



## **FIVE** **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-October**

### **STATES**

- **The National Green Tribunal (NGT) - has directed the Odisha government to take steps for revival of a dead river in Cuttack district within six months**



- ✓ The order pertains to Sukapaika river, a branch of Mahanadi, which became dead after its mouth was closed restricting its free flow in the 1950s.
- ✓ Sukapaika river originates from Mahanadi with its mouth at Ayatpur and falls at Bankala into the same river after traversing 27.50 km
- ✓ Its mouth was closed in 1950 for development of Taladanda Canal System and for flood protection in the delta of Sukapaika, as the area had many water bodies having sufficient groundwater reserves.
- ✓ The eastern zone bench of NGT directed the state to make a budgetary allocation of Rs 49.67 crore for revival of Sukapaika within a month and complete the project for rejuvenation by March 13 next year.

### **NATIONAL**

- **On October 3, the Election Commission - launched a year-long voter awareness series, Matdata Junction, in collaboration with the All India Radio (AIR)**



- ✓ Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar launched the Program in the presence of Election Commissioner Anoop Chandra Pandey, CEO Prasar Bharati Mayank Kumar Agrawal and Director General AIR News Vasudha Gupta in New Delhi.
- ✓ A total 52-episode programme of 15-minute duration each will be broadcast every Friday on Vividh Bharati stations, FM Rainbow, FM Gold and Primary channels of AIR.
- ✓ The entire 52 themes are aimed at encouraging all eligible citizens and especially the young and first-time voters to vote and make an informed decision during the elections
- ✓ The series shall seek to inform the target audience about the election processes crucial to the conduct of free, fair, transparent, inducement-free, accessible and inclusive elections.
- ✓ Quiz, experts' interviews, and songs produced by the SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) team of the ECI will be carried in every episode.
- ✓ The program also includes a citizen's corner where any citizen can ask a query or suggest any aspects of the voting.
- ✓ The Matdata Junction programme, produced by the Election Commission of India, will be broadcast in English, Hindi and 21 regional languages across the country
- ✓ The first episode of the programme on the theme – 'Voter Registration' will be broadcast on 7th October, 2022.
- ✓ During the inaugural event, the Chief Election Commissioner announced Actor Pankaj Tripathi as the National Icon of the Election Commission.
- ✓ The National award winning actor was chosen for the honour for 'his association with ECI in creating awareness amongst voters'

✓ Earlier, Tripathi was the state icon of the Election Commission for the state of Bihar.

➤ **On October 2, the Ministry of Education - launched YUVA 2.0 – Prime Minister’s Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors**



- ✓ YUVA 2.0 (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors) is a programme to train young and budding authors below the age of 30 to promote reading, writing, and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally.
- ✓ A total of 75 authors will be selected through an All India Contest to be conducted through Mygov portal from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022
- ✓ The first edition of the Yuva scheme witnessed a large-scale participation from young authors in 22 different Indian languages including English
- ✓ The National Book Trust, India, is the implementing agency under the Ministry of Education for the initiative
- ✓ The books prepared under this scheme will be published by National Book Trust, India and will also be translated into other Indian languages thereby promoting the initiative of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.'
- ✓ The selected young authors will interact with some of the best authors in the world and participate in literary festivals
- ✓ The winners will be announced on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023, while the first set of published books will be launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.
- ✓ The young authors will be trained by eminent authors and mentors from 1st March to 31st August 2023.
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri – Mentorship Scheme for Young writers (PM-YUVA) was launched on May 29, 2021
- ✓ Under this initiative, 75 young authors will be chosen for mentorship with eminent authors, based on the manuscripts submitted

- ✓ The authors will be provided a scholarship of Rs.50,000 each month for a period of 6 months.
- **The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) - organised the 'Kisan Sampark Yatra' recently from September 27 to 29 in the rice growing region of Haryana and Punjab**
- ✓ The main objective of the Yatra is to get feedback on the 3 new varieties of IARI Basmati varieties - Pusa Basmati 1847, Pusa Basmati 1885 and Pusa Basmati 1886.
- ✓ The IARI had distributed 1 kg per acre seeds of the newly developed disease resistant Basmati rice to farmers during the Krishi Vigya Mela held at Pusa, New Delhi earlier this year for cultivation
- ✓ Basmati rice is an export commodity with annual forex earning of Rs. 25,053 crore during 2021-22.
- ✓ Pusa Basmati rice varieties namely, Pusa Basmati 1121, Pusa Basmati 1509 and Pusa Basmati 6 constitute more than 90% of the area under Basmati rice cultivation in India and account for more than 90% of the Basmati rice exports from India.




- ✓ Bacterial blight and blast are the most devastating diseases in Basmati rice which cause significant loss of yield as well as affect the Basmati grain and cooking quality
- ✓ The three improved new Basmati rice varieties offers resistance to both Bacterial blight and blast diseases
- ✓ Pusa Basmati 1847 is an improved Bacterial blight and blast resistant version of popular Basmati rice variety, Pusa Basmati 1509
- ✓ Similarly, Pusa Basmati 1885 is an improvement of Pusa Basmati 1121 and Pusa Basmati 1886 is an improved version of Pusa Basmati 6 variety.

## **DEFENCE**





- **India's first indigenous light combat helicopter (LCH) 'Prachand' - was inducted into the Indian Air Force at Jodhpur airbase, Rajasthan on October 3, 2022**

- ✓ Defence minister Rajnath Singh, CDS General Anil Chauhan and IAF chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari attended the induction ceremony
- ✓ Defence minister Rajnath Singh named the helicopter 'Prachand' (means 'fierce') during the ceremony.

**IAF FORMALLY INDUCTS LIGHT COMBAT HELICOPTERS** Photo: PTI



**READY FOR LIFT OFF:** Water cannon salute being given to a light combat helicopter (LCH) during its induction into the IAF, in Jodhpur on Monday. Defence minister Rajnath Singh flew a sortie in an LCH | P 13

<p>➤ Developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, the 5.8-tonne twin-engine gunship chopper named 'Prachand' is armed with air-to-air missiles, 20 mm turret guns, rocket systems and other weapons</p> 	<p>➤ LCH has a number of stealth features, armoured-protection systems, night attack capability and crash-worthy landing gear for better survivability</p> 	<p>➤ It can be deployed in high-altitude bunker-busting operations, counter-insurgency operations in jungles and in the urban environment as well as for supporting ground forces</p> 	<p>➤ The induction comes at a time India and China are locked in a military stand-off in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh</p>
<p>➤ 10 helicopters would be for the IAF and five will be for the Indian Army</p> 			

- ✓ Defence minister Rajnath Singh flew a sortie in the helicopter, which is armed with 20mm turret guns, 70mm rocket systems and air-to-air missiles
- ✓ With the induction, India became seventh country to make attack helicopters.
- ✓ The first batch of 10 LCH —of which four arrived already — is being inducted into the IAF's 143 Helicopter Unit (Dhanush) at the Jodhpur Air Force Station.
- ✓ Prachand is suitable for operating in high-altitude battlefields like Siachen Glacier and eastern Ladakh, and capable of destroying enemy air defence and engaging in counter-insurgency operations in jungle and urban environments.
- ✓ The Helicopter is powered by a twin Shakti Engine and has a range of 500 km and a maximum speed of 268 kmph
- ✓ The LCH is a 5.5-tonne class dedicated combat helicopter designed and developed by Defence PSU, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL).
- ✓ According to HAL, the light combat helicopter is the only attack helicopter in the world that can land and take-off at an altitude of 5,000 metres (16400 ft) with a considerable load of weapons and fuel
- ✓ The helicopter can also be used against slow-moving aircraft and remotely piloted aircraft (RPAs)
- ✓ In March, the Cabinet Committee on Security had cleared the first contract for 15 LCHs at a cost of 3,887 crore, along with infrastructure sanctions worth 377 crore.

- ✓ Of the 15 helicopters being procured, 10 are for the IAF and five for the Indian Army.
- ✓ Of the 10 helicopters for IAF in the Limited Production Series, four have been delivered and the rest will be delivered by the financial year-end
- ✓ On September 29, the first helicopter was formally received by Director General Army Aviation Corps , Lt Gen A. K. Suri from the manufacturer Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bangalore
- ✓ According to HAL, there is a projected requirement of 160 LCHs — 65 for IAF and 95 for the Army.
- ✓ In June this year, the Indian Army inducted the first LCH squadron in Bengaluru

## AWARDS

- **On October 3, Swedish geneticist Svante Pääbo - was awarded the 2022 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine category**



- ✓ The winner was announced by the Nobel Assembly of Sweden's Karolinska Institute, which gives out 10 million Swedish crowns (\$900,357) worth medicine prize annually.
- ✓ The award was given to Pääbo, 67, "for his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution"
- ✓ Through his research, Pääbo "accomplished something seemingly impossible - sequencing the genome of the Neanderthal, an extinct relative of present-day humans"
- ✓ The Swedish geneticist also made the key discovery of a previously unknown hominin, Denisova
  - ✓ Hominins refer to the now-extinct species of apes that are believed to be related to modern humans, as well as modern humans themselves.
  - ✓ Pääbo also found that gene transfer had occurred from these now extinct hominins to Homo sapiens following the migration out of Africa around 70,000 years ago
  - ✓ This relationship was first seen in populations in Melanesia (near Australia) and other parts of South East Asia, where individuals carry up to 6% Denisova DNA.

- ✓ The Denisovan version of the gene EPAS1 gives an advantage for survival at high altitudes and is common among present-day Tibetans
- ✓ Pääbo's seminal research gave rise to an entirely new scientific discipline; paleogenomics.
  - ✓ Paleogenomics focuses on studying the DNA and genetic information of extinct hominins through reconstruction
- ✓ Pääbo, early in his career, started to develop genetic methods to extract DNA from 40,000-year-old bones of Neanderthals, an endeavor that lasted several decades.
- ✓ Pääbo accomplished the seemingly impossible and could publish the first Neanderthal genome sequence in 2010
- ✓ Svante Pääbo is Director, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
- ✓ It has to be recalled that Neanderthal fossils were first found in a German quarry in 1856
- ✓ Last year's prize went to David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian jointly for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch.
- ✓ A total of 112 Nobel Prizes in Physiology or Medicine have been awarded between 1901 and 2021, of which only 12 have been women.
- ✓ The prize money comes from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who died in 1895.
- ✓ The other prizes are for outstanding work in the fields of physics, chemistry, literature, peace, and economics, which will be announced in the coming days over the span of a week.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ World Habitat Day - October 3



- ✓ The day is celebrated every year to raise awareness about the basic right of every citizen to have adequate shelter
- ✓ It is observed on the first Monday of October, which marks the beginning of Urban October
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Mind the Gap. Leave No One and No Place Behind".

- ✓ The day came into existence with the passing of resolution 40/202 by the UN General Assembly in 1985
- ✓ World Habitat Day was first celebrated in 1986 in Nairobi, Kenya, with the theme 'Shelter is my right'.
- ✓ In 1989, the UN Human Settlements Programme launched "The Habitat Scroll of Honour award" as the most prestigious human settlement award in the world.
- ✓ It is estimated that nearly 150 million people are homeless across the world with 1.7 million homeless individuals in India.

