



Factly Compilation

25th to 30th September, 2023

Factly Compilation for the Month of September (Fourth Week) 2023

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1. Galactic tides: Pushing and pulling the heavens

Source: The post is based on the article “Galactic tides: Pushing and pulling the heavens” published in **The Hindu on 26th September 2023**

What is the News?

This article talks about the Galactic Tides.

What are Galactic Tides?

Galactic tides are a gravitational phenomenon that occurs within galaxies, including our Milky Way.

They are similar to Earth’s ocean tides but on a much larger scale.

They are caused by gravitational forces within a galaxy arising in the interactions between celestial objects like stars and gas clouds.

How does Galactic Tides influence various aspects of a galaxy’s evolution?

Firstly, they can reshape a galaxy structure by creating tidal tails and bridges, promoting star formation, and disrupting smaller star systems.

Secondly, they can disrupt the orbits of stars, leading to gradual and long-term changes in a galaxy’s structure.

Thirdly, galactic tides also have a say in the ways in which proximate galaxies do and don’t interact.

– Researchers have observed the closest galaxy to the Milky Way, the colossal Andromeda, and found that tidal streams near its edges could be signatures of dwarf galaxies that were later devoured.

– The Andromeda galaxy is heading towards the Milky Way and will collide in four billion years.

Fourthly, they also affect the supermassive black holes at galaxy centers, leading to events that change the ways in which these cosmic beasts interact with nearby stars.

2. First ever drone exhibition cum display ‘Bharat Drone Shakti 2023’ inaugurated by Raksha Mantri at Hindan Air Force Station

Source: The post is based on the article “First ever drone exhibition cum display ‘Bharat Drone Shakti 2023’ inaugurated by Raksha Mantri at Hindan Air Force Station” published in **PIB on 26th September 2023**

What is the News?

The Defence Minister has inaugurated the Bharat Drone Shakti-2023 exhibition at the Hindan Air Base in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

The minister also formally inducted the first C-295 MW transport aircraft into the Indian Air Force (IAF).

What is Bharat Drone Shakti?

Bharat Drone Shakti is a collaborative effort between the Indian Air Force and the Drone Federation of India (DFI).

Aim: To present the full potential of the Indian drone industry with an impressive lineup of over 50 live aerial demonstrations.

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– These demonstrations will encompass a diverse range of drone applications, including survey drones, agriculture drones, fire suppression drones, tactical surveillance drones, drone swarms and counter-drone solutions.

What are the key highlights from Bharat Drone Shakti-2023?

A compact drone system designed for easy transport on motorbikes was exhibited at the drone show.

These motorbikes are equipped to carry unassembled drones, providing an efficient means of deploying technology across rural terrains.

What is a C-295 MW Aircraft?

[Click Here to read](#)

3. Indian Standards on Biofuel to Aid GBA's Clean Energy Goals

Source: The post is based on the article “**Indian Standards on Biofuel to Aid GBA's Clean Energy Goals**” published in **PIB on 26th September 2023**

What is the News?

India's national standards body, The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has released standards on Biofuels.

What is the purpose behind BIS releasing standards for different products?

BIS operates a Product Certification scheme for ensuring compliance to Indian Standards.

Presence of BIS standard mark (popularly known as ISI mark) on a product indicates conformity to the relevant Indian Standard.

Before granting license to any manufacturer, BIS ascertains the availability of required infrastructure and capability of the manufacturer to produce and test the product conforming to the relevant Indian Standard on a continuous basis.

The BIS certification scheme is voluntary in nature. However for a number of products, compliance to Indian Standards made mandatory by the Central Government under various statutes in public interest.

What are the standards released by BIS on biofuels?

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has released nine standards on biofuels to aid stakeholders including manufacturers, traders, and other entities dealing with biofuel or related matters.

These standards related to use as blending components in motor gasoline, automotive fuels, aviation turbine fuel and Positive Ignition Engine Powered Vehicles – Specification.

These new standards for Biofuel are in line with the objectives of Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA).

Note: BIS has also been working on a green diesel standard. The green diesel is derived from 2G feedstock including agro-residues like rice & wheat straw, cane trash, corn cobs & stover, cotton stalk, bagasse, Empty Fruit bunches, etc.

What are the steps taken by the government to promote use of ethanol?

The global ethanol market was valued at \$99 billion USD in 2022, with an expected annual growth rate of 5% by 2032, presenting opportunities for Indian industries, job creation, and economic development.

Currently, India heavily relies on fossil fuels for transportation, resulting in substantial petroleum imports. Ethanol blending can lead to significant cost savings.

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Indian Oil Manufacturing Companies (OMCs) are expanding ethanol production, and Indian vehicle manufacturers are developing ethanol-compatible engines.

The government has introduced an interest subvention scheme to promote ethanol production using molasses and grain-based distilleries.

Flex fuel vehicles, capable of using up to 85% ethanol are expected to enter the Indian market, following examples from the USA and Brazil.

4. **Following India, U.S. raises concerns over Chinese vessel's visit with Sri Lanka government**

Source: The post is based on the article “**Following India, U.S. raises concerns over Chinese vessel's visit with Sri Lanka government**” published in **The Hindu on 26th September 2023**

What is the News?

India and the U.S. have raised concerns with the Sri Lankan administration over the scheduled visit of a Chinese research vessel to Sri Lanka.

What has happened?

The Chinese research vessel, Shi Yan 6, is part of a geophysical scientific research expedition organized by the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology (SCSIO) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

It will operate in the eastern Indian Ocean for 80 days, conducting 28 scientific research projects spanning more than 12,000 nautical miles. It is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka.

This planned visit follows a series of notable events involving Chinese vessels in Sri Lanka.

In 2022, a Chinese warship docked at Colombo port, causing tensions between India and Sri Lanka.

In August 2022, Chinese military ship Yuan Wang 5 arrived at Hambantota port, despite strong reservations expressed by India and the U.S.

What has been the response of the US and China on this?

The U.S. raised its apprehensions about the upcoming visit of the Chinese research vessel.

India had also previously conveyed its concerns about the Chinese research vessel to Sri Lankan authorities. This underscores a growing international interest in the situation.

What is the response of Sri Lanka on this?

Sri Lanka has said that it would adhere to a “Standard Operating Procedure” that the government has recently finalized for all foreign vessels intending to call at a Sri Lankan port.

5. **Union Minister flags-off 1st Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus from Kartavya Path, New Delhi**

Source: The post is based on the article “**Union Minister flags-off 1st Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus from Kartavya Path, New Delhi**” published in **PIB on 26th September 2023**

What is the News?

The Union Minister has flagged off the 1st Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus from Kartavya Path, New Delhi.

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What is India's first Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus?

Developed by: Indian Oil Corporation(IOC)

Working: The fuel cell utilizes Hydrogen and air to generate electricity to power the bus and the only by-product from the bus is water therefore making it possibly the most environmentally friendly mode of transportation as compared to conventional buses that run on diesel and petrol.

– The buses have also been equipped with four cylinders that have a capacity of 30 kg and can run the buses for 350 km. Re-fuelling time has also been cut down and it will now take 0-12 minutes for the four tanks to fill

Deployment: Initially, 15 fuel cell buses will be deployed on specified routes in the Delhi NCR Region to establish the performance data under Indian operating conditions.

– These 15 buses shall cover a cumulative 3 lakh kilometers to establish the efficacy, efficiency and sustainability of the complete value chain.

Significance: Green Hydrogen has the capacity to replace fossil fuel-derived feedstocks in industries like petroleum refining, fertilizer production, and steel manufacturing.

– Fuel cell technology powered by green hydrogen is emerging as a significant component of the e-mobility landscape.

What is Green Hydrogen?

[Click Here to read](#)

6. Rules amended, NGOs under FCRA will have to declare movable, immovable

Source: The post is based on the article “**Rules amended, NGOs under FCRA will have to declare movable, immovable**” published in **TOI on 26th September 2023**

What is the News?

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has modified rules pertaining to filing of annual returns by non-government organizations(NGOS) registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).

What is the FCRA?

The FCRA regulates foreign donations and ensures that such contributions do not adversely affect internal security.

It was enacted during the Emergency in 1976 amid apprehensions that foreign powers were interfering in India's affairs by pumping money into the country through independent organizations.

The law mandates that all NGOs register themselves under the FCRA and its registration is initially valid for five years and it can be renewed subsequently if they comply with all norms.

As per the FCRA, every person or NGO seeking foreign donations has to be registered under the Act and has to open a bank account in State Bank of India, Delhi.

Moreover, they can utilize the funds received from abroad only for the purpose they stated during registration.

What are the new rules introduced now?

NGOs and associations registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) will now be required to annually declare details of movable and immovable assets created by them out of the foreign contributions received.

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What were the changes made to the FCRA in the past?

In 2020, the Centre had amended the FCRA. It had stated that foreign contributions received by an organization cannot be transferred to any other person or organization unless that person or organization is also registered to accept foreign contributions.

The new rules had also reduced the use of foreign funds to meet administrative costs by NGOs to 20 percent from the existing 50 per cent.

In 2022, the Centre made more amendments, allowing Indians to receive up to Rs 10 lakh in a year from relatives staying abroad without informing the authorities. The earlier limit was Rs 1 lakh. If the amount exceeds, the individuals will now have 90 days to inform the government instead of 30 days earlier.

7. Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan introduced by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation to streamline the registration of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) and biogas plants nationwide

Source: The post is based on the article “**Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan introduced by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation to streamline the registration of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) and biogas plants nationwide**” published in **PIB on 26th September 2023**

What is the News?

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has introduced a Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan to streamline the registration of Compressed Bio-Gas and biogas plants nationwide.

What is the GOBARdhan Initiative?

Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) is an umbrella initiative of Government of India based on the whole of Government approach.

It covers the entire gamut of schemes/programmes/policies promoting the conversion of organic waste like cattle dung/ agri-residue etc to biogas/ CBG/ Bio CNG.

Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti is the coordinating department for GOBARdhan.

What is the Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan?

Anyone who operates or intends to set up a biogas/ CBG/ Bio CNG plant in India can obtain a registration number by registering in this unified registration portal.

The registration number is required to avail benefits/ support from other Ministries/ Departments.

What has been announced in the Budget 2023-24 under GOBARdhan?

As per Budget Announcement 2023-24, 500 new ‘waste to wealth’ plants under GOBARdhan scheme will be established for promoting the circular economy.

These will include 200 compressed biogas (CBG) plants, including 75 plants in urban areas, and 300 community or cluster-based plants.

These plants will be established primarily by the private sector with support from stakeholder Ministries/Departments.

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8. Eight institutes give an array of reasons for Joshimath sinking

Source: The post is based on the article “Eight institutes give an array of reasons for Joshimath sinking” published in **The Hindu on 26th September 2023**

What is the News?

The Uttarakhand government has made public reports on the land subsidence crisis in the sinking hill town of Joshimath.

What happened at Joshimath?

[Click Here to read](#)

What are the reasons for the sinking of Joshimath according to different institutes?

Central Building Research Institute Roorkee: Many buildings in Joshimath did not meet India’s building code standards, and the town was situated on geologically unstable terrain.

It recommended developing a disaster-resilient model town to rehabilitate people displaced from Joshimath.

Central Ground Water Board: It said that Joshimath’s location on loose sediment embedded with large boulders overlying metamorphic rocks was a significant factor contributing to the crisis.

It recommended an immediate halt to construction activities in the spring zone area and clearing any concrete material covering the emergence point of springs.

IIT Roorkee: It pointed out that the main reason for the subsidence appears to be internal erosion caused by the subsurface drainage, which may be due to infiltration of rainwater, melting of ice, waste water discharge from households and hotels.

National Institute of Hydrology: It suggested that the subsidence might have been caused by a blockage of sub-surface channels, leading to an eruption when the hydrostatic pressure of stored water exceeded the soil-water bearing capacity of the area.

It recommended prioritizing the safe disposal of water coming from the upper reaches and waste from the town.

Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology: It mentioned earthquakes as a contributing factor to gradual land subsidence.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO): It suggested various reasons including slope instability due to drainage water, loose soil and flash floods.

Geological Survey of India (GSI): It reported that areas with dense populations and multistory buildings experienced a higher density of ground cracks.

– The report explained that the excessive load from densely constructed towering structures on the colluvium debris mass, saturated with shallow subsurface water, contributed to increased subsidence in these areas.

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9. Bihana Didi' wins Borlaug Award for introducing drought-tolerant rice in Odisha

Source: The post is based on the article “Bihana Didi’ wins Borlaug Award for introducing drought-tolerant rice in Odisha” published in “Hindu Businessline” on 26th September 2023.

What is the News?

Indian agriculture scientist Swati Nayak has become the third Indian agriculture scientist to win the prestigious Norman E Borlaug Award for 2023.

The other two include Aditi Mukherjee (2012) and Mahalingam Govindaraj (2022).

What is the Norman E Borlaug Award?

Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Award is presented every year by the World Food Prize Foundation. It is presented in memory of the Nobel awardee Dr. Norman Borlaug,

This award recognizes exceptional, science-based achievement in international agriculture and food production by an individual under the age of 40.

Why was Swati Nayak given Norman E Borlaug Award?

Swati Nayak is credited with the successful dissemination and adoption of more than 20 climate-resilient and bio-fortified rice varieties.

Among these are ‘Sahbhagi Dhan’, a drought-tolerant variety suitable for hilly uplands, and ‘BINA Dhan-11’, which is flood-tolerant.

10. Greater one-horned rhinos thriving in India Nepal despite poaching threat Report

Source: The post is based on the article “Greater one-horned rhinos thriving in India Nepal despite poaching threat Report” published in “The Week” on 26th September 2023.

What is the News?

The State of the Rhino Report, 2023 has been released by US-based International Rhino Foundation (IRF).

The report comes ahead of World Rhino Day, an annual global celebration of the five rhino species and their conservation on September 22.

What are the key findings of State of the Rhino Report, 2023?



Source: International Rhino Foundation (IRF)

Threats: Habitat loss, poaching and climate change continue to threaten the existence of all five rhino species.

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– Rhino populations that were once considered less threatened have seemingly become the primary target of poaching efforts which are orchestrated by highly organized, transnational criminal syndicates.

Impact of Climate Change: In Africa, climate change-induced drought is causing myriad detrimental impacts.

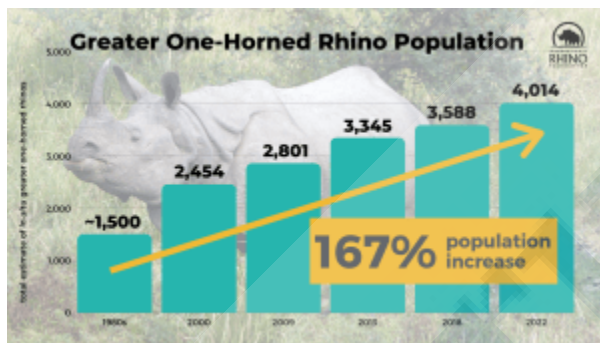
– In Asia dramatically increased precipitation and longer monsoon periods could cause more direct deaths of rhinos and humans alike.

– Changing weather conditions and landscapes can also trigger an increase in invasive plant species, crowding out or overtaking native rhino food plants and causing general habitat degradation.

Greater One Horned Rhino: Greater one-horned rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) reside primarily in India and Nepal, though there is a population that occasionally crosses into Bhutan.

– Bhutan, India and Nepal work together to implement a trans-boundary management strategy for the greater one-horned rhino.

– Thanks to this collaboration and strict government protection and management, the greater one-horned rhino population has steadily increased over the last century, and has grown about 20% over the last decade.



Deaths of Greater One Horned Rhino: After reporting no poaching deaths in 2022, India has recorded two deaths of Greater One-Horned Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) until September 2023.

– The deaths were reported from Manas National Park and Kaziranga National Park.

11. Over 860 serious charges pending against 194 MPs before polls

Source: The post is based on the article “Over 860 serious charges pending against 194 MPs before polls” published in “The Hindu” on 27th September 2023.

What is the News?

The Women’s Reservation Bill has been passed in both Houses of Parliament.

During the parliamentary debates before the passage of the Bill, several MPs voiced concern about the fact that many members have serious cases of crimes against women pending against them.

In this context, let us look at the data on the criminal cases against MPs.

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What does the data say on the criminal cases against MPs and MLAs?

MPs with criminal cases: According to the Association of Democratic Reforms' analysis of 763 Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs, 306 had criminal cases (40%) and 194 (25%) had serious criminal cases pending against them when they filed their affidavits.

– Serious criminal cases include non-bailable offences, murder, kidnapping, prevention of corruption, rape and other crimes against women.

MPs with charges related to crimes against women: There are 21 MPs who had pending charges of involvement in crimes against women at the time of their election.

– TeOver 860 serious charges pending against 194 MPs before polls these MPs were from the BJP, five were from the Congress, three from the YSR Congress Party, and the rest from other parties.

MLAs with criminal cases: Of all the MLAs analyzed, about 28% of them have declared serious criminal cases against themselves, including charges related to murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping, and crimes against women, among others.

MLAs with charges related to crimes against women: A total of 114 MLAs have declared cases pertaining to crimes against women, with 14 of them specifically declaring cases related to rape (IPC Section-376).

12. Law Commission to back simultaneous polls, suggest likely timelines for 2024 and 2029

Source: The post is based on the article “Law Commission to back simultaneous polls, suggest likely timelines for 2024 and 2029” published in “Indian Express” on 27th September 2023.

What is the News?

The 22nd Law Commission of India is set to submit a report recommending simultaneous elections in the country.

What did the 21st Law Commission say on simultaneous elections?

In 2018, the 21st Law Commission headed by Justice B S Chauhan (retired), in a draft report, had recommended the ‘One Nation, One Election’ idea.

However, given the complexity of the issues involved, the Commission had said that it was desirable to have further discussions and examination on the matter, involving all the stakeholders before making final recommendations to the Government.

The term of that Commission ended before a final recommendation was made.

What is the 22nd Law Commission planning to recommend on simultaneous elections?

The 22nd Law Commission was constituted under Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, former Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court.

The commission is going to recommend synchronized elections in the next five years so that the simultaneous poll rollout will start in 2029.

In order to achieve synchronized elections, the process must commence this year. The commission is also said to have dismissed the possibility of holding simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies in 2024.

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13. Centre softens angel tax rules

Source: The post is based on the article “Centre softens angel tax rules” published in “The Hindu” on 27th September 2023.

What is the News?

The Finance Ministry has notified final rules outlining valuation methods for non-resident and resident investors under the new angel tax mechanism in the Finance Act 2023.

What is Angel Tax?

Easier rules
Govt. eases rules governing investments in start-ups by non-resident investors at a premium over fair market value

- The new rules notified by the Centre provide more flexibility to merchant bankers for the valuation of a company
- Until now, the valuation of equity shares could only be based on NAV and discounted free cash flow methods
- The new policy is expected to address practical difficulties faced by investors and firms due to lack of clarity on rules

Source: The Hindu

Angel tax is levied when an unlisted company issues shares to an investor at a price higher than its fair market value (FMV).

Introduced in: It was introduced in 2012 as a measure to prevent generation and circulation of unaccounted money, experts said.

– It was called the angel tax as it initially applied primarily to Indian angel investors – usually high net worth individuals who invest in startups at a very early stage

Applicability: Earlier, angel tax was levied only on investments made by resident or local investors. However, the Budget expanded its scope to cover non-resident investors.

Criticism: Angel tax has been criticized by startups and investors, who argue that it discourages investments in startups as it is common practice to sell shares at a steep premium.

14. IICA-UNICEF conduct workshop on Business Responsibility & Sustainability Reporting (BRSR)

Source: The post is based on the article “IICA-UNICEF conducts workshop on Business Responsibility & Sustainability Reporting (BRSR)” published in “PIB” on 27th September 2023.

What is the News?

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) through its School of Business Environment (SoBE), in collaboration with UNICEF, organized a one-day workshop on Business Responsibility & Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) in New Delhi.

What is Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting(BRSR)?

The Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework was introduced by SEBI in 2021.

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The framework is a mandatory disclosure mechanism for top 1000 listed companies or businesses to report their performance on environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects and demonstrate their commitment to responsible business practices.

Principles: BRSR is rooted in the nine principles outlined in the National Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC). The nine principles are:

- Businesses should conduct and govern themselves with integrity in a manner that is Ethical, Transparent and Accountable.
- Businesses should provide goods and services in a manner that is sustainable and safe.
- Businesses should respect and promote the well-being of all employees, including those in their value chains.
- Businesses should respect the interests of and be responsive to all their stakeholders.
- Businesses should respect and promote human rights.
- Businesses should respect and make efforts to protect and restore the environment.
- Businesses, when engaging in influencing public and regulatory policy, should do so in a manner that is responsible and transparent.
- Businesses should promote inclusive growth and equitable development.
- Businesses should engage with and provide value to their consumers in a responsible manner.

15. Government extends support under Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) till 30th June 2024

Source: The post is based on the article “Government extends support under Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) till 30th June 2024” published in “PIB” on 27th September 2023.

What is the News?

Government of India has extended support under the Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) till 30 June 2024.

What is the Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)?

Launched by: Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Implemented since: 1st January 2021

Aim: To provide a mechanism for reimbursement of taxes, duties and levies, which are currently not being refunded under any other mechanism, at the central, state and local level, but which are incurred by the export entities in the process of manufacture and distribution of exported products.

Coverage: When the scheme was announced, it covered 8,731 items from most export sectors except for organic and inorganic chemicals, pharmaceuticals and iron & steel, which covered most engineering items.

- However, the government later decided to extend the scheme to the excluded sectors as well.

Tax refund rate: The tax refund rates under the scheme range from 0.5% to 4.3% depending on the sector and the product.

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16. Balsams in full bloom add to visual treat in Munnar

Source: The post is based on the article “Balsams in full bloom add to visual treat in Munnar” published in “The Hindu” on 27th September 2023.

What is the News?

Balsams (genus *Impatiens*) are in full bloom in Munnar, Kerala.

What is Balsams?



Source: The Hindu

Balsams refer to plants belonging to the genus *Impatiens*. These are flowering plants known for their small pink flowers. They are locally called as Kasithumba and Onappovu.

They are also known as ‘touch-me-not’ because of the bursting of mature seeds and seed distribution.

Found in: Of the 220 balsam species in India, 135 are found in the southern Western Ghats.

– Anamudi, the highest mountain in the Western Ghats, and the surrounding high ranges are known for the diversity of wild balsams.

– Munnar is also the major habitat of balsams. Around 46 species of balsams have been discovered in the altitude of Munnar. No other place in the world has such diversity.

Significance: Balsams are considered an important indicator of climate change, as changes in climate can affect their population.

17. Indians eat more salt than WHO recommendation

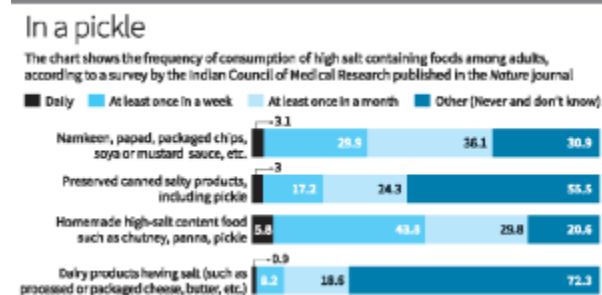
Source: The post is based on the article “Indians eat more salt than WHO recommendation” published in “The Hindu” on 26th September 2023.

What is the News?

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has published a study on salt intake among Indians in the journal Nature.

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What are the key findings of the study?



Source: The Hindu

High Salt Intake in India: The estimated mean daily salt intake in India is 8 g, which exceeds the World Health Organization's recommended limit of up to 5 g per day.

- This excessive salt intake is more common among men, people in rural areas, and those who are overweight or obese.
- Salt intake was higher in employed people, and current tobacco users and those with high blood pressure.

Why is this study relevant?

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), restricting salt intake is one of the most beneficial and cost-effective methods to reduce the incidence of blood pressure by 25%.

A high sodium level in the diet also increases the stroke and cardiac failure severity. Salty diet is responsible for 3 million deaths globally because of cardiovascular diseases.

In India, cardiovascular diseases account for an estimated 28.1% of the total deaths in India. In 2016, 1.63 million deaths were attributable to hypertension as against 0.78 million deaths in 1990.

18. World Coffee Conference in Bengaluru from Sept 25 to 28

Source: The post is based on the article “World Coffee Conference in Bengaluru from Sept 25 to 28” published in “Business Standard” on 28th September 2023.

What is the News?

Bengaluru is all set to host the 5th World Coffee Conference(WCC).

What is the World Coffee Conference(WCC)?

Organized by: International Coffee Organisation (ICO) in collaboration with the Coffee Board of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Government of Karnataka.

Aim: To discuss, debate, and collaborate on building a sustainable coffee industry.

Theme: “Sustainability through the circular economy and regenerative agriculture”

What is the International Coffee Organization(ICO)?

International Coffee Organization (ICO) was established in 1963 under the aegis of the United Nations and following the approval of the first International Coffee Agreement in 1962.

The ICO is the only intergovernmental organization for coffee, bringing together exporting and importing Governments.

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It currently represents 93% of world coffee production and 63% of world consumption. India is a member of this organization.

What is the Coffee Board of India?

Coffee Board is a statutory organization constituted under Section (4) of the Coffee Act, 1942.

It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

The Board is headquartered in Bengaluru.

Coffee Production in India:

The most well-known species of coffee grown in India are Robusta and Arabica. Robusta coffee accounts for over 70% of coffee production.

In the year 2021-22, India was the 5th largest exporter of coffee in the world with a share of about 6% of global coffee exports.

Karnataka is the largest coffee producer in India, accounting for 70 per cent of total coffee production. It is followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Note: Globally, Brazil is the largest coffee-producing country in the world.

19. Social bonds explained as NABARD raises Rs 1,040 crore via its inaugural issue

Source: The post is based on the article “**Social bonds explained as NABARD raises Rs 1,040 crore via its inaugural issue**” published in “**CNBC**” on 28th September 2023.

What is the News?

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has issued its inaugural social bonds with a total size of Rs 1,040.50 crore.

What are Social Bonds?

A social bond is a type of financial instrument issued by governments, international organizations or corporations to raise funds for projects and initiatives that have a positive social impact on society.

These bonds are designed to finance projects that address various social issues, such as healthcare, education, affordable housing, poverty alleviation, and environmental sustainability.

First Social Bond: The Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) in Maharashtra’s Pune and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2020 co-created India’s inaugural Social Impact Bond (SIB).

What is Sustainability Bond Framework?

NABARD recently announced a Sustainability Bond Framework.

The framework seeks to finance and refinance new or existing eligible green and social projects.

Eligible social projects include affordable basic infrastructure, access to essential services, affordable housing, employment generation, food security, socioeconomic advancement, and empowerment.

Projects that promise energy efficiency including green buildings, energy storage, and smart grids, would also be eligible to get funding.

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20. WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit co-hosted by Ministry of Ayush adopted ecofriendly methods aimed at reducing carbon emissions

Source: The post is based on the article “WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit co-hosted by Ministry of Ayush adopted ecofriendly methods aimed at reducing carbon emissions” published in “PIB” on 28th September 2023.

What is the News?

The Ministry of Ayush has been adopting and propagating eco-friendly methods to reduce carbon emissions and environmental pollution aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The recently concluded WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat is an example of that. This summit helped in the reduction of approximately 72,960 Kg of CO2 equivalent emission.

What is the WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit?

[Click Here to read](#)

What are the eco-friendly methods adopted at the WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit?

Paperless Approach: The event was entirely paperless, reducing the need for printed materials and transportation emissions.

Biodegradable Badges: Delegates and participants wore biodegradable badges that could be planted, containing seeds (marigolds).

Biodegradable Cutlery: Biodegradable cutlery and glass bottles were used throughout the event.

Digital Signages: Signages at the airport were primarily digital, reducing the use of printed materials.

Wooden Exhibitions: 90% of the exhibition space was constructed using wood and featured real plants and reusable materials.

Online Platforms: All event and media documents were made available online, including brochures, flyers, information booklets, and conference updates.

Reduced Travel: The summit emphasized online presence, resulting in 6,046 online streams (live and recorded), significantly reducing the need for physical travel and carbon emissions.

21. STs trail non-STs in 81 health measures: 2021 study

Source: The post is based on the article “STs trail non-STs in 81 health measures: 2021 study” published in “The Hindu” on 28th September 2023.

What is the News?

A recent study in ‘The Lancet Regional Health — Southeast Asia’ has analyzed health, nutrition, and population trends among Scheduled Tribes (STs) in India from 2016 to 2021 using data from National Family Health Surveys.

What are the key findings of the study?

Scheduled Tribes(STs) Population: According to the 2011 Census, there are over 104 million STs spread across 705 recognised ethnic groups. They make up 8.6% of India’s population.

Challenges faced by STs over non-STs: In 2021, the non-ST population outperformed the ST population in 81 out of 129 indicators. STs continued to face challenges, particularly concerning women’s status and major public health issues such as child malnutrition, anemia, insufficient vaccination coverage and disparities in fertility and mortality rates. For instance:

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- **Child Mortality:** The child mortality rate for STs was alarmingly high, with 50 out of every 1,000 children not surviving to their fifth birthday.
- **Child Malnutrition:** Child malnutrition was a significant issue, with over 40% of ST children under five being stunted and underweight.
- **High Blood Pressure:** Between 2016 and 2021, there was a notable increase in high blood pressure levels among ST men and women aged 15–49, with increases of 7.5% and 8.9%, respectively.

Indicators in which STs outperformed non-STs: STs surpassed non-STs in indicators such as gender balance, gender balance at birth, use of family planning methods, consistent treatment during pregnancy and adherence to recommended breastfeeding practices.

– Moreover, STs showed a reduced occurrence of diabetes and hypertension compared to non-STs.

Improvements made by STs between 2016 to 2021: During this period, STs made progress in indicators such as:

- **Sanitation Facilities:** Access to improved sanitation facilities improved significantly, with a 30.4 percentage point increase from 2015–2016 to 2019–2021.
- **Skilled Birth Attendance:** More births were attended by skilled health personnel, increasing by 13 percentage points.
- **Full Vaccination Coverage:** Coverage for full vaccination among children aged 12–23 months increased by 18.6 points.
- **Civil Birth Registration:** Civil registration of births among STs also rose from 76% in 2016 to 88% in 2021, indicating better documentation and recognition of births within the community,

22. Green Ammonia Imported through VOC Port, Tamil Nadu for the first time

Source: The post is based on the article “Green Ammonia Imported through VOC Port, Tamil Nadu for the first time” published in “PIB” on 28th September 2023.

What is the News?

State-run V O Chidambaranar (VOC) Port located in Tamil Nadu has become the first port in India to handle green ammonia with the arrival of 20-inch tank containers loaded with the fuel from the Port of Damietta in Egypt.

What is Green Ammonia?

Ammonia is a pungent gas that is widely used to make agricultural fertilisers. Green ammonia production is where the process of making ammonia is 100% renewable and carbon-free.

Process: One way of making green ammonia is by using hydrogen from water electrolysis and nitrogen separated from the air. These are then fed into the Haber process (also known as Haber-Bosch), all powered by sustainable electricity.

– In the Haber process, hydrogen and nitrogen are reacted together at high temperatures and pressures to produce ammonia, NH₃.

What are the uses of Green Ammonia?

Energy storage: Ammonia is easily stored in bulk as a liquid at modest pressures (10-15 bar) or refrigerated to -33°C. This makes it an ideal chemical store for renewable energy.

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Zero-carbon fuel: Ammonia can be burnt in an engine or used in a fuel cell to produce electricity. When used, ammonia's only by-products are water and nitrogen. The maritime industry is likely to be an early adopter, replacing the use of fuel oil in marine engines.

Direct usage of Green Ammonia in the fertilizer industry: Green Ammonia can directly replace Grey Ammonia currently used in fertilizer plants without requiring any changes to existing infrastructure.

23. Indian Navy to unveil 'Swavlamban 2.0' next week: Vice-Chief

Source: The post is based on the article "Indian Navy to unveil 'Swavlamban 2.0' next week: Vice-Chief" published in "The Hindu" on 28th September 2023.

What is the News?

The Indian Navy will release its updated indigenisation roadmap called 'Swavlamban 2.0'.

What is Swavlamban?

Swavlamban is the Naval Innovation & Indigenisation Organisation's (NIIO) annual seminar.

The seminar aims to engage the Indian industry and academia in achieving 'Self-reliance in Defence Sector'.

What is Naval Innovation & Indigenisation Organisation(NIIO)?

Click Here to read

What is the SPRINT Initiative?

SPRINT is a collaborative initiative being undertaken by Naval Innovation and Indigenisation (NIIO) in conjunction with the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO).

Full Form: SPRINT stands for **S**upporting **P**ole-Vaulting in **R**&**D** through **I**nnovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), **N**IIO and **T**echnology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC).

Aim: To give a boost to the usage of indigenous technology in the Indian Navy.

As part of this initiative, Indian Navy aims to induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies/products into the Indian Navy.

24. INDO-PACIFIC ARMIES CHIEFS CONFERENCE(IPACC)

Source: The post is based on the article "INDO-PACIFIC ARMIES CHIEFS CONFERENCE(IPACC)" published in "PIB" on 28th September 2023.

What is the News?

The Defence Minister delivered the inaugural address at the 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs' Conference(IPACC) in New Delhi.

What is the Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs' Conference(IPACC)?

Organized by: Indian Army with the US Army

Aim: To provide an opportunity for the delegates to exchange ideas and views on security and other contemporary issues of mutual interest, with core efforts directed to promote 'Peace and Stability' in the Indo-Pacific region.

Participation: The conference witnessed participation from 30 countries. 18 countries were represented by Chiefs of their respective Armies and 12 countries were represented by Heads of Delegations.

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What are the key highlights from the Defence Minister's address at the conference?

Importance of Indo Pacific region: The Indo-Pacific is no more a maritime construct, but a full-fledged geo-strategic construct, and the region is facing a complex web of security challenges, including boundary disputes & and piracy.

The Geo-Strategic Importance of the Indo-Pacific can be explained through a theoretical model by American author and speaker Mr Stephen R. Covey, which is based on two circles – **'Circle of Concern' and 'Circle of Influence'**.

– The **'Circle of Concern'** encompasses everything one cares about, including things that can be controlled and things that cannot. It includes a wide range of external factors & issues such as global events, economic conditions, other people's opinions, weather and many other aspects of life.

– The **'Circle of Influence'** comprises things over which one has direct control or can exert some degree of influence. It may involve your attitudes, behaviors, decisions, relationships, and actions.

The Defence Minister applied this model to international relations. He highlighted that nations may have overlapping **'Circles of Concern,'** which could lead to conflicts or cooperation.

– **For example,** International maritime trade routes passing through high seas beyond the Exclusive Economic Zones of any country is a relevant example. This concern was addressed through the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982. This agreement establishes the legal framework for maritime activities and addresses the issues arising from overlapping *'circles of concern'* of different nations.

Similarly, states must identify and seek to expand their **'Circle of Influence'** to promote national interests on the global stage. This may involve building partnerships, participating in regional organizations and employing diplomatic, economic or military tools strategically.

25. Gujarat turns over new leaf, bans invasive tree species: 'Adverse impact'

Source: The post is based on the article **"Gujarat turns over new leaf, bans invasive tree species: 'Adverse impact'"** published in **"Indian Express" on 28th September 2023.**

What is the News?

Gujarat Government has banned the planting of Conocarpus trees in both forest and non-forest areas due to their adverse impact on the environment and human health.

Earlier, Telangana had also banned the Conocarpus Trees.

What are Conocarpus Trees?

Conocarpus is an evergreen species with dark-green shiny leaves. They are fast-growing and can be trimmed into various shapes, making them an attractive choice.

It is native to parts of North and South America, as well as parts of Africa.

These trees have been the popular choice in recent years for beautification of public spaces to residential societies and factories.

They are being grown as trees lining public roads as well as hedges along walkways in gardens and are amenable to be trimmed into various shapes.

However, Conocarpus trees have several adverse impacts. **For instance:**

Firstly, pollen from the trees have been found to trigger health issues like cold, cough, asthma, and allergies.

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Secondly, conocarpus trees penetrate deep into the ground and extend horizontally. On several occasions, it has come to the notice of the authorities that their roots damage underground electricity cables, communication lines, drainage lines and drinking water pipes.

Thirdly, the conocarpus tree absorbs more water from soil than other species and is a threat to groundwater.

26. India ageing, elderly to make up 20% of population by 2050: UNFPA report

Source: The post is based on the article “India ageing, elderly to make up 20% of population by 2050: UNFPA report” published in “The Hindu” on 28th September 2023.

What is the News?

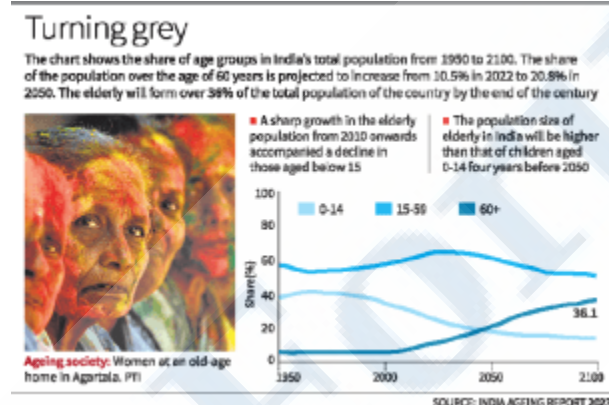
The India Ageing Report 2023 has been released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS).

What is India Ageing Report 2023?

India Ageing Report 2023 represents a thorough review of the living conditions and welfare of older individuals in India.

The report is based on the latest data available from the Longitudinal Ageing Survey in India (LASI), 2017–18, Census of India, Population Projections by the Government of India (2011–2036) and World Population Prospects 2022 by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

What are the key findings of the report?



Source: The Hindu

Elderly Population Growth: India's elderly population is growing significantly, with a projected 41% increase in the decadal growth rate. By 2050, the share of elderly individuals in the total population is expected to double, reaching over 20%.

Elderly vs. Children: It is anticipated that by 2046, the elderly population will surpass the population of children (aged up to 15) in India.

Elderly Poverty: More than 40% of the elderly in India are in the poorest wealth quintile, and about 18.7% of them live without an income. This level of poverty may negatively impact their quality of life and healthcare utilization.

Ageing Beyond 80: The report predicts a 279% growth in the population aged 80 and above between 2022 and 2050, with a predominance of widowed and highly dependent very old women.

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Life expectancy: In India, a man aged 60 years can live another 18.3 years, while women can live 19 years. Apart from this, it also depends on the different life expectancy of the states. In Kerala and Himachal Pradesh, women can have up to 4 years more than men.

Sex Ratio Among the Elderly: The sex ratio among the elderly has been increasing since 1991, indicating more elderly women than men.

– For instance, in 1991, there were 930 elderly women per 1,000 men. After this, the ratio started to change and will continue to do so. The report estimates that by 2031, there will be 951 men for 1,078 women.

Gendered Poverty: Poverty among the elderly is often gendered, with older women more likely to be widowed, living alone, without income, and dependent on family support.

Regional Variations: There are significant regional variations in the elderly population's absolute levels and growth. Southern and select northern states have a higher share of the elderly population, while central and northeastern regions have younger populations.

What are the recommendations given by the report?

Special focus should be there on older persons in disaster-preparedness plans that are formulated henceforth.

There is a lack of credible data on various issues related to the elderly in India and more could be done by including questions on relevant and emerging issues related to older persons in the upcoming data collection exercises of the National Sample Survey, the National Family Health Survey, and the Census of India, respectively.

Government must work on increasing awareness about schemes for older persons, bring all Old Age Homes under regulatory purview and focus on facilitating in-situ ageing to the extent possible.

Government should encourage the creation and running of elderly self-help groups.

Government should also encourage *in situ* (at home) ageing as much as possible by creating short-term care facilities like creches or day-care facilities, citing better care when elderly people live with their respective families.

27. **What is geospatial intelligence? A geographer explains the powerful melding of maps and data**

Source: The post is based on the article “**What is geospatial intelligence? A geographer explains the powerful melding of maps and data**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **29th September 2023**.

What is the News?

Geospatial intelligence has offered valuable insights to help governments and organizations to protect communities from natural disasters.

What is Geospatial Intelligence?

Geospatial intelligence is the collection and integration of data from a network of technologies, including satellites, mobile sensors, ground-control stations and aerial images.

The data is then used to produce real-time maps and simulations to help identify when, where and to what extent a threat is likely to emerge.

Government officials, individuals or both can use this information to make informed decisions.

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The geospatial intelligence industry is projected to grow from a US\$61 billion enterprise in 2020 to more than \$209 billion in 2030.

What are the applications of Geospatial Intelligence?

Emergency Preparedness and Response: Geospatial intelligence aids in monitoring and responding to disasters, like tropical cyclones, by providing information on their location and strength.

– It supports search-and-rescue efforts, assesses damage, and helps in resource allocation during emergencies.

Environmental Monitoring: Geospatial intelligence monitors environmental factors like temperature, precipitation, and polar ice to anticipate disturbances.

– This data is crucial for preparing for events like heatwaves, which can impact human safety and security.

Conflict and Security: Geospatial intelligence contributes to security by tracking and reporting on events like the Russian-Ukraine war through satellite imagery.

– Commercial satellite companies now provide vital public information, extending the role of geospatial intelligence in transparency.

Transportation and Logistics: Geospatial intelligence enhances transportation, logistics, and global supply chains by utilizing GPS data.

– It provides real-time information on ship and cargo locations, improving efficiency and reliability.

Autonomous Vehicles and Urban Planning: High-resolution imagery aids in the development of autonomous vehicles and smarter urban planning.

– It helps detect features on the ground, such as bicycle lanes and traffic direction, for safer and more efficient communities.

Use in development, implementation and evaluation of digital twins: Digital twins are virtual representations of real systems – buildings or cities, for example – that mimic the systems' characteristics and can be updated in real time to reflect changing conditions in the systems.

– Digital twins are being used in many civilian and military settings to improve decision making. They are useful for modeling changes and predicting outcomes.

– Digital twins have been highly effective in conflict settings by simulating weather and terrain to help militaries and peacekeepers develop and enact strategies.

What is the significance of Geospatial Intelligence in today's world?

The need for geospatial intelligence is more important than ever.

Average temperature is projected to increase between 2 to 9.7 degrees Fahrenheit (1.1 to 5.4 degrees Celsius) by the end of the century.

The global population is expected to reach 11 billion by 2100, and urban areas are becoming denser and more prone to disasters.

Whether reconstructing the past, describing the present or anticipating the future, geospatial intelligence provides valuable information to help keep people and communities safe.

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28. Tripura becomes fourth state to introduce e-cabinet system

Source: The post is based on the article “**Tripura becomes fourth state to introduce e-cabinet system**” published in “**Indian Express**” on 29th September 2023.

What is the News?

Tripura Chief Minister has launched an e-cabinet system to promote digital infrastructure development and digitisation of government services and information

What is an eCabinet system?

eCabinet is a powerful tool for State Governments to conduct Cabinet meetings electronically.

It has been developed by the National Information Centre (NIC).

Features of eCabinet:

- Replace paper based Cabinet Meetings conserving environment
- Automate workflow activities before, during and after Meetings.
- Rich UI & UX tools, for ease of use by Ministers.
- Enhanced level of Security with Push & Pull features.
- Build institutional memory & knowledge repository, enabling quick search & retrieval.

Benefits of eCabinet:

- Saves huge resources of Paper, fuel and manpower.
- Online Data updation by Each, Information for all, leading to coordinated action.
- Better decision making, Quick retrieval of Decisions taken in meetings and review Action taken.
- Enables Virtual participation of Ministers.
- Brings in Corporate style in conduct of meetings, with standardization of data, formats and works.

How many states have adopted the eCabinet system?

Tripura has become the fourth state—and second in the Northeast—after Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh to have introduced an e-cabinet system.

29. MGNREGS social audit unit in a state of paralysis in many States

Source: The post is based on the article “**MGNREGS social audit unit in a state of paralysis in many States**” published in “**The Hindu**” on 29th September 2023.

What is the News?

The Social Audit Units under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

What is Social Audit under MGNREGA?

Social Audit is the examination and assessment of a programme/scheme conducted with the active involvement of people and comparing official records with actual ground realities.

Section 17 of the MGNREGA has mandated Social audit of all works executed under the MGNREGA.

Each State has social audit units that are supposed to work independently of the implementing authorities.

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The social audit unit's sole responsibility is to flag cases of malpractice. Recovering the money, and reprimanding the officials responsible, is up to the State governments.

What are the issues faced by the Social Audit units under MGNREGA?

Firstly, Social audit units are suffering because they are found-starved and do not have trained or adequate personnel working for them.

Secondly, less than 14% of the amount flagged by the social audit units has been recovered so far by the state.

– This dismal recovery rate threatens the credibility of the audit process since it makes the entire exercise futile.

30. Uttar Pradesh Achieves 100% ODF Plus Coverage under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen

Source: The post is based on the article **“Uttar Pradesh Achieves 100% ODF Plus Coverage under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen”** published in **“PIB” on 29th September 2023.**

What is the News?

Uttar Pradesh has achieved 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus coverage under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) programme.

What is ODF Plus village?

An ODF Plus village is one which has sustained its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status along with implementing either solid or liquid waste management systems.

Currently, 4.4 lakh (75%) villages across the nation have declared themselves ODF Plus which is a significant step towards achieving the SBM-G phase II goals by 2024-25.

So far, 11 states have been declared 100 per cent ODF Plus status out of which UP is the largest.

What is Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) – 2023 campaign?

[Click Here to read](#)

What is SBM (Grameen)?

[Click Here to read](#)

31. What is the ‘Five Eyes’ intelligence alliance?

Source: The post is based on the article **“What is the ‘Five Eyes’ intelligence alliance?”** published in **“The Hindu” on 29th September 2023.**

What is the News?

The Canadian Prime Minister has linked the killing of a Khalistani leader on Canadian soil to the Indian government.

This has put the spotlight on the intelligence-sharing alliance ‘Five Eyes’, which is believed to have provided the information that “helped” Canada.

What is Five Eyes Alliance?

The ‘Five Eyes’ alliance is a multilateral intelligence-sharing network of five countries, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the U.K. and the U.S.

The alliance is both surveillance-based and tracks signals intelligence(SIGINT).

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Intelligence documents shared between the member countries are classified as 'Secret—AUS/CAN/NZ/UK/US Eyes Only,' which gave the group its title 'Five Eyes'.

Origin of the alliance: In 1943, the Britain-USA (BRUSA) agreement laid the foundations for the UK-USA (UKUSA) agreement.

– BRUSA was signed between the US War Department and the UK's intelligence and security agency Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS) to share intelligence information between the two countries to support US forces in Europe, exchange personnel and develop joint regulations for the handling and distribution of highly sensitive material.

– Following this, the UKUSA was signed in 1946. Canada joined it in 1949, and New Zealand and Australia did so in 1956 forming the alliance.

What is the objective of the Five Eyes Alliance now?

The objective of the Five Eyes alliance has shifted following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of new global challenges like terrorism and the growing influence of China.

The alliance have now become involved in ocean and maritime surveillance, scientific and defence intelligence analysis, medical intelligence, geospatial intelligence, counterintelligence, counterterrorism and the continuous sharing of intelligence products via a secret collective database known as 'Stone Ghost'.

What are the concerns related to the Five Eyes alliance?

There have been several concerns regarding the privacy, security and methods of working of the intelligence alliance, which remained shrouded in mystery for long.

The alliance was embroiled in a major controversy in 2013 following the disclosure of classified documents by Edward Snowden, a former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor. Mr. Snowden described the network as a supranational intelligence organization that doesn't answer to the laws of its own countries.

32. Assam Promotes Pipe Composting: A Unique Way Of Converting Biodegradable Waste Into Manure in Two Months

Source: The post is based on the article "Assam Promotes Pipe Composting: A Unique Way Of Converting Biodegradable Waste Into Manure in Two Months" published in "PIB" on 29th September 2023.

What is the News?

Assam is actively promoting **Pipe Composting** among its rural communities during the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva campaign.

What is Pipe Composting Technology?

Pipe composting technology is a method of converting organic waste into compost using PVC pipes 8 – 10 inches in diameter and 1.25 metres in length. The pipes are placed vertically keeping them 25-30 cm inside the ground.

Only degradable waste can be disposed of into the pipes including leftover food, fruit and vegetable peels, flowers, dung, agricultural waste, etc.

Once in two weeks, a little cow dung and dry leaves are mixed with water and poured inside to accelerate the growth of the worms.

This should remain closed so that rainwater does not enter the pipes. Compost manure can be removed by lifting the pipe after 2 months.

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What are the benefits of Pipe Composting Technology?

Efficient Waste Conversion: It rapidly transforms biodegradable waste into valuable compost, contributing to waste reduction and environmental preservation.

Environmental Friendliness: Pipe composting is eco-friendly, as it doesn't harm the environment.

Clean and Hygienic Environment: It helps maintain a clean and hygienic environment within school campuses, promoting health and well-being.

Odorless and Fly-Proof: This composting method is odorless and prevents the attraction of flies, ensuring a pleasant atmosphere.

Space Efficiency: It doesn't require much space, making it suitable for places with limited area for waste management.

Sustainability: The system is sustainable, as the same pipes can be used repeatedly, reducing the need for additional materials.

Educational Opportunity: It offers a valuable educational opportunity for students to learn about decomposition science, the role of microorganisms and invertebrates, waste management, and sustainability, fostering environmental awareness.

33. Inside the digital world of cookies

Source: The post is based on the article **"Inside the digital world of cookies"** published in **"The Hindu" on 29th September 2023.**

What is the News?

In the digital world, cookies enhance online experiences but pose privacy and security challenges. Their usage and regulation are evolving in the digital landscape.

What are Cookies?

Cookies contain tiny amounts of data about users in text files that act like a website's memory.

As soon as we use a server, tiny amounts of data start getting stored inside a cookie.

The website uses it to identify users and their devices, which also stores these cookies. Whenever a user visits the same website, the cookies identify him/her and make it show relevant information.

What are the different types of Cookies?

Session Cookies: Temporary and disappear when you close your browser. They help websites remember your actions during a single visit.

Persistent Cookies: They are the digital equivalent of bookmarks. They stay on the device after your browsing session ends.

– They remember the login information, language preferences, and even the ads you have interacted with. They are handy for a more personalized web experience.

Secure Cookies: These are only sent over encrypted connections, making them safer from prying eyes. Secure cookies are often used for sensitive data like login credentials.

Third-Party Cookies: Come from domains other than the site you're visiting and are used for tracking and advertising.

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What are the various uses of cookies?

1) **User Authentication:** They keep you logged in on websites 2) **Personalization:** Customize your experience based on preferences 3) **Shopping Carts:** Maintain items in your cart across visits 4) **Analytics:** Help websites gather data for improvements 5) **Targeted Advertising:** Display ads matching your interests.

What are the challenges associated with cookies?

Privacy Concerns: Privacy concerns arise as cookies could track your online behaviour, which, while often harmless, can sometimes encroach upon your digital privacy.

Security Risks: Poorly secured cookies can lead to data theft.

User Consent: Regulations require websites to seek approval for certain cookies. For instance, Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 necessitates websites to acquire explicit consent from users prior to collecting or processing their personal data via cookies.

Third-Party Cookies: Controversial due to privacy concerns.

Data Overload: Too many cookies can slow down your browser.

34. Union Minister launches CRIIO 4 GOOD modules to advance gender equality and empower young people

Source: The post is based on the article “Union Minister launches CRIIO 4 GOOD modules to advance gender equality and empower young people” published in “PIB” on 29th September 2023.

What is the News?

The Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship has launched ‘CRIIO 4 GOOD’, a new online, life skills learning module to promote gender equality among girls and boys.

What is the CRIIO 4 GOOD Initiative?

Launched by: International Cricket Council (ICC), UNICEF and Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Purpose: CRIIO 4 GOOD is a series of 8 cricket-based animation films to promote gender parity, equip girls with life skills and encourage their participation in sports.

Available on: The modules can be accessed free of cost on criio.com/criio4good in three languages: English, Hindi and Gujarati.

The themes of the eight modules are: leadership, problem-solving, confidence, decision-making, negotiation, empathy, teamwork and goal setting and are visualized through state-of-the-art animation using cricketing examples.

Significance: The programme uses the power of sports and the popularity of cricket as a medium to empower the girl child and spread awareness about gender equity.

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35. India retains 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index 2023

Source: The post is based on the article “India retains 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index 2023” published in “PIB” on 28th September 2023.

What is the News?

Global Innovation Index 2023 has been published by the World Intellectual Property Organization.

What is the Global Innovation Index?

[Click Here to read](#)

What are the key findings of Innovation Index 2023?



Source: Economic Times

Top Five countries: Switzerland, Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore are the world's most innovative economies in 2023.

India: India has maintained its 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023. In 2015, India stood at the 81st spot and has been rising in the past eight years.

- India ranked first among the 37 lower-middle group of income and first among the 10 economies in Central and South America.
- India holds top rankings in key indicators such as: ICT services exports (5th rank), flow of venture capital (6), graduates in science and engineering (11) and global corporate R&D investors (13).
- The areas where India needs to improve a lot are infrastructure (84th rank), business sophistication (57) and institutions (56).

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36. Jharkhand CM writes to PM, seeks recognition of Sarna religious code for tribals

Source: The post is based on the article “Jharkhand CM writes to PM, seeks recognition of Sarna religious code for tribals” published in “Indian Express” on 28th September 2023.

What is the News?

Jharkhand Chief Minister has written to the Prime Minister seeking recognition of the ‘Sarna’ religious code for tribals.

What is Sarna religion?

Followers of Sarna faith regard themselves as belonging to a distinct religious group.

They are nature worshippers. The holy grail of the Sarna faith is “Jal (water), Jungle (forest), Zameen (land)”.

The followers of Sarna faith pray to the trees and hills while believing in protecting the forest areas.

Believers of Sarna faith do not practice idol worship, nor do they adhere to the concept of the Varna system, heaven-hell, etc.

The followers are largely concentrated in the tribal belt states of Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.

What are Sarna faith people demanding?

Sarna followers are demanding to include ‘Sarna’ as a separate religion for indigenous people in the next census.

A separate ‘Sarna’ code in the census is the key to a distinct identity for tribals as without it, they are classified as Hindus or Muslims or Christians.

How will Sarna’s recognition as a separate religion help?

Recognition as a separate religious community will enable better protection of their language and history.

37. Law Commission against lowering age of consent under POCSO Act

Source: The post is based on the article “Law Commission against lowering age of consent under POCSO Act” published in “The Hindu” on 30th September 2023.

What is the News?

The Law Commission has recommended the government to retain the existing age of consent under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

What is the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act?

[Click Here to read](#)

What are the recommendations given by the Law Commission on the POCSO Act?

Age of Consent in POCSO Act: The Law Commission has recommended the government to retain the existing age of consent under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The current age of consent in India is 18 years.

– It said that reducing the age of consent would have a direct and negative bearing on the fight against child marriage and child trafficking.

Tacit Approval: The Law panel suggested amendments in the POCSO Act, 2012 for cases where children aged 16 to 18 give tacit approval, not legal consent.

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– The panel also advised the courts to tread with caution even in cases related to adolescent love, where criminal intention may be missing. This will ensure that the law is balanced, thus safeguarding the best interests of the child.

38. Union Minister launches the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard portal of DARPG

Source: The post is based on the article “Union Minister launches the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard portal of DARPG” published in “PIB” on 30th September 2023.

What is the News?

The Union Minister of State for Personnel has launched the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 public grievance portal.

What is Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0?

IGMS is an artificial intelligence(AI) driven Grievance Monitoring System.

It aims to enhance the efficiency of the public grievance redressal process.

Developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with IIT Kanpur.

The system provides real-time analysis of grievances received and resolved, as well as state-wise and district-wise data. It also helps identify the root cause of grievances, allowing for targeted interventions.

Significance: In India, the common man raises around 20 lakh grievances annually on the CPGRAMS portal. However, manually classifying and monitoring these grievances is a challenging and time-consuming task.

– Therefore, the launch of the IGMS 2.0 Dashboard will significantly expedite the grievance redressal process, enabling the concerned ministries and departments to respond more effectively.

What is the Centralized Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)?

[Click Here to read](#)

39. Renewable Energy Company IREDA gets upgraded from ‘Schedule B’ to ‘Schedule A’ Central Public Sector Enterprise

Source: The post is based on the article “Renewable Energy Company IREDA gets upgraded from ‘Schedule B’ to ‘Schedule A’ Central Public Sector Enterprise” published in “PIB” on 30th September 2023.

What is the News?

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has been upgraded from ‘Schedule B’ to the ‘Schedule A’ category of Central Public Sector Enterprises.

How are CPSE’s grouped into different schedules?

The Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance has laid down criteria for initial as well as re-categorization of Central Public Sector Enterprises(CPSEs) into appropriate schedules.

All CPSEs are required to be categorized into four schedules, namely, Schedule ‘A’, Schedule ‘B’, Schedule ‘C’ and Schedule ‘D’.

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The categorization of CPSE has implications mainly for organizational structure and salary of Board level incumbents of the concerned CPSE.

What is Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd.(IREDA)?

IREDA is a Mini Ratna (Category-I) non-banking financial institution under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

It is a Public Limited Government Company established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFC) in 1987.

IREDA has been notified as a “Public Financial Institution” under section 4 ‘A’ of the Companies Act, 1956 and registered as NBFC with Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Purpose: It is primarily engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation.

Motto: ENERGY FOR EVER

Funding: IREDA generates its revenue through the interest and principal repayments from the projects it finances, as well as by raising funds from the market and through borrowings.

How will IREDA elevation from ‘Schedule B’ to the ‘Schedule A’ category help?

The elevation of IREDA to the ‘Schedule A’ category opens the door for its upgradation from “Mini Ratna (Category- I)” to “Navratna” status.

This will grant increased financial autonomy to IREDA, allowing the organization to make more strategic decisions to further its commitment to accelerating the adoption of renewable energy solutions across the country.

40. PM’s call for Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath could be world’s largest voluntary effort for a cleaner India

Source: The post is based on the article “PM’s call for Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath could be world’s largest voluntary effort for a cleaner India” published in “PIB” on 30th September 2023.

What is the News?

Government of India has launched ‘Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath’ Initiative.

What is Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath?

It is an initiative focused on hardcore cleanliness activities, specifically shramdaan (voluntary labor) for the purpose of promoting cleanliness and sanitation in India.

The goal is to mobilize citizens to come together for one hour at 10 am on 1st October and work towards cleaning various public places.

This effort is meant to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, whose Jayanti (birthday) falls on October 2nd, and to honor his vision of a clean and hygienic India.

Significance: This initiative will help in visible cleanliness and promote a cleaner and more hygienic environment across the country.

What is Swachhata Pakhwada – Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2023?

[Click Here to read](#)

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41. 22nd Law Commission submits report on e-FIR

Source: The post is based on the article “22nd Law Commission submits report on e-FIR” published in “PIB” on 30th September 2023.

What is the News?

The 22nd Law Commission of India has given several suggestions related to the electronic first information reports (e-FIR).

What are the recommendations given by the 22nd Law Commission report related to e-FIR?

e-FIR: At present, the electronic registration of FIRs is being implemented in eight states, but only for specific crimes.

– The Law Commission highlights that e-FIRs can be especially beneficial in areas where visiting a police station is not feasible due to security or infrastructural issues. It can also help overcome reluctance by police officers to file FIRs for petty offenses.

Limited roll out of e-FIR: The Law Commission has recommended allowing the filing of electronic first information reports (FIRs) for cognisable offenses in all cases where the accused is unknown and all cognisable offenses with a jail term of up to three years where the accused is known.

– **Note:** According to The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 cognisable offences are those in which police officers can arrest an accused without a warrant or court permission, and are typically more serious such as murder, rape or abduction.

– Non-cognisable offenses are those in which police officers do not have the authority to arrest without a warrant.

Amendments: The commission has recommended suitable amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, Indian Evidence Act, 1872, the Information Technology Act, 2000, the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and other legislation to support e-FIR registration.

Verification and Prevention of False Complaints: To prevent false e-FIRs and complaints, the Commission suggests verifying the complainant or informant through e-authentication techniques such as OTP verification of the mobile number and mandatory uploading of valid ID proof like Aadhaar or government-approved IDs.

– The Commission also recommends imposing a minimum punishment, including imprisonment and fines, for false registration of e-complaints or e-FIRs.

Exemptions: The Commission recommended against allowing registration of e-FIR in all cases. It referred to the Supreme Court’s landmark verdict in *Lalita Kumari v. State of Uttar Pradesh*, in which the court held that preliminary enquiry should be conducted in cases pertaining to matrimonial disputes, commercial offences, medical negligence and corruption, among others.

42. New guidelines propose no admissions to students below Class 9 at coaching centres

Source: The post is based on the article “New guidelines propose no admissions to students below Class 9 at coaching centers” published in “The Hindu” on 30th September 2023.

What is the News?

Rajasthan Government has issued guidelines to regulate coaching institutes in Kota, a coaching hub.

Who recommended these guidelines?

The guidelines were recommended by a high-powered committee headed by the Principal Secretary (Higher & Technical Education) of Rajasthan Government.

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The committee was appointed to look into the issue of suicides by the students in the coaching hub of Kota.

In 2023, 23 students have died by suicide. This year has recorded the highest number of students' suicides since 2013.

What are the key guidelines issued by the high-powered committee in Rajasthan?

- Students below Class 9 may not be admitted to coaching institutes.
- Confidentiality of test results is essential.
- Batches should be formed alphabetically rather than based on students' ranks.
- There should be no glorification of toppers.
- No segregation of students based on their ranks.
- A policy should be formulated for an easy exit from coaching centers with a refund of fees within 120 days.
- Routine tests at coaching institutes were halted for two months to reduce mental pressure on students.