect the security, prosperity, and stability of both countries."

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

- The poor response from universities in Maharashtra to their participation in National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has got the state education department taking a serious view about its implementation.
- Director of higher and technical education in Maharashtra Shailendra Deolankar had sent three reminders to universities in Maharashtra to submit data about colleges that have been poor in responding to the NAAC gradation which was also not submitted by the universities

About NAAC:

- The NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL (NAAC) conducts assessment and accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) such as colleges, universities or other recognised institutions to derive an understanding of the 'Quality Status' of the institution.
- NAAC evaluates the institutions for its conformance to the standards of quality in terms of its performance related to the educational processes and outcomes, curriculum coverage, teaching-learning processes, faculty, research, infrastructure, learning resources, organisation, governance, financial well being and student services.

Vultures breeding: 50 captive vultures will be released in the wild soon

- Over the next one year, 50 captive vultures will be released in the wild in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

- These vultures are part of the 650 that have been bred over the last 20 years at four Conservation Breeding Centres by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) with funding by the Royal Society for Protection of Birds, UK, and later by the state forest department where the centers are located.

Did you know?

- The chief cause for the decline in vulture population was the use of diclofenac injections in cattle.
- The Panna tiger reserve has a large number of wild vultures.

BNHS members explore Amboli's Biodiversity and Bioluminescent Fungus

- Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) recently discovered hundreds of species of native plants in a small forest patch in Devrai (Sacred Groves) near Amboli.

Key points:

- BNHS members spotted endemic herpetofauna, including the Malabar Pit Viper, Amboli Bush Frog, Malabar Gliding Frog, and the Critically Endangered Amboli Tiger Toad.
- They witnessed bioluminescent fungus during one of the night trails.

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)

- It is a Non-Governmental Organisation in India engaged in conservation and biodiversity research.
- It was founded on 15 September 1883.
- BNHS is the partner of BirdLife International in India. It has been designated as a 'Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation' by the Department of Science and Technology.
- Logo: The BNHS logo is the great hornbill.
- Internet of Birds platform: IT consultancy firm Accenture and the Bombay Natural History Society have developed Internet of Birds platform that identifies bird species found in India using Artificial Intelligence technology, including machine learning and computer vision, from digital photos that are uploaded by the public.

Constitutional Provisions Governing Reservation in India

- States do not have authority to grant reservation, says Maharashtra education minister.
- Maharashtra education minister Deepak Kesarkar said the issue of reservation was related to the Constitution and the states did not have much authority to grant quotas.

Let us understand the Constitutional Provisions governing Reservation in India:

- Part XVI deals with reservation of SC and ST in Central and State legislatures.
- Article 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution enabled the State and Central Governments to reserve seats in government services for the members of the SC and ST.
- The Constitution was amended by the Constitution (77th Amendment) Act, 1995 and a new clause (4A) was inserted in Article 16 to enable the government to provide reservation in promotion.
- Later, clause (4A) was modified by the Constitution (85th Amendment) Act, 2001 to provide consequential seniority to SC and ST candidates promoted by giving reservation.
- Constitutional 81st Amendment Act, 2000 inserted Article 16 (4 B) which enables the state to fill the unfilled vacancies of a year which are reserved for SCs/STs in the succeeding year, thereby nullifying the ceiling of fifty percent reservation on total number of vacancies of that year.
- Article 330 and 332 provides for specific representation through reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the Parliament and in the State Legislative Assemblies respectively
- Article 243D provides reservation of seats for SCs and STs in every Panchayat.
- Article 233T provides reservation of seats for SCs and STs in every Municipality.
- Article 335 of the constitution says that the claims of STs and SCs shall be taken into consideration constitutively with the maintenance of efficacy of the administration.

Gaurav K.T Patil's Statue

- Gaurav K.T. Patil's statue was unveiled by Deputy CM, Devendraji Fadnavis.
- The conference was held in Bhosle High School in Dharashiv city.
- Gaurav K.T. Patil was the Founder Secretary of Adarsh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal.

Ayushman Bhava campaign

- Maharashtra health department has started screening children in the age group of 0-18 under Ayushman Bhava campaign which has been rolled out in all districts.
- Under this campaign, 32 tests will be done free of charge for all children.

- Till date, 25 crore Ayushman cards have been distributed across the country under the initiative 'Ayushman Aya Dari'.

Inauguration of Maha Arogya Camp under " Ayushman Bhava" Campaign at Vashi

- It was held at Karmaveer Mamasahab Jagdale College.
- In this camp, 64 types of diseases will be examined free of charge.
- On this occasion, Swasthya Rath (Mobile Medical Unit) was also inaugurated.

Highly prestigious Nation Builder Award for exemplary teacher

- The highly prestigious Nation Builder Award presented by the Rotary Club was presented to **Shyamsunder Mahadev Tanmore**.

Key points:

- Mr. Tanmore is a primary graduate teacher of Sanja International School.
- Mr. Tanmore was awarded as the "Outstanding Teacher" based on students' evaluation of Sanja School.
- The Nation Builder Award provides recognition to outstanding teachers of Government and Government aided schools, through a participatory evaluation process through the students and head.

Marathwada witnessed 685 farmers suicides in 2023

- 685 farmers ended their lives in Marathwada region in 2023.
- The district with the highest number of such incidents is Beed.

Did you know?

- Marathwada is an arid region in central Maharashtra consisting of eight districts Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed, Parbhani, Nanded, Osmanabad, Hingoli and Latur.

No takers for 19k RTE seats in state's private schools.

- Every year, there is a clamor for seats under the Right to Education (RTE) Act with lakhs applying for free admission in private schools.
- This year, nearly 19,000 seats under the 25% scheme are vacant in Maharashtra even though 3.64 lakh applications were received by the state education department for the 1.01 lakh seats.
- Education officials said that the vacant seats were in non-popular schools and with government schools also providing quality education, many preferred to study there.

Did you know?

- The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act) is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted on 4 August 2009.
- The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right.

The Kharif 2022 crop insurance case

- State Level Grievance Redressal Committee directed the Insurance Companies to deposit the remaining 350 crore rupees of Insurance to farmer's accounts.

Key points:

- The State Level Grievance Redressal Committee gave a judgment in favor of farmers in the Kharif 2022 crop Insurance case.
- The companies are reluctant to pay the amount.
- The Kharif 2022 crop insurance case is a legal case filed by a group of farmers in the Supreme Court of India challenging the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

Impulsive response to Multimedia Exposure

- Students participated in the digital multimedia exhibition organized on behalf of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Central Bureau of Communications, Solapur and District Administration.
- The topic was 9 years of service to the Central Government, good governance and welfare of the poor and nutrition, food grains, youth, women, public representatives and citizens in large numbers.

Lok Adalat settles 58 cases

- At least 58 matters were settled, and compensation to the tune of Rs 3.5 crore was awarded in cases heard during the Lok Adalat organized in Maharashtra's Raigad district,
- Lok Adalat is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at the pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably.
- Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

NIA offers cash reward of Rs 3 lakh for information on ISIS Pune Module case suspects

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has offered a cash reward of Rs 3 lakh for each individual who provides information leading to the apprehension of four wanted accused individuals in the ISIS Pune module case.

- The accused persons have been identified as Mohmmmed Shahnawaz Shafiuzzama Alam alias Abdulla, Rizwan Abdul Haji Ali, Abdulla Faiyaz Shaikh alias Diaperwala and Talha Liyakat Khan,

Did you know?

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is a central agency of India responsible for investigating and prosecuting terrorist activities, crimes against the nation, and offenses under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
- It was established in 2008 in the wake of the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Private hospital to combat drug resistant tuberculosis (DRTB)

- The Nagpur Municipal Corporation's (NMC's) pilot project involving a private hospital to combat growing cases of patients suffering from drug resistant tuberculosis (DRTB) is showing encouraging results with 18 persons being cured of the deadly disease within four months of its launch.
- The NMC had roped in Astha Critical Care Centre at Suyog Nagar to provide free services to DRTB patients who were shunned by even other overburdened and stressed public hospitals.

National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP):

- The NTEP is a government-led program that aims to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) in India by 2025.
- The program was launched in 1997 and has made significant progress in reducing the TB burden in India.
- In 2018, India accounted for 27% of the global TB burden, but only 10% of the global TB deaths.
- The NTEP is implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and works with state and district governments, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Shyam Hotel to be converted into a monument for Dr. Ambedkar

- The Nagpur Metropolitan Region Development Authority (NMRDA) has now decided to take up the ambitious work of renovation of Shyam Hotel at Sitabuldi and convert it into a monument for Dr. Ambedkar.

Key points:

- The project is titled as 'Bhimsrushti' and it involves strengthening the dilapidated structure and redoing the room in which Dr. Ambedkar stayed.

- The architect of the Indian constitution and messiah of dalits Bharat Ratna, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar stayed at Shyam Hotel when he came there for embracing Buddhism at Deekshabhoomi.

Water literacy lessons for 200 villages with aquifer mapping

- The aquifer mapping of 200 villages in Maharashtra project is launched at the Gokhale Institute of Economics and Politics (GIPE), Pune.

Key Points:

- It is a part of Mission Easy Water Literacy and hopes to address water scarcity and drought-related challenges.
- This initiative is a collaboration between the Dr Dhananjayrao Gadgil Centre for Sustainable Village Development at GIPE and Sahaj Jalbodh to involve the public in aquifer mapping to improve water management.
- Significant water scarcity issues has lead to farmer suicides and rural-to-urban migration in search of livelihoods.

Shivaji's Wagh Nakh may be displayed in 5 Indian cities; will fuel research: V&A

- London's Victoria and Albert Museum which will soon return the wagh nakh (a dagger resembling tiger claws).

Key Points:

- It was used by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to kill Afzal Khan
- The state government has said that the wagh nakh's display in India may enable new research into their history.
- Adrian Grant Duff was given the tiger claws when he was resident of Satara by the Prime Minister of the Peshwas of the Marathas.
- Duff took it to Britain with him and his descendants donated the weapon to the V&A Museum

Pola 2023: Date, Rituals and Significance

- Pola is a traditional and one of the most famous festivals of Maharashtra.
- People of Maharashtra celebrate Pola at the end of monsoon season and beginning of agricultural year
- On this auspicious day, they worship cattles especially bulls who have a big contribution in farming activities.
- It is the day when farmers seek blessings for a bountiful harvest.
- This year, the festival of Pola is being celebrated on the Amavasya Tithi of Bhadrapada Month i.e., September 14, 2023.

IIT-Bombay makes AI, Data Science must for undergrad students

- The Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) has decided to introduce Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (AI-DS) as a mandatory course for undergraduate students — BTech as well as Bachelor of Science (BS) — from this academic year.
- Earlier, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology used to be common courses which everybody had to learn, now AI-DS is a new addition to that list in our curriculum.

Maharashtra Speaker Begins Hearing Disqualification Petitions

- The Supreme Court had stated that "the Speaker must decide on the disqualification petitions within a reasonable period".
- Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar began hearing the disqualification petitions filed against each other by the two rival Shiv Sena factions led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Sena (UBT) chief and former CM Uddhav Thackeray.

Disqualification Powers of Speakers

- The **Tenth Schedule or the anti-defection law**, introduced in 1985, gives the Speaker of the House the power to disqualify legislators who 'defect' from the party.
- In 1992, the Supreme Court ruled that the decision of the Speaker in this regard is subject to judicial review.

'Divyanga Ke Dari' campaign by Maha Govt

- Maharashtra's Disability Welfare Department is implementing the campaign 'Divyanga Ke Dari'.
- Aim - To provide the benefits of various government schemes to the disabled and also to obtain the necessary documents.
- This campaign will be held on Thursday 21 September 2023 at Chayadeep Mangal Office, Aurangabad Road, Osmanabad.
- In this campaign, the disabled beneficiaries will be registered online in a category-wise manner. It is planned to take appropriate action on the applications of disabled beneficiaries received from Asha Sevika and Anganwadi Sevika as well as the applications pending earlier.

A young male tiger died in a road hit near Murdoli village in the buffer zone of the Nawegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve

- Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve is located in the Gondia, Maharashtra.

- Navegaon is also a home to almost 60% of the bird species found in entire Maharashtra. It was notified as the 46th Tiger Reserve of India in December 2013.

Did you know?

- India's top sugarcane-growing states are Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu.
- The first three account for 85-90% of the sugar produced in the country.

Maharashtra - first position in attracting FDI

- Maharashtra has once again surged ahead of other states to regain its first position in terms of attracting foreign direct investments (FDIs) in the country.
- Over the last one year the state has successfully attracted around Rs 1.25 lakh foreign direct investment taking Maharashtra ahead of Karnataka and Gujarat.

Did you know?

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment made by a company or an individual in one country into business interests located in another country. FDI is an important driver of economic growth.

TReDS platforms

- The Reserve Bank of India has recently announced a new initiative to boost the liquidity and credit availability for MSMEs by allowing insurance companies to participate in the trade receivable discounting system (TReDS), an online platform for financing trade receivables.

Key Points:

- TReDS stands for Trade Receivables Discounting System.
- It is an electronic platform that facilitates the discounting of trade receivables of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by multiple financiers.
- The TReDS platform is a centralized marketplace where buyers and sellers of trade receivables can interact with each other

Committee to study lacunae in private farm market

- The Maharashtra government has appointed a ten-member committee to study the lacunae in the present private farm markets in the state and provide recommendations to overcome it.
- The move comes after the central government repealed three farm-laws following sustained agitation by farmers across the country in 2021
- Out of the three laws, The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act had provided for setting up a mechanism allowing the farmers to sell their farm produce outside the Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs).

Indian Parliament in September 2020 passed the three farm laws:

- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020
- The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020
- The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020

These laws were passed with the aim of reforming the agricultural sector in India and giving farmers more freedom to sell their produce. However, the laws have been met with widespread protests from farmers, who fear that they will lead to exploitation by big corporations and lower prices for their crops.

- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, allows farmers to sell their produce outside of the regulated markets, known as mandis. This is intended to give farmers more freedom to choose where to sell their produce and get better prices.
- The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, allows farmers to enter into contracts with buyers for the sale of their produce. This is intended to give farmers more certainty about the price they will receive for their crops.
- The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020, removes some of the restrictions on the storage and movement of essential commodities, such as wheat and rice. This is intended to make it easier for traders to store and transport these commodities, which could lead to lower prices for consumers

New India Literacy Programme sets target of educating over 12 lakh illiterate people by 2024

- The New India Literacy Programme (NILP), a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at eradicating illiteracy among those above 15 years of age, is in full swing in Maharashtra.
- The course material prepared by Maharashtra State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) is ready and available online in Marathi, English, Hindi among other languages on the DIKSHA portal.

Key points:

- The New India Literacy Programme (NILP) is launched by the Government of India in 2022.
- It aims to cover 5.00 crore non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above in five years, i.e., 2022-2027.

- The programme has been implemented in all the states and union territories of India.
- The NILP is a convergence programme, which means that it will be implemented in partnership with other government departments and agencies, such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Rural Development, and the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

DIKSHA portal

- DIKSHA stands for Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing.
- It is a national digital platform for sharing educational resources and content.
- The platform was launched by the Ministry of Education, Government of India in 2017.
- The DIKSHA platform is available in 12 languages and can be accessed by anyone with an internet connection.

DIKSHA provides access to a variety of educational resources, including:

1. Textbooks and other teaching materials
2. Audio and video lectures
3. Interactive exercises
4. Assessment tools
5. Teacher training modules

Tata Steel, U.K. govt. to invest £1.25 billion in Port Talbot

- Tata Steel and the U.K. government have agreed to invest in an electric arc furnace at Port Talbot with a capital cost of £1.25 billion, including a grant of up to £500 million from the U.K.
- The project would bolster U.K.'s steel security and be the first major step towards decarbonisation of the local steel industry, reducing direct emissions by 50 million tonnes over a decade.

Key Points:

- Port Talbot is a town located in South Wales, United Kingdom, known for its rich industrial history, particularly in the steel and manufacturing sectors.
- Tata Steel is one of the largest and oldest steel manufacturing companies in India and among the top global steel producers.
- Tata Steel was founded by Jamsetji Tata in 1907, Tata Steel has a rich history of innovation, sustainability, and corporate responsibility.

Nagpur shines in vibrant Marbat festival celebrations.

- In Nagpur, Maharashtra crowds gathered enthusiastically to participate in the Marbat festival

- The focal point of this grand spectacle was the clay effigies, known as 'Marbats,' representing both Kali (in black) and Pivli (in yellow),

Key Points:

- The Marbat festival is a unique and traditional festival celebrated in Maharashtra, primarily in the city of Nagpur and its surrounding regions.
- It is a unique 150-year-old tradition celebrated exclusively in this region.
- As per the time-honored custom, devotees led a colorful procession, bearing effigies symbolizing evil forces

Access to Justice is a Fundamental Right

- Bombay HC observed that access to justice is a fundamental right and delay in filing appeals in NIA cases can be condoned.
- Bombay High Court ruled that appellate courts can condone delays and hear appeals filed beyond the mandatory 90-day period under the NIA Act.

Key points:

- The Constitution of India has provided for Constitutional articles (Article 39A, Article 14, and Article 21) that guarantee the citizens the right to access to justice.
- Right to legal aid is also now firmly entrenched in various acts including the Legal Services Authorities Act, the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and various Lok Adalats being set up in district and remote villages in India to provide legal help to the ones who cannot afford it.

ICMR's National Institute of Virology, Pune, sent its mobile BSL-3 lab to Kozhikode for early detection of Nipah virus cases.

- Aim is to test samples for Nipah virus in the Kozhikode district after five cases, including two deaths, were reported there.
- A team of experts from the Department of Animal Husbandry has also been deployed to assist the state in the surveillance of animals

Key Points:

- The National Institute of Virology (NIV) is a premier research institution under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), dedicated to the study of viruses and viral diseases.
- NIV plays a crucial role in understanding, diagnosing, and combating viral infections that have public health implications.

- NIV is involved in the development and evaluation of vaccines against viral diseases.

About Nipah Virus:

- Nipah virus (NiV) is a highly contagious and deadly zoonotic virus that can cause severe respiratory and neurological diseases in both humans and animals.
- Nipah virus was first identified in 1999 during an outbreak in Malaysia. It was named after the village of Sungai Nipah, where the initial cases occurred.
- The natural hosts of the virus are fruit bats (Pteropus spp.), also known as flying foxes.
- Human infections often occur through direct contact with infected bats, consumption of contaminated fruits or date palm sap etc
- Nipah virus is categorized as a priority pathogen by the World Health Organization (WHO) due to its epidemic potential and high mortality rate.

Iconic double-decker buses of Mumbai retire after 8 decades of service

- After 86 years of serving various routes across 'Maximum City', these non-air-conditioned double-decker buses bid adieu to daily commuters and tourists
- It was in wake of a decision by Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) authorities to phase out the diesel-run buses as part of modernisation and operational cost-cutting measures.
- Introduced in 1937, the double-decker buses became synonymous with the city itself, etching themselves into the collective memory of its residents and tourists.

Marathwada Liberation Day

- Marathwada Liberation Day, also known as Marathwada Mukti Sangram Din, is celebrated in Maharashtra on 17 September annually.
- It marks the anniversary of Marathwada's integration with India when the Indian military, liberated State of Hyderabad, and defeated the Nizam on 17 September 1948, 13 months after Indian independence.
- Marathwada, Telangana and Kalyana-Karnataka were part of the former princely Hyderabad state

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.

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 mangeshkar

- 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.

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-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 t he 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.

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-Bhander

- State's First Music Guruku will open in the name of Bharat Ratna Lata mangeshkar
- 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.

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**E-Adhigam Scheme**

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

Nagarhole Tiger Reserve

- Nagarhole is an important Tiger Reserve in Karnataka and is a major hub of conservation under Project Tiger and Project Elephant.
- Nagarhole Tiger Reserve previously known as Rajiv Gandhi National Park was named after the river Nagarhole.
- This tiger reserve forms a critical connecting habitat for tigers and elephants to other areas of the Western Ghats through the Brahmagiri wildlife sanctuary and to the Eastern Ghats through the Bandipur Tiger reserve.

- Flora: It consists mainly of moist deciduous forests with predominating trees of teak and rosewood.
- Fauna: Tiger, Leopard Asiatic, Wild Dog, Sloth Bear, Asiatic Elephant, Gaur, Sambar Chital Muntjac, Four Horned Antelope etc.

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

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

Mukhyamantri Kamdhenu Bima Yojana

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

Parivar Pehchaan Patra (PPP)

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

Clear illegal constructions in ESZ, buffer zone of Bandipur

What are eco-sensitive zones (ESZ)?

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

Bandipur Tiger Reserve

- It was established in the 1930s as a wildlife sanctuary, which became a tiger reserve in 1973 under Project tiger.

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

Kuki Tribe

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

Meitei Tribe

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

67 species of reptiles, 59 amphibians recorded in Wayanad forest survey

- 67 species of reptiles and 59 species of amphibians were identified in the first herpetofaunal survey that concluded recently in the South Wayanad Forest Division.

Key points

- The Survey was conducted by: University of Calicut, Kerala Forest Research Institute, South Wayanad forest department and Aranyakam Nature Foundation.
- Of these, four amphibians and three reptiles were spotted for the first time at the forest division.
- Of the 126 species identified, 48 amphibians and 21 reptiles are endemic to the Western Ghats.

Important amphibian species recorded and sighted were:

1. Starry Night Frog, bearing a constellation of blue dots on its obsidian body;
2. Miniature Night Frog, the tiniest frog in the country;
3. Naked Dancing Frog; and
4. Endangered species such as Malabar Torrent Toad and Red Stream Toad,
5. Wayanad Dravidogecko,
6. Nilgiri Spiny Lizard, and
7. the Nilgiri Forest Lizard

Nipah breaks out again in Kerala

- Nipah scare returned to Kerala with two deaths from the viral infection being reported from the Kozhikode district.

Nipah Virus

- Nipah virus (NiV) infection is zoonotic disease (disease transmitted to humans from animals) that causes severe disease in both animals and humans.
- The organism which causes Nipah Virus encephalitis is RNA or Ribonucleic acid virus of family Paramyxoviridae, genus Henipavirus, and is closely related to Hendra virus.
- Fruit bats or flying foxes of Pteropodidae Family, Pteropus genus are natural host of Nipah virus.
- The virus is present in bat urine and potentially, bat faeces, saliva, and birthing fluids.
- It was first identified in 1999 during outbreak among pig farmers in Malaysia and Singapore.
- It gets its name from Sungai Nipah, a Malaysian village, where pig farmers became ill with encephalitis.
- **Transmission:**
The virus spread fast and is mostly fatal.
- Infected bats shed virus in their excretion and secretion.
- The virus cannot be transmitted through air.
- But it is transmitted through direct contact with infected bats, pigs.
- Human to Human transmission from other NiV-infected people is also reported

Symptoms:

- NiV infection can cause acute respiratory syndrome, breathing trouble, inflammation of the brain, fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation and delirium.

Treatment:

- There is no vaccine for disease either for humans or animals.

No motorised boats in wetlands,NGT tells Madhya Pradesh

National Green Tribunal (NGT), prohibited operation of cruise and other motor propelled boats in Upper Lake (Bhoj Wetland now called Ramsar site) and other wetlands.

Bhoj Wetland

- The Bhoj wetland is situated in the heart of Bhopal district in Madhya Pradesh.
- The wetland consists of two man-made lakes--the upper lake and the lower lake.
- The upper lake, the oldest among large man-made lakes in central India, was created by king Bhoj in the 11th century by constructing an earthen dam across the Kolans river and the lower lake was constructed nearly 200 years ago mostly from the seepage from the upper lake..
- The lakes are very rich in biodiversity, particularly for macrophytes, phytoplankton, zooplankton, both natural and cultured fish species, both resident and migratory birds, insects, reptiles and amphibians.
- It is designated as the Ramsar site in 2002.

National Green Tribunal (NGT)

- The National Green Tribunal has been established under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.
- New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four places of sitting of the Tribunal.
- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of the filing of the same.
- The Tribunal comprises the Chairperson, the Judicial Members, and Expert Members.
- They shall hold office for a term of 5 years and are not eligible for reappointment.
- The Chairperson is appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- A Selection Committee shall be formed by the central government to appoint the Judicial Members and Expert Members.
- There are to be at least 10 and a maximum of 20 full-time Judicial members and Expert Members in the tribunal.

We do not recognise buffer zones in Manipur, says Meitei women's group

- Leaders of the Meira Paibi, a Meitei women's collective in Manipur, do not recognise the legitimacy of buffer zones in the State, created by the Union and Manipur governments separating the Kuki-Zo population in the hills from the Meitei community in the valley.

Key points

About Meitei community

- The Meitei people, also known as the Manipuri people, are the predominant ethnic group of Manipur State.
- They speak the Meitei language (officially called Manipuri), one of the 22 official languages of India and the sole official language of Manipur State.
- The Meiteis primarily settled in the Imphal Valley region in modern-day Manipur, though a sizable population has settled in the other Indian states of Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Mizoram.
- There is also a notable presence of Meitei in the neighbouring countries of Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- The Meitei ethnic group represents about 53% of Manipur's population.
- They are divided into clans, the members of which do not intermarry.
- Rice cultivation on irrigated fields is the basis of their economy.
- A majority follow Hinduism, while more than 8% are Muslims

Kuki Tribe

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

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

- Gol'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.

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 geo-science 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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Maharashtra ka mahapack

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परिषद, जिल्हा परिषद, SSC & ALL OTHER STATE
EXAM

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 'GaudapadiyaKarika', '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**

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

The Indo-US Task Force aims to increase electronics trade to \$100 billion by 2033.

- In a notable effort to strengthen trade ties between India and the United States in the electronics sector, the Indian Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) has set up a dedicated task force. With the aim of increasing current India-US electronics trade, currently \$8 billion, to an ambitious \$100 billion in the next decade, the initiative follows the collaborative efforts launched after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States last month.

Tharman Shanmugaratnam won the presidential election of Singapore.

- In a significant political development, Indian-origin economist Tharman Shanmugaratnam has won Singapore's presidential election. Tharman Shanmugaratnam secured a landslide majority in the presidential election with 70.4 percent of the vote. He beat two other contenders of Chinese descent, Ng Kok Song and Tan Kin Lian, who received 15.7 percent and 13.88 percent of the vote respectively.

Georgia declared October as 'Hindu Heritage Month'.

- In an important move, Governor Brian Kemp of the US state of Georgia has officially announced that the month of October will be observed as 'Hindu Heritage Month' in the state. The declaration aligns Georgia with many other states across the United States that have taken similar steps to honor and commemorate Hindu heritage, culture, values and traditions.

Impacts of Climate Change

- According to UN and International Labour Organization study (2019) - By 2030, 2.2 percent of total working hours worldwide will be lost to high temperatures, a productivity loss equivalent to 80 million full-time jobs.
- Across genders, women are considered to be highly vulnerable and disproportionately affected by climate change than men.

- Women in developing and less developed countries (especially in low-income areas) are more vulnerable to climate change because of their dependence on natural resources and labour-intensive work for their livelihood.
- There could be 1.2 billion climate refugees by 2050.

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

Countries in news- Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali

Why in the news?

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

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

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

Black Sea Grain Initiative

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

Do you know?

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

Philippines opposes 'militia vessels' in South China Sea

- An arm of the western Pacific Ocean that borders the Southeast Asian mainland.
- Bordered by Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.
- It is connected by the Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by the Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea (both marginal seas of the Pacific Ocean).

- Comprise three archipelagoes, namely, the Spratly Islands, Paracel Islands, Pratas Islands and Macclesfield's Bank and Scarborough Shoal.

China slows fertilizer exports, raising concerns in India

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

Earthquake in Morocco

- A powerful earthquake of magnitude 6.8 hit the Marrakech and surrounding region in Morocco.
- This is the biggest earthquake in a North African country in 120 years.

Key points

- Most affected province and cities are Al Haouz province and Taroudant, Agadir, Al Hoceima (Mediterranean port city)
- Doctors Without Borders, or MSF offers help which is a charity that provides humanitarian medical care.
- It is a non-governmental organization (NGO) of French origin known for its projects in conflict zones and in countries affected by endemic diseases.
- Such quakes occur due to the "northward convergence of the African plate with respect to the Eurasian plate along a complex plate boundary".

Did you know?

- Morocco has a coast by the Atlantic Ocean that reaches past the Strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean Sea.
- It is bordered by Spain to the north (a water border through the Strait and land borders with three small Spanish-controlled exclaves, Ceuta, Melilla, and Peñón de Vélez de la Gomera), Algeria to the east, and Western Sahara to the south. Since Morocco controls most of Western Sahara, its de facto southern boundary is with Mauritania.

India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor

- Beijing 'welcomed' India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor initiative but says it 'should not become a geopolitical tool'.

India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the plan to build a rail and shipping corridor linking India with the Middle East and Europe.

- The project aims to foster economic growth and political cooperation. It would help to boost trade, transport energy resources and improve digital connectivity.
- The rail and shipping corridor is part of the Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII)
- PGII is a collaborative effort by G7 nations to fund infrastructure projects in developing nations.
- This project is also called as a green and digital bridge across continents and civilizations.

Launch of West Asia economic corridor is a historic step: PM

- Outcome of visit of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman of Saudi Arabia

Key points

- They agreed to set up a joint task force to fast-track the West Coast refinery project.
- The corridor will help in the increase of economic growth, energy sector and digitisation
- Narendra Modi described Saudi Arabia as "one of the most important strategic partners of India".

More than 5,300 are feared dead, thousands more are missing as eastern Libya is devastated by floods

- Libya is mostly desert and oil-rich country in northern Africa.
- Libya has the largest oil reserve in Africa and one of the largest oil producers in the world.

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 Javaharlal 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.

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.'

Appointment News

Anand Mahindra welcomed MS Dhoni as the brand ambassador of Swaraj Tractors.

- Industrialist Anand Mahindra welcomes Mahindra Singh Dhoni as the cricketer becomes the brand ambassador of his Swaraj Tractors. Mahendra Singh Dhoni has expressed his interest in agriculture many times. And now he has become the brand ambassador of Swaraj Tractors.

Manish Desai took charge of the Press Information Bureau (PIB).

- Manish Desai took charge of Press Information Bureau (PIB). Manish Desai, a distinguished officer of the Indian Information Service (IIS) since 1989, has held many important roles in his career. He headed the CBC, overseeing the advertising and public communication arms of the government. His responsibilities include a broad spectrum of communications activities across various media platforms, including print, electronic, outdoor, transit and new media.

R Madhavan has been appointed as the Chairman of FTII Pune.

- Renowned actor R Madhavan has been nominated as the new President of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. Additionally, he will serve as the Chairman of the Governing Council of FTII.

Who is India's G20 Sherpa?

- Ex-NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant acted as India's new Sherpa in the recent G-20, replacing Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, who was appointed as the G-20 Sherpa in September last year.
- A retired 1980-batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre, Amitabh Kant is known for his role in big initiatives — Startup India, Make in India, Incredible India.
- He is credited with coining the slogan "Kerala: God's Own Country" during his tenure in the Kerala government.

Srinivasan K. Swamy elected Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations for 2023-24

- Srinivasan K. Swamy, Executive Chairman of R.K. Swamy Hansa Group, has been unanimously elected Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for 2023-2024.

Key points

- Mr. Swamy currently serves as Chairman of the Asian Federation of Advertising Associations.
- He was earlier President/Chairman of the International Advertising Association (IAA), IAA India Chapter, Confederation of Asian Advertising Agency Associations, Advertising Agencies Association of India, Advertising Standards Council of India, All India Management Association, Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Madras Management Association.

Economy News**PNB launches app to enable MSMEs to avail instant loans using GST invoice.**

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has become the first public sector bank to facilitate easy access to credit for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through GST invoices. The bank has unveiled a dedicated mobile application for the GST Sahay Yojana. This innovative digital solution facilitates comprehensive credit processing based on GST invoices, ensuring a seamless end-to-end process.

India's GDP growth accelerated to 7.8% in the April-June quarter.

- India's gross domestic product (GDP) showed strong growth, rising to 7.8% in the first quarter of FY 2023-2024, compared to 6.1% growth recorded in the previous January-March quarter of FY 2022-23. This acceleration is indicative of a positive economic trajectory and has a major impact on the country's economic scenario.

The Centre's fiscal deficit for April-July stood at 33.9% of the FY2024 target.

- In the first four months of the 2023-24 fiscal year, India's fiscal deficit has exceeded one-third of the full-year target. This fiscal imbalance, measured as the difference between government expenditure and revenue, is a critical indicator of the government's borrowing needs.
- According to data from the Comptroller General of Accounts (CGA), the fiscal deficit in absolute terms stood at Rs 6.06 lakh crore at the end of July.
- This represents a significant increase over the corresponding period of the previous financial year, where the deficit stood at 20.5% of the Budget Estimates (BE).

Yes Bank is live on CBDC with UPI interoperability.

- Yes Bank announced a significant development in the digital currency space by launching UPI interoperability on Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) app. The move is set to revolutionize digital transactions and expand the reach of Digital Rupee (e₹) across the country.
- Users can now easily scan any UPI QR code through the Yes Bank Digital Rupee app, simplifying transactions and making digital payments more accessible and user-friendly.

Moody's raised India's GDP growth forecast to 6.7% in 2023.

- Global rating agency Moody's Investors Service has revised its economic growth forecast for India, providing a positive outlook for 2023. The agency raised India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast to 6.7 percent from the earlier estimate of 5.5 percent. The adjustment is attributed to a remarkable performance in the second quarter, with real GDP growth of 7.8 percent over the previous year, driven by strong expansion in services and capital spending.

India's August GST collection rose to ₹1.59 trillion

- In August, India saw a significant increase in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, which stood at ₹1.59 trillion, representing an 11% increase over the same period last year.
- August 2023 collection is a significant increase from ₹1.43 trillion collected in August 2022.

India's UPI reached a historic milestone in August by crossing 10 billion monthly transactions, showing a year-on-year growth of over 50%.

- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has reached a milestone by crossing 10 billion monthly transactions in August. This achievement has been confirmed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), a non-profit agency of the Reserve Bank. UPI is the key driver of digital payments in India and its rapid growth is significant.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das received 'A+' rating in Global Finance Central Banker Report.

- In a recent announcement that attracted international attention, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has been given an 'A+' rating in the prestigious Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023. This accolade puts him at the top of the world's central bank governors. RBI made this announcement through its official communication channel on social media platform 'X' (earlier known as Twitter).

The Reserve Bank of India reported a 5.1% year-on-year increase in the All-India House Price Index (HPI) for Q1FY24.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled its latest data, showing a significant increase in the All-India House Price Index (HPI). In the April-June quarter of the financial year 2023-24, the HPI recorded a robust growth of 5.1%. This is a significant increase compared to the 3.4% increase during the same period last year.

CBDCs

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

Summit and Conference News

G20 (Group of 20)

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

Key points:

- The G20 or Group of Twenty is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU).
- The G20 is composed of most of the world's largest economies, including both industrialized and developing nations.
- G20 Grouping accounts for around 90% of gross world product (GWP), 75–80% of international trade, two-thirds of the global population, and roughly half the world's land area.

Background:

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

18th G20 Summit 2023

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

Critical global issues during 18th G20 Summit 2023

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

BRICS

- BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

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

New data for BRICS-

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

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Why in the news?

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

About ASEAN

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

10 ASEAN countries

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

East Asia Summit (EAS)

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

About EAS

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

Members:

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

Global Biofuel Alliance

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

International Biofuel Alliance Objectives:

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

G20 could pave way for crypto regulation, financial inclusion

- A cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security.
- It is a decentralized currency, meaning it is not controlled by any government or institution.

- Some examples of cryptocurrencies include Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Litecoin.

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

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

G-20 Structure

Finance Track

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

Sherpa Track

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

The unofficial track comprises engagement or civil groups.

Do you know?

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

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

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

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

- Naltarang
- Rudra Veena
- Surbahar

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

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

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- Headquarters: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Highlights of the Day1 of the G20 Summit

- **African Union Granted Permanent G20 Membership:** African Union was granted permanent membership in the G20, signifying a significant step toward inclusivity.
- **Bilateral Discussions:** Numerous bilateral discussions unfolded, including a pivotal meeting between Indian Prime Minister Modi and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, reinforcing diplomatic ties.
- **Adoption of G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration:** Prime Minister Modi proudly announced the adoption of the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, showcasing collective agreement and commitment.
- **Acknowledgment and Gratitude:** PM Modi extended gratitude to G20 sherpas, ministers, and officials for their unwavering dedication to making the joint declaration possible.
- **India's Presidency Walking the Talk:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserted that India demonstrated its commitment and action during its presidency, emphasizing tangible results.

- **Addressing the Russia-Ukraine Conflict:** The declaration addressed the Russia-Ukraine conflict, underlining the urgency for peace in today's global landscape and its detrimental effects on supply chains, macro-financial stability, inflation, and economic growth.
- **Global Biofuel Alliance Launch:** PM Modi introduced the Global Biofuel Alliance, rallying G20 nations to take ethanol blending with petrol to a global 20% standard.
- **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor:** Leaders inaugurated the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, a massive rail and shipping connectivity project, fostering economic integration across regions.
- **Successful Negotiations and Unity:** Hard-fought negotiations led by India, with support from key countries such as Brazil, South Africa, and Indonesia, culminated in a united G20 declaration, dispelling doubts amid divisions related to the Ukraine war.
- **G20 Commitment to WTO Reforms:** G20 leaders expressed their commitment to reform the World Trade Organisation (WTO) dispute settlement system by 2024.
- **G20 Leaders Dinner:** President Droupadi Murmu hosted a lavish dinner for G20 leaders, featuring a diverse array of Indian culinary traditions.
- **US President Biden on Xi's Absence:** US President Joe Biden commented on the absence of China's President Xi Jinping, stating that the summit was proceeding well despite it.
- **Nalanda University's Legacy:** The greeting area at the dinner featured the ruins of Nalanda University, highlighting India's rich educational heritage.
- **Bilateral Talks and Meetings:** Prime Minister Modi engaged in bilateral discussions with several leaders, including Italy's PM Giorgia Meloni.
- **Global Biofuels Alliance Launch:** India launched the Global Biofuels Alliance, urging G20 nations to join the initiative and increase ethanol blending with petrol to 20%.
- **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor:** PM Modi stressed the significance of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, emphasizing its potential for sustainable development.
- **G20 Commitment to Cross-Border Payments:** G20 nations committed to promoting faster, transparent, and inclusive cross-border payments, in line with the G20 roadmap.

- **UK-India FTA Discussions:** India and the UK discussed their growing ties and progress towards delivering a UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- **G20 Spouses Explore Indian Agriculture:** The spouses of G20 leaders experienced India's agricultural prowess through exhibitions and farm-to-fork experiences.
- **G20 Leaders Embrace Clean Energy:** G20 countries committed to phasing down unabated coal power and eliminating inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.
- **Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty:** The G20 declaration called for all states to uphold principles of territorial integrity, sovereignty, and peaceful conflict resolution.
- **Global Push for Crypto-Asset Policies:** There is a global push for clearer policies on crypto-assets, gaining momentum and consensus among G20 nations.
- **G20 Urges Peace in Ukraine:** The G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration stressed the importance of peaceful conflict resolution and refraining from war in today's era.
- **Achievements of India's G20 Presidency:** India's G20 Presidency was marked by ambitious initiatives, a focus on climate financing, and successful negotiations on various fronts.
- **Record Stock Market Valuation:** India's strong economic growth and stock market performance set the stage for a significant presence at the G20 summit 2023.
- **Adoption of G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration:** Prime Minister Modi officially declared the adoption of the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, signaling the successful outcome of Day 1.

Global Biofuel Alliance

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

International Biofuel Alliance Objectives:

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2. Development and strengthening of the biofuel market

3. Facilitating global biofuel trade.
4. Development of Biofuel policy.

African Union - 21st member of G-20

- African leaders welcomed the unanimous decision by the G-20 countries to admit the African Union (AU) as its 21st member.
- Union of Comoros President and AU chairperson Azali Assoumani took the seat as a full member of the G20.
- The AU is an influential organisation comprising 55 member states that make up the countries of the African continent.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

- In December 2022, the CBD Conference of the Parties, at its 15th meeting (COP 15), adopted a historic agreement to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on the path of recovery and ensure that people live in harmony with nature by 2050.
- The GBF includes 4 outcome-oriented goals and 23 action-oriented targets, with the majority being highly relevant for the ocean.

List of gift hampers given to G20 representatives of countries

- Gift hampers consisted of a curated compilation of handcrafted artefacts and products, which speak volumes about Bharat's rich cultural traditions.
- Some of the products are the product of centuries of tradition & cherished across the world for their unparalleled workmanship and quality.
- These were meticulously created by the hands of Master Craftsmen. Some products are the result of the unique bio-diversity of our country.

The hamper had the following products:

1. Sheeshamwood Sandook with Brass Patti
2. Red Gold: The Saffron from Kashmir
3. Pekoe Darjeeling and Nilgiri Tea
4. Araku Coffee
5. Sundarbans Multiflora Mangrove Honey
6. Kashmiri Pashmina
7. Zighrana Ittar

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.

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

PMUY (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana)

- Scheme by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- It provides LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.
- The scheme was originally launched on May 1, 2016, in Uttar Pradesh by the PM with a target of releasing 8 crore connections by March 2020.
- During Ujjwala 1.0, a target was set to provide LPG connections to 5 crore women members of BPL households.
- Subsequently, the scheme was expanded in April 2018 to include women beneficiaries from seven more categories (SC/ST, PMAY, AAY, Most backward classes, tea garden, forest dwellers, Islands).
- Also, the target was revised to 8 Crore LPG connections.
- The PMUY 2.0 was launched in the financial year 2021-22 making a provision for the release of additional one crore connections.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme.

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the 'Ayushman Bhav' campaign

- The 'Ayushman Bhav' campaign is a comprehensive nationwide healthcare initiative that aims to provide saturation coverage of healthcare services, reaching every village and town in the country.
- This initiative builds upon the success of the Ayushman Bharat program and signifies a paradigm shift in healthcare services.
- The campaign is a collaborative effort spearheaded by gram panchayats in coordination with the Department of Health, other government departments, and local elected bodies in the rural and urban areas.
- Its core objective is to extend comprehensive healthcare coverage to every village and town, transcending geographical barriers and ensuring that no one is left behind.

PMMSY: bridging gaps in the fisheries sector

- India is now counted among the world's top three countries in fish and aquaculture production

PM Matsy Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- It is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of 20,050 crore for its implementation during 2020-21 to 2024-25 as part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat package.
- Ministry: Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

Aim:

- To bring about a blue revolution through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India.
- To double the incomes of fishers and fish farmers, reducing post-harvest losses from 20-25% to about 10% and the generation of gainful employment opportunities in the sector.

Implementation:

- It is implemented as an umbrella scheme with two separate components namely
- Central Sector Scheme: The project cost will be borne by the Central government. The entire project/unit cost will be funded by the Government of India (GoI) (i.e., 100% GoI Funding).
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme: All the sub-components/activities will be implemented by the States/UTs and the cost will be shared between Centre and State.
- North Eastern & Himalayan States: 90% Central share and 10% State share.
- Other States: 60% Central share and 40% State share.

Genetic Engineering Assessment Committee (GEAC)

- GEAC was formed to regulate GM crop research, testing, food safety, and organism release.
- GEAC is constituted under the Environment Protection Act of 1986.
- It is India's main biotech regulatory body.
- GEAC was established by the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests department.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

- JJM is GoI's ₹3.6 lakh crore scheme that aims to provide piped water to every village home by 2024.
- Vision - To provide drinking water supply to every rural household in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis.
- It comes under Jal Shakti Ministry.
- JJM was launched in 2019.

Objectives of JJM

- To provide functional household tap connections (FHTC) to every rural household.
- To prioritize provision of FHTCs in quality affected areas, villages in drought prone and desert areas, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) villages, etc.
- To provide functional tap connection to Schools, Anganwadi centres, GP buildings, Health centres, wellness centres and community buildings
- To monitor functionality of tap connections.

Did you know?

- According to the scheme's definitions, an FHTC household is one where at least 55 litres of potable water per person a day is made available to every household.

Why is JJM in the news?

- Poor implementation of scheme.
- What is claimed by the JJM portal does not match the reality.

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MAHARASHTRA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHARTI 2023
बृहन्मुंबई, पनवेल, नाशिक, नागपूर, मालेगाव, इत्यादी महानगरपालिका भरतीसाठी

10 Full Length Tests

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%.

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.

Business News**Viacom 18 secured BCCI TV and digital media rights in a 5-year deal worth Rs 5,963 crore.**

- Viacom 18, a Reliance-owned media outlet, has won the auction for the media rights, covering digital and TV broadcast of India's domestic matches and BCCI-hosted domestic tournaments, for the next five years. The auction was held on 31 August 2023. This significant acquisition complements Viacom 18's existing digital rights for Indian Premier League (IPL) and FIFA World Cup rights for India.
- Viacom 18 faced stiff competition from Sony Sports Network and Star Sports in the bidding process. For the 88 matches scheduled between 2023 and 2028, the BCCI has fixed a base price of Rs 20 crore per match for TV rights and Rs 25 crore per match for digital rights, totaling Rs 3,960 crore.

CCI clears Air India-Vistara merger.

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) recently gave the green light to the merger of Tata SIA Airlines, which operates under the E Vistara brand, with Air India, a subsidiary of Tata Sons Private Limited. The landmark merger also includes Singapore Airlines (SIA) and acquisition of shares in the merged entity Air India subject to certain voluntary commitments. TSAL (Tata SIA Airlines Limited) is a joint venture between the Tata Group and Singapore Airlines with the former owning 51% and the latter 49%.

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers got Navratna Company status.

- Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) has awarded 'Navratna Status' to Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF). Navratna is a group of public sector companies that have financial freedom to invest up to Rs 1000 crore without the need for central government approval. Earlier, the company had received 'Miniratna status' from the Department of Public Enterprises.

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

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

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, Bahrain, 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.

Ranks and Report News**Heat Index**

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

Important fact:

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

United Nations' Global Stocktake Report

- The United Nations' Global Stocktake report serves as a blueprint for discussions during the Conference of Parties and aims to assess countries' progress in curbing greenhouse gas emissions since 2015.

Centre plans new indicators to rank states for good governance

- The Union government's Department of Administration Reforms and Public Grievances is planning to come out with new indicators for good governance to gauge the performance of states and union territories

Key points

- The opinion of the state is being sought on indicators in seven areas.
- Indicators in these areas have been proposed by other states and union territories
- The index, a uniform tool to assess the status of governance and the impact of various interventions taken up by state governments and union territories, took up 50 indicators before deciding on the rankings for the state in 10 sectors.

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report

- This report is released by FAO.
- According to the 2019 report, it is difficult to achieve the **'Zero Hunger' target by 2030.**

Did you know?

- Goal 2 of SDG Goals is about creating a world free of hunger by 2030.
- Solution - adoption of science-based technologies for crop improvement such as genetically modified (GM) crops

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.

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.

Science and Technology News

ISRO launches Aditya L1 mission.

- ISRO successfully launched the Aditya L1 mission on September 2, 2023 at 11:50 AM IST from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, India. The mission is India's first dedicated solar mission and will study the Sun's atmosphere, including the chromosphere and corona.
- The Aditya L1 spacecraft is a 1.5 ton satellite equipped with seven payloads. The payloads will study the Sun's atmosphere using a variety of methods, including remote sensing and in-situ measurements. The spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1), which is about 1.5 million kilometers from Earth. Click on below link to get information about Aditya L1 Mission.

[Click here to know more about Aditya L1 Mission](#)

COVAX

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

Genetic engineering gives mosquito control an upgrade

- Scientists now have access to the whole genome sequences of multiple mosquito species, allowing us to genetically manipulate them.
- Gene-drive technology is one such approach, which has been used in outdoor trials in India, Brazil, and Panama

Key points

- The fundamental idea behind genetic manipulation of mosquitoes is to **systematically control their populations by interfering with their reproduction.**
- Scientists worldwide have developed various genetic modification approaches. A major one in this endeavour is **gene-drive technology.**

Gene-drive technology

- This technology was conceived by Austin Burt, professor at Imperial College London, in a 2003 paper published in Royal Society Proceedings.
- In 2020 a genetically modified mosquito called OX5034 was released in counties in Florida and Texas.
- Genetically modified male OX5034 mosquitoes mated with female mosquitoes but the self-limiting gene prevented female offspring from surviving. Male mosquitoes would then disappear from the environment after around a dozen generations.

Mosquito-borne diseases

- Malaria, Dengue/Dengue Hemorrhagic fever (DHF), Lymphatic Filariasis (Elephantiasis), Kala-azar/Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL), Japanese Encephalitis (JE), and Chikungunya.

What are picoflare jets?

- Researchers studying the findings of the Solar Orbiter Aircraft, a joint mission by the European Space Agency and the U.S. space agency NASA, recently announced that they had detected small jets of charged particles that were being expelled in intermittent fashion from the outer regions of the sun's outer atmosphere.

Key points

- 'Picoflare jets' could be a source of the solar wind, which have important effects on the solar system at large as well as on the earth's magnetic field.
- A solar wind is a high-speed stream of charged particles from the sun, but their exact origin remains unclear.

Indian space start-ups say funding is the topmost challenge

- Funding is the biggest challenge the Indian space industry is facing today and therefore, the government should consider setting up soft funds and additional incentives to turbo charge the growth of the sector, said space start-ups and ecosystem players.

Key points

- The sector was all set for huge growth with clarity emerging on the regulation front.

- However, funding remained an issue although venture capital firms had been showing interest to invest in the sector, observed experts at the International Conference on Space 2023
- Some eight niche areas have been identified as key drivers of the space sector, which has the potential to become a \$44-billion industry in the next 10 years, from \$8 billion
- some 95% of the components for space solutions, equipment and products are imported.

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

Genome sequencing

- Genome sequencing is figuring out the order of DNA nucleotides, or bases, in a genome.
- It has the order of Adenine, Cytosine, Guanine, 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.
- 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.

Awards News

65th Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023 Winners List

- The Ramon Magsaysay Award, often referred to as 'Asia's Nobel Prize', is a remarkable award that represents exceptional spirit and influential leadership. This year, in the 65th edition of the ceremony, the Ramon Magsaysay Award was presented to Sir Fazle Hassan Abed, Mother Teresa, Dalai Lama, Satyajit Ray and many others.

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**NAGAR PARISHAD
BHARTI 2023**
महाराष्ट्र नगरपरिषद
भरती

10 Full Length Tests

Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023 Winners List

Awardee Name	Country	Contribution
Korvi Rakshand	Bangladesh	Developing inclusive education for the underprivileged children in Bangladesh
Eugenio Lemos	Timor-Leste	Notable contributions to how young Timorese views nature and their surroundings.
Miriam Coronel-Ferrer	Philippines	Unwavering belief in the transformative power of non-violent strategies in peacebuilding
Dr Ravi Kannan R.	India	Strong devotion to his medical profession, focusing on what medicine is truly for: pro-health and people-centred treatment.

Shanta Tautam was honored with the Global Innovation Award at the BRICS Innovation Forum.

- Telangana's Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) Shantha Tautam has been honored with the Global Innovation Award at the first BRICS Innovation Forum held in Moscow from August 27 to 29. The award recognizes outstanding contribution to Sustainable Development Goal-4.
- This category went to Fernando Padula Novas, Minister of Education, City of São Paulo, Brazil, and Saif Al-Hidabi, Undersecretary of the Department of Research and Innovation, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Oman.

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
- **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

Sports News

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

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

Person in news: Jignesh Raval

- Jignesh Raval is one of the best tennis coaches in the country.
- The last two national women's champions Zeel Desai and Vaidehi Chaudhari have come from his stable in Ahmedabad.
- Jignesh has had a rich experience grooming a lot of players with missionary zeal.

Did you know?

- Among the best tennis coaches in the country, Jignesh Raval gave up on a promising and rewarding career in the UK, USA and Canada and chose to be back home after fruitful stints in all those nations; he has used the experience to put a system in place in India.

Warner surpasses Tendulkar, becomes opener with most tons

- Australian batter David Warner went past legendary Indian batter Sachin Tendulkar to become the opener with the most number of centuries in international cricket.
- The 36-year-old batter accomplished this milestone against South Africa in the second ODI, scoring his 46th hundred.

Top Indian chess player

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

Book and Author 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

Defence News

India's new warship Mahendragiri will be launched in Mumbai on September 1.

- India's defense sector is all set to reach a significant milestone as the country's latest warship, the Mahendragiri, will be launched on September 1 at Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai. The launch of Mahendragiri, the seventh and final stealth frigate of Project 17A, marks India's remarkable progress in building a self-sufficient naval force.

India-Sri Lanka Maritime Exercise

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

Key points

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

Modi, Biden welcome progress in defense ties

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

Foundation stone laid for airfield within striking distance of LAC in Ladakh

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually lays foundation stone for Nyoma airfield in Ladakh, inaugurates Nechiphu tunnel in Arunachal.

Key points

- The Nyoma Airfield, to be developed at a cost of about Rs 200 crore, will boost the air infrastructure in Ladakh and augment IAF's capability along the northern border
- Among the projects dedicated by the defence minister include the Nechiphu tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh, two airfields in West Bengal, two helipads, 22 roads, and 63 bridges. Of these 90 projects, 36 are in Arunachal Pradesh, 26 in Ladakh, 11 in Jammu & Kashmir, five in Mizoram, three in Himachal Pradesh, two each in Sikkim, Uttarakhand and West Bengal and one each in Nagaland, Rajasthan, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

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
- 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.

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Important Days**National Nutrition Week is observed from September 1 to 7.**

- National Nutrition Week is observed from September 1 to 7. During this week, the week is celebrated to create awareness about the importance of proper nutrition and its role in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.
- National Nutrition Week was started in March 1973 by members of the American Dietetic Association (now the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics) to educate the public about the message of nutrition education while promoting the dietitian profession. In 1982, the central government started celebrating the National Nutrition Week. The campaign was launched to sensitize citizens on the importance of nutrition and encourage them to adopt a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

World Coconut Day is celebrated on September 2 every year.

- World Coconut Day is celebrated on September 2 every year. The day is celebrated to understand and raise awareness about the benefits of this fruit. In India, the main coconut growing states are Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

World Suicide Prevention Day

- It is observed on September 10th.
- World Suicide Prevention Day is an initiative which began in 2003 to shed light on the critical issue, diminish societal stigma, and heighten awareness.
- The theme since 2021, 'Creating Hope Through Action,' aims to inspire hope and bolster preventive measures.

Hindi Diwas: Sept 14

- September 14 is celebrated in India as Hindi Diwas.
- The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution lists 22 languages, which includes Hindi. A quiz on these languages.
- Hindi is written in the Devanagari script.

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**Laicite**

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

Important facts about Contemporary India

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

Water Hyacinth

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

- The presence of water hyacinth indicates that there are high nitrogen levels in the water.
- It is a symptom of an underlying problem and how the water nutrients behave.

Crocodiles (Mugger or Marsh Crocodile)

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

Estuarine or Saltwater Crocodile:

- Considered as the Earth's largest living crocodile species, infamous globally as a known man-eater.
- Found in Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park, the Sundarbans in West Bengal and the Andamans and Nicobar Islands.
- Also found across Southeast Asia and northern Australia.
- IUCN List of Threatened Species: Least Concern
- CITES : Appendix I (except the populations of Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, which are included in Appendix II).
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 : Schedule I

Gharial:

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

India's suicides facts

- Housewives make up over 50% of India's female suicides.

- Highest suicide rates are in the south compared to the north states.
- According to National Crime Records Bureau (2021 Study) - The number of women who died by suicide in India reached a peak of 45,026 in 2021.
- Housewives make up over 50% of India's female suicides.
- 35% of married women in poorest households had faced some form of abuse.
- Over 30% of all suicides (men and women) were due to issues relating to family or marriage.
- When we look at suicide deaths, the highest suicide rates are in the south. There is more societal pressure in these states to have a successful life. The thing is that a state with a high level of education also brings a higher level of expectations. And when those expectations are unmet the frustration level is higher.
- In the south, where female literacy rates are comparatively high and women have greater access to mass media, there tends to be a clash between modern perspectives and traditional societal norms. In contrast, the push back against traditional expectations is less pronounced in the north, partly due to lower levels of exposure among women

Benefits of new biotech/GM crops

1. To achieve Goal 2 of SDG Goal, i.e. 'Zero Hunger' target by 2030.
2. Achieving global food and nutritional security.
3. To mitigate climate change and produce nutrient-dense food.
4. Can meet India's edible oil needs.

Did you know?

- Bt cotton was commercialized as the first GM crop in India and the only GM crop allowed for cultivation .
- India faces a major deficit in edible oils, with 60% of its demand being met by imports.
- Center for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP), University of Delhi South Campus, created a GM mustard hybrid, DMH-11.
- On October 25, 2022, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Government of India approved DMH-11.

Edelweiss Alternatives mulls \$500-million climate fund

- An Edelweiss group arm is planning to raise up to \$500 million for its maiden climate fund.

Key point

- The fund will be used in areas of renewable energy, transmission infrastructure, developing electric vehicle infrastructure, green infrastructure, water treatment, transport decarbonisation and industrial decarbonisation.

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.

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.

Bhadarwah Rajma and Ramban Sulai honey from Jammu and Kashmir got GI tag.

- Among the significant developments in the region, Bhadarwah Rajmash and Sulai Madh, both in the picturesque districts of Doda and Ramban in Jammu and Kashmir. Bhadarwah Rajmash, often referred to as red bean, holds a special place in the hearts and palates

of the people of the Chenab Valley. With its distinctive taste and texture, this legume is not only a staple food but also a cultural symbol of the region.

- Another GI tag was given to honey produced at Sulai in Ramban district. This Sulai honey is recognized not only for its excellent taste but also for its organic nature. In fact, in 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented organic Sulai honey to Queen Elizabeth during her visit to Britain, showcasing the region's natural bounty to the world.

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