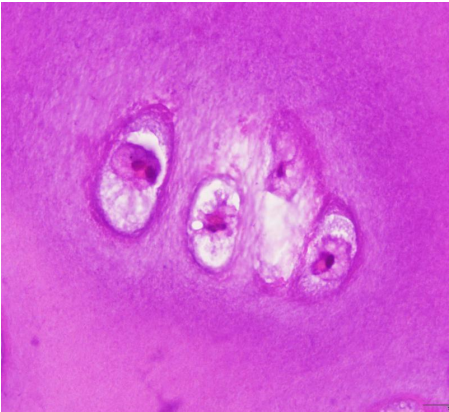





04 November 2023

National and International News

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| <p>SC verdict on same-sex marriage</p> | <p>In news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petitions seeking review of SC's majority judgment refusing to legalise same-sex marriage. • SC holds no fundamental right to marry for same-sex couples, but directs authorities to protect them from harassment. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to marry is a fundamental right. • Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees the right to marry the person of one's choice. <p>Did you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliament has conferred social status for marriage as an institution under the Special Marriage Act, 1954. |
| <p>Haemoglobin isn't used only in blood, scientists discover</p>  | <p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new and serendipitous discovery has revealed that haemoglobin isn't used by RBCs alone. • In a study published in Nature, scientists from China have reported that chondrocytes – cells that make cartilage, the connecting tissue between bones – also make haemoglobin and seem to depend on it for their survival. <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scientists called these blobs haemoglobin bodies, or Hedy. • The discovery of functional haemoglobin in cartilage also leads to the possibility that it plays a role in certain joint diseases. |
| <p>53 accidents, 19 deaths per hour in road crashes in 2022, says Ministry</p> | <p>Context</p> <p>India witnessed 53 accidents and 19 deaths every hour, or an average of 1,264 accidents and 42 deaths, daily in road crashes last year, according to a Ministry of Road Transport and Highways report</p> <p>Key findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of road accidents in 2022 increased by 11.9% and deaths rose by 9.4%. • According to an analysis by the Save Life Foundation, with a crash severity of 38.15, India ranks among the 20 worst countries for road |



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| | <p>crashes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to World Road Statistics, 2022 published by the International Road Federation, Geneva, which uses data for the year 2020 in terms of the total number of fatalities, India was followed by China (with a crash severity of 25.22) and the U.S. (with a crash severity of 2.01). • Of the factors causing road accidents, “speeding” was the most common. It accounted for 72.3% of accidents and 71.2% of deaths. • Uttar Pradesh registered the highest share of deaths at 13.4%. • This was followed by Tamil Nadu at 10.6% and Maharashtra at 9%. |
| <p>106th Constitutional Amendment Act: Women’s Reservation Bill</p> | <p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay in implementation of the quota law before the general election in 2024. • Govt proposes to implement this reservation after the next census followed by delimitation. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 106th Constitutional Amendment Act stipulates 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. • 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments of 1993 gave women one-third representation in local body elections. • 77th Constitutional Amendment extended reservations for promotions in jobs for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. • 103rd CAA provided for 10% EWS reservation for poor Forward Caste sections of the society in educational institutions and public employment. <p>Think:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know about 106th Constitutional Amendment Act • Know about Delimitation |
| <p>Author Nandini Das wins 2023 British Academy Book Prize</p>  | <p>Context Indian-born author Nandini Das has been named the winner of the 2023 British Academy Book Prize</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She got this prize for her book Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire. • The British Academy Book Prize, formerly known as the Nayef Al-Rodhan Prize, was established in 2013 to reward and celebrate the best works of non-fiction that demonstrate rigour. |



Kozhikode and Gwalior enter creative cities list



Context

- **Kozhikode in Kerala and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh** have made it to the prestigious creative cities list of UNESCO for contributions in the fields of **literature and music**, respectively.
- The announcement was made by UNESCO on its official website on **October 31**, which is designated as **World Cities Day**.

About UNESCO CCN

- The **UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)** was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
- **Objective:** placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.
- The Network covers seven creative fields: **Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music**.

Regional Director of the World Health Organization's South-East Asia region



Context

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's daughter, **Saima Wazed**, was elected **Regional Director of the World Health Organization's South-East Asia region**

Key points

- She defeated **Shambu Acharya**, a public health veteran from Nepal, in a vote held here during the **76th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Southeast Asia Region**.
- India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, North Korea, Indonesia, the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste — 10 of the 11 member countries — took part in the vote.

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