

## CONTENTS

1. <i>National News</i> .....	3
2. <i>International News</i> .....	7
3. <i>Important Dates and Events</i> .....	10
4. <i>Sports News</i> .....	12
5. <i>Awards &amp; Recognitions</i> .....	15
6. <i>Defence News</i> .....	19
7. <i>Science &amp; Technology</i> .....	23
8. <i>Government Initiatives</i> .....	24
9. <i>Appointments / Person in News</i> .....	26
10. <i>Economy &amp; Finance</i> .....	27
11. <i>Environment</i> .....	31
12. <i>Reports &amp; Indices</i> .....	34
13. <i>Important MCQ for Competitive Exams</i> .....	37



**NIMBUS**  
ACADEMY FOR IAS  
तमसो मा ज्योतरिगमय ॥

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

# NATIONAL NEWS

### INDIA'S FIRST SEMI-HIGH-SPEED REGIONAL RAIL SERVICE 'NAMO BHARAT' -

- **India's expanding transportation infrastructure is set to reach new heights with the country's first semi-high-speed regional rail service, Nammo Bharat. Previously known as RapidX, this innovative project is on the cusp of revolutionizing regional connectivity. This also marks the introduction of the Regional Rapid Train Service (RRTS) in India.**
- **The RRTS (Revolutionizing Regional Transit) is a cutting-edge regional transportation system that can compete with the world's best.** RRTS is a new kind of train system that's faster than regular ones and runs frequently. It is a big plan to make intercity travel faster and more convenient. Trains will run every 15 minutes, and they can even run more often, every 5 minutes, if needed.
- **The Nammo Bharat trains are designed with the utmost passenger convenience and safety in mind. Each coach is equipped with six CCTVs, an emergency door-opening mechanism, and a communication button to connect with the train operator.** Moreover, these trains offer features such as overhead luggage racks, Wi-Fi connectivity, and mobile and laptop charging outlets at every seat. A dedicated train attendant is present in the premium coach, ensuring a comfortable and secure journey.
- **Safety is a paramount concern for Nammo Bharat, and this is evident through the implementation of platform screen doors (PSDs) at every RRTS station.** These PSDs are integrated with a signaling system, further enhancing passenger safety and minimizing the risk of accidents.
- **Nammo Bharat offers various ticketing modes to cater to the diverse needs of passengers. Commuters can opt for QR code-based one-time tickets or a card-based transit option for all their journeys.** QR code-based tickets can be generated via ticket vending machines (TVMs) or purchased from ticket counters. The TVMs are UPI-enabled, ensuring a seamless and digital ticketing experience.
- **Fare structures for Nammo Bharat have been meticulously designed, taking into account the distance or stations covered. The minimum fare for the premium coach is set at Rs 40, with a maximum fare of Rs 100.** For the five standard coaches operating on the priority section, fares range from a minimum of Rs 20 to a maximum of Rs 50.
- The Nammo Bharat trains will offer a remarkable average speed of 100 kilometers per hour.



### INDIAN GOVERNMENT GRANTS APPROVAL FOR NON-BASMATI RICE EXPORTS -

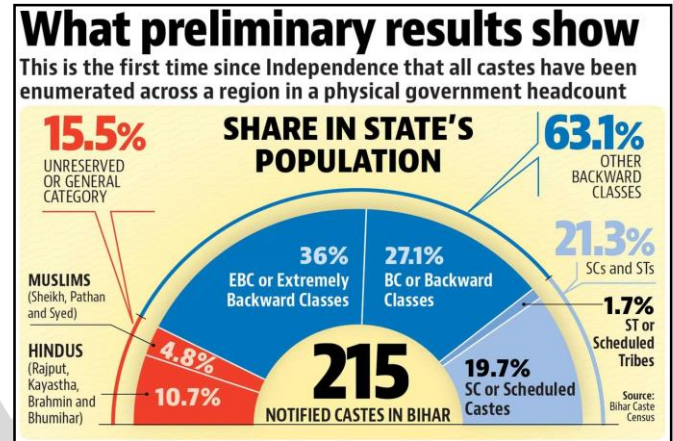
- In a significant move, **the Indian government has given the green light for the export of 1.34 million tonnes of Non-Basmati White Rice to seven countries.** This export approval has been issued by the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).**
- The approved exports are intended for **seven countries, namely Nepal, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Republic of Guinea, Malaysia, Philippines, and Seychelles.**

- The Philippines will receive the largest quota, with up to 295,000 metric tonnes of non-Basmati white rice eligible for export. Cameroon is allotted 190,000 metric tonnes. Malaysia will import up to 170,000 metric tonnes.
- Both Cote D'Ivoire and the Republic of Guinea will receive 142,000 metric tonnes each. Nepal is set to receive 95,000 metric tonnes. Seychelles will be supplied with 800 metric tonnes.
- The responsibility for executing these exports falls to the **National Cooperative Export Limited**.



**RECENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF BIHAR RELEASED FINDINGS OF THE CASTE SURVEY, 2023 -**

- Recently, the Government of the State of Bihar released findings of the Caste Survey, 2023 which revealed that Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) together constitute 63 % of the state's total population.
- The findings are supposed to have wider connotations in the State and National Elections and also in the identification of intended beneficiaries for various welfare schemes.
- **The last caste census was conducted in 1931**, and data was made publicly available by the British Government of the day.
- **The survey was carried out in two phases, which each had its own criteria and objectives-**  
**First Phase-** During this phase, the number of all households in Bihar were counted and recorded. Enumerators were given a set of 17 questions which were to be mandatorily answered by the respondent.  
**Second Phase-** During this phase data on people living in the households, their castes, sub-castes, and socio-economic conditions were collected. However, filling the Aadhaar number, caste certificate number and ration card number of the head of the family, were optional.



**What is the Significance of the Bihar Caste Survey Findings-**

- Increasing the OBC Quota
- Redrawing of 50% Reservation Ceiling
- Fulfilment of Constitutional Obligations

**A 6.3 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE STRUCK ABOUT 40KM FROM THE WESTERN CITY OF HERAT, AFGHANISTAN RECENTLY -**

- In Afghanistan, the death toll from strong earthquakes has risen to over 2,400 as search and rescue efforts continue amid reports that some people may be trapped under collapsed buildings.
- **An earthquake is the shaking or trembling of the earth's surface.** It is caused by the seismic waves or earthquake waves that are generated due to a sudden movement (sudden release of energy) in the earth's crust (shallow-focus earthquakes) or upper mantle (some shallow-focus and all intermediate and deep-



focus earthquakes).

- A seismograph, or seismometer, is an instrument used to detect and record earthquakes.

**Hypocentre/Focus:** The point where the energy is released.

**Epicentre:** The point on the surface directly above the focus.

- **Causes of Earthquakes:**

- Fault Zones/ Plate tectonics
- Volcanic activity/ Human-Induced Earthquakes

## PM MODI TO INAUGURATE THIRD EDITION OF GLOBAL MARITIME INDIA SUMMIT 2023 -

- Narendra Modi will inaugurate the third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit 2023, held from 17th to 19th October in Mumbai.
- He will unveil 'Amrit Kaal Vision 2047', the long-term blueprint for the Indian maritime blue economy.
- Aim: To enhance port facilities, promote sustainable practices, and facilitate international collaboration.
- He will inaugurate, dedicate to the nation, and lay the foundation stone of projects worth more than 23 thousand crore rupees.



## RECENTLY, THE LOK SABHA (LS) AND RAJYA SABHA (RS), BOTH PASSED WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL 2023 (128TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL) OR NARI SHAKTI VANDAN ADHINIYAM -

- The bill reserves one-third of the seats in Lok Sabha, State legislative assemblies and the Delhi assembly. **This will also apply to the seats reserved for SCs (Scheduled Castes) and STs (Scheduled Tribes) in Lok Sabha and State Legislatures.**
- The discussion upon the reservation of women reservation bill is prevalent since the tenure of Former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1996. As the then Government lacked a majority, the Bill could not have been approved.



### Earlier Attempts at Reserving Seats for Women-

- 1996:** First Women Reservation Bill was introduced in the Parliament.
  - 1998-2003:** Government tabled the Bill on 4 occasions but failed.
  - 2009:** Government tables the bill amid protests.
  - 2010:** The Union Cabinet passes the Bill and RS passes it.
  - 2014:** The Bill was expected to be tabled in LS.
- There are **82 women Member of Parliaments in LS (15.2%) and 31 women in RS(13%).** While the number has increased significantly since the 1st Lok Sabha (5%) but is still far lower than in many countries.

- According to recent UN Women data, **Rwanda (61%), Cuba (53%), Nicaragua (52%) are the top three countries in women representation. Bangladesh (21%) and Pakistan (20%) as well are ahead of India in case of female representation.**
- The Bill provided for **inserting Article 330A to the constitution, which borrows from the provisions of Article 330, which provides for reservation of seats to SCs/STs in the Lok Sabha.**
- The Bill introduces Article 332A, which mandates the reservation of seats for women in every state Legislative Assembly. Additionally, one-third of the seats reserved for SCs and STs must be allocated for women, and one-third of the total seats filled through direct elections to the Legislative Assemblies shall also be reserved for women.

### **CAUVERY WATER SHARING DISPUTE -**

- The Cauvery water dispute has once again taken center stage, as Tamil Nadu appeals to the Supreme Court of India for intervention in ensuring the release of 24,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) from its reservoir's water by Karnataka.
- Tamil Nadu also urged the Court to direct Karnataka to ensure the release of 36.76 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) stipulated for September 2023 as per the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT)'s final award of February 2007 that was modified by the SC in 2018.
- The issue arose from Karnataka's refusal to abide by previously agreed-upon water release quantities.
- Tamil Nadu advocates for the release of 10,000 cusecs of water for the stipulated 15-day duration. On the other hand, Karnataka has suggested a reduced water release of 8,000 cusecs for the same 15-day timeframe.
- Karnataka cites poor inflow due to reduced rainfall in Cauvery catchment, including origin point Kodagu. Karnataka highlights a 44% rainfall deficit in Kodagu from June to August. Karnataka rejects Tamil Nadu's distress-sharing formula demand.
- The genesis of the dispute is 150 years old and dates back to the two agreements of arbitration in 1892 and 1924 between the then Madras presidency and Mysore.



### **How is the Cauvery Water Being Shared-**

A carefully crafted monthly schedule governs the distribution of water between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the two riparian states of the Cauvery basin.

In a "normal" water year, Karnataka is bound to release 177.25 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water from June to May to Tamil Nadu.

This annual quota includes 123.14 TMC allocated during the monsoon months from June to September. The ongoing southwest monsoon season often triggers disputes when rainfall falls short of expectations.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **BIDEN ORDERS US SHIPS, WARPLANES TO MOVE CLOSER TO ISRAEL -**

- **Amidst a recent attack by the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas, President Joe Biden has promptly demonstrated solidarity with Israel.** Given its role as a key arms provider to Israel, the United States is dispatching military reinforcements and aid to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities.
- **The Pentagon's move to send the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford and accompanying warships to the eastern Mediterranean.** The United States' historical role as a major supplier of arms to Israel.
- President Biden's communication with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Promise of additional military aid and support for Israel in the face of unprecedented attacks.
- **Hezbollah's actions in firing shells and missiles at Israeli positions,** raising concerns of a wider regional conflict.



### **OPERATION AJAY SET TO EVACUATE INDIAN NATIONALS FROM ISRAEL -**

- India has launched Operation Ajay, a dedicated initiative to facilitate the safe return of its citizens from Israel amidst the ongoing developments in the region.
- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar announced this operation, emphasizing the government's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of Indian nationals abroad.
- Special charter flights and other arrangements are being organized to bring back Indian citizens from Israel.
- The Indian Embassy in Israel has initiated contact with registered Indian citizens, starting with the first group, for the special flight. Subsequent flights will follow, and communication will be made accordingly.
- Indian Embassy in Israel- Established a 24-hour helpline (972-35226748, 972-543278392, cons1.telaviv@mea.gov.in) for emergency assistance.
- Constantly working through a 24-hour helpline to aid Indian citizens in Israel.



### **HAMAS, THE PALESTINIAN MILITANT GROUP -**

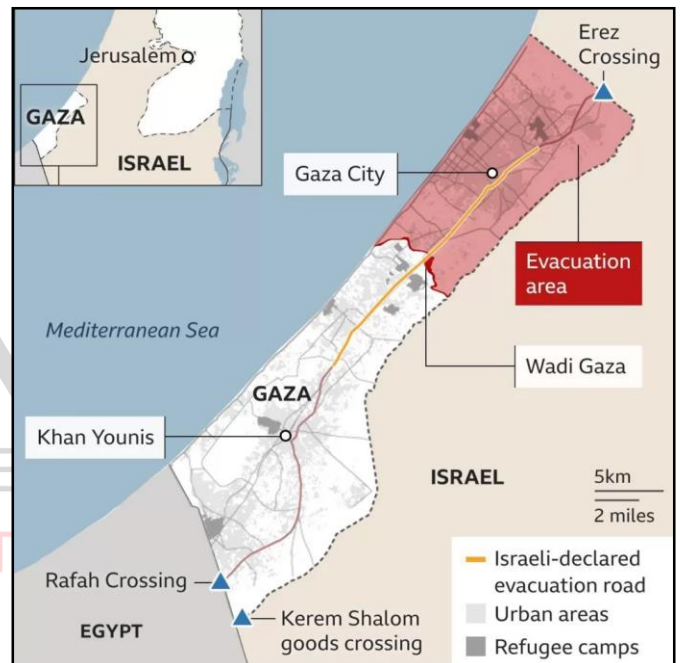
- In October 2023, Hamas, an Islamist militant group governing the Gaza Strip, launched a massive surprise attack on southern Israel, killing hundreds of civilians and soldiers and taking dozens as hostages. This unprecedented assault has led to a significant escalation in the conflict between Israel and Hamas.



- Origins of Hamas
- Hamas, short for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya (Islamic Resistance Movement), was founded in 1987 by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, a Palestinian cleric with ties to the Muslim Brotherhood.
- It emerged during the first intifada as the political arm of the Brotherhood in Gaza.
- Hamas has a complex leadership structure, including an exiled politburo responsible for setting overall policy, with Ismail Haniyeh as its current political chief.
- Yahya Sinwar oversees day-to-day affairs in Gaza, and Marwan Issa and Mohammed Deif lead the military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades.

### **THE RAFAH BORDER CROSSING IN SOUTHERN GAZA HAS GAINED GLOBAL ATTENTION AS PALESTINIANS ARE ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE GAZA -**

- The **Rafah border crossing in southern Gaza has gained global attention as Palestinians are attempting to leave Gaza in anticipation of a possible Israeli attack as part of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.**
- The Rafah crossing is the southernmost exit point from the Gaza Strip, and it shares a border with Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.
- The **crossing is controlled by Egypt. It is the only exit that does not lead to Israeli territory.**
- There are only two other border crossings in and out of Gaza, **Erez is located in the north and is used by people in Israel.**
- Kerem Shalom, in the south, which is exclusively for commercial goods. Both Erez and Kerem Shalom controlled by Israel are currently closed.
- The **Sinai Peninsula is a triangle-shaped peninsula in Egypt.** It's located in the northeastern part of the country.



- The peninsula is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, the Red Sea to the south, and the Gulf of Aqaba to the east.
- The peninsula includes the Suez Canal, which is a man-made waterway that connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea.

### **INDIA, UK HOLD INAUGURAL '2+2' FOREIGN, DEFENCE DIALOGUE IN DELHI -**

- The inaugural India-UK '2+2' foreign and defence dialogue saw the two sides focusing on ways to boost cooperation in a range of key areas such as trade and investment, defence, critical technologies, civil aviation, health and energy.
- Aim: To discuss and review all aspects of the India-UK comprehensive strategic partnership.
- Discussed international developments including in the Indo-Pacific region and considered the possibility of enhancing anti-terrorism collaboration





## **AS DIPLOMATIC TENSIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND CANADA ESCALATE, THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SUSPENDED VISA SERVICES IN CANADA, AFFECTING A RANGE OF TRAVELERS -**

- As diplomatic tensions between India and Canada escalate, the Indian government has suspended visa services in Canada, affecting a range of travelers and sparking questions about the future of diplomatic relations.
- Indian-origin Canadians with valid Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards or valid long-term Indian visas are not affected by the visa service suspension.
- **OCI cardholders have lifetime entry privileges into India, allowing them to live and work in the country indefinitely.**
- **Canadians who possess valid Indian visas will not be impacted by the suspension.** Their visas remain valid until further notice.
- Canada has not yet imposed restrictions on Indian visa applicants but may consider reciprocal measures in response to the current situation.



## **THREE YEARS OF THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS -**

- The **Abraham Accords** are a series of agreements to normalize relations between Israel and normalize relations between Israel and several Arab countries, including the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan, mediated by the United States.
- The accords were signed in 2020 and marked a historic breakthrough in the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- The Accords fostered normalisation and peace by bridging cultural, religious, and linguistic differences, connecting people beyond borders.
- The Accords laid the foundation for expanded regional and multinational cooperation, leading to economic opportunities for India.
- **Following the Abraham Accords, I2U2 Group was formed, comprising Israel, India, UAE, and the U.S., focusing on critical areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.**



# IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

**RECENTLY, THE WORLD HAS CELEBRATED THE 78TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) ON 24TH OCTOBER 2023 -**

- **United Nations Day is an annual event that commemorates the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945.** It is celebrated on 24th October to promote awareness and understanding of the UN's goals and achievements.
- **The forerunner of the United Nations was the League of Nations, an organization conceived in circumstances of the First World War, and established in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles "to promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security."**



- The UN has 6 components which were established in 1945 such as the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice, UN Secretariat.

**INDIAN AIR FORCE DAY 2023 -**

- Indian Air Force Day is celebrated on **8th October every year to commemorate the establishment of the Royal Indian Air Force on 8th October 1932.**
- The IAF **unveiled its new ensign during the 91st IAF Day celebrations. The new ensign prominently displays the IAF crest in the top right corner, along with the national flag in the upper left canton and the IAF tri-colour roundel in the lower right. This design was officially adopted in 1951.**
- The theme for Indian Air Force Day 2023 is "IAF - Airpower Beyond Boundaries."
- The Motto of the IAF is "**Touch the sky with Glory**" has been taken from the eleventh chapter of the Bhagavad Gita.
- Till now, IAF has fought four conflicts with Pakistan in 1947-1948, 1965, The Bangladesh Liberation War (1971) and 1999 (Kargil War), and Operation Meghdoot.



**ISRO TO CONDUCT MAIDEN TEST FLIGHT OF GAGANYAAN MISSION ON OCTOBER 21 -**

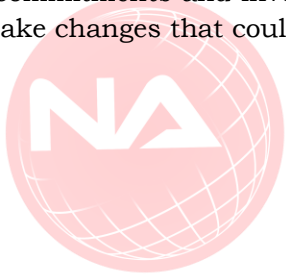
- Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Space, Science, and Technology, officially announced that, on October 21, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is poised to make history as it prepares to conduct the first in a series of critical test flights in anticipation of the much-anticipated Gaganyaan mission, which marks India's maiden charge into manned space exploration.



- The forthcoming test flight will be executed at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, a renowned launch facility. The primary objective of this mission is to evaluate the “crew module,” the pivotal component that will house Indian astronauts during their journey into space. The crew module’s success is paramount, as it directly impacts the safety and well-being of the astronauts who will soon embark on this historic journey.
- The test mission entails launching the crew module into outer space and orchestrating its return to Earth, with a successful touchdown in the Bay of Bengal. To ensure a seamless and safe recovery process, the Indian Navy has initiated mock operations to prepare for this momentous occasion. The recovery process is a crucial aspect of the mission, ensuring the astronauts’ safe return to Earth’s surface.

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD IS OBSERVED ON 11 OCTOBER -**

- **International Girl Child Day** is observed on October 11 to recognise the challenges girls face globally and boost their rights.
- **Aim:** To focus on the importance of girls' education, their rights, and promoting gender equality.
- **The theme of 2023 is "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being,"**
- It urges the global community to move beyond reaffirming commitments and invest boldly in the action needed to make changes that could empower girls.



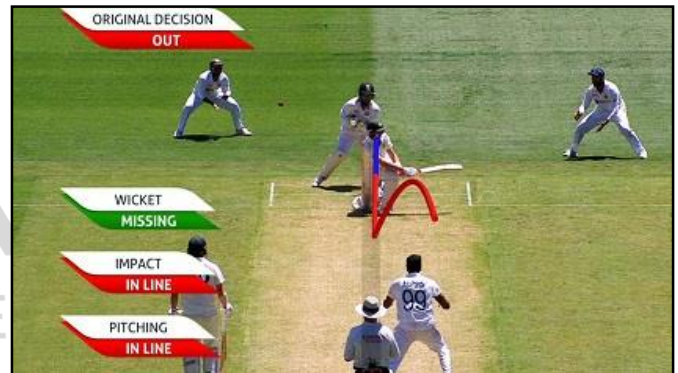
# SPORTS NEWS

## DRS IN CRICKET -

- **Cricket is a sport that has seen numerous technological advancements over the years.** One such innovation that has had a profound impact on the game is the Decision Review System, commonly known as DRS.
- DRS is a comprehensive tool that helps in making more accurate decisions on the field, thereby reducing the margin for error in critical moments. In this article, we will explore the full form and function of DRS in cricket and its impact on the sport.
- **DRS stands for Decision Review System. It is a technology-driven system that was introduced to assist the on-field umpires in making crucial decisions during a cricket match.** The primary objective of DRS is to reduce errors and ensure that decisions related to dismissals and various other aspects of the game are as accurate as possible.

### The Decision Review System comprises several key components-

- **Ball Tracking Technology:** This component uses multiple cameras to track the path of the ball from the bowler's hand to the point of impact with the batsman. It helps determine the trajectory, swing, and spin of the ball, aiding in decisions related to LBW (Leg Before Wicket) and caught-behind dismissals.
- **Hot Spot:** Hot Spot technology employs infrared cameras to detect temperature variations on the bat or the pad. This is particularly helpful in assessing edges and the impact of the ball on the batsman's body or equipment.
- **Snickometer:** The Snickometer, also known as Ultra Edge, uses sound sensors to detect small sounds when the ball touches the bat or pad. It is particularly useful for identifying faint edges.
- **Hawk-Eye:** Hawk-Eye is a ball-tracking system that predicts the trajectory of the ball and its potential impact on the stumps. It helps in LBW decisions and provides a visual representation of the ball's path.
- **Umpire's Call:** Umpire's Call is an important aspect of DRS. It allows the on-field umpire's decision to stand if the technology indicates that the decision is within a certain margin of error.



## INDIA RANKED AT FOURTH PLACE ON SCOREBOARD IN ASIAN -

- **India ranked at fourth place on the scoreboard in the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou.**
- The Indian athletes finished their campaign by living up to the commitment of **“Iss baar 100 paar”** with a record haul of **107 medals comprised of 28 gold, 38 silver, and 41 bronze.**
  - A. Ranked 1st scored by People's Republic of China with 383 medals
  - B. Ranked 2nd scored by Japan with 188 medals
  - C. Ranked 3rd scored by Republic of Korea with 190 medals



**INDIA'S BEST-EVER MEDAL TALLY IN ASIAN GAMES, NOW STANDS AT 71 AS OF 03RD OCTOBER -**

- India won **71 medals** at the **2023 Asian Games** in **Hangzhou, China**.
- This is **India's best performance at the Asian Games to date**. The **Indian contingent won 16 gold, 26 silver, and 29 bronze medals**. India is in fourth place in the overall medal tally, behind China, Japan, and South Korea.
- India's performance at the 2023 Asian Games is a testament to the growing strength of Indian sports. The country is now producing world-class athletes in a variety of sports, and this is likely to continue in the coming years.



**NATIONAL GAMES 2023 TO BE HELD IN GOA FROM OCT. 26 TO NOV. 9 -**

- The **state's sports minister Govind Gaude** confirmed that the **37th edition of the National Games 2023** will be held in **Goa from October 26 to November 9**.
- The National Games are India's homespun Olympic-style multi-sport event where athletes from the various states and Union Territories compete for medals.
- This will be the first time Goa will host the National Games. Goa was awarded the hosting rights for the 36th edition, initially scheduled for 2016.



**PM MODI INAUGURATES 141ST SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE-**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 141st International Olympic Committee Session in Mumbai.
- India is hosting the International Olympic Committee session for the second time and after a gap of about 40 years.
- The IOC's 86th session was held in New Delhi in 1983.
- Important decisions regarding the future of the Olympic Games are made at the IOC Sessions.



**INDIA WOMEN'S CRICKET TEAM WINS GOLD MEDAL BY DEFEATING SRI LANKA -**

- **Indian women's cricket team** won their maiden **gold medal in Asian Games 2023** by defeating **Sri Lanka by 19 runs in the final**.
- This is a historic feat achieved by the Indian Women's cricket team.
- India secured a new world record and captured the gold medal in the men's 10 air rifle team event during the Asian Games 2023.
- The Indian contingent participating in the men's four rowing final displayed their mettle, securing a well-deserved bronze medal.



## INDIA BAGS GOLD MEDAL IN MEN'S 10-METER AIR RIFLE EVENT AT ASIAN GAME 2023 -

- Indian trio Rudranksh Patil, Divyang Panwar, and Aishwary Tomar clinched **gold in the Men's 10m air rifle event in Asian Games 2023.**
- India won its first medal in shooting as the trio of **Ramita Jindal, Mehuli Ghosh, and Ashi Chouksey** earned a **Silver in the women's 10m air rifle event.**
- Indian duo Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh won a silver in men's lightweight double sculls in the rowing discipline.
- India has secured six medals - **one gold, three silver, and two bronze.**



**NIMBUS**  
ACADEMY FOR IAS  
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय ॥

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

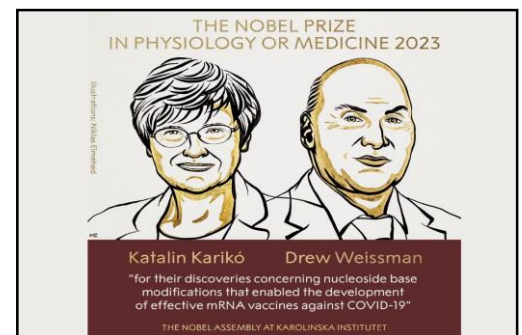
### GUJARAT'S DHORDO AWARDED UNWTO'S BEST TOURISM VILLAGE 2023 -

- The beautiful village of Dhordo in Gujarat has garnered international recognition after it secured a place on the list of the 54 best tourism villages announced by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his delight at the recognition of Dhordo as the “best tourism village.” He lauded the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of the village and emphasized its potentials to attract visitors from around the world. Union Home Minister Amit Shah celebrated the achievement, acknowledging the PM’s efforts to transform the area into a world-class tourism site.
- Dhordo village situated in the heart of Gujarat, has come a long way to earn its place on the global stage as a premier tourism destination. It recently hosted the inaugural Tourism Working Group Meeting of the G20, during India’s presidency of the influential group. This gathering of global leaders in the enchanting landscapes of Dhordo showcased the village’s capacity to host international events and highlighted its growing importance in the world of tourism.
- The UNWTO’s Best Tourism Villages 2023 accolade is a tribute to villages leading the way in nurturing rural regions, preserving landscapes, upholding cultural diversity, safeguarding local values, and celebrating culinary traditions. Launched in 2021, this initiative is a vital component of the UNWTO’s Tourism for Rural Development program, which aims to promote sustainable tourism practices.
- In its third edition, the UNWTO’s initiative selected 54 villages from diverse regions out of nearly 260 applications. The announcement was made during the UNWTO General Assembly held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from October 16 to 20, where leaders and experts gathered to discuss the future of global tourism.
- Alongside Dhordo, several other villages from around the world achieved recognition, including Barrancas in Chile, Biei in Japan, Cantavieja in Spain, Dahshour in Egypt, Dongbaek in the Republic of Korea, Douma in Lebanon, Ericeira in Portugal, and Filandia in Colombia, among others.



### NOBEL PRIZE 2023 IN MEDICINE OR PHYSIOLOGY -

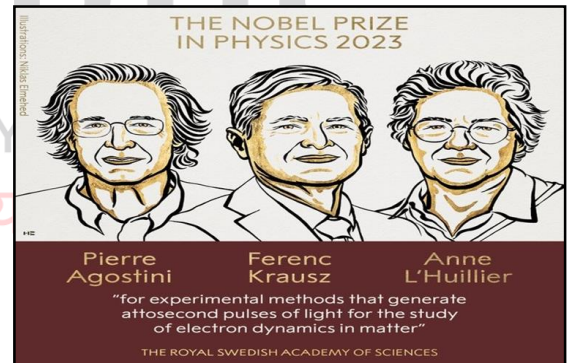
- Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman “for their discoveries concerning nucleoside base modifications that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19”.
- The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet has decided to award the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.
- The discoveries by the two Nobel Laureates were critical for developing effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 during the pandemic that began in early 2020. Through their groundbreaking findings, which have fundamentally changed our understanding of how mRNA interacts with our immune system, the laureates contributed to the unprecedented rate of vaccine development during one of the greatest threats to human health in modern times.
- In our cells, genetic information encoded in DNA is transferred to messenger RNA (mRNA), which is used as a template for protein production.



- **During the 1980s, efficient methods for producing mRNA without cell culture were introduced, called in vitro transcription.** This decisive step accelerated the development of molecular biology applications in several fields. Ideas of using mRNA technologies for vaccine and therapeutic purposes also took off, but roadblocks lay ahead.
- In vitro transcribed mRNA was considered unstable and challenging to deliver, requiring the development of sophisticated carrier lipid systems to encapsulate the mRNA. Moreover, in vitro-produced mRNA gave rise to inflammatory reactions. Enthusiasm for developing the mRNA technology for clinical purposes was, therefore, initially limited.
- **Katalin Karikó was born in 1955 in Szolnok, Hungary. She received her PhD from Szeged's University in 1982 and performed postdoctoral research at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Szeged until 1985.** She then conducted postdoctoral research at Temple University, Philadelphia, and the University of Health Science, Bethesda.
- **Drew Weissman was born in 1959 in Lexington, Massachusetts, USA. He received his MD, PhD degrees from Boston University in 1987.** He did his clinical training at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center at Harvard Medical School and postdoctoral research at the National Institutes of Health.
- 113 Nobel Prizes in Physiology or Medicine have been awarded since 1901. It was not awarded on nine occasions: in 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1921, 1925, 1940, 1941 and 1942.

## **NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS 2023 AWARDED TO PIERRE AGOSTINI, FERENC KRAUSZ AND ANNE L'HUILLIER -**

- **Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier “for experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter”.** This year Nobel Laureates in Physics 2023 are being recognised for their experiments, which have given humanity new tools for exploring the world of electrons inside atoms and molecules. Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier have demonstrated a way to create extremely short pulses of light that can be used to measure the rapid processes in which electrons move or change energy.

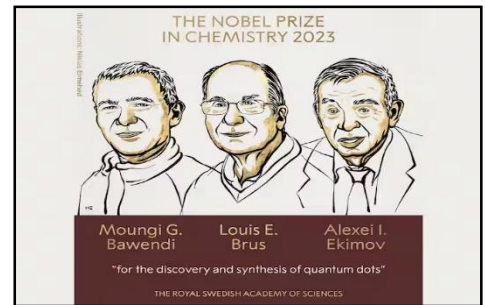


- **Fast-moving events flow into each other when perceived by humans, just like a film that consists of still images is perceived as continual movement.** If we want to investigate really brief events, we need special technology. In the world of electrons, changes occur in a few tenths of an attosecond, an attosecond is so short that there are as many in one second as there have been seconds since the birth of the universe.
- **An attosecond is an astonishingly short unit of time, equivalent to one quintillionth of a second, or  $10^{-18}$  seconds (1 attosecond equals 0.000000000000000001 second).**
- **Pierre Agostini** (The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA) PhD 1968 from Aix-Marseille University, France. Professor at The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA.
- **Ferenc Krausz** (Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics, Garching and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany), born 1962 in Mór, Hungary. PhD 1991 from Vienna University of Technology, Austria. Director at Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics, Garching and Professor at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany.
- **Anne L'Huillier (Lund University, Sweden)**, born 1958 in Paris, France. PhD 1986 from University Pierre and Marie Curie, Paris, France. Professor at Lund University, Sweden.



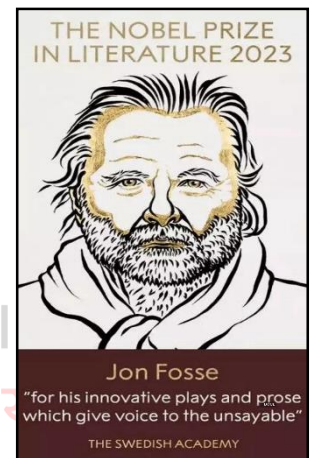
### CHEMISTRY NOBEL 2023 -

- The **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023** was awarded to **Moungi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus, and Alexei I. Ekimov**.
- The **2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** was awarded for the **discovery of quantum dots used in light-emitting diode or LED lights**. These particles have unique properties and now spread their light from television screens and LED lamps.
- **They catalyze chemical reactions and their clear light can illuminate tumour tissue for a surgeon.**
- In the early 1980s, this year's chemistry laureates Louis Brus and Alexei Ekimov succeeded in creating (independently of each other) quantum dots.
- In 1993, chemistry laureate Moungi Bawendi revolutionized the methods for manufacturing quantum dots, making their quality extremely high which is a vital prerequisite for their use in today's nanotechnology.



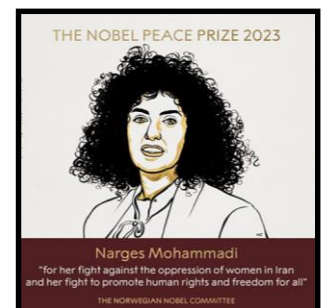
### NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE 2023 AWARDED TO JON FOSSE -

- The **Nobel Prize in Literature 2023** was awarded to Norwegian author **Jon Fosse** or **Jon Olav Fosse**, "for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable".
- The **Nobel Prize in Literature** is awarded by the **Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden**. The **Nobel Prize amount for 2023 is set at Swedish kronor (SEK) 11.0 million per full Nobel Prize**.
- **Jon Fosse, born in 1959, is widely considered one of the most important writers of our time.** For almost forty years he has written novels, plays, poems, stories, essays, and children's books. His award-winning work has been translated into more than fifty languages, and his plays have been staged over a thousand times all over the world.
- The Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded 115 times to 119 Nobel Prize laureates between 1901 and 2022.
- The **Nobel medal in literature was designed by Swedish sculptor and engraver Erik Lindberg and represents a young man sitting under a laurel tree who, enchanted, listens to and writes down the song of the Muse.**



### NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2023 AWARDED TO NARGES MOHAMMADI -

- **Narges Mohammadi "for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all"**.
- The **Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2023 to Narges Mohammadi** for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all. Her brave struggle has come with tremendous personal costs.
- Altogether, **the regime has arrested her 13 times, convicted her five times, and sentenced her to a total of 31 years in prison and 154 lashes.**
- This year's peace prize also recognises the hundreds of thousands of people who, in the preceding year, have demonstrated against Iran's theocratic regime's policies of discrimination and oppression targeting women.
- The **motto adopted by the demonstrators - "Woman - Life - Freedom" - suitably expresses the dedication and work of Narges Mohammadi.**



- 103 Nobel Peace Prizes have been awarded since 1901. It was not awarded on 19 occasions: in 1914-1916, 1918, 1923, 1924, 1928, 1932, 1939-1943, 1948, 1955-1956, 1966-1967 and 1972.
- To date, **the youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate is Malala Yousafzai, who was 17 years old when awarded the 2014 peace prize.**
- The **oldest Nobel Peace Prize laureate to date is Joseph Rotblat, who was 87 years old when he was awarded the prize in 1995.**
- The work of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been honoured the most – three times – by a Nobel Peace Prize. In addition, the founder of the ICRC, Henry Dunant, was awarded the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901.

### **NATIONAL FILM AWARDS 2023 WINNERS LIST UPDATED -**

- The **winners of the 69th National Film Awards were announced at the National Media Center in New Delhi.**
- The 69th National Film Awards took center stage, unveiling a constellation of talented winners who have left an indelible mark on India's cinematic landscape.
- **These awards are recognized as one of the highest honors in the field of film-making, serve as an evident to the dedication and creativity of individuals who contribute to the nation's rich cinematic tapestry.**
- President Droupadi Murmu has conferred the 69th National Film Awards 2023 on 17 October at the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. Earlier in August this year, the winners' names were announced.



### **BISWANATH GHAT IN ASSAM NAMED 'BEST TOURISM VILLAGE OF INDIA 2023 -**

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta **Biswa Sarma announced that Biswanath Ghat has been selected as the Best Tourism Village of India 2023 by the Ministry of Tourism.**
- Located on the banks of the Brahmaputra River, Biswanath Ghat is also popularly known as 'Gupta Kashi' and is named after the ancient Biswanath Mandir.
- The village is located towards the south of Biswanath Chariali Town.
- The ghat boasts a cluster of temples of different gods.



### **WORLD'S TALLEST NATARAJA STATUE INSTALLED AT G20 SUMMIT VENUE -**

- The world's tallest Nataraja statue has been installed at Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the G20 summit in Delhi.
- The 28-foot-tall statue weighing 20 tonnes was made in a record time of seven months by sculptor Radhakrishnan Sthapathy and his team at Swamimalai in Thanjavur District of Tamil Nadu.
- The statue was built in Ashtadhatu (8 metals) using the traditional casting method.
- The statue was transported to the New Delhi in four days.



## DEFENCE NEWS

### DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH LAUNCHES PROJECT 'UDBHAV' TO PROMOTE "INDIANISATION" -

- The **Indian Army** recently launched 'Project Udbhav' with the aim of rediscovering the profound Indian heritage of statecraft and strategic thoughts derived from ancient Indian texts. "Project Udbhav, initiated by the military, aims to tap into ancient Indian treatises such as Chanakya's Arthashastra, Kamandaka's Nitisara, and the Thirukkural by the Tamil poet-saint Thiruvalluvar to glean insights on statecraft, strategy, diplomacy, and warfare.
- This project is part of a broader government initiative to promote "Indianisation" across various sectors, including education, health, and science. With its focus on gathering insights on statecraft, strategy, diplomacy, and warfare from ancient Indian philosophy, Project Udbhav aims to enrich contemporary military practices and address modern security challenges.
- 'Project Udbhav' is a visionary initiative by the Indian Army, which seeks to synthesize ancient wisdom with contemporary military practices. This project aims to forge a unique and holistic approach to address modern security challenges. The name 'Udbhav,' meaning 'origin' or 'genesis,' embodies the Indian Army's endeavor to revisit the roots of India's military thoughts. The core objective of the project is to integrate age-old wisdom with contemporary military pedagogy.
- Rooted in a 5,000-year-old civilization, the ancient Indian knowledge system boasts a vast collection of texts, the world's largest manuscript repository, a multitude of scholars, and diverse knowledge domains. Project UDBHAV is poised to enable a comprehensive exploration of our knowledge systems and philosophies while striving to grasp their enduring connections, relevance, and applicability in the contemporary world.
- One of the striking aspects of 'Project Udbhav' is its focus on ancient Indian texts and teachings, particularly those of Chanakya, the renowned scholar, teacher, economist, and political strategist of ancient India. **Chanakya's teachings on statecraft and warfare are so valuable that they are also included in the curriculum of the United States Army War College, a prestigious military college in Pennsylvania. This reflects the enduring relevance of ancient Indian wisdom in the modern world.**
- 'Project Udbhav' bridges the gap between ancient wisdom and modern military techniques, enabling India to address the evolving security challenges of the 21st century. The project embodies the belief that age-old scriptures and writings, spanning centuries in the past, contain profound knowledge that can significantly benefit modern military strategies.



### IAF TO STOP FLYING MIG-21 BY 2025: AIR CHIEF MARSHAL VR CHAUDHARI -

- Amidst its ongoing efforts to **modernize and replace its aging Russian-origin aircraft**, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has announced plans to retire its iconic MiG-21 fighter jets and replace them with the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mark 1A.
- Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari made this significant revelation during a press conference held in Delhi ahead of the Air Force Day celebrations scheduled for October 8th in



Prayagraj.

- **Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari disclosed that the IAF had signed a contract for 83 LCA Mark 1A aircraft, which will be supplemented with an additional 97 units, bringing the total to 180 LCA Mark 1As.** This move marks a crucial step towards retiring the aging MiG-21 squadrons from active service.
- The Air Chief Marshal confirmed that the MiG-21 fighter aircraft would cease operations by 2025, with the LCA Mark 1A being the replacement of choice.

## **IAF RECEIVES FIRST LCA TRAINER FROM HAL, SEVEN MORE TO COME BY MARCH 2024 -**

- State-run aircraft manufacturer Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) recently delivered the first trainer version of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas to the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- This milestone is significant, **as the twin-seater Tejas trainer will play a crucial role in training IAF pilots and can also serve as a fighter aircraft when needed.**
- The **Tejas trainer aircraft is part of an earlier order for 40 Mk-1 jets, which includes both the Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) and the more advanced Final Operational Clearance (FOC) configurations.** Out of these 40 aircraft, the IAF has already inducted 32 single-seater jets and established two LCA squadrons.
- The remaining eight aircraft are trainers. HAL has committed to delivering seven more twin-seater aircraft to the IAF by March 2024.
- The **delivery of the Tejas trainer aircraft follows an announcement by Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari of the IAF regarding a potential ₹67,000-crore contract for 97 more Mk-1A jets,** expected to be finalized soon. This order comes on the heels of a ₹48,000-crore contract awarded by the government to HAL two years ago for 83 fighter jets, including 10 trainers.
- The LCA Tejas project was initiated in 1983 as a replacement for the aging Soviet-origin MiG-21 fighter fleet. **The Mk-1 and Mk-1A variants will replace the IAF's MiG-21 fighters, while the Mk-2 aircraft is planned as a replacement for the MiG-29s, Mirage-2000s, and Jaguar fighters, which are set to retire in the coming decade.**



## **GAZA STRIP -**

- The recent escalation of conflict between Israel and Hamas militants has thrust the Gaza Strip into the global spotlight.
- Amidst this turmoil, **Israel's defense minister, declared a "complete siege" of the Gaza Strip, cutting off essential resources. This move has highlighted the long-standing and contentious issue of the Gaza blockade, which has been in place since 2007.**
- The Gaza Strip is situated in the eastern Mediterranean basin, sharing borders with Egypt in the southwest and Israel to the north and east. To the west, it is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea.
- It is one of the most densely populated areas globally, **with over 2 million residents living in a tiny area.**
- The term "open air prison" has been widely used by academics,



activists, and journalists to characterize the conditions in Gaza.

- The **Six-Day War of 1967 resulted in Israel capturing Gaza from Egypt and initiating its military occupation of the region. Israel withdrew its settlements from Gaza in 2005**, but this period also saw intermittent blockades on the movement of people and goods.
- In **2007, after Hamas assumed power in Gaza, Israel and Egypt enforced a permanent blockade, justifying it as necessary for security.** The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that the blockade has severely impacted Gaza's economy, resulting in high unemployment, food insecurity, and aid dependency.
- Gaza is encircled by walls on three sides, and its western border is controlled by Israel, restricting access by sea.
- Three functional border crossings exist - Karem Abu Salem Crossing and Erez Crossing controlled by Israel, and Rafah Crossing controlled by Egypt.
- These crossings have been sealed in response to recent hostilities.

### **INDIA-US ARMY TO HOST INDO-PACIFIC ARMIES CHIEFS CONFERENCE -**

- The **Indian Army and the United States Army** will co-host the **13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference**
- It is a 3 day conference of Chiefs of Armies and delegates of 35 countries in **New Delhi from 25th to 27th September 2023.**
- Theme of 2023 is **“Together for Peace: Sustaining Peace and Stability in the Indo-Pacific Region.”**
- Aim: To promote peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region through mutual understanding, and friendship amongst the littoral partners.



### **INDIA BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF WORLD'S HIGHEST COMBAT AIRFIELD AT NYOMA IN LADAKH -**

- The Border Roads Organization (BRO) is building the world's highest combat airfield at Nyoma in Ladakh.
- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will lay the foundation stone of this project at Devak Bridge in Jammu on September 12, 2023.
- Nyoma, a major village in southern Ladakh, already hosts an Indian Air Force base and an Advanced Landing Ground (ALG), established in 1962.
- The altitude of Nyoma reaches an impressive 4,180 meters (13,710 ft) above sea level, making it one of the highest altitudes in the region.



#### **Budget Allocation-**

- The Central Government has consistently increased its budget allocation for the development of border infrastructure.
- Last year, around ₹12,340 crore was allocated, underscoring the government's commitment to strengthening India's border infrastructure.
- Lieutenant General Rajiv Chaudhary, who heads the BRO, is optimistic about India's rapid progress in developing border infrastructure.
- India aims to surpass China in this regard on the 3,488 km long Line of Actual Control (LAC) within the next two to three years.

## **IAF TO HOLD MULTI-NATIONAL EXERCISE 'TARANG SHAKTI' NEXT YEAR -**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is gearing up to host a colossal multilateral military exercise, 'Tarang Shakti', which was originally slated for October but has been rescheduled to the middle of 2024. The decision to push the exercise to next year comes as several participating air forces expressed their inability to join the wargame if held in the current year.
- 'Tarang Shakti' is set to draw the involvement of some prominent air forces, including those of France, the United Kingdom, Australia, the United States, and Japan.
- These nations will contribute their aerial assets such as fighter jets, military transport aircraft, and mid-air refuelers to the exercise.
- Additionally, six other countries have been invited to participate as observers, further emphasizing the exercise's significance on the global stage.
- The upcoming exercise is anticipated to serve as an impressive showcase of international teamwork and military capabilities, with the involvement of around 12 air forces.
- The main goal of 'Tarang Shakti' is to reinforce military coordination and amplify the seamless interaction between the participating countries.
- Remarkably, this exercise is on track to become India's most extensive aerial drill to date, highlighting the nation's escalating role in the sphere of global military collaboration.
- In April, the Indian Air Force dispatched four Rafale jets, two C-17 aircraft, and two IL-78 mid-air refuelers to participate in a nearly three-week-long multinational air exercise at France's Mont-de-Marsan military base.



## **INDIA'S JET ENGINE DEAL WITH THE U.S. -**

- A landmark agreement to facilitate the transfer of at least 11 critical jet engine technologies is likely to be announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ongoing official State Visit to the United States.
- India and the U.S. have almost finalised details and the White House is set to sign off on the deal.
- **GE & HAL** – The deal will allow American manufacturing company General Electric (GE) Aerospace to share critical technology with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- **Tejas Mk-II** – The deal will felicitate for the joint production of GE-F414 jet engines that will power indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk-II.
- India has designed and built a fighter jet but hasn't achieved much success in producing engines to power these aircraft.
- **HF-24 Marut** – The quest began in the 1960s with the country's first indigenous fighter, HF-24 Marut. The aircraft was envisioned as a supersonic jet, but failed to achieve its potential for want of a suitable engine and was eventually phased out.
- **Kaveri programme** – A few decades later, India sanctioned the Kaveri programme to develop an indigenous military gas turbine engine for the ambitious LCA project. With Kaveri still a work in progress, India shortlisted American GE-F404 engines for LCA Tejas Mark-1 as an interim measure.
- **F414 engines** – In 2010, the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) selected the more powerful variant, F414 engines, to power Tejas Mark-2. The deal, however, did not materialise due to U.S. domestic legislation and regulatory hindrances and remained on the back burner for over a decade.



## **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

### **MAIDEN TEST FLIGHT OF GAGANYAAN -**

- The **Gaganyaan mission's Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) will take place on 21st October 2023 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.**
- TV-D1 will demonstrate the performance of the Crew Escape System.
- The **ultimate aim of Gaganyaan project is to demonstrate human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of 3 members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3 days mission** and bring them back safely to earth, by landing in Indian sea waters.



### **NASA CAPSULE WITH LARGEST SAMPLE EVER LANDS IN UTAH DESERT -**

- The **climactic end of a seven-year voyage comes to an end when a NASA capsule landed in the Utah desert, carrying to Earth the largest asteroid samples ever collected. Scientists have high hopes for the sample, saying it will provide a better understanding of the formation of our solar system and how Earth became habitable.**
- Four years after its 2016 launch, the Osiris-Rex probe landed on the asteroid Bennu and collected roughly nine ounces (250 grams) of dust from its rocky surface.
- **Even that small amount, NASA says, should “help us better understand the types of asteroids that could threaten Earth” and cast light “on the earliest history of our solar system.”** NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said, this is going to be the biggest sample we’ve brought back since the Apollo moon rocks” were returned to Earth.
- **As the tire-sized capsule touches down in Utah, a team in protective masks and gloves placed it in a net to be airlifted by helicopter to a temporary “clean room” nearby.** NASA wants this done as quickly and carefully as possible to avoid any contamination of the sample with desert sands, skewing test results.
- **Thereafter, this sample was flown by plane to NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.** There, the box will be opened in another “clean room” — the beginning of a days-long process. NASA plans to announce its first results at a news conference on October 11.
- **Most of the sample will be conserved for study by future generations. Roughly one-fourth of it will be immediately used in experiments, and a small amount will be sent to Japan and Canada, partners in the mission.** Japan had earlier given NASA a few grains from the asteroid Ryugu, after bringing 0.2 ounces of dust to Earth in 2020 during the Hayabusa-2 mission. Ten years before, it had brought back a microscopic quantity from another asteroid. But the sample from Bennu is much larger, allowing for significantly more testing.



# **GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES**

## **INDIA HAS LIFTED 135 MILLION PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY; HOWEVER, MALNUTRITION REMAINS AN ONEROUS CHALLENGE -**

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines hunger as the habitual (or chronic) consumption of too few calories to provide the minimum dietary energy an individual requires to live a healthy and productive life.
- According to the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MDPI) prepared by the NITI Aayog, from 2015-16 to 2019-21, India lifted 135 million people out of poverty.
- When India got freedom in 1947 more than 80 percent of people were in extreme poverty, which today hovers around 15 per cent as per MDPI and about 11 per cent based on income criterion (\$2.15 PPP).
- The UNDP has estimated that India lifted 415 million people out of poverty (MDPI) over the period 2005-06 to 2019-21. India seems to be on track to almost abolish poverty in the next five to 10 years. On hunger, at least in terms of food availability, India has done well.



### **Govt. Initiatives to tackle hunger in India-**

**Eat Right India Movement-** An outreach activity organized by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for citizens to nudge them towards eating right.

**POSHAN Abhiyan-** Launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2018, it targets to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls).

**Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana-** A centrally sponsored scheme executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from 1st January, 2017.

**Food Fortification-** Food Fortification or Food Enrichment is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as iron, iodine, zinc, and Vitamin A & D to staple foods such as rice, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content.

**National Food Security Act, 2013-** It legally entitled up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.

## **THE PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJANA (PMJDY) HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED NINE YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION -**

- It was launched on August 28, 2014 and stands as one of the largest financial inclusion initiatives globally, led by the Ministry of Finance to provide affordable financial services to vulnerable and economically disadvantaged sections.
- PMJDY creates a platform for universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic banking account for every household, financial literacy, and access to credit, insurance, and pension facilities.
- It aims to expand banking services through branches and Banking Correspondents (BCs). It covers both urban and rural areas and those who open an account would get indigenous Debit Card (RuPay card). There is no requirement to maintain any minimum balance in PMJDY accounts.
- Accident Insurance Cover of Rs.1 lakh (enhanced to Rs. 2 lakh to new PMJDY accounts opened after 28.8.2018) is available with RuPay card issued to the PMJDY account holders.
- It provides an overdraft facility of Rs. 10,000 to every eligible adult. PMJDY accounts are eligible for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY).



- More than 50 crore people have been included in the formal banking system through Jan Dhan accounts.
- Approximately 67% of these accounts have been opened in rural and semi-urban areas. Around 34 crore RuPay cards have been issued to these accounts, providing ₹2 lakh accident insurance cover.

### **PM MODI INAUGURATES YASHOBHOOMI CONVENTION CENTRE -**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a historic moment as he unveiled Phase 1 of the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), aptly named 'Yashobhoomi.'
- This state-of-the-art facility, constructed at a cost of Rs 5,400 crore, promises to redefine the landscape of meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE) on a global scale.
- Yashobhoomi stands as a testament to India's commitment to world-class event hosting, boasting an expansive project area of over 8.9 lakh square metres and a built-up area exceeding 1.8 lakh square metres.



#### **Key Features of Yashobhoomi Convention Centre-**

- 1. Comprehensive Convention Centre-** The convention centre spans more than 73,000 square metres and encompasses 15 convention rooms, including the main auditorium, the grand ballroom, and 13 meeting rooms.
- 2. Cutting-Edge Technology-** Yashobhoomi sets a technological benchmark with the largest LED media facade in the country, enhancing visual experiences and communication.
- 3. Plenary Hall-** The plenary hall within the convention centre stands out with seating for approximately 6,000 guests, providing a grand setting for significant events.
- 4. Innovative Seating-** The auditorium introduces an innovative automated seating system, transforming the flat floor into an auditorium-style tiered seating arrangement, adaptable for various seating configurations.
- 5. Grand Ballroom-** The Grand Ballroom, capable of hosting around 2,500 guests, offers a splendid ambience for prestigious gatherings.
- 6. Connectivity-** Yashobhoomi is seamlessly connected to the Delhi Airport Metro Express line, thanks to the inauguration of the 'Yashobhoomi Dwarka Sector 25' metro station.

### **RECENTLY, THE LOK SABHA (LS) AND RAJYA SABHA (RS), BOTH PASSED WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL 2023 (128TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL) OR NARI SHAKTI VANDAN ADHINIYAM -**

- **Birth:** 11th May 788 AD, at Kaladi, Kerala, **Samadhi:** at Kedar Tirth, He was opposed to Buddhist philosophers.
- Established four Mathas in the four corners of India at Sringeri, Puri, Dwaraka and Badrinath- for propagation of Sanathana Dharma.

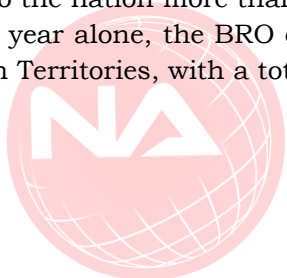
#### **Advocating of Advaita Vedanta-**

- It articulates a philosophical position of radical nondualism, a revisionary worldview which it derives from the ancient Upanishadic texts.
- **According to Advaita Vedantins, the Upanishads reveal a fundamental principle of nonduality termed 'brahman', which is the reality of all things.**
- Advaitins understand brahman as transcending individuality and empirical plurality.
- They seek to establish that the essential core of one's self (atman) is brahman.
- The fundamental thrust of Advaita Vedanta is that the atman is pure non-intentional consciousness.
- It is one without a second, nondual, infinite existence, and numerically identical with brahman.

## APPOINTMENTS / PERSON IN NEWS

### **LT GENERAL RAGHU SRINIVASAN AS NEW BRO CHIEF -**

- Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan assumed the role of the 28th Director General (DG) of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). This transition follows the superannuation of Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry.
- Srinivasan is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy in Khadakwasla and the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun, where he was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in 1987.
- His illustrious service record includes participation in key military operations such as Operation Vijay, Operation Rakshak, and Operation Parakram.
- The Border Roads Organisation was established on May 7, 1960, with the primary objective of securing India's borders through the development of infrastructure in the remote regions of the north and northeast.
- Since its inception, the BRO has made remarkable contributions to this mission, having constructed and dedicated to the nation more than 63,000 kilometers of roads, 976 bridges, six tunnels, and 21 airfields.
- In the past year alone, the BRO completed a record-breaking 193 projects across eight border states and three Union Territories, with a total cost of ₹5,400 crore.



**NIMBUS**  
ACADEMY FOR IAS  
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय ॥

# **ECONOMY & FINANCE**

## **INDIA'S POSITION IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH -**

- According to the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, **India's contribution to global economic growth is expected to rise by 2%, as 16% contribution will grow to 18% in the next five years due to India growing faster.**

### **What are the Factors Contributing to India's Projected Growth-**

- **Monsoon-** While the overall rainfall was 6% below the expected during the monsoon season (due to 36% deficit rains in August), the spatial distribution is quite even. Out of 36 states/UTs, 29 received normal/above-normal rains.
- **Continuous Thrust on Capital Expenditure-** During the first five months of the current year (2023), the capital expenditure of the states as a percentage of the budgeted target is at 25%, while the Centre's is at 37%, which is higher than the previous years and reflecting renewed capital generation.
- **New Company Registrations-** The robust new companies' registration depicts strong growth intentions. Around 93,000 companies were registered in the first half of 2023-24 as compared to 59,000 five years back.

These are the world's largest economies	
GDP, current prices - US Dollars	
2010	2019
1 United States	United States
2 China	China
3 Japan	Japan
4 Germany	Germany
5 France	India
6 United Kingdom	United Kingdom
7 Brazil	France
8 Italy	Italy
9 India	Brazil
10 Russian Federation	Canada

### **What are the Challenges Faced by India in Achieving its Projected Growth-**

- **Weak Demand-** The demand for goods and services in India has been stagnant or declining due to various factors, such as low income growth, high inflation, unemployment, and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Unemployment-** Despite rapid economic growth, unemployment remains a serious issue in both rural and urban areas. The Covid-19 pandemic has worsened the situation, as many businesses have shut down or reduced their operations, leading to job losses.
- **Poor Infrastructure-** India lacks adequate infrastructure, such as roads, railways, ports, power, water, and sanitation, which hampers its economic development and competitiveness.
- **Balance of Payments Deterioration-** India has been running a persistent current account deficit, which means that its imports exceed its exports. This reflects its dependence on foreign goods and services, especially oil and gold, and its low export competitiveness.
- **Geopolitical Tensions-** India's geopolitical relationships, including border disputes, can impact regional stability and potentially affect economic prospects.

## **PAKISTAN'S INFLATION SOARS TO 31.4% -**

- **Pakistan's inflation rate surged to 31.4% year-on-year in September, driven by soaring fuel and energy prices.** This alarming increase followed a high of 27.4% in August, highlighting the severe economic challenges faced by the nation.
- **The International Monetary Fund's approval of a \$3 billion loan in July prevented a sovereign debt default but imposed stringent conditions.** Reforms, such as easing import restrictions and removing subsidies, fueled annual

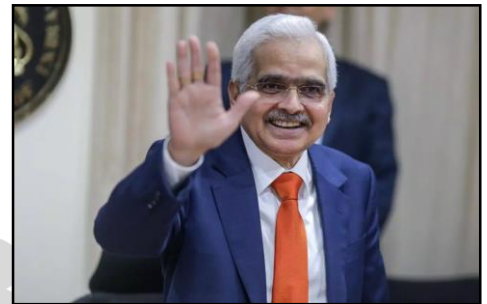


inflation, reaching a record 38.0% in May.

- To curb inflation, **Pakistan increased interest rates to a staggering 22%. The country's currency, the rupee, hit all-time lows in August but rebounded in September, becoming the best-performing currency due to authorities' crackdown on unregulated FX trade.**
- The Ministry of Finance anticipates inflation to remain high at 29-31% in the coming months. Despite this, the government recently reduced petrol and diesel prices after consecutive hikes, citing international petroleum prices and an improved exchange rate.
- Analysts, including Tahir Abbas from Arif Habib Limited and Fahad Rauf from Ismail Iqbal Securities, suggest that inflation may have peaked for the fiscal year. They expect a gradual easing, projecting inflation to decrease to around 26-27% in the next few months.

### **THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) HAS REVEALED ITS FOURTH BI-MONTHLY MONETARY POLICY ON OCTOBER 6 -**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revealed its fourth bi-monthly monetary policy on October 6.** The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), led by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, held a three-day meeting starting from October 4. The central bank has decided to maintain the repo rate at 6.50%.



- ❖ GDP growth forecast for FY24 unchanged at 6.5%
- ❖ RBI kept GDP growth forecast for FY24 unchanged at 6.5%.
- ❖ Q2FY24 GDP growth forecast unchanged at 6.5%
- ❖ Q3FY24 unchanged at 6.0%
- ❖ Q4FY24 GDP growth forecast unchanged at 5.7%
- ❖ CPI inflation forecast for April-June 2024, or Q1FY25 unchanged at 6.6%

#### **RBI Repo Rate are as under-**

- ❖ Policy Repo Rate: 6.50%
  - ❖ Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 6.25%
  - ❖ Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%
  - ❖ Bank Rate: 6.75%
  - ❖ Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
  - ❖ CRR: 4.50%
  - ❖ SLR: 18.00%
- MPC voted to remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation by 5 votes to 1.
  - **Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, mandates the formation of an empowered six-member Monetary Policy Committee**, officially constituted by the Central Government through notification in the Official Gazette. The inaugural MPC came into being on September 29, 2016.

### **WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: IMF -**

- Recently, **the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released its World Economic Outlook 2023 titled- Navigating Global Divergence, which stated that the Indian Economy will grow faster than previously estimated.**
- The **IMF expects global GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth to be 3% in 2023, which is the same as its July 2023 forecast.**
- Global GDP growth for 2024, however, has seen a reduction of 10 basis points from the July forecast to 2.9%.

- The **Chinese economy is expected to grow at 5% in 2023, which is higher than the 3% it grew at in 2022.**
- The IMF expects Global inflation in 2024 to rise at 5.8%, faster than the 5.2% estimated three months and these projections do not reflect events of the weekend and their fallout.
- **Growth has lagged on account of Tight Monetary Policies as central banks have kept money supply tight to fight Inflation which rose to 8.7% in 2022.**
- And it has lagged on account of an uneven recovery from the pandemic and supply chain disruptions caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- **India's GDP for 2023-24 will be 6.3%**, a 20-basis point increase from the July 2023 numbers.
- The **IMF's 2023-24 growth forecast for India is now the same as what the World Bank (WB) had projected in its India Development Update.**
- India's 2024-25 GDP growth forecast has been left unchanged at 6.3%.
- While the IMF's upward revision of India's 2023-24 GDP growth comes in the wake of a strong 7.8% growth in the quarter ending June 2023, the annual growth number is still lower than the 6.5% projection by RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

**Latest World Economic Outlook Growth Projections**

(real GDP, annual percent change)	ESTIMATE PROJECTIONS		
	2021	2022	2023
<b>World Output</b>	5.9	4.4	3.8
<b>Advanced Economies</b>	5.0	3.9	2.6
United States	5.6	4.0	2.6
Euro Area	5.2	3.9	2.5
Germany	2.7	3.8	2.5
France	6.7	3.5	1.8
Italy	6.2	3.8	2.2
Spain	4.9	5.8	3.8
Japan	1.6	3.3	1.8
United Kingdom	7.2	4.7	2.3
Canada	4.7	4.1	2.8
Other Advanced Economies	4.7	3.6	2.9
<b>Emerging Market and Developing Economies</b>	6.5	4.8	4.7
Emerging and Developing Asia	7.2	5.9	5.8
China	8.1	4.8	5.2
India	9.0	9.0	7.1

**IMF RAISES INDIA'S FY24 GDP GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.3% -**

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** raised its **FY24 growth projection for India by 20 basis points to 6.3 per cent**, citing stronger than expected consumption between April and June.
- The IMF's latest **World Economic Outlook (WEO)** kept its global growth forecast unchanged at **3 per cent for 2023 and pared down the 2024 projection by 10 basis points to 2.9 per cent.**
- The IMF's inflation projection for India has been revised upward to 5.5 per cent for FY24.



**CCI APPROVES MERGER OF TATA SIA AIRLINES INTO AIR INDIA -**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the merger of Tata Group airlines Vistara and Air India
- This will make Air India, India's leading domestic and international carrier with a combined fleet of 218 aircraft, making it India's largest international carrier and second largest domestic carrier.
- The deal is part of Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran's effort to simplify the conglomerate's businesses and make them more efficient.



## INDIA-MIDDLE EAST-EUROPE CORRIDOR -

- Recently, **the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) Project was signed at the G20 Summit in New Delhi, which holds significant geopolitical and economic implications for India.**
- The project forms part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII). PGII is a values-driven, high-impact, and transparent infrastructure partnership to meet the enormous infrastructure needs of low and middle-income countries.

**The proposed IMEC will consist of Railroad, Ship-to-Rail networks and Road transport routes extending across two corridors, that is,**

**The East Corridor** – connecting India to the Arabian Gulf,

**The Northern Corridor** – connecting the Gulf to Europe.

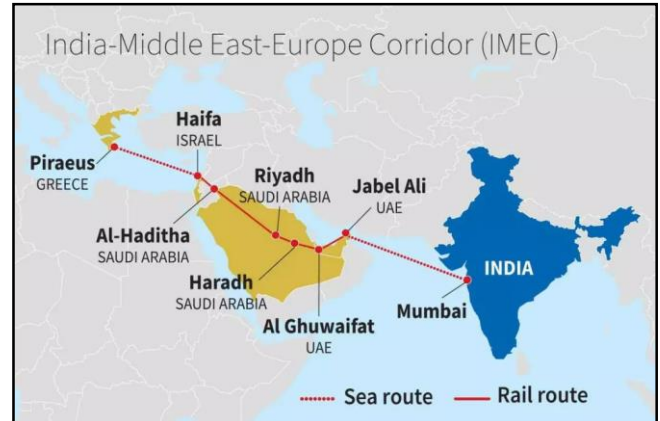
- The IMEC corridor will also include an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline and a high-speed data cable.
- Signatories- India, the US, Saudi Arabia, UAE, the European Union, Italy, France, and Germany.

### Ports to be Connected -

- **India-** Mundra (Gujarat), Kandla (Gujarat), and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Navi Mumbai).
- **Middle East-** Fujairah, Jebel Ali, and Abu Dhabi in the UAE as well as Dammam and Ras Al Khair ports in Saudi Arabia.
- Railway line will connect Fujairah port (UAE) to Haifa port (Israel) via: Saudi Arabia (Ghuwaifat and Haradh) and Jordan.
- **Israel-** Haifa port.
- **Europe-** Piraeus port in Greece, Messina in South Italy, and Marseille in France.

### Objective-

- It aims to create a comprehensive transportation network, comprising rail, road, and sea routes, connecting India, the Middle East, and Europe.
- It aims to enhance transportation efficiency, reduce costs, increase economic unity, generate employment, and lower Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions



# ENVIRONMENT

## **ARUNACHAL CABINET APPROVES FORMATION OF SPECIAL TIGER PROTECTION FORCE FOR 3 TIGER RESERVES -**

- The Arunachal Pradesh State Cabinet gave the green light to a host of transformative measures aimed at safeguarding the state's biodiversity and promoting the preservation of indigenous languages. Among the notable decisions were the establishment of a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) for three tiger reserves, the allocation of honorariums to third language teachers, the amendment of the state's industrial and investment policy, and the formulation of the Arunachal Pradesh Home Guard Rules for 2023.
- **The establishment of the STPF involves the creation of 336 regular posts, which will be dedicated to ensuring the protection of these magnificent creatures and their environments.** This initiative aims to reduce poaching and illegal activities in the tiger reserves, ultimately securing the future of these critically endangered big cats.



## **ROLE OF DUST SUPPRESSANTS IN MITIGATING AIR POLLUTION -**

- Recently, **Dust suppressants** have gained significant attention as a potential solution to reduce dust-related pollution especially in cities like Delhi where air pollution remains a critical concern.
- Dust suppressants are typically composed of calcium or magnesium salts, which are mixed with water and then sprayed on roads.
- This mixture effectively suppresses dust, providing longer-lasting relief from particulate matter in the air.
- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** study indicated that the application of dust suppressants, when mixed with water, is more effective at controlling pollution than traditional methods, such as water spraying.
- The study observed up to a 30% reduction in dust concentration (including PM10, PM2.5, and PM1) for construction sites and roads following the use of dust suppressants.



### **What are the Government Initiatives to Combat Air Pollution-**

- A. National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
- B. BS-VI vehicles
- C. Turbo Happy Seeder (THS)
- D. Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR)
- E. Dashboard for Monitoring Air Quality
- F. National Air Quality Index (AQI)
- G. Graded Response Action Plan (Delhi)

## **INDIA GETS ITS 54TH TIGER RESERVE “VEERANGANA DURGAVATI TIGER RESERVE” IN MP -**

- **Madhya Pradesh, which is home to the most number of tigers in the country, has got a new protected area for the big cats named ‘Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve’.**
- The Madhya Pradesh Government has unveiled the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, becoming the seventh tiger reserve in the state and the 54th in India.
- **MP retained the “tiger state” status in the 2022 census with the number of big cats in the state rising to 785 from 526 in 2018.** Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve has become the seventh tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh.



- About 1,414 square kilometres in the tiger reserve has been included in the core area and 925.12 square kilometres in the buffer zone, the official said.
- As per the report ‘Status of Tigers: Co-predators & Prey in India-2022’, released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India in July this year, **MP (785) has the highest number of tigers in the country, followed by Karnataka (563) and Uttarakhand (560).**
- About Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve is spread across Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh. It is spread over an area of 2,339 square kilometres.
- **It is the seventh tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh.** It will encompass areas within the Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary.
- A green corridor linking Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) with Durgavati will be developed for the natural movement of the tiger to the new reserve.

## **GLACIAL LAKE BURST IN SIKKIM CAUSES DEVASTATION -**

- **At least 22 people have lost their lives, and a significant number remain injured or missing in the wake of flash floods that struck Sikkim on October 4.**
- These devastating floods were triggered when a **glacial lake, formed by the gradual melting of a Himalayan glacier, unexpectedly overflowed, leading to the inundation of the Teesta river basin.**
- This catastrophic event resulted in the **destruction of the Chungthang dam, a critical component of Sikkim’s largest hydroelectric project, and caused extensive damage to highways, villages, and towns.**



- Flash floods hit Sikkim on October 4, resulting in 22 casualties and numerous injuries and disappearances. The floods originated from the sudden overflow of the South Lhonak lake, located at an altitude of approximately 5,200 meters above sea level.
- **Scientists had previously raised concerns about the expanding South Lhonak lake, which was gradually growing due to the melting of ice at its head.**
- Nearly half of the lake emptied out, likely due to an avalanche originating from the ice-capped feature.



## **UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER DECLARES DOLPHIN AS STATE AQUATIC ANIMAL-**

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has declared the Gangetic Dolphin** as the state aquatic animal.
- **These dolphins are found in rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ghaghra, Rapti, and Gerua.**
- The **estimated population of Gangetic dolphins in Uttar Pradesh is estimated at around 2000.**
- Teams of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Forest Department have been recently counting dolphins with the help of GPS in Garh Ganga at Hapur district of Uttar Pradesh.



## **DIRECT-SEEDING METHOD -**

- Farmers in leading rice-growing states are adopting the direct-seeding method as a solution to delayed rains and labor shortages.
- Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), also known as the 'broadcasting seed technique,' is a water-saving method of sowing paddy.
- In this method, seeds are directly drilled into the fields, eliminating the need for nursery preparation and transplantation.
- With the use of drum seeders, only two labourers are required to sow seeds on one acre, compared to 25-30 labourers needed in traditional methods.
- By eliminating the need for nursery cultivation, farmers save approximately 30 days in the crop cycle. This allows them to start the rabi season early and avoid untimely rains during the harvesting phase.
- The direct-seeding method reduces water requirements by around 15% as water logging occurs only after a month. This is especially beneficial in areas where rainfall is delayed.
- According to the results from research trials and farmers' field survey, after this technique the yield is one to two quintals per acre higher than puddled transplanted rice.
- Weed growth becomes a challenge as seeds are sown directly into the fields.
- The direct-seeding method has gained traction in various regions, including Punjab, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.



# **REPORTS & INDICES**

## **LIST OF 42 UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN INDIA BY SEP 2023 -**

- There are **42 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India**. **The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala, the famed Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid, and Somananthpura in Karnataka have been added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage list.**
- This inclusion marks the 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site in India and comes just a day after Rabindranath Tagore's Santiniketan also received this distinguished recognition.
- The **decision to include Santiniketan in the prestigious list was made during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Saudi Arabia**, reaffirming its importance on the global stage.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site is a place that is recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**. This is exemplified by the Convention regarding the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, accepted by UNESCO in 1972.



### **Criteria for UNESCO World Heritage Sites-**

1. Human creative genius.
2. Interchange of values.
3. Testimony to cultural tradition.
4. Significance in human history.
5. Traditional human settlement.
6. Heritage associated with events of universal significance.
7. Natural phenomena or beauty.
8. Major stages of Earth's history.
9. Significant ecological and biological processes.
10. The significant natural habitat for biodiversity.

## **GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2023 -**

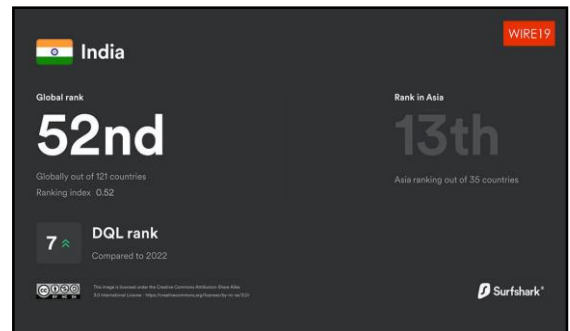
- In the **Global Hunger Index 2023, India ranked 111th out of 125 countries, indicating a serious level of hunger.**
- Neighboring countries, such as Pakistan (102nd), Bangladesh (81st), Nepal (69th), and Sri Lanka (60th), scored better than India.
- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a peer-reviewed report, published on an annual basis by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
- The GHI is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, regional, and national levels, reflecting multiple dimensions of hunger over time.
- The GHI score is calculated on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger - 0 is the best score (implies no hunger) and 100 is the worst.



- **India's GHI score 2023 stands at 28.7, categorized as "serious" on the GHI Severity of Hunger Scale.** This shows a slight improvement from its GHI 2015 score of 29.2, which was also deemed serious.
- Also, compared to its alarming GHI scores of 38.4 in 2000 and 35.5 in 2008, India has made significant progress.
- **Child stunting is prevalent at 35.5% (India's National Family Health Survey(NFHS) 2019-2021)**
- The prevalence of undernourishment in India is 16.6% (State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report 2023)
- **India's child wasting rate is a concerning 18.7% (India's NFHS 2019-21), the highest among all countries in the report.** The under-five mortality rate stands at 3.1% (United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation January 2023)

### INDIA RANKED 52ND IN DIGITAL QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX -

- **India has been ranked 52nd** out of 121 countries in the **Digital Quality of Life Index Survey 2023.**
- The annual survey by the Netherlands-based firm has ranked 121 countries on five factors: **internet quality, internet affordability, e-infrastructure, e-government, and e-security.**
- In **Asia, India takes 13th place**, with Singapore the leader in the region.
- The **top 3 Countries** in the Digital Quality of Life Index survey are **Denmark, South Korea, and Finland**



### WEST BENGAL'S SHANTINIKETAN MAKES IT TO UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST -

- **Shantiniketan** has been included in the **UNESCO World Heritage list.**
- Santiniketan becomes the **41st UNESCO World Heritage Site in India and the third in West Bengal, after the Sundarbans National Park and the Darjeeling Mountain Railways.**
- The decision to include Santiniketan in the list was taken during the **45th session** of the World Heritage Committee in Saudi Arabia.
- Established in **1901 by Maharshi Debendranath Tagore, located in Birbhum district of West Bengal.**



### INDIA'S TIGER POPULATION REACHES 3,925 WITH 6.1% ANNUAL GROWTH RATE, HOLDS 75% OF GLOBAL WILD TIGER POPULATION -

- In 1973, the Government of India launched Project Tiger, a comprehensive conservation project aimed at protecting the nation's tiger population and preserving biodiversity. Over the past fifty years, Project Tiger has achieved remarkable success, with India currently harboring almost 75% of the world's wild tiger population. On Global Tiger Day, 29th July 2023, Minister of State for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Ashwini Kumar, released a comprehensive report revealing India's tiger population estimate of 3,925,



with an annual growth rate of 6.1%.

**Project Tiger's Success and Evolution-**

Project Tiger was initiated in 1973, initially covering nine tiger reserves spanning 18,278 km<sup>2</sup>. It has now expanded to 53 reserves spread across 75,796 km<sup>2</sup>, effectively covering 2.3% of India's total land area.

The first phase of tiger conservation focused on enacting the Wildlife Protection Act and establishing protected areas, while the second phase in 2005 adopted a landscape-level approach, community involvement, strict law enforcement, and scientific monitoring.

**The Growth of India's Tiger Population-**

- In 2022, during the celebration of 50 years of Project Tiger, the Hon'ble Prime Minister declared the minimum tiger population estimate of 3,167 from the camera-trapped area.
- Further analysis of data by the Wildlife Institute of India, considering both camera-trapped and non-camera-trapped tiger presence areas, resulted in an estimated tiger population of 3,925 with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.
- Notably, Central India and the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains saw significant increases in tiger population, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra. However, certain regions, like the Western Ghats, experienced localized declines, requiring targeted conservation efforts.



**NIMBUS**  
ACADEMY FOR IAS  
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय ॥

**IMPORTANT MCQ (6<sup>th</sup> MONTHS) FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS**

1. Consider the following statements with reference to Amrit Kaal Vision 2047:

1. It is the long-term blueprint for the Indian maritime blue economy for enhancing port, promoting sustainable practices and facilitating global collaboration.
2. It aims to quadruple port capacity to 10,000 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) by 2047.
3. The vision includes a strategy to make major ports carbon-neutral and push for domestic hydrogen production and distribution.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

2. Consider the following pairs:

Operations	Objectives
1. Nanhe Faristey	Rescue of children and reuniting them
2. AAHT	Curbing Human traffickers
3. Uplabdh	Redressal of security related complaints
4. Yatri Suraksha	Legal action against touts

How many of the pairs given above are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

3. The convention of 1961/1964 that governs

global diplomatic relations, providing a complete framework for the establishment, maintenance, and termination of diplomatic missions on a basis of consent between independent sovereign States, is known as—

- a) Hague Convention
- b) Vienna Convention
- c) Rome Convention
- d) Cape Town Convention

4. Who is the chairperson of Competition Commission of India?

- a) Namita Bansal
- b) Ravneet Kaur
- c) Asha Gupta
- d) Shashi Rana

5. Which country did India hold its first-ever 2+2 foreign affairs and defence dialogue within New Delhi?

- a) Japan
- b) Australia
- c) United States
- d) United Kingdom

6. Which two countries are involved in this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of Digital Technologies?

- a) India and Germany
- b) India and Russia
- c) India and France
- d) India and China

7. Consider the following statements, with reference to the Visa Shopping:

1. It is the practice of applying for a visa in a country where it is faster or easier to get as compared to the original destination.

2. Schengen Visa is a type of visa shopping that facilitates free movement for travellers between India and Nepal.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

8. 'Cyclone Hamoon' is formed in which of the following region?

- a) Bay of Bengal
- b) Arabian Sea
- c) Red Sea
- d) Mediterranean Sea

9. Consider the following statements regarding Best Tourism Village:

1. Dhordo village of Rajasthan has been conferred the prestigious title of Best Tourism Village 2023.

2. The award is given by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. The US imposed sanctions on three Chinese firms for allegedly supplying missile components to which country?

- a) India  
b) China  
c) Pakistan  
d) Bangladesh
- 11. Which country will host the world's largest textile event in 2024 ?**  
a) China  
b) United States  
c) India  
d) Bangladesh
- 12. How much Non-Basmati White Rice has the Indian government approved for export?**  
a) 1 million tonnes  
b) 1.2 million tonnes  
c) 1.34 million tonnes  
d) 1.56 million tonnes
- 13. With reference to the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), consider the following statements:**  
1. It is the first-ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target.  
2. It covers 182 non-attainment cities. Non-attainment cities are those that have fallen short of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).  
How many of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) None  
b) Only one  
c) Only two  
d) All three
- 14. With reference to the Bharat Stage-VI (BS VI) norms, consider the following statements:**
1. It was announced by Environment ministry.  
2. The BS regulations are based on the American emission standards.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 15. Regarding I2U2 initiative, consider the following countries:**  
1. Israel  
2. Iraq  
3. Iran  
4. India  
How many of the following countries is/are the part of I2U2 initiative ?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) Only three  
d) All four
- 16. What percentage increase in dearness allowance for central government employees has been approved by the Union Cabinet?**  
a) 4 Percent  
b) 5 Percent  
c) 6 Percent  
d) 7 Percent
- 17. Indian Navy conducted the 'Naseem Al Bahr' exercise with which country?**  
a) Australia  
b) Oman  
c) Israel  
d) UAE
- 18. Which of the following is the largest canal irrigated states in India?**  
a) Haryana  
b) Rajasthan  
c) Uttar Pradesh  
d) Punjab
- 19. Consider the following statements regarding Quantum Dots:**  
1. The 2023 Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded to Mounji G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov for the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots.  
2. Quantum dots are semiconductor particles a few nanometres in size, having optical and electronic properties that differ from those of larger particles as a result of quantum mechanical effects.  
Which of the above statements is/are correct ?  
a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 20. Consider the following statements, with reference to the Attosecond Pulses:**  
1. Attosecond is a brief unit of time that helps capture fundamental forces such as electrons.  
2. An attosecond is one-billionth of a nanosecond.  
3. The pulses of light cannot be captured at Attosecond.  
How many of the statements given above are correct?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None

**21. Consider the following statements, with reference to Project Udbhav:**

1. The project aims to bridge the gap between historical and contemporary knowledge only in ship building industry.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**22. Where is the headquarters of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation situated?**

- a) New Delhi
- b) Mumbai
- c) Bangluru
- d) Gurugram

**23. Which country unveiled its first domestically-made submarine, named the Haikun, in September 2023?**

- a) China
- b) Taiwan
- c) South Korea
- d) Japan

**24. Outside India, In which country will the largest statue of Dr. BR Ambedkar be unveiled ?**

- a) England
- b) France
- c) Germany
- d) USA

**25. Consider the following statements eminent agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan**

1. He is recognised as global leader of white revolution

2. He was awarded the first World Food Prize in 1987
3. He chaired the National Commission on Farmers for improving the status of farmers.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 2 only

**26. With reference to daily salt intake by Indians, consider the following statements**

1. World Health Organization (WHO) recommends uptake of upto 8 g of salt daily.
2. The salt intake in India is significantly higher among men, those in rural areas and overweight and obese respondents.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**27. Spratly Islands, Parcel Island and nice-dash line are often in news, these are part of which water body**

- a) East China Sea
- b) South China sea
- c) Atlantic Ocean
- d) Black sea

**28. Who has been honoured with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2023 ?**

- a) Amitabh Bachchan
- b) Rajinikanth
- c) Waheeda Rehman
- d) Dilip Kumar

**29. Which countries are fighting for Nagorno-Karabakh region?**

- a) Israel- Palestine
- b) Japan- China
- c) Armenia- Azerbaijan
- d) India- Sri Lanka

**30. 'Kyiv and Lviv World Heritage Sites' are in which country ?**

- a) Russia
- b) Ukraine
- c) Belarus
- d) Belgium

**31. Consider the following statements with reference to Micro Earthquakes:**

1. It is a low intensity earthquake with a magnitude of 2.0 or less.
2. They occur only along the coastal boundaries of the continent.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**32. With reference to Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), consider the following statements**

1. It gives powers to the army, state and central police forces to shoot to kill, search houses and destroy any property that is "likely" to be used by insurgents in areas declared as "disturbed" by the home ministry.

2. It is of a colonial origin.
3. The Disturbed Areas Act (DAA) is the mini version of

- AFSPA as it confers the same powers to the armed forces to take control of the state in order to curb violence.  
How many of the above statements is/are correct ?
- a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None
- 33. With reference to Tiger reserves, consider the following statements**
1. Project Tiger is a 100% central sponsored scheme.
  2. The largest tiger reserve in India is Nagarjunsagar, commonly known as Srisailem, in Andhra Pradesh.
  3. Tiger Census is carried out in every 5 years in India.
  4. Guru Ghansi Das tiger reserve is in Madhya Pradesh.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct ?
- a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) Only three  
d) All four
- 34. Santiniketan, recently recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is located in which Indian state ?**
- a) Bihar  
b) West Bengal  
c) Kerala  
d) Rajasthan
- 35. What is India's rank in Global Innovation Index 2023 ?**
- a) 40th  
b) 51st  
c) 81st  
d) 82nd
- 36. Which company is going to launch earthquake warning service in India ?**
- a) Meta  
b) Microsoft  
c) Google  
d) SpaceX
- 37. Consider the following statements, with reference to the Quantum Dots:**
1. Quantum dots are particles that are few nanometres wide.
  2. Quantum dots are known for their high fluorescence quantum yields.
  3. The properties of quantum dots can be changed by changing their size.
- How many of the statements given above are correct ?
- a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None
- 38. Consider the following statements regarding 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment acts of 1992:**
1. It provided for a minimum of one third of seats and office of chairpersons in panchayats and municipalities to be reserved for women.
  2. It provided for reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) based on their percentage in the population.
  3. It enabled the States to reserve seats for Backward Classes (OBCs).
- How many of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) None correct  
b) Only 1 correct  
c) Only 2 correct  
d) All 3 correct
- 39. Consider the following statements regarding Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) :**
1. PIL was earlier known as Negative Import List (NIL).
  2. It is aimed at import substitution in defence items/equipments.
  3. Items in PIL can only be procured from domestic defence PSUs.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct ?
- a) None correct  
b) Only 1 correct  
c) Only 2 correct  
d) All 3 correct
- 40. Who has been appointed as the new Executive Director by the Reserve Bank of India?**
- a) Ajay Sinha  
b) Munish Kapoor  
c) Rahul Awasthi  
d) Vinay Rana
- 41. Which of the following fighter jets will be retired by the Indian Air Force?**
- a) Sukhoi-30MKI  
b) MiG-21  
c) Rafale  
d) Tejas
- 42. What option does the central government not include in the development expenditure?**
- a) Grants to states  
b) Expenditure on social and community services  
c) Expenditure on economic services  
d) Defence expenditure



**43. Consider the following statements in reference to Nobel Prize for Peace 2023:**

1. Narges Mohammadi, an Iranian activist, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2023.

2. She also received the 2023 PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award and the 2023 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**44. Consider the following statements, with reference to Nobel Prize for Literature 2023:**

1. Jon Fosse was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2023 for his innovative plays and prose that give voice to the unsayable.

2. Fosse is known for his exploration of themes related to the human condition, the absurdity and futility of life, and the power of human emotions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**45. Consider the following statements regarding Hamas:**

1. It is a terrorist organisation behind the recent attack on Israel (October 2023).

2. It holds a majority in the parliament of the Palestinian National Authority.

3. Hamas was founded in 1995 after the Second Intifada, as an offshoot of Hezbollah.

How many of the statements is/are correct ?

- a) None of the statements
- b) 1 statement only
- c) 2 statement only
- d) All 3 statements

**46. Grey Revolution is for \_\_\_\_\_?**

- a) Petroleum Production
- b) Fertilizer Production
- c) Fish Production
- d) Flower Cultivation

**47. How many gold medals did India win in the Asian Games 2023 ?**

- a) 21 Gold
- b) 25 Gold
- c) 28 Gold
- d) 30 Gold

**48. How many Vande Bharat Express trains were already in operation before the addition of the 9 new trains?**

- a) 10
- b) 15
- c) 20
- d) 25

**49. With reference to 'International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)', consider the following statements**

**Statement 1-** It was launched by India, for the conservation of seven big cats.

**Statement 2-** It is open for all member countries in the United Nations.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- d) Statement -I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

**50. 'Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)' passes through which of the following protected area**

- a) Kanha Tiger reserve
- b) Panna Tiger reserve
- c) Satpura National Park
- d) Palpur Kuno Wildlife sanctuary

**51. Which scheme was launched by the government to provide quality education to Scheduled Caste students?**

- a) Shreshtha Scheme
- b) Ambedkar Scholarship Scheme
- c) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme
- d) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

**52. Nobel Prize in Medicine 2023 was awarded to Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman for their work in**

- a) Hepatitis C virus
- b) mRNA Vaccines
- c) Human evolution
- d) Receptors for temperature

**53. Which country recently launched Operation Iron Swords?**

- a) Ukraine  
b) Israel  
c) Russia  
d) United States
- 54. Project Kuiper to provide fast, affordable broadband internet service belongs to which company?**  
a) SpaceX  
b) Amazon  
c) BlueOrigin  
d) Google
- 55. Consider the following pairs:**  
1. Hezbollah- Israel  
2. Hamas- Palestine  
3. Kurdistan Workers' Party-Turkey  
How many of the above pairs are incorrectly matched?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None
- 56. Consider the following statements, with reference to the 'Freedom on the Net 2023' Report:**  
1. The report is released by Freedom House, a specialised agency of the United Nation.  
2. It evaluates Internet freedom across the world.  
3. According to the report India has more internet freedom than China and Pakistan.  
How many of the statements given above are correct ?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None
- 57. Which of the following countries share boundaries with Mediterranean Sea**
1. Croatia  
2. France  
3. Greece  
4. Israel  
Select the correct answer using the code given below.  
a) 1 and 4 only  
b) 1, 2 and 3 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 58. Who has been awarded the Nobel Prize in the field of Economics this year ?**  
a) Joshua D. Angrist  
b) Claudia Goldin  
c) Raghuram Rajan  
d) David Card
- 59. Which is the largest airport in the world by area?**  
a) Denver International Airport  
b) Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport  
c) Beijing Daxing International Airport  
d) King Fahd International Airport
- 60. Capital is that wealth**  
a) Which is used for the production of wealth  
b) Which is kept in boxes and lockers  
c) Which is buried in the land  
d) Which is stored for consumption
- 61. Consider the following and choose incorrect statements:**  
1. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) was set up on the recommendations of the K. Santosh Committee  
2. The CVC comprises one chairperson and three members  
3. There is a prescribed minimum number of years of knowledge and experience in the field of vigilance for being appointed as CVC  
Choose the below options:  
a) 1 Only  
b) 1 and 3 Only  
c) 1 and 2 Only  
d) 3 Only
- 62. Which of the following statements regarding United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are correct?**  
1. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is an international development agency established in 1968 to support projects and programs related to population, sexual and reproductive health, and gender equality.  
2. The headquarters of UNFPA is located in New York.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 63. Consider the following places with their locations-**  
1. Mosul -Iraq  
2. Aleppo -Syria  
3. Raqqah -Lebanon  
4. Kirkuk -Qatar  
5. Najaf -Palestine  
Which of the following is correctly matched?  
a) 1 & 2 only  
b) 3 & 4 only  
c) 4 & 5 only  
d) 3 & 5 only

**64. Which of the following statements about Gangetic Dolphin are incorrect?**

1. The Ganges River Dolphin or also called 'Susu,' is the National Aquatic Animal of India.

2. It is among the four saline dolphins in the world

3. The Gangetic Dolphin is under Appendix II of CITES

4. It is classified under Schedule 2, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only 1, 2 and 3
- b) Only 1, 2 and 4
- c) Only 2, 3 and 4
- d) All of the above

**65. Which of the following statements related to India Meteorological department (IMD) are not correct?**

1. It one of the six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

2. IMD is an agency of Ministry of science and Technology.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**66. With respect to the rescue missions conducted by India, consider the following pairs ?**

1. Operation Sukoon- Yemen

2. Operation Ajay- Israel

3. Operation Kaveri- Turkey

How many of the above pairs are correct ?

- a) Only one pair
- b) Only two pairs
- c) All three pairs
- d) None

**67. Consider the following statements regarding the Israel Palestine Conflict:**

1. After the Ottoman Empire was defeated in World War I, Britain gained control of Palestine.

2. In 1947, the United Nations voted to divide Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states.

3. In 1948, Jewish leaders proclaimed the founding of Israel.

Which of the above statements are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**68. Consider the following statements, with reference to the Nobel Prize for Economics 2023 :**

1. Narges Mohammadi was bestowed with the economics Nobel for 2023 for her work on gender gap in the labour market.

2. The recipient of the Nobel Prize, 2023 is the 3rd women to receive Nobel Prize in Economics.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**69. Who is the current president of Israel ?**

- a) Benjamin Netanyahu

- b) Reuven Rivlin
- c) Isaac Herzog
- d) Benjamin Netanyahu

**70. What is the name given to the operation launched to bring back Indians stranded in Israel ?**

- a) 'Operation Vijay'
- b) 'Operation Samrat'
- c) 'Operation Ganga'
- d) 'Operation Ajay'

**71. What is the estimated annual loss in global infrastructure due to climate change and disasters ?**

- a) \$101 - \$110 billion
- b) \$201 - \$220 billion
- c) \$301 - \$330 billion
- d) \$401 - \$440 billion

**72. 75/25 initiative of Indian government is related to:**

a) Providing standard of care for 75 million individuals with hypertension and diabetes by 2025

b) Immunization of 75 million under 12 years children by 2025

c) Reduction of 75% carbon emission from the thermal power plant by 2025

d) Promoting the investment model with the sharing of 75 percentage of private institution and 25 percentage of government

**73. Consider the following statements, with reference to Global Hunger Index, 2023:**

1. India ranked 111 out of the 125 countries in the index.

2. The index is released by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.

3. India has the highest child wasting rate in the world at 18.7%.

How many of the statements given above are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**74. Consider the following statements regarding 2028 Olympics:**

1. It will be held in Paris, France.

2. The International Olympic Committee recently approved cricket to be included in the 2028 Olympics.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**75. Where was the 19-foot tall statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of India's Constitution, unveiled outside India?**

- a) New York
- b) Washington
- c) Florida
- d) California

**76. When is World Food Day celebrated every year ?**

- a) 14 October
- b) 15 October
- c) 16 October
- d) 17 October

**77. Which sport has been included in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics by the**

**International Olympic Committee ?**

- a) Squash
- b) Cricket
- c) Baseball
- d) All of the above

**78. Consider the following pairs:**

GI products	States
1. Yak churpi	Arunachal Pradesh
2. Khaw Tai	Meghalaya
3. Tangsa textile	Ladakh

How many of the statements given above pairs are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**79. Consider the following statements regarding "Bharatiya Antariksha Station" or Indian Space Station (BAS/ISS):**

1. Indian Prime Minister has directed the Indian Space Agency (ISRO) to set up an indigenous space station (BSS/ISS) by 2035 and land an Indian on the moon by 2040.

2. International Space Station or ISS, orbiting in low earth orbit (LEO), is expected to be decommissioned by 2030.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**80. Chungthang dam, recently seen in news is located in:**

- a) Ladakh
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Himachal Pradesh

d) Sikkim

**81. Which initiative has been launched by the Punjab government to make the state completely drug free?**

- a) 'ASHA Initiative'
- b) 'Umeed Initiative'
- c) 'Hope Initiative'
- d) 'Sankalp Initiative'

**82. Which of the following is the correct order, (from higher to lower) of coffee producing states in India?**

- a) Kerala> Karnataka>Tamil Nadu
- b) Karnataka> Kerala >Tamil Nadu
- c) Maharashtra>Tamil Nadu>Kerala
- d) None of these

**83. Which state has approved the formation of 'Special Tiger Protection Force' for tiger reserves ?**

- a) Assam
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Gujarat

**84. Consider the following statements, with respect to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNRGS)**

1. It provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household

2. Under the scheme, wage employment is provided to the applicant within 15 days of submitting the application

3. Under the scheme, priority is given to women in such a

way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 2 only
- d) 1, 2 & 3

**85. Consider the following statements, with respect to OSIRIS-REx mission**

1. It is European Space Agency's first asteroid sample return mission.

2. It collected the sample from near-Earth asteroid Ceres.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**86. Recently, which of the following three Hoysala temples selected for the UNESCO world heritage list**

1. Chennakeshava temple in Belur

2. Hoysaleswara Temple in Halebidu

3. Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 & 2 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) 1, 2 & 3

**87. What is the primary focus of the PM Vishwakarma A scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?**

- a) Skill development for youth
- b) Supporting traditional crafts and artisans

c) Infrastructure development in rural areas

d) Healthcare for the elderly

**88. What is the primary objective of the PM KISAN AI-Chatbot (Kisan e-Mitra) launched by Union Minister Kailash Choudhary?**

a) Providing entertainment to farmers

b) Enhancing communication among farmers

c) Improving governance through technology for farmers

d) Promoting agricultural products

**89. Who inaugurated the 'India Energy Summit 2023' ?**

- a) Anurag Thakur
- b) Smriti Irani
- c) RK Singh
- d) Jyotiraditya Scindia

**90. Which of the following best describes the PM-WANI Scheme?**

a) It is a framework that enables any entity, such as a shopkeeper or a tea stall owner, to set up a public Wi-Fi hotspot and provide internet service to customers.

b) It is an academic development scheme for providing funding to state universities and colleges to improve infrastructure, faculty recruitment, and research facilities.

c) It is a women-centric welfare program that aims to create a conducive environment for the overall development of women, especially in rural and marginalized communities.

d) It is an agricultural development scheme that aims to improve water-use efficiency in the agriculture sector.

**91. Consider the following statements, with reference to the Elephant Corridors:**

1. It is a strip of land that enables elephant movement between two or more habitats.

2. West Bengal has the most number of the elephant corridors in India.

3. The border road organisation and the Ministry of Environment are jointly responsible for building elephant corridors.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**92. With reference to the Mithun (Bos frontalis), consider the following statements:**

1. It is known as the mountain cattle.

2. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has given it the 'food animal' label.

3. It is classified as a vulnerable species on the IUCN Red List.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**93. Who is India's Permanent representative to the United Nations ?**

- a) Suchitra Kamboj
- b) Ruchira Kamboj
- c) Ruchi Kamboj
- d) Rutrika Kamboj

**94. With which country will the Indian Army participate in the joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2023' ?**

- a) USA
- b) France
- c) Germany
- d) Turkiye

**95. Which company has received permission from the US FDA to begin human trials of its brain chip implant ?**

- a) OpenAI
- b) Neuralink
- c) DeepMind
- d) Colossal Biosciences

**96. Consider the following statements with reference to Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).**

1. Adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter is one of the core principles of ASEAN.
  2. India is not part of the ASEAN Plus Six grouping.
  3. India has signed a Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**97. Which one of the following groups of items is included**

**in India's foreign-exchange reserves?**

- a) Foreign-currency assets, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and loans from foreign countries
- b) Foreign-currency assets, gold holdings of the RBI and SDRs
- c) Foreign-currency assets, loans from the World Bank and SDRs
- d) Foreign-currency assets, gold holdings of the RBI and loans from the World Bank

**98. Crimean Peninsula is lying between which two water bodies**

- a) Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.
- b) Black sea and Sea of Maramara
- c) Red sea and Mediterranean Sea
- d) Black sea and Mediterranean Sea

**99. Which animal has been recently recognized as a 'food animal' by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)?**

- a) Mithun
- b) Gayal
- c) Yak
- d) Bison

**100. Where are Indian naval vessels, a submarine, and a Long-Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft currently located to participate in the 30th edition of SIMBEX?**

- a) Singapore
- b) Australia
- c) South Korea
- d) Malaysia

**101. Which month is designated as National Nutrition Month in India?**

- a) August
- b) October
- c) September
- d) November

**102. With reference to Asian Games, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a multi-disciplinary sports event held once in every four years.
2. It is recognised by International Olympic Committee and is second largest multi-sport event after Olympics.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**103. The Lachin Corridor has had a significant impact on the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The corridor connects the:**

- a) Turkey and Armenia
- b) Armenia and Georgia
- c) Azerbaijan and Iran
- d) Armenia and Azerbaijan

**104. With reference to White Label ATMs (WLAs), consider the following statements**

1. These ATMs are set up, owned and operated by RBI.
2. These ATM operators are authorised under the Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007 by the RBI.
3. They can source cash from any scheduled bank, including Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**105. Civil Aviation minister inaugurated new infrastructure at Tezu airport on 24 September 2023. The Tezu district is**

**located at the banks of which river ?**

- a) Dibang
- b) Lohit
- c) Subanshri
- d) Brahmaputra

**106. Which amendment bill 2023 was tabled in the Parliament by the Union Law Minister, Arjun Ram Mehwal ?**

- a) 125th
- b) 128th

- c) 132th
- d) 120th

**107. Which among the following Island of the Andaman & Nicobar islands contains the only known examples of mud volcanoes in India, called locally as "jalki" ?**

- a) Baratang Island
- b) Barren Island
- c) Car Nicobar
- d) Havelock Island

**ANSWER KEY**

1-c	2-b	3-c	4-b	5-d	6-c	7-a	8-a	9-b	10-c	11-c	12-c	13-c	14-a	15-b
16-a	17-b	18-c	19-c	20-b	21-d	22-a	23-b	24-d	25-b	26-b	27-b	28-c	29-c	30-b
31-a	32-c	33-b	34-b	35-a	36-c	37-c	38-d	39-c	40-b	41-b	42-d	43-c	44-c	45-c
46-b	47-c	48-d	49-c	50-b	51-a	52-b	53-b	54-b	55-a	56-a	57-d	58-b	59-d	60-a
61-c	62-c	63-a	64-c	65-c	66-a	67-d	68-b	69-c	70-d	71-c	72-a	73-c	74-b	75-b
76-c	77-d	78-a	79-c	80-d	81-c	82-b	83-c	84-d	85-d	86-b	87-b	88-c	89-c	90-a
91-b	92-c	93-b	94-a	95-b	96-b	97-b	98-a	99-a	100-a	101-c	102-c	103-d	104-b	105-b
106-b	107-a													