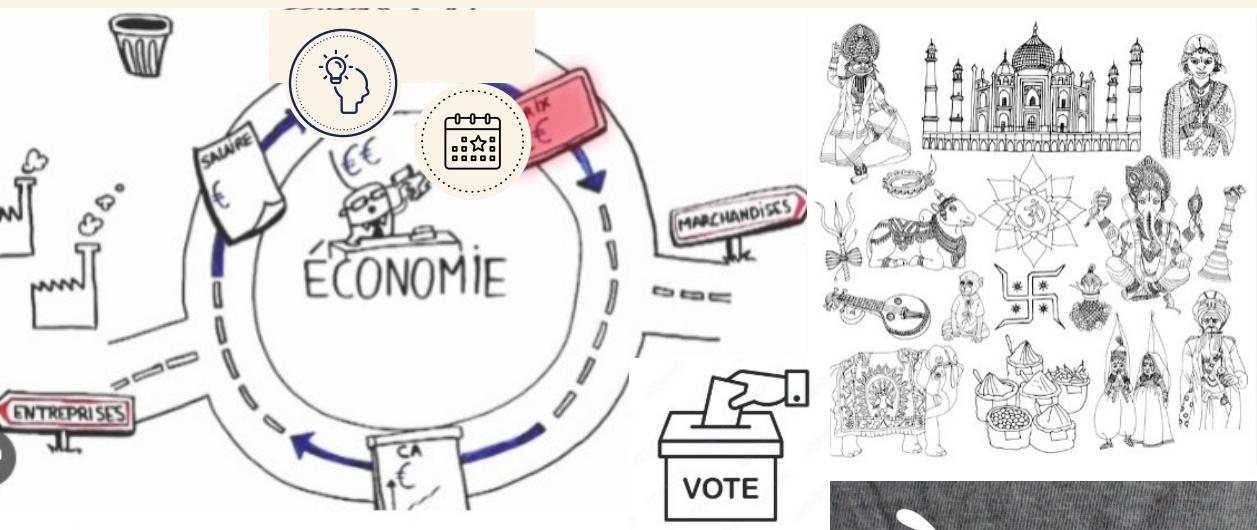


Complete coverage for December Current Affairs - 2023

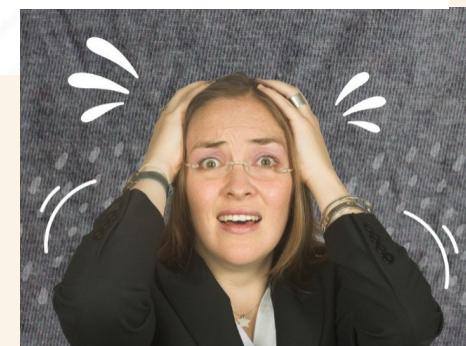
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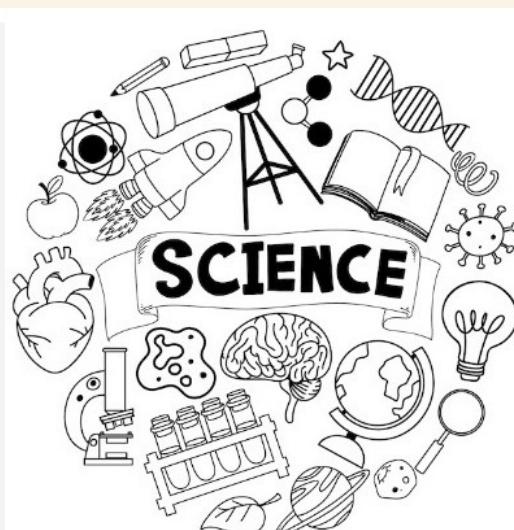
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Fact - Jelly fish also lack brains, hearts, and eyes

STORY

Fish ने इतनी jelly खाई कि उसका दिमाग, दिल, आँखें खराब हो गईं





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1. Sindhudurg Fort

Why in news?

The Navy Day hosted at the iconic Sindhudurg Fort in Maharashtra.

- The annual celebration commemorates the Indian Navy's attack on the Karachi harbour during Operation Trident carried out in 1971 during the Bangladesh Liberation War.
- Sindhudurg Fort is a historical fort situated on **Kurte Island in the Arabian Sea**, just off the coast of Maharashtra in Western India.
- It is located half a kilometer away from Malvan Port in the Arabian Sea and is situated 130 kilometers north of Goa.
- Built by Shivaji, it was the naval headquarters of the Marathas.
- Shivaji built the fort area to safeguard the maritime borders of his kingdom from foreign colonisers (English, Dutch, French, and Portuguese merchants) and to curb the rise of the Siddis of Janjira.
- The fort's foundations were reinforced by utilizing molten lead mixed with mortar, involving over 70,000 kilograms of iron for casting its foundation.
- Construction of the Sindhudurg Fort commenced in 1664 and was completed in three years.

Story

A girl named **Sindhu**. She wears a **kurti(Kurte Island)** and lives in **Arab(Saudi Arabia)**. Her father is

Operation Trident:

- It was a counter-attack by the Indian Navy on the Karachi harbour during the Indo-Pakistan war in 1971.
- India used anti-ship missiles for the first time during this operation and destroyed the Pakistani destroyer ship PNS Khaibar.
- The Indian Navy's three warships - INS Nipat, INS Nirghat and INS Veer – played an important role in the attack.

Story (Trident means त्रिशूल)

हमारे वीरों(INS veer) ने पाकिस्तान को एक ओपरेशन में घात (INS Ghat)लगा कर त्रिशूल से निपटा(INS Nipat)दिया

2. Exit poll

Why in news?

Recently Election Commission rescheduled timeline for exit polls

Definition

An exit poll asks voters which political party they are supporting after they have cast their votes in an election. In this, it differs from an opinion poll, a pre-election survey to gather voters' views on a range of election-related issues. An exit poll is supposed to give an indication of which way the winds are blowing in an election, along with the issues, personalities, and loyalties that have influenced voters.



Exit poll regulations in India

Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, prohibits conduct of Exit poll and dissemination of their results by means of print or electronic media during the period mentioned therein, i.e. between the hour fixed for commencement of poll in the first phase and half an hour after the time fixed for close of poll for the last phase in all the States."

सभी राज्यों में चुनाव होने के आधे घंटे बाद

- Election Commission of India, is responsible for regulating the use of exit polls. The ECI also stipulates that exit polls cannot be broadcasted or published before the voting period has ended in all parts of India
- ECI also requires that all media outlets that conduct exit polls must register with the commission.
- The media outlets must also adhere to a code of conduct that prohibits them from publishing any information that could influence the outcome of the election.

3. Jelly fish

Why in news?

New jellyfish species found off Japan's coast with 240 tentacles named Santjordia pagesi

Santjordia pagesi

- It is considered large at 4 inches wide and 3 inches tall.
- It boasts a circular body with around 240 tentacles.
- Its body looks almost like a see-through cushion.
- It has a thick white ring running along its lower edge.
- Smaller vein-like structures stretch from its prominent central stomach to the outer ring.
- Its most distinctive feature is a bright red, cross-shaped stomach.
- The jellyfish's distinct features suggest it may possess a novel cnidarian venom.

About Jellyfish

- Jellyfish are invertebrates (animals with no backbones) and belong to Phylum Cnidaria
- **They also lack brains, hearts, and eyes.**
- They are not detritivores and feed on fish, shrimp, crabs, etc.
- They are made up of a smooth, bag-like body and tentacles armed with tiny, stinging cells.
- They could be transparent or colourful
- They can be bioluminescent

STORY

Fish ने इतनी jelly खाई कि उसका दिमाग, दिल, आँखें खराब हो गईं

4. Ketamine

Why in news?

In recent years, ketamine has been a subject of widespread debate due to its growing use for treating depression and other serious mental health issues. While some experts and patients call it lifesaving, others say it's addictive and causes bladder ailments.



What is ketamine?

- Ketamine is an anaesthetic that has been **listed as a hallucinogen by the US Drug Enforcement Administration**.
- It's referred to as a "**dissociative anaesthetic hallucinogen**" because it creates a feeling of detachment from pain and the environment.
- In the US, ketamine was first used as an anaesthetic for animals in the 1960s. Around a decade later, the US Food and Drug Administration approved it for humans.
- The drug's use **for treating depression and other mental illnesses** is recent. Owing to its powerful effects, ketamine is consumed by those patients who haven't responded to traditional therapies.
- Ketamine is also used as a **recreational drug**, popularly known as K or Special K among clubgoers.

5. Pressmud

Why in News?

India is viewing Pressmud, a residual byproduct of Sugar, as a valuable resource for green energy production by creating Compressed Biogas (CBG).

What is Pressmud?

- Pressmud, a residual byproduct in the sugar industry often known as filter cake or press cake, has been acknowledged as a valuable resource for green energy production.
- The byproduct can help Indian sugar mills generate extra revenue by utilising it as a feedstock for biogas production through **anaerobic digestion** and subsequent purification to create compressed biogas (CBG).

Bio methanation

For CBG production from **waste product** anaerobic digestion is required, where various organic sources such as waste materials are broken down by bacteria in the absence of oxygen. Instead of waste product pressmud is used.

Advantages of Pressmud Utilization for CBG Production

1. Firstly, it eliminates the complexities associated with the feedstock supply chain, as found in the case of agricultural residue, where biomass harvesting machinery is required for harvesting and aggregation.
2. Secondly, the feedstock is sourced from one or two producers or sugar mills, as opposed to agricultural residue, which involves multiple producers / farmers within a narrow window of 45 days per year.
3. Thirdly, pressmud's quality is not a concern, unlike municipal solid waste, where the presence of inorganic material can damage anaerobic digesters, leading to lower gas output.
4. Fourthly, it eliminates pretreatment costs as it lacks the organic polymer lignin, unlike agri residue. Lastly, in terms of conversion efficiency, approximately 25 tonnes of pressmud are needed to produce a tonne of CBG.

Sl. No.	Composition	Percentage (%)
1.	Moisture content	70 - 75
2.	Fibre content	20 - 30
3.	Crude wax	7 - 15
4.	Sugar	0.9 - 1.5
5.	Crude Protein	5 - 10
6.	Nitrogen	2 - 2.50
7.	Lignin	9.0 - 9.3
8.	Cellulose	10.5 - 11.4
9.	Hemi-cellulose	9 - 10



Facts regarding Pressmud

1. Storing pressmud proves challenging as it undergoes gradual decomposition, resulting in the breakdown of organic compounds. This complicates long-term storage and raises production costs.
2. Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, the primary sugarcane-growing states, contribute to approximately 65% of the total sugarcane cultivation area.

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6. Joshimath

Why in news?

The Centre approved a Rs 1,658-crore recovery plan for Joshimath in Uttarakhand to make the hill town an excellent example of ecological sustainability.

About Joshi math

- Joshimath is a town in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.
- It is the gateway to Badrinath temple (part of Char Dhams), Hemkund Sahib (Sikh Shrine), Auli (skiing destination), and Valley of Flowers (a UNESCO World Heritage Site).
- The Joshimath was established by Adi Shankaracharya in North India.
- The math has temples of Badrinarayan and Rajrajeshwari Devi.
- It has a sacred cave where ADI SHANKARACHARYA supposedly undertook tapasya.
- Between 7th and 11th centuries C.E., KATYURI KINGS, ruled the area of varying extent from their capital at "Katyur" (modern day Baijnath) valley in Kumaon.
- The katyuri dynasty was founded by vashudev katyuri.
- The ancient Basdeo temple at Joshimath is attributed to Vasu Dev who was of Buddhist origin, but later followed Brahminical practices and the Brahminical practices of Katyuri

Story

Joshi and Badri were friends. They used to bathe in a **kund** where there were **valley of flowers**



kings in general is sometimes attributed to a vigorous campaign of Adi Shankara (788-820 CE).

- Joshimath was the initial capital of Katyur dynasty and later on they shifted to Kartikeyapur (modern day Baijnath).

7. Kaziranga National Park

Why in news?

Recently, one-horned rhinoceros was killed in KNP of Assam

- It is located on the bank of the river Brahmaputra and it is one of the oldest wildlife conservancy reserves of India
- Crisscrossed by four major rivers including Brahmaputra, Diphlu,Mora Diphlu,Mura Dhanshiri
- It is HOME OF BIG FIVE One horned Rhino, Elephant, Royal Bengal tiger ,Asiatic water buffalo, Eastern swamp dear
- It was declared as a **National Park in 1974**.
- It has been declared a **tiger reserve since 2007**.
- It has a total tiger reserve area of 1,030 sq km with a core area of 430 sq. km.
- It was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985**.
- It is recognized as an **Important Bird Area by Bird Life International**.
- It is the home of the world's most **one-horned rhinos**.

Story

There was a **Qazi**, his name was **Sam(Assam)**.He has lot of **Dhan(Dhanshiri)** and play **Dapli (Diphlu)**

8. International Maritime Organization Council

Why in news?

India re-elected to International Maritime Organisation Council

About IMO

- IMO – the International Maritime Organization – is the **United Nations specialized agency** with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships. IMO's work supports the UN sustainable development goals
- The purposes of the Organization, as summarized by **Article 1(a) of the Convention**, are "to provide machinery for cooperation among Governments in the field of governmental regulation and practices relating to technical matters of all kinds affecting shipping engaged in international trade; to encourage and facilitate the general adoption of the highest practicable standards in matters concerning maritime safety, efficiency of navigation and prevention and control of marine pollution from ships".
- The Organization is also empowered to deal with administrative and legal matters related to these purposes.

जब कोई जहाज **international trade** के लिए समुद्र में चलता है
बहुत सारे **issues** आते हैं like **maritime security, legal issues , safety issues etc .IMO**
इन सब मुद्दों के लिए regulatory framework बनता है



Role of organization

- Its main role is to create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and universally implemented.
- It is also involved in legal matters, including liability and compensation issues and the facilitation of international maritime traffic.
- IMO celebrates World Maritime Day every last Thursday of September, to highlight the importance of shipping and maritime activities.

Structure of IMO:

- IMO is governed by an assembly of members, which meets every two years, and a council of 40 members, which is elected by the assembly for a two-year period.
- The Assembly is the highest Governing Body of the IMO.
- The IMO Council, being the executive organ, is responsible for supervising the organization's work, especially in maritime safety and pollution prevention.
- IMO's work is conducted through five committees and several subcommittees, which develop and adopt international conventions, codes, resolutions, and guidelines.

9. Noma

Why in news?

World Health Organization (WHO) officially recognizes Noma as a Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)

- Noma, a severe gangrenous disease of the mouth and face, primarily affects malnourished young children (between the ages of 2 and 6 years) in regions of extreme poverty.
- It starts as an inflammation of the gums, which, if not treated early, spreads quickly to destroy facial tissues and bones.
- It frequently leads to death, with survivors suffering severe disfigurement
- Evidence indicates that noma is caused by bacteria found in the mouth.
- There are multiple risk factors associated with this disease, including poor oral hygiene, malnutrition, weakened immune systems, infections, and extreme poverty.
- Treatment involves antibiotics, advice and support on practices to improve oral hygiene with disinfectant mouthwash (salt water or chlorhexidine could be used) and nutritional supplements.
- Children who survive the gangrenous stage of the disease are likely to suffer severe facial disfigurement, have difficulty eating and speaking, face social stigma and isolation, and need reconstructive surgery

Story

Ma is forcing child to do brush daily.
Child is saying **NO MA**

Neglected Tropical Disease

- NTD are communicable diseases that prevail in **tropical and subtropical countries** and affect more than one billion people.
- Populations living in poverty, without adequate sanitation and in close contact with infectious vectors and domestic animals and livestock are those worst affected



- They are caused by a variety of pathogens including viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi and toxins.
- These diseases cause devastating health, social and economic consequences to more than one billion people
- They are 'neglected' because they are almost absent from the global health agenda. Even today, when the focus is on Universal Health Coverage, NTDs have very limited resources and are almost ignored by global funding agencies.

गरीबों की गीमारी - Everyone neglect it



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10. JN.1 Variant

Why in news?

World Health Organization (WHO) classified the JN.1 coronavirus strain as a "variant of interest" separate from its ancestor BA.2.86 and said current evidence shows risk to public health was low from the strain.

- A variant is designated as VOI by WHO if it shows a growth advantage over other circulating variants — meaning its proportion increases along with any increase in the total number of cases.
- A variant can be designated as VOI also if it is predicted to or known to change characteristics such as transmissibility, virulence, antibody evasion, or susceptibility to therapies and diagnostics.
- Once designated as VOI, the WHO monitors and tracks its global spread.
- The body also keeps assessing its public health risk and facilitate sharing of isolates.
- Member states have to report cases of VOI, monitor it, and conduct field investigations to study the potential impact of the variant.

Even though BA.2.86 and JN.1 sound very different because of the way COVID variants are named, there is only a single change between JN.1 and BA.2.86 in the spike protein. Spike protein is a virus's ability to latch onto and infect humans.



11. Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

Why in news?

Recently, MPEDA organized training on value-added fish products.

- The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) was set up by an act of Parliament during 1972.
- The Act empowers MPEDA to regulate exports of marine products and take all measures required for ensuring sustained, quality seafood exports from the country.
- It is the nodal agency for the holistic development of the seafood industry in India to realise its full export potential as a nodal agency.
- MPEDA is given the mandate to promote the marine products industry with special reference to exports from the country.
- It is envisaged that this organization would take all actions to develop and augment the resources required for promoting the exports of **“all varieties of fishery products known commercially as shrimp, prawn, lobster, crab, fish, shell-fish, other aquatic animals or plants or part thereof and any other products which the authority may, by notification in the Gazette of India, declare to be marine products for the purposes of (the) Act”**
- The Act empowers MPEDA to regulate exports of marine products and take all measures required for ensuring sustained, quality seafood exports from the country.

Functions of MPEDA

- Identifying bottlenecks in seafood trade and taking corrective action.
- Registering seafood processing units, fishing vessels, pre-processing centres, etc.
- Marketing activities such as buyer-seller meets, delegation visits to potential markets, etc.
- Promotes R&D for commercial aquaculture activities through the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA).

12. Gelephu Smart city Project

Why in news?

Bhutan has unveiled plans for a Gelephu smart city project, the Gelephu Special Administrative Region (SAR), spanning 1,000 sq km on its border with Assam.

Bhutan Asia – South Asia को जोड़ना चाहता है. अपनी city Gelephu से
Singapore तक economic corridor banana chahta hai. India भी मदद कर रहा है

- The proposed land connection from Gelephu, traversing Assam and Northeast Indian states, extends to Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Singapore, forming a dynamic economic corridor that bridges South Asia to Southeast Asia
- It is being projected as an “economic corridor connecting South Asia with Southeast Asia via India’s north-eastern States





- The project will cover an area of 1,000 sq km (250,000 acres) and will be developed as a Special Administrative Region (SAR).
- Government of India also agreed to build first India-Bhutan railway line to Gelephu, which would also connect with roadways and border trading and crossing points into Assam and West Bengal

13. Monkeypox (Mpox)

Why in news?

WHO warned an epidemic of Mpox in Democratic Republic of Congo could spread internationally.

- It is a **viral zoonotic disease** that occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of Central and West Africa.
- Caused by monkeypox virus, a member of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae.
- The clinical presentation of monkeypox resembles that of smallpox, a related orthopoxvirus infection which was declared eradicated worldwide in 1980.

Transmission:

- ✓ Mostly transmitted to people from wild animals such as rodents and primates.
- ✓ Human-to-human transmission also occurs.
- ✓ Monkeypox virus is transmitted from one person to another by contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding.

Symptoms

- The incubation period (interval from infection to onset of symptoms) is usually from 6 to 13 days but can range from 5 to 21 days.
- The infection can be divided into two periods:
- ✓ The invasion period (which lasts between 0–5 days) is characterized by fever, intense headache, lymphadenopathy (swelling of the lymph nodes), back pain, muscle aches, and lack of energy. Lymphadenopathy is a distinctive feature of monkeypox compared to other diseases that may initially appear similar (chickenpox, measles, smallpox).
- ✓ The skin eruption usually begins within 1–3 days of the appearance of fever.

14. Late Blight Diseases

Why in News?

Potato crop in Punjab has suffered extensive damage due to late blight disease.

About Late Blight Diseases

- Fungal disease caused by the fungus *Phytophthora infestans* that can damage the entire crop. It affects leaves, stems and tubers of crop.
- Water soaked spots appear on leaves which then increase in size, change to purple brown colour & finally turns black.
- Infected tubers and the infected soil may serve as a source of primary infection.
- Air borne infection is caused by the sporangia.



15. Kolattam Dance

Why in News ?

In Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh Girls performed Kolattam dance during Balotsav, a children's festival.

About Kolattam dance

South का dandiya

- The group comprises dancers in the range of 8 to 40.
- It is performed by using sticks to represent the rhythm of the dance.
- The sticks are stroked against each other in a calibrated form for creating harmony.
- The dancers are led by a leader and move about in two circles.
- The inner circle receive the strikes on their sticks from the artists in the outer circle that deliver them.
- The dance form resembles the Dandiya and garba folk dances of Gujarat.
- In Tamil Nadu and Kerala the dance is known as Kummi
- In Andhra Pradesh it is known as Kolannalu. [Andhra (Andhra Pradesh) आदमी काले नाले(Kolannalu) में गिर गया]

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16. Greenwashing

Why in News?

The United Kingdom's Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) has banned advertisements from Air France, Lufthansa, and Etihad.

- It is the process of conveying a false impression or misleading information about how a company's products are environmentally sound.



- Greenwashing involves making an unsubstantiated claim to deceive consumers into believing that a company's products are environmentally friendly or have a greater positive environmental impact than they actually do.
- Greenwashing may occur when a company attempts to emphasize sustainable aspects of a product to overshadow the company's involvement in environmental damaging practices.



हमारी company का product
environmental अनुकूल है लेकिन
सच्चाई कुछ और है



- Companies can also greenwash initiatives with vague claims that don't provide real data or scientific validation for the claims.
- For example, a car vendor claims that a vehicle is eco-friendly because it is more fuel-efficient, while failing to mention or consider the larger industrial impact of vehicle manufacturing on the environment.

17. Kashi Tamil Sangamam

Why in News?

The historical link between Kashi (Varanasi) and Tamil Nadu, often referred to as Tamilakam, spans centuries and is deeply rooted in cultural, religious, and historical contexts.

Historical and Mythological Connections

- **Parakrama Pandya's Legend:** According to legends, King Parakrama Pandya from the Madurai region in the 15th century traveled to Kashi to acquire a lingam for constructing a grand Shiva temple. However, during his return, the cow carrying the lingam halted at a place known today as Sivakasi. Considering this divine intervention, Parakrama Pandya installed the lingam there, and the site is now known as Sivakasi.
- **Kasi Viswanathar Temple:** To enable devotees who couldn't travel to Kashi, the Pandyas built the Kasi Viswanathar Temple in Tenkasi, southwestern Tamil Nadu, replicating the Kashi experience.
- **Adhivir Ram Pandyan:** In the 19th century, another king named Adhivir Ram Pandyan constructed a Shiva temple in Tenkasi after returning from a pilgrimage to Kashi, further solidifying the connection between these regions.

Other connections

- People from Rameswaram would take a dip in the Koti teertha (in the temple) before visiting Kashi for darshan; and they would bring back (Ganga) water from Kashi for *abhiseka* at the temple in Rameswaram. Only this would complete their pilgrimage at a time when it took six months to travel between Kashi and Rameswaram
- Connection between the traders dealing in silk saris and textiles from Banaras and Kanchipuram, and architectural, culinary, and other kinds of connections.



About Kashi Tamil Sangamam

- **Purpose:** The Kashi Tamil Sangamam is a platform that facilitates cultural exchanges between North and South India, showcasing art, music, handlooms, handicrafts, cuisines, and products from Tamil Nadu and Varanasi.
- **Participants:** Around 1,400 dignitaries from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry are participating in this year's event, engaging in various cultural activities, exhibitions, and exchanges over a 15-day period. Different groups comprising students, teachers, professionals, spiritual leaders, artisans, writers, traders, and businessmen are scheduled to visit Varanasi during this event
- **Ministry of Education will be the nodal agency** for this event with participation from the other ministries such as Ministries of Culture, Tourism, Railways, Textiles, etc.

18. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana

Why in News ?

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) achieved their target of Rs. 1000 Crore in sales of generic medicines in FY 2023-24.

About PMBJAY

- It was launched in 2008 by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers under the name Jan Aushadi Campaign.

Objective:

- To provide quality generic medicines through dedicated outlets known as Janaushadhi Kendras at affordable prices to the masses.
- To Ensure access to quality medicines for all sections of the population especially the poor and the deprived ones.
- To Create awareness about generic medicines through education and publicity to counter the perception that quality is synonymous with high price only.
- To Generate employment by engaging individual entrepreneurs in opening of PMBJP Kendra.
- As on 30.11.2023, 10000 Janaushadhi Kendras are functional across the country. Product basket of PMBJP comprises 1965 drugs and 293 surgical items.
- Accordingly, the Government has set a target to open 25,000 Janaushadhi Kendras across the country by March, 2026.

Implementing Agency

- The Scheme is implemented by a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, viz., Pharma & Medical Bureau of India (PMBI) [erstwhile Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)].

Salient features :

The Scheme is operated by government agencies as well as by private entrepreneurs:

1. The incentive provided to the Kendra owners up to 5.00 lakh to be given @ 15% of monthly purchases made, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 15,000/- per month.



2. One-time incentive of Rs. 2.00 lakh is to be provided for furniture & fixtures and computer & printers to the PMBJP Kendras opened in North-Eastern States, Himalayan areas, Island territories and backward areas mentioned as aspirational district by NITI Aayog or opened by women entrepreneur, Divyang, SCs & STs and Ex-servicemen.
3. Prices of the Jan Aushadhi medicines are 50%-90% less than that of branded medicines prices in the open market.
4. Medicines are procured only from World Health Organization – Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) certified suppliers for ensuring the quality of the products.
5. Each batch of drug is tested at laboratories accredited by 'National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)' for ensuring best quality.



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19. Kyasanur Forest Disease

Why in News?

Recently, a death has been reported in Karnataka due to KFD virus (KFDV).

About KFD

- It is also known as **monkey fever**, which is an emerging public health problem in the country.
- It is caused by Kyasanur Forest disease virus (KFDV), a member of the virus family Flaviviridae.
- KFDV was identified in 1957 when it was isolated from a sick monkey from the Kyasanur Forest in Karnataka (formerly Mysore) State, India. Since then, between 400-500 humans cases per year have been reported.

Transmission

- Transmission to humans may occur after a **tick bite or contact with an infected animal**, most importantly a sick or recently dead monkey.
- **No person-to-person transmission** has been described.



- Large animals such as goats, cows, and sheep may become infected with KFD but play a limited role in the transmission of the disease. These animals provide the blood meals for ticks and it is possible for infected animals with viremia to infect other ticks, but transmission of KFDV to humans from these larger animals is extremely rare.
- Furthermore, there is no evidence of disease transmission via the unpasteurized milk of any of these animal

Symptoms

- After an incubation period of 3-8 days, the symptoms of KFD begin suddenly with chills, fever, and headache.
- Severe muscle pain with vomiting, gastrointestinal symptoms and bleeding problems may occur 3-4 days after initial symptom onset.
- Patients may experience abnormally low blood pressure, and low platelet, red blood cell, and white blood cell counts.
- After 1-2 weeks of symptoms, some patients recover without complication. However, the illness is biphasic for a subset of patients (10-20%) who experience a second wave of symptoms at the beginning of the third week. These symptoms include fever and signs of neurological manifestations, such as severe headache, mental disturbances, tremors, and vision deficits.
- The estimated case-fatality rate is from 3 to 5% for KFD.

20. Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme

Why in News?

Government announced to bring Series III of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme (SGBs) (2023-24).

About SGB

SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold. They are substitutes for holding physical gold.

Who is eligible to invest in the SGBs?

- Persons resident in India as defined under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 are eligible to invest in SGB.
- Eligible investors include individuals, HUFs, trusts, universities and charitable institutions. Individual investors with subsequent change in residential status from resident to non-resident may continue to hold SGB till early redemption/maturity.

What are the benefits?

- The quantity of gold for which the investor pays is protected, since he receives the ongoing market price at the time of redemption/ premature redemption.
- The SGB offers a superior alternative to holding gold in physical form.
- The risks and costs of storage are eliminated.
- Investors are assured of the market value of gold at the time of maturity and periodical interest.
- SGB is free from issues like making charges and purity in the case of gold in jewellery form.
- The bonds are held in the books of the RBI or in demat form eliminating risk of loss of scrip etc.



Other facts

- Joint holding is allowed.
- Minor can invest in SGB on behalf of the minor has to be made by his/her guardian.
- Minimum investment in the Bond shall be one gram with a maximum limit of subscription of 4 kg for individuals, 4 kg for Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) and 20 kg for trusts
- SGB's are eligible to be used as collateral for loans from banks, financial Institutions and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC).
- Tenor of the bond is 8 years, early encashment/redemption of the bond is allowed after fifth year from the date of issue on coupon payment dates.

21. Urbicide

Why in News?

Activists say Israel's attack on hospitals, bakeries and schools counts as urbicide

About Urbicide

- Urbicide is formed by two words: “urbs”, which is city, and “cide”, meaning death - hence, the death of the city.
- The term was used for the first time in 1963 by science fiction author **Michael Moorcock**, and later, Marshall Berman and Bogdan Bogdanović coined the word.
- It was described as a “**ritualised murder of cities**,” which goes beyond physically destroying cities and annihilates memories, identities and cultures of a city.

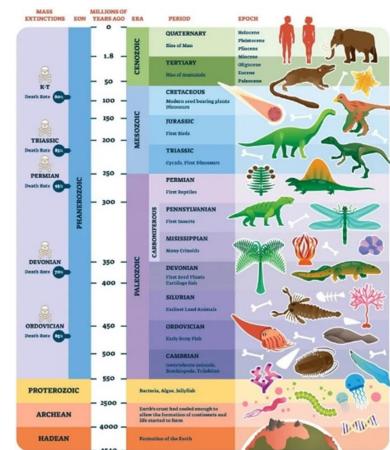
22. Lunar Anthropocene

Why in News?

Researchers recently proposed a new geological epoch for the moon called the Lunar Anthropocene, attributing it to human influence since 1959.

About Anthropocene

- Anthropocene Epoch is an unofficial unit of geologic time, used to describe the most recent period in Earth's history when human activity started to have a significant impact on the planet's climate and ecosystems.
- Denotes the present geological time interval, in which the Earth's ecosystem has gone through radical changes due to human impact, especially since the onset of the Industrial Revolution.
- Phenomena associated with this epoch are global warming, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, mass-scale soil erosion, the advent of deadly heat waves, deterioration of the biosphere and other detrimental changes in the environment





Lunar Anthropocene

- Lunar Anthropocene parallels Earth's Anthropocene, marking a significant human impact on planetary systems.
- It is believed to have begun with the USSR's Luna 2 mission in 1959.

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23. Indian Tent Turtles

Why in News?

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in Lucknow has recently rescued 436 baby Indian Tent Turtles, thwarting an illegal interstate transportation.

About Indian Tent Turtles

- The Indian tent turtle is a species of turtle, found in **India, Nepal, and Bangladesh**.
- They are primarily riverine turtles that occurs in both small and large rivers but prefer large rivers such as Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna rivers and their tributaries.
- They are **diurnal aquatic turtles**.
- Females are largely herbivores while males and juveniles are more carnivorous.
- They are Oviparous (lay eggs).
- They have one or two brownish to red dots behind their eyes which differentiates them from Indian roofed turtles.

- It has tent on its back but it is least concern about this.
- Day में active रहते हैं.
- लड़की शक्तिशाली लड़के मासहारी

**Conservation status:**

- **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern
- **CITES:** Appendix II
- **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I

24. Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)

Why in News?

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in Lucknow has recently rescued 436 baby Indian Tent Turtles, thwarting an illegal interstate transportation.

About TIWB

- Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) is a joint initiative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supporting countries in building tax audit capacity.
- TIWB Programmes complement the broader efforts of the international community to strengthen co-operation on tax matters and contribute to the domestic resource mobilisation efforts of developing countries.

TIWB Objective

- The objective of the TIWB Initiative is to enable sharing of tax audit knowledge and skills with tax administrations in developing countries through a targeted, real time "learning by doing" approach.
- Selected experts will work with local tax officials directly on current audits and audit-related issues concerning international tax matters and general audit practices relevant for specific cases.
- This is a specialized area of tax audit assistance, given its focus on providing assistance on real, current cases.

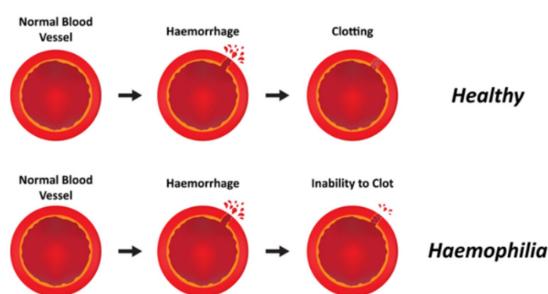
25. Haemophilia

Why in News?

The Haemophilia & Health Collective of North (HHCN) collaborates with National Health Mission (NHM) representatives from 16 states to propose Indian guidelines for the treatment of Persons with Haemophilia (PwH).

About Haemophilia

- Haemophilia is a rare genetic condition that hinders the blood's ability to clot, leading to prolonged bleeding.
- It is usually inherited, and the majority of individuals affected are male.
- The two most common types are Hemophilia A (caused by factor VIII



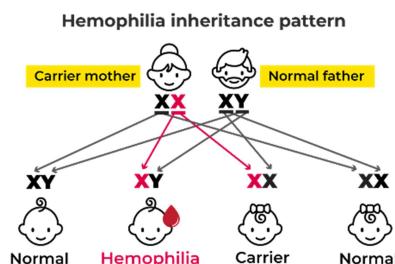


deficiency) and Hemophilia B (caused by factor IX deficiency).

- People with haemophilia do not have as many clotting factors, particularly factor VIII or factor IX, as they should have in their blood.
- In normal circumstances, clotting factors in the blood combine with platelets to create a sticky substance that forms clots, stopping bleeding when an injury occurs.
- The severity of hemophilia is determined by the amount of clotting factor in the blood. Lower factor levels increase the likelihood of bleeding, leading to serious health issues.

Causes:

- Hemophilia is caused by a mutation in the genes responsible for producing clotting factor proteins.
- These genes are located on the X chromosome.
- Males, having one X and one Y chromosome, inherit the X chromosome from their mothers.
- Females, with two X chromosomes, inherit one from each parent.
- Males with a mutated X chromosome may develop haemophilia, while females can be carriers.
 - Carrier females may pass the mutated X chromosome to their children.
- Females can also have it if both X chromosomes are affected or if one is affected and the other is missing or inactive.



Treatment:

- Treatment involves replacing the missing clotting factor through infusions of commercially prepared factor concentrates.
- Individuals with hemophilia can learn to **self-administer infusions** to manage and prevent bleeding episodes.
- Regular infusions, known as **prophylaxis**, can **prevent most bleeding episodes** and contribute to better management of hemophilia.

26. Lantana Camara (Lantana)

Why in News?

Lantana is one of the worst invasive species in the world and a species of High Concern for India.

About Lantana Camara

- Lantana, a tropical American shrub, was introduced in India as an ornamental plant by the British in the 1800s as a decorative shrub.
- The shrub can spread on the forest ground, climb over trees a creeper and entangle with other native plants with ease.
- It is a very adaptable species, which can inhabit a wide variety of ecosystems.
- Once it has been introduced into a habitat it spreads rapidly between 45°N and 45°S and more than 1,400 metres (4,600 feet) in altitude.



Side effects of Lantana

- Lantana occupy 40 per cent of forests, including tiger reserves. It has also invaded most pasture lands in the country.
- Lantana camara is known to be toxic to livestock, causing liver damage and photosensitivity (Lantana poisoning)
- It is difficult to eradicate due to rapid spread, infestation intensity, allelopathy, opportunistic growth behaviour, reproductivity biology traits, and tenacious resistance to cutting and burning.

Usage of Lantana

- Residents used the dried lantana stems to fence their fields or burn them as charcoal.
- Lantana leaves can also be used for antimicrobial, fungicidal and insecticidal properties.



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27. Huntington's disease

Why in News?

A research paper published in Scientific Reports Journal, has provided important information on Huntington's disease, using fruit flies.

About Huntington's disease

- Huntington's disease (HD) is an inherited disorder that causes nerve cells (neurons) in parts of the brain to gradually break down and die.
- The disease attacks areas of the brain that help to control voluntary (intentional) movement, as well as other areas.

Story

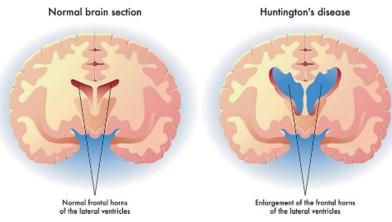
Neuron **hung(Huntington)** itself till death.

Cause

- A genetic change (mutation) of the HTT gene causes Huntington's disease. The HTT gene makes a protein called **huntingtin**. This protein helps your nerve cells (neurons) function.



- The normal HTT gene contains a stretch of DNA that specifies the number of times the amino acid glutamine is repeated in the Htt protein. This number varies from 11 to 31.
- In the mutant versions of the HTT gene, this stretch is expanded to encode 35 or more repeats.
- As the number of repetitions increase, the severity of Huntington's disease increases and its debilitation begins at an earlier age.



Symptoms

- Huntington's disease usually causes movement, cognitive and psychiatric disorders with a wide spectrum of signs and symptoms.
- People living with HD develop uncontrollable dance-like movements (chorea) and abnormal body postures, as well as problems with behavior, emotion, thinking, and personality. For example, uncontrolled movements in the person's fingers, feet, face, or torso. These movements are signs of chorea.
- Symptoms of HD typically appear in middle-aged people (adult HD). They can also appear in children (juvenile HD), but this is rare. The disease gets worse over time.
- The patient suffers mood swings, has difficulty in reasoning, shows abnormal and uncontrollable jerky movements, and experiences difficulty in speaking, swallowing, and walking.
- Early signs of HD can vary, but often include mild clumsiness or problems with balance or movement, cognitive or psychiatric symptoms (problems with thinking or emotion), and changes in behavior.

28. Smart India Hackathon (SIH)-2023

Why in News?

- The 6th edition of the Smart India Hackathon was recently held.

About Smart India Hackathon (SIH)-2023

- Smart India Hackathon 2023 is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to solve some of the pressing problems faced by various government departments, private organizations, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem solving.
- It is an initiative by the Ministry of Education, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Persistent Systems and Inter-Institutional Inclusive Innovation Centre (i4C).

Who can participate?

SIH Junior(Jr)

- School students from 6th to 12th class will be able to showcase their talent and generate out-of-the-box open innovation ideas

**SIH Senior(Sr)**

- Regular Students of HEI's pursuing "Graduate/Post-Graduate/Ph.D" will be able to showcase their talent and generate out-of-the-box open innovation ideas

29. Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

Why in News?

- Angola withdraws from Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

About OPEC

- OPEC is an intergovernmental organisation whose stated objective is to coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its Member Countries and ensure the stabilization of oil markets in order to secure an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consumers, a steady income to producers and a fair return on capital for those investing in the petroleum industry.
- It was created at the Baghdad Conference on September 10–14, 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- Other members are Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, and the United Arab Emirates
- OPEC Secretariat is the executive organ of OPEC located in Vienna, Austria; it also functions as the Headquarters of the Organization.

Petrol बेचने वालों ने एक group बनाया है जिससे petrol की supply regular रहे और अच्छी income हो

30. Jumping spiders

Why in News?

- A team of researchers from Kerala and Tamil Nadu have discovered two new species of jumping spiders

About Jumping spider

- Jumping spiders are a group of spiders that constitute the family Salticidae.
- These spiders can jump distances 10 to 40 times greater than their actual body size. They are more active in the daytime, when they hunt their prey.
- All jumping spiders have four pairs of eyes, with the anterior median pair being particularly large. These spiders have an impressive vision. They don't need to build a web or detect vibrations to catch their prey. Instead, they rely on their vision to spot their prey's movement, and then catch them by jumping directly upon them.
- Tropical forests harbor the most species, but they are also found in temperate forests, scrublands, deserts, intertidal zones, and mountainous regions.
- Although jumping spiders are generally carnivorous, many species have been known to include nectar in their diets.



31. National Geoscience Data Repository Portal (NGDRP)

Why in News?

Union Minister of Mines launched the National Geoscience Data Repository Portal (NGDRP)

About NGDRP

- NGDR is a comprehensive online platform for accessing, sharing, and analyzing geospatial information across the nation.
- The NGDR initiative, spearheaded by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N)
- Launched by Ministry of Mines
- The portal incorporates 35 map services, including geological, geochemical, and geophysical data layers, enabling users to view, download, and interpret data.

Significance

- It represents a significant leap forward in democratising critical geoscience data, empowering stakeholders across industries and academia with unprecedented access to invaluable resources.
- It will further increase the investment attractiveness in India's mining sector.

32. INS Imphal

Why in News?

INS Imphal was commissioned into the Indian Navy in Mumbai on December 26.

About INS Imphal

- INS Imphal is among the most technologically advanced guided missile destroyers in the world.
- The ship measures 163m in length, and 17m in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes
- It is propelled by four powerful Gas Turbines, in a Combined Gas and Gas configuration, and is capable of speeds in excess of 30 knots
- It is capable of launching the BrahMos cruise missile, the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile.
- The ship is also equipped to fight under Nuclear, Biological and Chemical warfare conditions.
- It has a high level of indigenization (about 75%), highlighting efforts towards Atmanirbhara Bharat in the defence sector
- **INS Imphal is the third of the four 'Project 15 Bravo Vishakhapatnam class' guided missile destroyers.**



Project 15B

- Between 2014 and 2016, the Indian Navy commissioned three guided missile destroyers of Kolkata class under a project codenamed '15A'. The Kolkata class included INS Kolkata, INS Kochi and INS Chennai.
- For building the **advanced variants of the Kolkata class** guided missile destroyers, a contract for construction under the project codenamed '15B' was signed in January 2011.
- The lead ship of Project 15B, **INS Visakhapatnam** was commissioned into the Indian Navy in November 2021 ,second ship **INS Mormugao** in December 2022,third ship **INS Imphal** in December 2023,Fourth ship **INS Surat** will be commissioned in future
- These ships are designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai.

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33. Anemia

Why in News?

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) initiates steps to provide easy to use non-invasive testing to tackle anemia in India.

About

- Anemia is a problem of not having enough healthy red blood cells or hemoglobin to carry oxygen to the body's tissues.
- Hemoglobin is a protein found in red cells that carries oxygen from the lungs to all other organs in the body.

Mechanism of Red Blood cell formation

- Healthy red blood cells last between 90 and 120 days.
- Parts of body then remove old blood cells.
- Although many parts of the body help make red blood cells, most of the work is done in the bone marrow.
- A hormone called erythropoietin (epo) made in kidneys signals bone marrow to make more red blood cells.



Symptoms of anemia

- Tiredness, Weakness, Shortness of breath. Pale or yellowish skin, Irregular heartbeat, Dizziness or lightheadedness, Chest pain, Cold hands and feet, Headaches.

Causes of anemia

- Iron deficiency, Vitamin B12 deficiency, Folate deficiency
- Long-term (chronic) diseases such as chronic kidney disease, cancer, ulcerative colitis, or rheumatoid arthritis
- Some forms of anemia, such as thalassemia or sickle cell anemia, which can be inherited

34. Veer Baal Diwas

Why in News?

Veer Baal Diwas is commemorated to honour the martyrdom of Baba Fateh Singh and Zorawar Singh, the Sahibzade of 10th Guru Govind Singh Ji on 26th December every year.

About Veer Baal Diwas

- The youngest sons of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib Ji, Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Sahibzada Baba Fateh Singh Ji were born at Anandpur Sahib.
- On 7 December 1705, the day of battle of Chamkaur, Baba Zorawar Singh ji, along with Baba Fateh Singh ji was taken into custody
- On 9 December 1705, Baba Zorawar Singh ji and Baba Fateh Singh ji were produced before the faujdaar, Nawab Wazir Khan. He then threatened them with death, but they remained undaunted. Death sentence was finally pronounced.
- On 12 December 1705, Baba Zorawar Singh ji and Baba Fateh Singh ji were martyred by sealing alive in a wall.
- Gurudwara Sri Fatehgarh Sahib is dedicated to their great martyrdom.
- On 9th January 2022, the day of the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the Hon. Prime Minister had announced that 26th December would be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas', to mark the martyrdom of sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh



35. Fly Ash

Why in News?

Recent National Green Tribunal cases show that thermal power plants are still not disposing off fly ash properly

About Fly ash

- Fly ash is a byproduct from burning of coal in the thermal power generation.
- It is called fly ash because it is transported from the combustion chamber by exhaust gases



- Fly ash includes substantial amounts of Silicon dioxide (SiO_2), Aluminium oxide (Al_2O_3), Ferric oxide (Fe_2O_3), Calcium oxide (CaO)

Harmful effects of Fly Ash

- Fly ash particles are toxic air pollutants.
- They can trigger heart disease, cancer, respiratory diseases and stroke.
- When combined with water they cause leaching of heavy metals in ground water.
- It also pollutes the soil, and affects the root development system of trees

Uses of Fly Ash

- It is used in concrete and cement products, road base, metal recovery, and mineral filler among others
- It is used in manufacturing of Portland cement, bricks etc.
- It is used in manufacturing of Absorbents (for Removal of Air and Water Pollutants).

Note - Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change's (MoEFCC) 2021 notification mandating 100 per cent utilisation of fly ash by coal-fired thermal power plants

36. Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023

Why in News?

Sahitya Akademi announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in 24 languages.

About Sahitya Akademi Awards

- Sahitya Akademi Award, which was created in 1954, is an annual literary honour bestowed by the Sahitya Akademi
- The award, which was established in 1954, consists of a plaque and a cash prize of Rs. 1,000,000.
- After the Jnanpith award, the Sahitya Akademi award is the second-highest literary honour bestowed by the Indian Government.
- 24 languages - Besides the 22 languages enumerated in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Akademi has recognised English and Rajasthani as languages

Eligibility criteria

- The author must be Indian National.
- A book or work that is eligible for the award must make a significant addition to the language and literature of the genre.
- When two or more works have similar worth, specific factors such as overall literary contribution and standing of authors will be considered when the prize is announced.
- A posthumous publication is eligible for award only if the author has died within five years period stipulated for the award or later (For ex- An author who has died before 2008 is not eligible for award after 2014)



About Sahitya Akademi

- It is a national organisation to work actively for the development of Indian letters and to set high literary standards, to foster and co-ordinate literary activities in all the Indian languages and to promote through them all the cultural unity of the country.
- It is an autonomous body under Ministry of Culture, founded in 1954.
- It is Registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.



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37. Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), 2024

Why in News?

India's secured **7th position** in recently released Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) **2024**

About CCPI

- It is an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate protection performance of 63 countries and the European Union.
- These countries collectively account for more than 90% of global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions.
- It is published by Germanwatch, the New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International.

Story

- एक Institute (New Climate Institute) में race performance (CCPI) हो रही है।
- Performers ने watch (German watch) पहन रखी है।
- दर्शक चिल्ला रहे हैं you can (Climate Action Network) win

Aim

- It aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.



Performance Metrics:

- The CCPI evaluates countries across four key categories: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions (40%), Renewable Energy (20%), Energy Use (20%), and Climate Policy (20%).

CCPI 2024

- No country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating.
- The first three overall positions therefore remain empty.
- Denmark claimed the 4th spot, Estonia followed in 5th place, and the Philippines secured the 6th position among the top ranks.

Key outcomes for India

- India ranks 7th in this year's CCPI.
- India is trying to meet its NDC, with clear long-term policies in place that focus on promoting renewable energy and providing financial support for domestic manufacturing of renewable energy components.
- The country needs to increase its share of renewable energy and raise its targets.

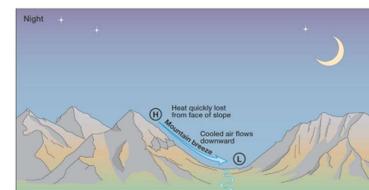
38. Katabatic winds

Why in News?

A surprising phenomenon has been observed in the Himalayas, where 'katabatic' winds are triggered when high temperatures affect high-altitude ice masses

About katabatic wind

- The flow of air reverses as the sun is going down and at night.
- This is because the mountain slopes at higher elevations cool quicker than the valleys.
- The cooler and denser air at higher elevations flows back down the slopes of the mountain and into the valley.
- This is called a mountain breeze (katabatic wind).



एक cat (Katabatic) mountain से नीचे उतर रही है
Ana(Anabatic) name ki ladki mountain के ऊपर
चढ़ रही है

What is happening in Himalayas?

- Temperature gap is created between the air flowing above the mountains and the cooler air directly in contact with ice masses.
- This leads to an increase in turbulent heat exchange at the glacier's surface and stronger cooling of the surface air mass
- As the warm air gets cooler and denser, it sinks, triggering the katabatic winds in neighbouring areas down the slope.



39. Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS)

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has released the 5th edition of “Logistics Ease Across Different State (LEADS) 2023” report, which serves as a guide for stakeholders in the Logistics Sector by providing strategic insights.

About LEADS 2023

- It is an annual ranking exercise providing insights into improvement of logistics performance at State/UT level.
- It was inspired by the Logistics Performance Index of the World Bank and has undergone continuous development since its inception.
- Unlike the LPI, which relies solely on perception-based surveys, LEADS incorporates both subjective and objective measures.
- Launched by Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)
- The survey parameters are based on three key pillars—Infrastructure, Services, and Operating and regulatory environment.

40. Eurasian otter

Why in News?

Recently, Eurasian otter was found in the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala

About Eurasian otter

- It is a semi-aquatic carnivorous mammal.
- Its range covers parts of three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- In India, it occurs in northern, northeast, and southern India.

Habitat:

- It lives in a wide variety of aquatic habitats, including highland and lowland lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, swamp forests, and coastal areas.
- In the Indian sub-continent, Eurasian otters occur in cold hill and mountain streams.
- Features:
 - It has a long lithe body with a thick tail and short legs.
 - It has sensitive whiskers around the snout to help detect prey.
 - It has two layers of fur: a thick waterproof outer one and a warm inner one with 50,000 hairs/cm
 - It has an acute sense of sight, smell, and hearing.

Conservation Status:

- IUCN: Near threatened
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule II
- CITES: Appendix I



41. Sukanya Samriddhi scheme.

Why in News?

Government raised interest rates on Sukanya Samriddhi scheme.

About Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme

- Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is a small deposit scheme of the Government of India meant exclusively for a girl child
- It is launched as a part of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Campaign.
- Minimum deposit ₹ 250/- Maximum deposit ₹ 1.5 Lakh in a financial year.
- Account can be opened in the name of a girl child till she attains the age of 10 years.
- Only one account can be opened in the name of a girl child in Post offices and in authorised banks.
- Withdrawal shall be allowed for the purpose of higher education of the Account holder to meet education expenses.
- The account can be prematurely closed in case of marriage of girl child after her attaining the age of 18 years.
- The account can be transferred anywhere in India from one Post office/Bank to another.
- The account shall mature on completion of a period of 21 years from the date of opening of account.
- Deposit qualifies for deduction under Sec.80-C of I.T.Act.
- Interest earned in the account is free from Income Tax under Section -10 of I.T.Act.

42. Nagarjuna Sagar Dam

Why in News?

Andhra Pradesh government takes control of half of Nagarjuna Sagar dam before Telangana elections.

About Nagarjuna Sagar Dam

- Nagarjuna Sagar is the largest and highest masonry dam in the world.
- Nagarjuna Sagar Dam is located on the Krishna River, straddling the borders of Nalgonda and Guntur districts
- It derives its name from a nearby hillock and island called Nagarjunakonda, where an ancient Buddhist monk(Nagarjun) once lived.
- This dam supports the national grid with its electric power and provides irrigation water to five districts, including Khamman District, Nalgonda District, Guntur District, Prakasam District, and Krishna District.
- As per the provisions of the AP Reorganisation Act 2014, Nagarjunasagar dam is controlled and supervised by Telangana and Andhra Pradesh was given the control over Srisailam project



43. International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Why in News?

South Africa filed a case at ICJ against Israel accusing it of crimes of genocide acts in Gaza.

About ICJ

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
- It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.
- The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
- The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
- The Court is competent to entertain a dispute only if the States concerned have accepted its jurisdiction
- The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
- It is assisted by a Registry, its administrative organ.
- Its official languages are English and French.
- Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (United States of America).

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44. United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

Why in News?

On December 9, 2003, UNCAC was signed in Mexico. It entered into force in 2005.

About UNCAC

- Only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument
- The Convention covers five main areas
 1. Preventive measures



- 2. Criminalization and law enforcement
- 3. International cooperation
- 4. Asset recovery
- 5. Technical assistance and information exchange.
- The Convention covers many different forms of corruption, such as bribery, trading in influence, abuse of functions, and various acts of corruption in the private sector.
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) serves as the custodian of the Convention and as the Secretariat of its Conference of States Parties.
- Conference of the States Parties is the main policymaking body of the Convention.
- It meets every two years and adopts resolutions and decisions to further its mandate.
- India signed convention on 9 Dec 2005 and ratified it on 9 May 2011

45. Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)

Why in news?

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) releases 2023 list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)

About D-SIBs

- D-SIBs are those interconnected entities, whose failure can impact the whole of the financial system and create instability i.e., they are 'TOO BIG TO FAIL'.
- D-SIBs are designated on basis of their
 - o Size
 - o Interconnectedness
 - o Lack of readily available substitutes or financial institution infrastructure
 - o Complexity.
- In order to be listed as D-SIB, a bank needs to have assets that exceed 2 percent of national GDP.
- Banks are placed in 5 buckets.
- As per latest list, India's D-SIB's are
 - o State Bank of India (bucket 4)
 - o HDFC Bank (bucket 2)
 - o ICICI Bank (bucket 1).
- D-SIBs have to maintain Additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) requirement as a percentage of Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs).
 - o Bucket 1 banks have to maintain lowest CET1 i.e. 0.20%
 - o Bucket 5 have to maintain highest CET i.e. 1%



46. National Transit Pass System (NTPS) /One Nation-One Pass (ONOP)

Why in news?

Union Minister launches National Transit Pass System (NTPS)-‘One Nation-One Pass’

About NTPS

- National Transit Pass System (NTPS)- ‘One Nation-One Pass’ is to facilitate the seamless transit of timber, bamboo, and other forest produce across the country
- It is under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Currently, the transit permits are issued for transport of timber and forest produce based on state specific transit rules.
- This initiative will streamline the issuance of timber transit permits by providing a unified, online mode for tree growers and farmers involved in agroforestry across the country, contributing to the ease of doing business.
- Transit permits will be issued for tree species which are regulated. States have exempted some species grown on private land from the purview of transit permits, to transport these species, No Objection Certificate is provided.