



CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 01-15, 2023

Since - 1998
TNPSC EXAMS
24 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE

Foot Prints

(Compilation of Current Events)

 TAMIL NADU	 STATES	 NATIONAL	 INDIA & THE WORLD	 INTERNATIONAL
 SCHEMES	 DEFENCE	 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	 EVS	 ECONOMY
 COURT VERDICTS	 CONFERENCES & SUMMITS	 AWARDS	 PERSONALITIES	 BOOKS & AUTHORS
 SPORTS	 RANKS & REPORTS	 DAYS	 OBITUARY	 NEWS OF THE MONTH
 KNOWLEDGE	 APPOINTMENTS	 COMMITTEES	 APPS / PORTALS	 MISCELLANEOUS

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TAMIL NADU

- **UGC upgrades Madras University to category-1**
- ✓ Madras University is now a category 1 university in the country.
- ✓ A++ grade in NAAC gives it full autonomy to start courses and launch offshore campuses.



- ✓ The University Grants Commission has upgraded the status of University of Madras and recognised it as a category-1 institution, following its improved NAAC score.
 - ✓ In the recent round of accreditation by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, the university secured a score of 3.59, an improvement from 3.32, in the previous cycle of NAAC assessment.
 - ✓ “The UGC came up with a regulation for graded autonomy around five years ago. The main benefit is that category I universities can start programmes without the UGC’s approval, and they need to only report it to the UGC.
- **HR&CE Dept. Forms Team of Experts - To write history of 26 temples in the State**
 - ✓ The readers of the autobiography of Tamil Scholar U.V. Swaminatha Iyer – *En Charithiram* – would come across details about his teacher Meenakshisundraman Pillai, being invited to various temple towns to write the *sthalapuranam* (purana of the temples) of various temples.



- ✓ *Sthalapuranas*, more often than not a hagiography, in a language beyond the grasp of the common man, was part of the Tamil tradition. Now the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department has constituted a team of experts to pen the history of 26 temples in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The department has issued an order detailing the requirement of the books with a minimum of 140 pages.

APPALLO
STUDY CENTRE

STATE

➤ UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List

- ✓ Gujarat's traditional dance form 'Garba' has been included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

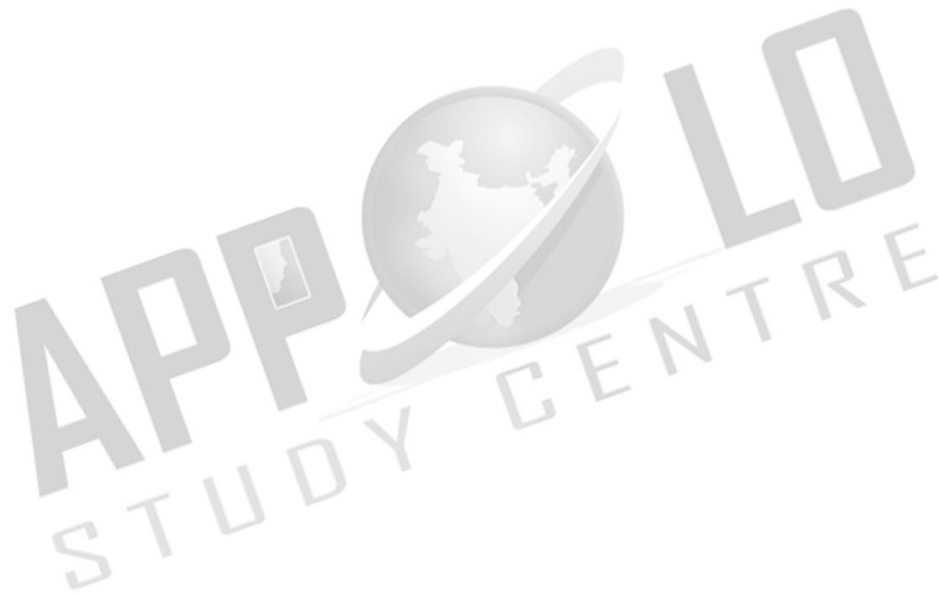


- ✓ The popular dance form is the 15th cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list.
 - ✓ The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage inscribed 'Garba of Gujarat' on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during its 18th session, taking place in Kasane, Botswana.
- ## ➤ Geographical Indication Tag
- ✓ Meghalaya's Lakadong turmeric, known for its exceptional quality, has been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.



- ✓ Considered one of the **finest turmeric** varieties globally, **Lakadong turmeric** boasts an impressive **curcumin content** ranging from 6.8 to 7.5 percent.
- ✓ The GI tag is expected to enhance marketing opportunities for farmers, ensuring customers have access to the genuine product.

Alongside Lakadong turmeric, three more products from Meghalaya were honoured with the GI tag: **Garó Dakmánda** (traditional dress), **Lárnai pottery**, and **Garó Chubitchi** (alcoholic beverage).



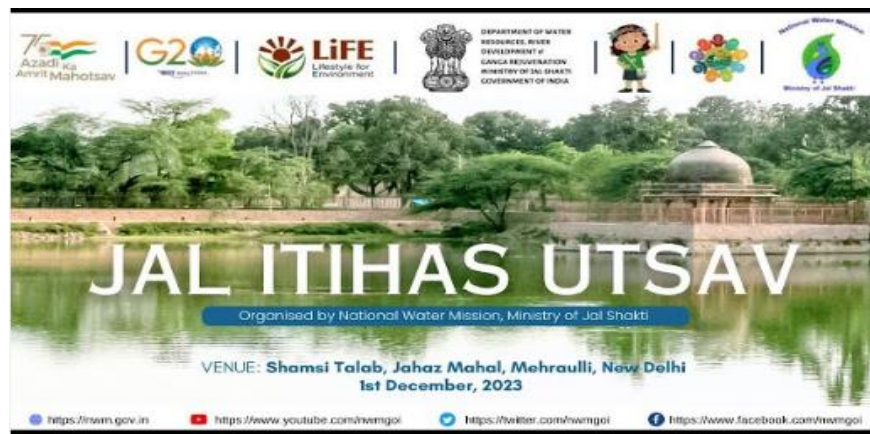
NATIONAL

➤ **Blod+: India's First On-Demand Blood Platform**

- ✓ Blod.in has unveiled its groundbreaking healthcare software and logistics platform, Blod+.
- ✓ This innovation aims to revolutionize blood management and delivery, addressing the alarming issue of blood wastage in healthcare facilities across the country.



- ✓ The platform's mission is to ensure that **hospitals have steady access to blood**, ultimately reducing wastage significantly.
 - ✓ Blod+ surpasses industry norms, reducing the average sourcing time for blood from 6 hours to an average of **2 hours and 7 minutes**. This remarkable improvement ensures that critical patients receive timely access to blood, potentially saving countless lives.
- ## ➤ **Jal Itihas Utsav**
- ✓ Ministry of Jal Shakti Celebrates Water Heritage in Delhi.
 - ✓ Ministry of Jal Shakti's 'Jal Itihas Utsav' raises awareness on water heritage preservation and historical structure restoration.



- ✓ **Campaign Highlights:** Culmination of "Water Heritage Fortnight" at 75 sites and the successful conclusion of 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign.
- ✓ Theme: Emphasis on "Source Sustainability for Drinking Water," targeting 150 Water Stressed Districts for rainwater harvesting.
- **World's First Portable Hospital**
- ✓ The World's first portable hospital, 'Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube' was unveiled in Gurugram.
- ✓ Designed indigenously under the Project 'BHISHM', the modular trauma management and aid system is made up of 72 detachable mini-cubes, each being a specialized station for emergency response and humanitarian efforts.



- ✓ It can handle **bullet injuries**, burns, head, spinal and chest injuries, minor surgeries, fractures and major bleeding.
- ✓ It can treat as many as 200 patients. These cubes are light and portable, and can be rapidly deployed anywhere, from airdrops to ground transportation.
- ✓ The mobile hospital is part of India's message of **health for all** and assisting other nations during their times of crises.

➤ **Lead IT 2.0**

- ✓ PM Modi launches LeadIT 2.0, prioritizing inclusive industry transition.
- ✓ The initiative aims to co-develop low-carbon tech and offer financial aid to emerging economies.



- ✓ On the sidelines of the 28th edition of the climate change conference, COP28, taking place in Dubai, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled LeadIT 2.0.
- ✓ The initiative, with a primary focus on an inclusive and just industry transition, aims to facilitate the co-development and transfer of low-carbon technology while providing financial assistance to emerging economies.
- **Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar**
- ✓ Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, responsible for culture, tourism, and the development of the North Eastern Region, announced a groundbreaking initiative, titled “Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar” (MGMD).



- ✓ The primary objective of MGMD is to make the wealth of information about Indian villages accessible to both virtual and real-time visitors.
- ✓ This aligns with the broader goals of the National Mission on Cultural Mapping, reflecting the government’s commitment to document and map the cultural diversity inherent in villages across the country.

➤ **Infinity Forum 2.0**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to address the second edition of the Infinity Forum, a premier Financial Technology event.



- ✓ The event, hosted by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and GIFT City, is under the auspices of the Government of India.
- ✓ Building on the success of its inaugural edition in December 2021, the Infinity Forum 2.0 promises to be a global thought leadership platform focusing on financial services.
- ✓ The central theme of the 2nd edition is 'GIFT-IFSC: Nerve Centre for New Age Global Financial Services.'

➤ **India Joins UN's 'Race To Resilience' At COP28**

- ✓ India has taken a significant step towards addressing the challenges posed by climate change by joining the United Nations' 'Race to Resilience' global campaign.



- ✓ The Climate Centre for Cities (C-Cube) at NIUA, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, will play a pivotal role in spearheading India's participation in the 'Race to Resilience.'
- ✓ The 'Race to Resilience' is a worldwide platform that aims to unite non-state actors, investors, businesses, cities, regions, and civil society.

✓ The goal is to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable communities to the impacts of climate change by 2030.

➤ **India's Fastest' Solar-Electric Boat "Barracuda"**

✓ 'India's fastest' solar-electric boat "Barracuda" launched.



- ✓ Furthering the objective of eco-friendly maritime transportation, Barracuda was launched on December 13 at the yard of Navalvt Solar and Electric Boats located near Aroor in Alappuzha.
- ✓ It is named after the fast, long fish, the barracuda.
- ✓ Navalvt Solar and Electric Boats had won the World's Best Start-up award in the Mobility and Transport category at the Berlin Start-up Energy Transition Awards 2023.

➤ **ASEAN-India Millet Festival**



- ✓ Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare inaugurated ASEAN-India Millet Festival at New Delhi.
- ✓ In line with the International Year of Millets, the festival aims to increase awareness and establish a larger market for millet and millet based products.

- ✓ Millet provides benefits to farmers, consumers, environment, makes an important contribution to global food-nutrition security.



SCHEMES

➤ **Seed Fund Scheme - Space Tech Start-ups**

- ✓ The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has introduced a seed fund scheme aimed at supporting start-ups engaged in the fields of urban development and disaster management through the utilization of space technology.



- ✓ Additionally, start-ups will receive ISRO facility support, mentorship, and access to data algorithms, including Earth Observation (EO) data for validation.
- ✓ The scheme includes financial assistance of up to Rs 1 crore, along with training, networking opportunities, and mentorship support.

➤ **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**

- ✓ The Ministry of Railways has launched the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme for the development of stations of Indian Railways.



AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME

- ✓ So far, 1309 Stations as appended have been identified for development under this scheme.
- ✓ Modernisation/upgradation of railway stations is a continuous and on-going process.

- ✓ The Ministry of Railways also envisages exploration of various models for the development and/or maintenance of railway stations including Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC), non-EPC modes etc. and a minuscule number of stations under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
- **'NAMO Drone Didi' Scheme: Drones For Women's Self-Help Groups**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative, NAMO Drone Didi, announced on November 30, aims to empower 15,000 women Self Help Groups (SHGs) by providing drones for agricultural purposes.



- ✓ This innovative approach harnesses technology to empower rural women, positioning them at the forefront of the agricultural revolution.
- ✓ NAMO Drone Didi addresses the need for modernizing agricultural practices and boosting productivity.
- ✓ By placing cutting-edge drone technology in the hands of rural women, the scheme transforms them into key players in the rural economy.
- **Forest Certification Scheme For Sustainable Management**
- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has introduced the **Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme**.



- ✓ This voluntary national certification initiative aims to encourage sustainable forest management and agroforestry practices in India.
- ✓ The scheme encompasses forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification.
- ✓ The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council will oversee the scheme, acting as a multi-stakeholder advisory body. The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies under the Quality Council of India will accredit certification bodies.



COURT VERDICT

➤ Supreme Court Upholds Abrogation Of Article 370

- ✓ The Supreme Court's landmark decision on December 11, 2023, upheld the Union Government's 2019 move to abrogate the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) under Article 370 of the Constitution.

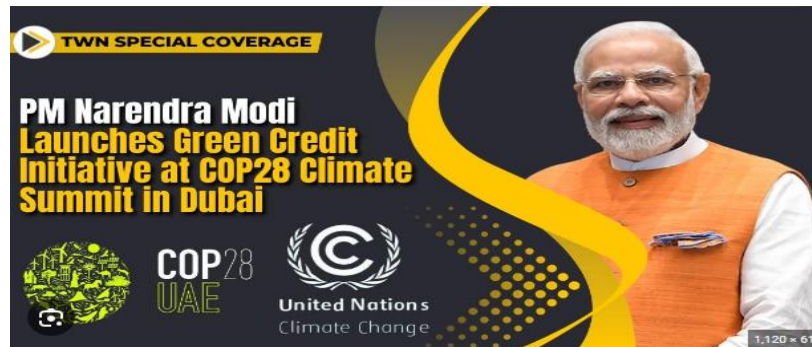


- ✓ The judgment, delivered by a Constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, addressed key constitutional questions and outlined significant conclusions.
- ✓ The Supreme Court validated the Union Government's decision to revoke the special status of J&K under Article 370, emphasizing that the state had no internal sovereignty. The court clarified that the concurrence of the State Government was not necessary, and Article 370 was deemed a temporary provision.

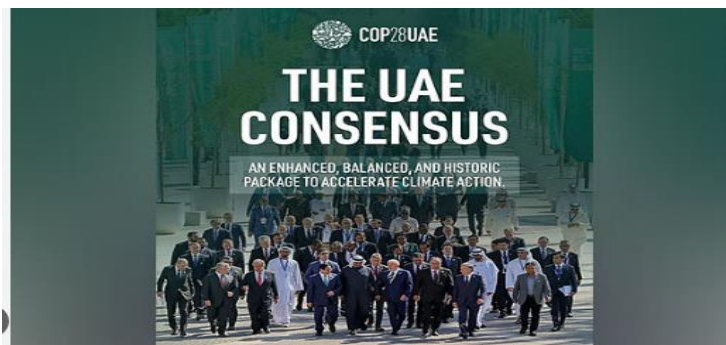
INTERNATIONAL

➤ Green Credit Initiative at COP-28

- ✓ The green credits initiative has been launched by PM Modi at COP28.
- ✓ The initiative was launched by the PM during his two-day visit to the United Nations climate conference being held in the United Arab Emirates.



- ✓ The initiatives aim to encourage the plantations.
 - ✓ The Green Credit Program is a "market-based mechanism designed to encourage voluntary environmental actions in a variety of sectors by various stakeholders such as individuals, communities, private sector industries, and companies.
 - ✓ In its initial phase, the program will focus on water conservation and afforestation.
- 'UAE Consensus'
- ✓ In Dubai, nations reached for a landmark agreement, the 'UAE Consensus' that calls for a transition away from fossil fuels to achieve net zero by 2050.



- ✓ The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) has come to a historic close, marking a turning point in global efforts to combat climate change.
- ✓ 198 participating parties, outlined an ambitious climate agenda aimed at keeping the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C within reach.

- ✓ The UAE Consensus encourages Parties to submit economy-wide Nationally Determined Contributions and sets specific targets, including tripling renewables and doubling energy efficiency by 2030.



CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit 2023

- ✓ Dehradun is preparing to host the Global Investors Summit on December 8-9, anticipating the participation of 5,000 delegates from India and abroad.



- ✓ The summit is geared towards showcasing investor-friendly policies, good governance, and sustainable practices.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to officially open the summit at the Forest Research Institute on December 8.
- ✓ The summit's framework, 'Destination Uttarakhand,' draws inspiration from the Vibrant Gujarat model.
- ✓ The event will feature Business-to-Business (B2B) and Government-to-Business (G2B) meetings to assist investors in making informed decisions.

➤ GPAI 2023

- ✓ Currently serving as the incoming Support Chair of GPAI, India is set to take on the Lead Chair position for GPAI in 2024.
- ✓ To showcase its commitment to the advancement of AI, India is hosting the Annual GPAI Summit. .



- ✓ The **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)**, established in **June 2020**, is a groundbreaking multi-stakeholder initiative. India is one of the founding members of GPAI in 2020.
 - ✓ With a primary objective to bridge the gap between theory and practice in the field of AI, GPAI supports **cutting-edge research** and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
 - ✓ Initially launched with **15 member countries**, GPAI has significantly expanded its membership to include **28 member countries** and the **European Union**.
 - ✓ This collaborative environment aims to **foster international cooperation** and knowledge exchange in the ever-evolving field of artificial intelligence.
- **27th WAIPA World Investment Conference**
- ✓ Invest India, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Government of India, is set to host the 27th World Investment Conference (WIC) from December 11-14, 2023.



- ✓ The event, under the aegis of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), promises to be a groundbreaking platform for global investment promotion and innovation stakeholders.
 - ✓ This year's conference will delve into the theme of "Empowering Investors: IPAs Pioneering Future Growth." The focus is on discussing investment policies and trends, providing a unique opportunity for collaboration, trade, investments, and knowledge sharing.
- **New Delhi Declaration**
- ✓ New Delhi Declaration has been adopted at the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence summit.
 - ✓ All 29 member countries of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit adopted the New Delhi Declaration.



- ✓ They agreed to collaboratively develop AI applications in healthcare and agriculture.
- ✓ GPAI will be the centre for shaping the future of Artificial Intelligence in terms of innovation and collaboration among partner countries.
- ✓ As per the declaration, the GPAI will also focus on countries from the Global South and provide benefits of AI platforms and solutions to all the people of the world.

APP
STUDY CENTRE

DEFENCE

➤ INS Sandhayak

- ✓ The **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** Ltd delivered the largest-ever survey vessel built in the country, **INS Sandhayak**, to the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The **110-meter-long vessel** is the first in a series of four survey ships being constructed by GRSE for the navy, marking a crucial milestone in the indigenous shipbuilding industry.



- ✓ The Sandhayak-class vessels boast comprehensive capabilities, making them invaluable assets to the Indian Navy. These survey ships can **conduct full-scale coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys**.
- ✓ Each ship can carry a helicopter, participate in low-intensity combat scenarios, and function as hospital ships.

➤ Indian Navy Conducts Bi-annual “Ex Prasthan”

- ✓ The Indian Navy conducted a bi-annual exercise called Prasthan in the Western Offshore Development Area off Mumbai, according to the Ministry of Defence press release.



- ✓ The exercise is conducted under the Western Naval Command and is conducted every six months to validate measures and procedures to address various contingencies that may arise in the oil production platforms.
- ✓ The current exercise was conducted on the R12A (Ratna) platform of ONGC, located about 45 nm West of Mumbai Harbour.

➤ **Table-Top Exercise**

- ✓ In a significant step towards fostering gender inclusivity and strengthening the capabilities of women military personnel in peacekeeping operations, the Indian Army recently conducted a table-top exercise (TTX) for women officers from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).



- ✓ This exercise, held at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi from December 4 to 8, is part of the ongoing joint military training initiatives between India and ASEAN member states.
- ✓ The exercise stands as a landmark initiative, explicitly designed to promote gender inclusivity and elevate the capabilities of women military personnel operating in peacekeeping environments.

➤ **VINBAX-23**

- ✓ The Indian and Vietnamese Armies have initiated an 11-day military exercise in Vietnam, commencing on December 11.

Exercise VINBAX 2023



- ✓ This collaborative endeavor, named “VINBAX-23,” reflects the deepening strategic partnership between the two nations and is a response to shared concerns over China’s assertive actions in the South China Sea.
- ✓ The joint military exercise is part of an expanding strategic engagement between India and Vietnam, emphasizing their commitment to counterbalance China’s increasing aggression in the South China Sea.
- ✓ The military exercise, VINBAX-23, spans from December 11 to 21 and is hosted in Hanoi.

ECONOMY

- **TN Ranks Fourth in attracting FDI**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu ranks fourth in attracting FDI in the period between Oct 2019 and September 2023, after Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat.



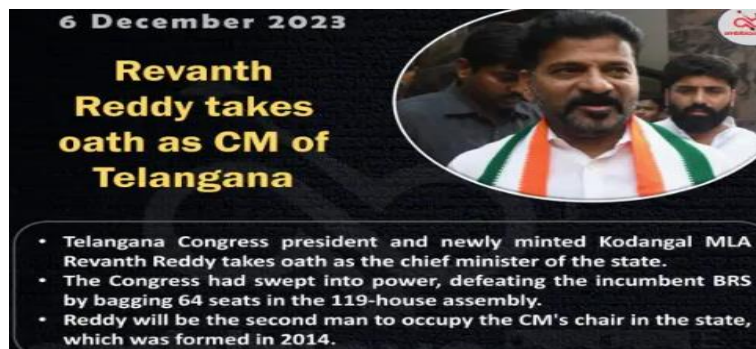
- ✓ Cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow into Tamil Nadu has touched nearly \$10 billion in the last four years from the period between October 2019 and September 2023.
- ✓ The total FDI inflow includes equity inflow, equity capital of unincorporated bodies, re-invested earnings and other capital.
The State-wise details are maintained for the equity component of total FDI inflow since October, 2019.

APPOINTMENT

- **First woman Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research Education (ICFRE)**
- ✓ Kanchan Devi has become the first woman Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research Education (ICFRE).



- ✓ She is an Indian Forest Service officer from the 1991 batch of the Madhya Pradesh cadre.
 - ✓ She played an important role in setting up of the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management.
 - ✓ She also played a key role in the implementation of the World Bank-funded Ecosystem Services Improvement Project at ICFRE.
- **Revanth Reddy - CM of Telangana**
 - ✓ Telangana Congress president and newly minted Kodangal MLA Revanth Reddy takes oath as the chief minister of the state.
 - ✓ The Congress had swept into power, defeating the incumbent BRS by bagging 64 seats in the 119-house assembly.



- ✓ Reddy will be the second man to occupy the CM's chair in the state, which was formed in 2014.

- ✓ Born in Mahboobnagar district, Anumula Revanth Reddy started his career in politics with the ABVP while he was a student. He was also associated with the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (now changed to Bharat Rashtra Samithi).
- ✓ Reddy has been an MLA thrice, twice from the TDP and once from the Congress, which he joined in 2017.

➤ **India's New Vice Chief Of Navy Staff**

- ✓ In a significant development within the Indian Navy, a major reshuffle is set to take place at the top echelons of the force, with Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi slated to assume the position of Vice Chief of Naval Staff on January 4.



- ✓ This transition marks a crucial moment for the Navy, as Vice Admiral Tripathi steps into a role responsibility for overseeing the modernization efforts of the force.
- ✓ Notably, the Indian Navy is set to acquire MQ-9B Predator drones and Rafale fighter jets, underscoring the strategic importance of the position.

AWARDS

➤ SKOCH Gold Award 2023

- ✓ The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), which is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the Ministry of Power, has been honoured with the prestigious SKOCH Gold Award 2023.



- ✓ This award is a notable recognition of the company's achievement in the power sector.
- ✓ The prestigious award was conferred upon PGCIL in recognition of the revolutionary Pugalur Thrissur 2000 MW Voltage Source Converter High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) System that it developed.

➤ 'Légion d'Honneur' (National Order of the Legion of Honour)

- ✓ Lalithambika VR, 60, was conferred the 'Légion d'Honneur' (French highest civilian award) for her engagement in space cooperation between France and India.



- ✓ The scientist, who was the director of the Human Spaceflight Programme at the ISRO, has been recognised by France for her role in the signing of the first joint

agreement for cooperation between the French National Space Agency CNES and the ISRO on human spaceflight.

✓ She was the first director of the directorate of the human space programme at the ISRO in 2018.

➤ **Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters)**



✓ Arshia Sattar, eminent scholar of Indian literature and mythology, acclaimed translator, author, and co-founder and director of the literary residency, Sangam House, was conferred the insignia of Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) at a special ceremony at the Consulate General of France in Bengaluru.

➤ **India's Safeena Husain honoured with Qatar WISE Prize 2023**



✓ **Safeena Hussain**, founder of 'Educate Girls,' has become the **first Indian woman to bag the WISE Prize** worth 5 lakh USD for mobilizing 14 lakh out-of-school girls in Indian villages to get back to mainstream education.

- ✓ The prize, awarded by the Qatar Foundation at the 11th Edition of the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Summit earlier this week in Doha, is one of the most prestigious awards in education.
The WISE prize was established in 2009 by the Qatar Foundation.

➤ **Best Youth Athlete at APC Awards**

- ✓ Sheetal Devi, Indian para archer, secures the title of Best Youth Athlete at the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) awards during the Asian Awards in Riyadh.



- ✓ Hangzhou 2022 Success: Devi's outstanding performance at the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games, winning gold in individual and team events, contributes to her achievement.
- ✓ Devi's breakthrough year includes a silver at Pilsen 2023 World Archery Para Championships and achieving the world number one ranking in compound women.

➤ **35th Jimmy George Foundation Award**

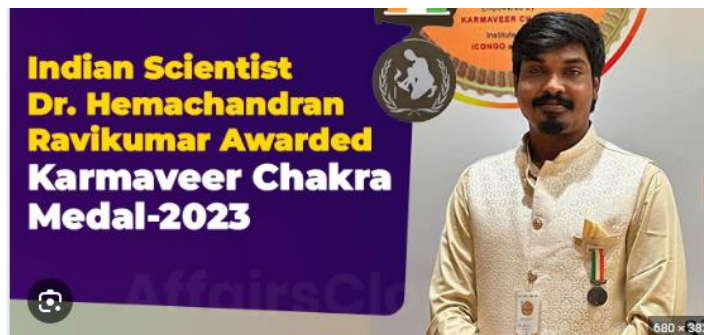
- ✓ Olympian M. Sreeshankar Receives 35th Jimmy George Foundation Award
- ✓ Olympian M. Sreeshankar honored with the 35th Jimmy George Foundation Award, acknowledging him as Kerala's best sportsperson.



✓ Notable Achievements: Sreeshankar's stellar year includes winning silver in the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games long jump events, securing his place as World No. 4.

➤ **Karmaveer Chakra Medal-2023**

✓ In a momentous ceremony on Nov 27, 2023, in New Delhi, Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar was honored with the Karmaveer Chakra Medal and Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship by ICONGO in collaboration with the United Nations, in recognition of his exceptional contributions to R&D in Physical & Bio-Science and Microbiological Studies.



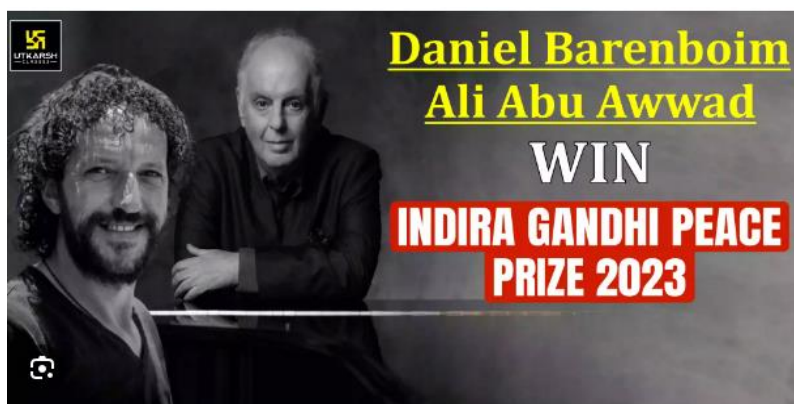
✓ Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar's exemplary work in advancing scientific knowledge and promoting the understanding of Biological Sciences has rightfully earned him this esteemed accolade.

➤ **Order of Merit**

✓ Kabir Bedi was awarded the "Order of Merit of the Italian Republic" (Merito della Repubblica Italiana), the country's highest honour awarded to civilians, at a private ceremony held in Mumbai.



- ✓ The “Order of Merit of the Italian Republic” stands as a testament to Italy’s appreciation for those who have made outstanding contributions to society, embodying the nation’s values of merit and excellence.
 - ✓ The “Order of Merit of the Italian Republic,” known as “Merito della Repubblica Italiana” in Italian, is one of Italy’s highest honours.
- **2023 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize**
- ✓ 2023 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development awarded to Ali Abu Awwad and Daniel Barenboim.



- ✓ The award has been given for their efforts in bringing together the youth and peoples of Israel and the Arab World for a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.
 - ✓ Maestro Barenboim is an Argentine-born, distinguished classical pianist.
 - ✓ Mr. Awwad is a distinguished Palestinian peace activist who has been working tirelessly with the people of Palestine and Israel for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.
- **Nyholm Prize For Chemistry Education Excellence**
- ✓ Professor Savita Ladage from Mumbai’s Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, has been awarded the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry’s Nyholm Prize for Education.



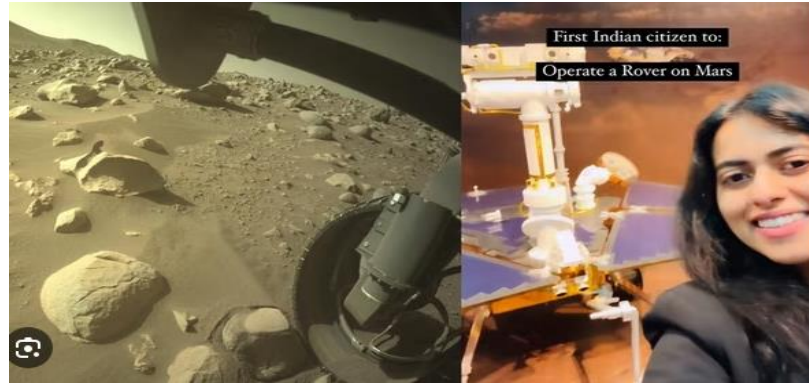
- ✓ Professor Ladage's tireless advocacy for the significance of chemical education has earned her this esteemed award. She has played a pivotal role in mentoring chemistry educators and spearheading impactful teacher and student programs that have significantly contributed to the enhancement of chemistry education in the country.

APPOLLO
STUDY CENTRE

PERSONALITIES

➤ Akshata Krishnamurthy

- ✓ Dr. Akshata Krishnamurthy is the first Indian citizen to operate the Mars Perseverance rover.



- ✓ She currently works for NASA as the mission science phase lead for the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar.
 - ✓ The 'rocket scientist' obtained her Masters from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign before pursuing a Doctorate at MIT.
 - ✓ She had travelled to the US 13 years ago for higher studies.
- **4 Indians among Forbes list of 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women' of 2023**



- ✓ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, HCL Corporation Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Steel Authority Of India Chairperson Soma Mondal and Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw are the four Indians among the 100 named in Forbes' annual list of 'The World's Most Powerful Women'.

- ✓ The most inspirational woman who leads the list is European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen. She occupies this ranking for the second consecutive year.



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ ISRO Unveils XPoSat: India's Pioneering X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite

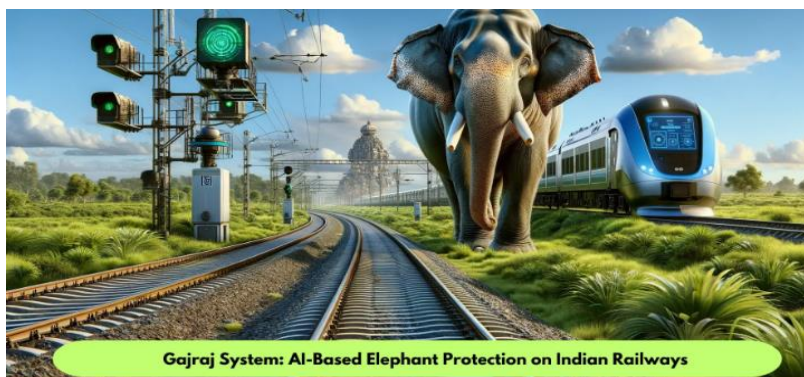
- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that India is set to launch its first X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat), aiming to investigate the polarisation of intense X-Ray sources.



- ✓ The XPoSat spacecraft is designated for observation from Low Earth Orbit (non-sun synchronous orbit of ~650 km altitude, low inclination of approximately six degree), carrying two scientific payloads.
- ✓ With these two payloads, the XPoSat mission is capable of simultaneous studies of temporal, spectral, and polarization features of the bright X-Ray sources.

➤ Gajraj System: AI-Based Elephant Protection on Indian Railways

- ✓ The Indian Railways has initiated a pioneering step towards wildlife conservation by deploying the "Gajraj system," an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solution.



- ✓ **The Indian Railways** has initiated a pioneering step towards wildlife conservation by deploying the "Gajraj system," an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solution designed to prevent elephant fatalities on railway tracks.

- ✓ This surveillance system is being implemented along a 700-kilometer stretch in forest areas to alert locomotive pilots of elephants' presence on the tracks, thereby mitigating the risk of collisions.

➤ **Cyclone Michaung**

- ✓ The deep depression looming over the Bay of Bengal has rapidly intensified, evolving into a **severe cyclonic storm** named '**Michaung**' as per the latest update from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).



- ✓ Cyclone Michaung is forecasted to make landfall near **Bapatla** on the morning of December 5, around 12 pm. Eight districts – **Tirupati, Nellore, Prakasam, Bapatla, Krishna, West Godavari, Konaseema, and Kakinada** – have been put on high alert.
 - ✓ The impending cyclone is poised to **unleash heavy rains** across significant portions of **Tamil Nadu, southern Andhra Pradesh, and southern Odisha**.
- ### ➤ **White Lung Syndrome Outbreak**
- ✓ A new strain of bacterial pneumonia, commonly referred to as 'White Lung Syndrome,' is causing concern in various countries, including China, Denmark, the United States, and the Netherlands.
 - ✓ Primarily affecting children between the ages of three and eight, this illness is associated with lung damage visible as white patches on X-rays.



- ✓ The term '**White Lung Syndrome**' encompasses **various respiratory conditions**, including: Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS, Pulmonary Alveolar Microlithiasis (PAM), Silicosis. Symptoms may include shortness of breath, coughing, and chest pain.
- **JT-60SA**
- ✓ JT-60SA is the largest and most advanced nuclear fusion reactor in the world. It started operations in Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan on 01 December.



- ✓ It is a joint initiative between the European Union and Japan. It is the world's biggest experimental nuclear fusion reactor.
- ✓ It consists of a "tokamak" vessel in the shape of a doughnut that is intended to hold spinning plasma that has been heated to 200 million degrees Celsius.
- ✓ JT-60SA is a forerunner for the under-construction International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).
- ✓ The goal of both JT-60SA and ITER is to induce the fusion of hydrogen nuclei into helium, a heavier element, releasing energy in the form of heat and light.
- **Impatiens karuppusamyi : New Species in Southern Western Ghat**
- ✓ Impatiens karuppusamyi, a new species discovered from the Southern Western Ghats.



- ✓ The researchers of Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new species of plant from Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ The species is named after Dr. S Karuppusamy (Madhura College, Tamil Nadu) for his significant contributions to the taxonomy of south Indian angiosperms.
- **Google Reveals 'Gemini'**
- ✓ Google parent company Alphabet made a significant announcement on unveiling Gemini, its latest and most advanced AI model to date.



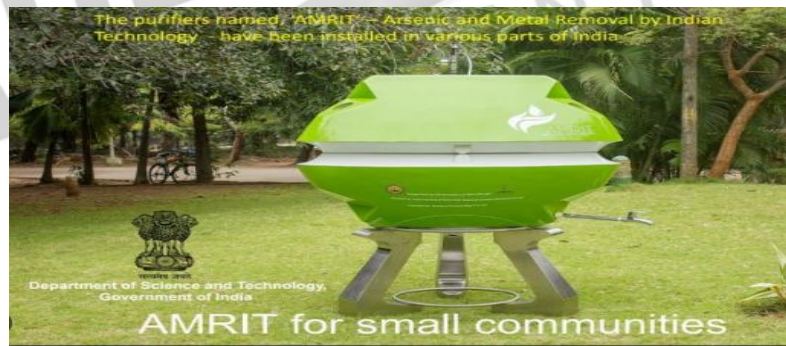
- ✓ In a bid to outpace competitors like OpenAI's GPT-4 and Meta's Llama 2, Gemini represents a major leap forward for the tech giant in the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence.
 - ✓ Gemini marks the first AI model to emerge from Alphabet following the merger of its renowned AI research units, DeepMind and Google Brain.
- **Chillai Kalaan**
- ✓ A 40-day period of "Chillai-Kalaan" in Kashmir is beginning on 21st of this month. This is the harshest period in the entire Kashmir Valley. The period begins on 21st December and ends on 31st January of the next year.



- ✓ In the **Kashmir Valley**, the minimum temperature continued to **settle below freezing point** in the region while Pahalgam, a famous tourist attraction in south Kashmir's Anantnag district was recorded coldest at minus 5.5 degree Celsius.
- ✓ Qazigund in south Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.0 degree Celsius while Kupwara recorded a low of minus 3.4 degree Celsius.
- ✓ During Chillai-Kalaan, the weather in the region continues to remain **dry and cold with minimum temperatures** hovering below the freezing point.

➤ **AMRIT**

- ✓ IIT Madras developed 'AMRIT' for removing Arsenic and Metal ions from water. 'AMRIT' (Arsenic and Metal Removal by Indian Technology) uses nano-scale iron oxy-hydroxide.



- ✓ It removes arsenic when water is passes through it. This water purifier technology has been developed for both domestic as well as community levels.
- ✓ This technology has been recommended by the 'Standing Committee' of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation for the examination of the best technologies related to water and sanitation.
- ✓ Government is committed to provide safe & potable tap water supply to all rural households.

SPORTS

➤ Kerala to Host Transplant Games



- ✓ The World Transplant Games Federation (WTGF), a worldwide organisation with representation from more than 70 countries, has been celebrating the success of organ transplantation and the gift of life through competitive sporting events for transplant recipients since 1978.
 - ✓ “This being the first edition of Transplant Games in the State.
- ## ➤ Vaishali Rameshbabu Becomes Grandmaster, Creating History



- ✓ **Vaishali Rameshbabu**, a 22-year-old chess player from India, has recently earned the title of Grandmaster at the IV El Llobregat Open in Spain.
- ✓ This achievement makes her only the third woman from India to become a Grandmaster, following in the footsteps of **Koneru Humpy** and **Harika Dronavalli**.
- ✓ Her victory over Turkish FM Tamer Tarik Selbes was pivotal in crossing the 2500 FIDE rating threshold required for the Grandmaster title.

REPORT

➤ World Malaria Report 2023

- ✓ In the recently published 2023 World Malaria Report by the World Health Organization (WHO), it was revealed that India accounted for a staggering 66% of malaria cases in the WHO South-East Asia Region in 2022.



- ✓ The report underscores the paradox that, despite efforts to expand access to insecticide-treated nets and preventive medicines for vulnerable populations, the number of malaria cases is on the rise.
- ✓ In the WHO South-East Asia Region, which constitutes approximately 2% of global malaria cases, there was a 76% decline in malaria cases from 2000 to 2022.
- ✓ Globally, the report estimates 249 million malaria cases in 2022, surpassing the pre-pandemic level of 233 million in 2019 by 16 million cases. The report emphasizes the critical link between climate change and the spread of malaria.

➤ India's Safest City: NCRB Report 2022

- ✓ According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Kolkata secures its position as India's safest city for the third consecutive year.



- ✓ Kolkata reported 86.5 cases of cognisable offences per lakh population in 2022, showcasing a declining trend from 103.4 in the previous year.
- ✓ Pune and Hyderabad follow Kolkata in safety rankings among cities with over 20 lakh population.
- ✓ While overall safety is commendable, crimes against women increased, with Kolkata surpassing figures for Coimbatore and Chennai.
- ✓ The 'Crime in India 2022' report provides comprehensive data on crime trends, highlighting Kolkata's efforts in maintaining its safest city status.

➤ **Quality of Living Index 2023**

- ✓ As per Mercer's survey, Hyderabad has the best 'quality of living' in India. According to the Quality of Living Index 2023 released by Mercer, Hyderabad is in the top spot in terms of 'quality of living' in India.



- ✓ Hyderabad attained the 153rd spot in the Quality of Living Index 2023. Pune has the second-best 'quality of living' in India. It has secured the 154th position in Mercer's Quality of Living City Index. Vienna (Austria), Zurich (Switzerland) and Vancouver (Canada) are the top three cities in the Quality of Living Index 2023.
- ✓ It has taken data from more than 500 cities all over the world. Quality of Living Index is based on different factors like climate, schools and education, disease and sanitation standards, violence and crime, and physical remoteness.

RANKING

➤ Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2024

- ✓ India has secured the seventh position in climate performance during 2022, making significant progress over the previous year when it held the eighth spot.



- ✓ This positive trajectory places India effectively fourth, considering the absence of countries in the first three ranks within the 'very high' performance category.
- ✓ The rankings are part of the annual report, Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2024, published on the sidelines of COP28 in Dubai on December 8.
- ✓ Denmark retained the top spot with a remarkable score of 75.59%, showcasing consistent commitment to climate action.
- ✓ Estonia and the Philippines secured the second and third ranks, with scores of 72.07 and 70.70, respectively.
- ✓ India closely followed with a score of 70.25%, demonstrating significant improvement from the previous year's score of 67.35.

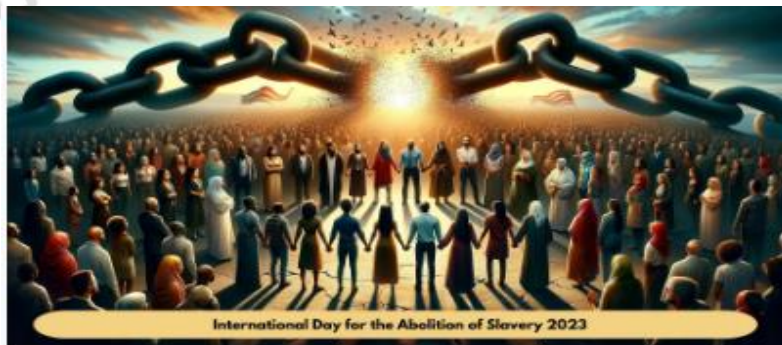
IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ **Worlds AIDS Day - December 01**

- ✓ December 1, marks as the World AIDS Day 2023 which is observed annually since 1988, serving as a crucial occasion to raise awareness about HIV/ AIDS, commemorate those who have lost their lives to AIDS-related illnesses and show solidarity with people living with HIV.



- ✓ The **theme for World AIDS Day 2023, "Let Communities Lead!."** This theme emphasizes the collective strength and influence of communities in driving initiatives related to HIV awareness, prevention and healthcare.
- **International Day For The Abolition Of Slavery: December 02**
- ✓ The **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery** is observed annually on **December 2nd**. This day serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring struggle against slavery and its modern forms.



- ✓ The day originates from the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of **Others on December 2, 1949**.
- ✓ Modern slavery has taken different forms, including human trafficking, forced labour, and the exploitation of children in various industries.

➤ **National Pollution Control Day: December 02**

- ✓ December National Pollution Control Day is observed every year on 2 December.
- ✓ “Sustainable Development for a Clean and Healthy Planet” is the theme for this year’s National Pollution Control Day.



- ✓ It is observed in the memory of those who lost their lives in the 1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy that took place on December 2 and 3.
- ✓ Around 45 tonnes of Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) leaked from an insecticide plant in Bhopal killing thousands of people.

➤ **World Computer Literacy Day: December 02**

- ✓ December World Computer Literacy Day is annually observed on 02 December. It was first celebrated in 2001. It was started by NIIT (National Institute of Information Technology), an Indian company, to mark its 20th anniversary.



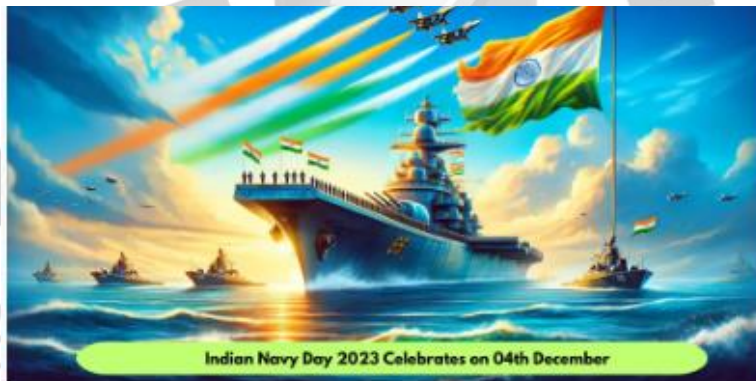
- ✓ The day emphasizes the importance of computer education.
- ✓ It aims to bridge the digital divide.
- ✓ The day serves as a global initiative to promote computer literacy and digital skills.

➤ **International Day of Persons with Disabilities: December 03**

- ✓ UN Proclamation: United Nations established the International Day of Disabled Persons in 1992 (resolution 47/3) to advocate for the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.



- ✓ Observance focuses on fostering understanding of disability issues, mobilizing support, and promoting integration across political, social, economic, and cultural spheres.
- ✓ 2023 Theme: "United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities," emphasizing collective efforts towards Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Indian Navy Day: December 04**



- ✓ **Indian Navy Day**, observed annually on **December 4**, is a significant day in India, honouring the bravery, dedication, and achievements of the **Indian Naval forces**.
- ✓ This day holds great importance as it commemorates the strategic and victorious Operation Trident during the **Indo-Pakistan War in 1971**.
- ✓ The theme for Indian Navy Day 2023 is "**Operational Efficiency, Readiness, and Mission Accomplishment in the Maritime Domain.**"
- **World Soil Day: December 05**
- ✓ Every year on December 5, people worldwide unite to commemorate World Soil Day (WSD), an occasion dedicated to recognizing the pivotal role soil plays in sustaining life on Earth.



- ✓ This annual event serves as a poignant reminder of the intricate relationship between soil, plants, animals, and humans.
- ✓ The United Nations has declared the theme for World Soil Day 2023 as 'Soil and water, a source of life.' This theme underscores the vital link between soil and water, which collectively contribute to over 95 percent of our food production.
- **International Volunteer Day: December 05**
- ✓ International Volunteer Day (IVD) is an annual event observed on December 5th, celebrating the immense contributions of volunteers worldwide.



- ✓ Established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1985, IVD not only recognizes the selfless efforts of volunteers but also emphasizes their role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and building resilient communities.
- ✓ The 2023 theme, "The Power of Collective Action: If Everyone Did."
- **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Death Anniversary: December 06**
- ✓ Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was an Indian jurist, economist, social reformer and political leader.



- ✓ He headed the committee drafting the Constitution of India, served as Law minister in first cabinet of Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ✓ He was a staunch opponent of the orthodox caste system and worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the Dalits.
- **International Civil Aviation Day - December 07**
- ✓ International Civil Aviation Day, observed on December 7, holds special significance as it marks the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in 1944.

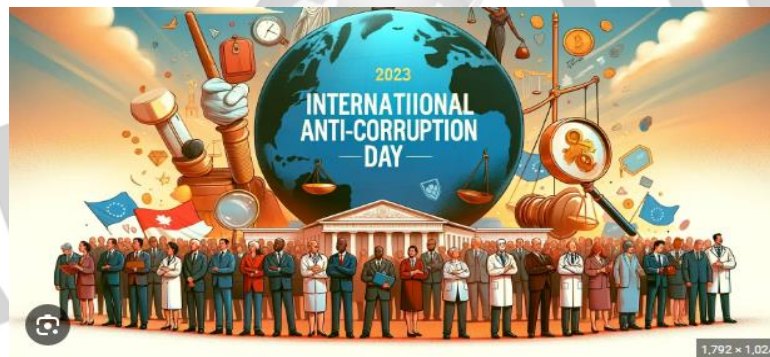


- ✓ This year's theme, "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development," emphasizes the crucial role of innovation in shaping the future of civil aviation worldwide.
- **Armed Forces Flag Day - December 07**
- ✓ Armed Forces Flag Day, celebrated on December 7 each year, holds a special place in our hearts as we pay tribute to the indomitable spirit and sacrifices of the soldiers, sailors, and airmen who stand guard at our borders.



Established on August 28, 1949, by the Ministry of Defence, Armed Forces Flag Day was designated to honour the brave men and women in uniform.

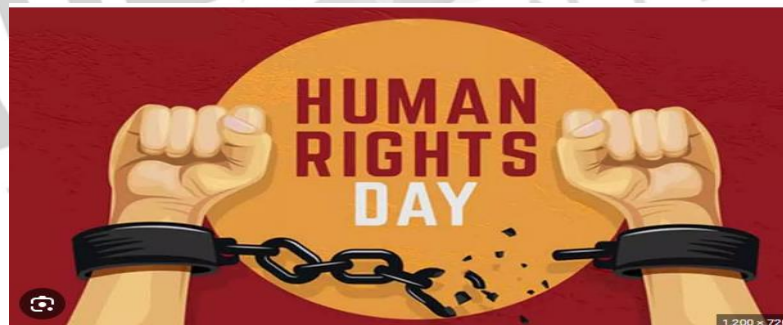
- **International Anti-Corruption Day – December 09**
- ✓ International Anti-Corruption Day is celebrated worldwide on December 9 each year. In 2023, this special day falls on a Saturday.



- ✓ The aim of this day is to draw attention to the harmful impact of corruption on society and to encourage collective efforts to combat this global issue.
 - ✓ The theme for International Anti-Corruption Day 2023 is 'UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption.'
- **International Day Of Commemoration And Dignity Of The Victims Of The Crime Of Genocide – December 09**
 - ✓ Every 9 December holds profound significance as the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide marks the adoption of the Genocide Convention.



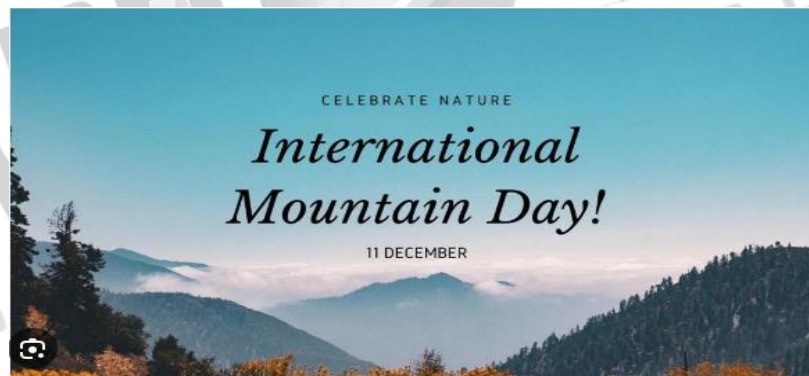
- ✓ This day, also recognized as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide.
 - ✓ This year's commemorative event centers on the theme "A Living Force in World Society: The Legacy of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide."
- **Human Rights Day - December 10**
- ✓ The year 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of a monumental global commitment – the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).



- ✓ It asserts the inherent rights of every person, regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political opinion, national origin, social origin, property, birth, or other status.
 - ✓ 10 December 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
 - ✓ **Theme for 2023:** Freedom, Equality, and Justice for All.
- **Nobel Prize Day: December 10**
- ✓ Nobel Prize Day 2023 is observed on the 10th of December 2023.



- ✓ Alfred Nobel's father was an engineer himself and Alfred Nobel expressed early interest in engineering, and explosives in particular.
 - ✓ Nobel became interested in stabilizing the unpredictable explosive nitroglycerin. Later he re-evaluated his life's goals and decided to use his earnings to set up a prize that recognized the best in humanity.
- **International Mountain Day - December 11**
- ✓ Every year on December 11, we celebrate International Mountain Day to remind ourselves of the incredible importance of mountains in our lives. This year, the theme is "Restoring Mountain Ecosystems."



- ✓ Mountains cover about 27% of the Earth's land, and they are like nature's treasure chests.
 - ✓ They are home to 15% of the world's population! Not only that, but they also host around half of the world's biodiversity hotspots, which means they're like a haven for various plants and animals.
- **UNICEF Foundation Day: December 11**
- ✓ UNICEF Foundation Day 2023 is observed on the 11th of December 2023.



- ✓ UNICEF was created by the N. Relief Rehabilitation Administration in 1946 to provide relief funds for children and mothers affected by World War II with immediate aid.
- ✓ UNICEF relies entirely on contributions from governments and private donors. In 2019, UNICEF's 137 government partners, along with intergovernmental organizations and inter-organizational arrangements, contributed \$4.7 billion.
- **International Day of Neutrality: December 12**
- ✓ Observed annually on December 12, the International Day of Neutrality seeks to strengthen peace and security at a global level.



- ✓ On December 12, 2017, the International Day of Neutrality was officially proclaimed by United Nations.
- ✓ This day sheds light on the importance of countries adopting a neutral stance in international affairs to maintain impartiality and contribute to global security.
- **Universal Health Coverage Day: December 12**
- ✓ Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day, observed annually on December 12, serves as a global reminder of the essential need for a healthcare system that provides equitable and comprehensive health care with financial protection for all.



- ✓ The theme for UHC Day 2023, “Health For All: Time for Action,” underscores the urgency for leaders to implement policies ensuring equitable access to essential health services without financial hardship.
- **National Energy Conservation Day: December 14**
- ✓ National Energy Conservation Day is observed in India on December 14 every year to celebrate the country’s strides in energy efficiency and conservation.



- ✓ National Energy Conservation Day aims to raise awareness about global warming, climate change, and encourage initiatives to conserve energy resources.
- ✓ It also serves as a platform to celebrate India’s achievements in energy efficiency and conservation.
- **National Energy Conservation Day: December 14**
- ✓ Every year on December 14, National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated.
- ✓ The day is dedicated to raising public awareness about global warming and climate change, as well as encouraging people to save energy.



- ✓ In 2001, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) implemented the Energy Conservation Act.
- ✓ BEE is a constitutional entity that works under the Government of India and helps in the formulation of energy-saving policies and programs.

APPOLLO
STUDY CENTRE

MISCELLANEOUS

➤ Forbes Asia Heroes Of Philanthropy List

- ✓ Three prominent Indian business leaders - Nandan Nilekani, KP Singh and Nikhil Kamath, have earned a coveted spot on the 17th edition of Forbes Asia's Heroes of Philanthropy list.



Nandan Nilekani, KP Singh, Nikhil Kamath On Forbes Asia Heroes Of Philanthropy List

- ✓ **Nadan Nilekani**, co-founder and chairman of the renowned tech **giant Infosys**, has been acknowledged for his substantial contribution of Rs.3.2 billion (USD 38 million) to his alma mater, IIT Bombay.
- ✓ **KP Singh**, chairman emeritus at **DLF**, made a remarkable move in August by divesting his remaining direct stake in the renowned real estate firm he once chaired.
- ✓ **Nikhil kamath**, co-founder of **Zerodha**, is another notable name on the list.

