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(Preliminary Examination)

Current Issues

(June - 2023)

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27 All India 1st Ranks in ESE

72 All India 1st Ranks in GATE

Current Issues

(June - 2023)

POLICY OF GOVERNANCE

7 HANDICRAFTS PRODUCTS FROM UTTAR PRADESH WITH GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION (GI) TAG



KEY POINTS

- The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has given tags to seven different products from Uttar Pradesh. ‘Amroha Dholak’, ‘Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashlip’, ‘Mainpuri Tarkashi’, ‘Sambhal Horn Craft’, ‘Baghpat Home Furnishings’, ‘Barabanki Handloom Product’ and ‘Kalpi Handmade Paper’ are the products that been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- A Geographical Indication is a label that is applied to products that have a specific geographical origin and that have characteristics related to a particular location.
- The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.

WORLD'S LARGEST FOOD STORAGE SCHEME



KEY POINTS

- India's approval of the world's largest food storage scheme in the cooperative sector is a significant step towards addressing the storage challenges faced by the agricultural sector.
- This initiative aims to enhance food security, prevent crop damage, and alleviate distress sales by farmers.
- This ambitious project aims to converge eight ongoing schemes of three ministries to address the shortage of agricultural storage infrastructure in India.
- The programme aims to raise India's foodgrain storage capacity by 700 lakh tone in the cooperative sector.

GRUHA JYOTHI SCHEME



KEY POINTS

- The Karnataka Gruha Jyoti Yojna aims to provide free electricity to households in the state, benefiting underprivileged families.
- The scheme benefits households consuming less than 200 units of electricity per month and having no outstanding bills.
- It aims to improve the lives of underprivileged families by providing them with free power, enabling savings and better quality of life. Over 55,000 people registered on the first day.
- The Karnataka Congress Government has announced the launch of the Gruha Jyothi Scheme for the welfare of all the citizens of the state.
- All the eligible citizens of the state will be provided the benefit of free electricity by the government through this scheme.
- Under this scheme, if the citizens consume 200 units of electricity, then they will not have to pay the electricity bill.
- In simple words, the first 200 units will be free. Every family will save about 1000Rs per month, Due to which the economic problems of the citizens regarding electricity will be removed.

NATIONAL MISSION ON ADVANCED AND HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH (MAHIR)



KEY POINTS

- The Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy have jointly launched a National Mission to quickly identify emerging technologies in the power sector and develop them indigenously, at scale, for deployment within and outside India.
- The National Mission, titled “Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)” aims to facilitate indigenous research, development and demonstration of the latest and emerging technologies in the power sector.
- By identifying emerging technologies and taking them to the implementation stage, the Mission seeks to leverage them as the main fuel for future economic growth and thus make India a manufacturing hub of the world.
- MAHIR will work with premier institutions such as IITs, IIMs, NITs, IISERs and Universities on the one hand and public & private power sector start-ups and established industries with government acting as an enabler for creating an innovation ecosystem.

GOBARDHAN SCHEME



KEY POINTS

- Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) is a vital umbrella initiative of Government of India, based on the whole of Government approach and aims to convert waste to wealth towards promoting circular economy.

- Government of India intends to build a robust ecosystem for setting up Biogas/Compressed Biogas (CBG)/ Bio-Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) plants to drive sustainable economic growth and promote a circular economy.
- GOBARDhan which will act as a one stop repository to assess investment and participation in Biogas/CBG sector at pan India level and more importantly streamline the process of setting up CBG/Biogas plants in India.
- Any government, cooperative or private entity operating or intending to setup a Biogas/CBG/Bio CNG plant in India can obtain a registration number by enrolling in this unified registration portal launched.

NAMO SHETKARI MAHASANMAN YOJANA



KEY POINTS

- The Scheme is on the lines of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi under which farmers get Rs 6000 a year as minimum income support.
- Once approved the farmers in the state will be able to get a sum of Rs 12000 every year.
- The scheme, Namu Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana, was approved at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in Mumbai.

OPERATION CONVICTION



KEY POINTS

- The Uttar Pradesh Police Department launched 'Operation Conviction' to combat criminals and mafias in the state.
- Authorities claim that the initiative will expedite the prosecution of cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, as well as those involving cow slaughter, religious conversion, rape and murder.
- Operation Conviction' will ensure the immediate arrest of criminals, the collection of strong evidence against them, quality investigation, and effective representation of cases in courts so that they are punished in the shortest amount of time.

INDIA'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL CRUISE VESSEL



KEY POINTS

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the maiden International Cruise Vessel - MV Empress, India's first international cruise vessel - from Chennai to Sri Lanka in Chennai.
- This marks the beginning of the international cruise tourism terminal at Chennai, built at a cost of ₹17.21 crores, heralding a new age of cruise tourism & maritime trade in the country.
- The cruise service is the result of an MoU signed during the first Incredible India International Cruise Conference in 2022 between Chennai Port and M/S Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt Ltd to start domestic and international cruise service.
- With an overwhelming response by 85,000 passengers availing the cruise service through 37 vessels for the domestic circuit, it is expected that the opening up of international circuit will further amp up the business of cruise tourism in the region.
- The modern cruise terminal developed at Chennai Port is spread over an area of 2,880 square meters with an ability to host 3,000 passengers at a time.
- The cruise service will sail to three Sri Lankan ports; viz. Hambantota, Trincomalee, and Kankesanturei.
- The tour packages on board MV Empress will be offered for 2 nights, 3 nights, 4 nights and 5 nights. During its run at the sea, MV Empress will be touching 3 ports in Sri Lanka before returning to Chennai

KNOWLEDGE-SHARING PLATFORM BY NHAI



KEY POINTS

- NHAI has launched a ‘Knowledge Sharing’ platform for sharing of knowledge and innovative best practices.
- This initiative will help the authority to collaborate with experts and citizens who want to share knowledge and insights related to topics such as road design, construction, road safety, environment sustainability and related fields.
- The platform will encourage sharing of best practices from around the world and will contribute towards holistic development of the National Highway infrastructure in the country.

NYAYA VIKAS PORTAL



KEY POINTS

- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice for Judicial Infrastructure, with technical assistance of NRSC, ISRO is catering to a user-friendly and transparent web portal to facilitate better delivery of judicial infrastructural projects via Nyaya Vikas Portal.
- The Nyaya Vikas Portal provides stakeholders with convenient access to information regarding funding, documentation, project monitoring, and approval. It offers four efficient methods for logging into the portal, empowering users with seamless accessibility.
- The scheme has been extended beyond March 31, 2021, with additional features such as lawyers’ halls, toilet complexes, and digital computer rooms to enhance convenience for lawyers and litigants, in addition to court halls and residential units.

INTERNATION ISSUES

PRIME MINISTERS VISIT TO AL-HAKIM MOSQUE



KEY POINTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a visit to Imam al-Hakim bi Amr Allah Mosque in Cairo, Egypt on June 25 amid several engagements to strengthen bilateral ties between both countries.
- Al-Hakim bi Amr Allah is an 11th-century mosque that was repaired with the help of the Dawoodi Bohra.
- The mosque is an important cultural site for the Dawoodi Bohra community in Cairo.

INDIA-EU CONNECTIVITY CONFERENCE



KEY POINTS

- The India-EU Connectivity Conference, organized jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), EU Delegation to India, and the Asian Confluence, is set to take place in Meghalaya from June 1 to June 2.
- The conference aims to explore opportunities for enhancing connectivity investments in India's North Eastern States and its neighboring countries, including Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.
- The event is a significant outcome of the India-EU Connectivity partnership launched during the India-EU Leaders' Meeting in May 2021.

NATO ARCTIC EXERCISE



KEY POINTS

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries have kicked off military exercises with a pledge to defend their newest member, Finland, which is hosting its first joint training in the Arctic region since becoming part of the Western alliance in April.
- The exercise involves approximately 1,000 allied forces from Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States, along with NATO applicant Sweden.
- The exercise aims to strengthen coordination and cooperation among NATO members and partner countries in addressing the evolving security challenges in the Arctic.
- The exercise serves as a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation with other Arctic stakeholders, including indigenous communities and non-NATO countries.

3RD INDIA-VIETNAM MARITIME SECURITY DIALOGUE



KEY POINTS

- The 3rd India-Vietnam Maritime Security Dialogue was held in New Delhi.
- The two sides discussed ways to sustain a secure maritime environment conducive for inclusive growth.
- They also reviewed maritime cooperation initiatives and avenues of reinforcing international and regional mechanisms for comprehensive maritime security.
- The second India, Vietnam Maritime Security Dialogue was held in April 2021 and the first was held in 2019.

AWARDS

SAHITYA AKADEMI BAL SAHITYA PURASKAR 2023



KEY POINTS

- Priya A S, a talented writer, has been honored with the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023 in the Malayalam language for her novel “Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal” (The Children Who Never Withered).
- The Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar, awarded by the Sahitya Akademi, carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000 and an engraved copper plaque.

ELIZABETH LONGFORD PRIZE FOR HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY 2023



KEY POINTS

- Historian and writer Ramchandra Guha's book *Rebels Against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom* has won the Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023.
- Guha has been awarded £5,000 (₹5 lakhs approximately) and a bound copy of Elizabeth Longford's memoir. The jury was chaired by Roy Foster.
- The award was founded in 2003 by Flora Fraser and Peter Soros to commemorate British historian Elizabeth Longford.

MOST PREFERRED WORKPLACE OF 2023-24" BY TEAM MARKSMEN



KEY POINTS

- NTPC is the country's largest power generator, has been honoured with the prestigious title of "Most Preferred Workplace of 2023-24" by Team Marksmen.
- The award recognizes NTPC's exceptional performance in various key areas, including Organizational Purpose, Employee Centricity, Growth, Recognition & Rewards, Intrapreneurial Culture, Work-life Balance, Diversity, Equality & Inclusion, Safety, and Trust.

SPORTS

16TH SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES



SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES BERLIN 2023

KEY POINTS

- It marks the first time that Germany has hosted the Special Olympics World Games.
- This momentous occasion brought together thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities from around the globe to compete in 26 sports.
- From 17 to 25 June 2023, the Special Olympics World Games took place in Berlin and for the first time in Germany.

NSC-CAVA WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHALLENGE CUP



KEY POINTS

- India has won the title of NSC-CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup held in Kathmandu.
- The Indian Senior Women Volleyball Team enter Semifinal after beating host Nepal by in their 3rd and last preliminary league match.
- "CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup 2023" held at Kathmandu, Nepal.
- India won the title by defeating Kazakhstan in the final at the National Sports Council's Covered Hall in Tripureshwor, Kathmandu.
- India defeated Kazakhstan in a shared set of 3-0. India won the first set 25-15, the second set 25-22, and the third set 25-18

CZECH LADIES OPEN



KEY POINTS

- Diksha Dagar Claims Second Ladies European Tour Title with a commanding win at Czech Ladies Open.
- She became the second Indian women to win a Ladies European Tour.
- Diksha had earlier won her maiden LET Title at the Invetec South African Women's Open in 2019 and was also part of the winning team at the Aramco Team Series in London in 2021.

37TH NATIONAL GAMES



KEY POINTS

- Goa's Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched mascot named 'Moga' which represents an Indian bison, for the upcoming 37th National Games.
- Mascot launching ceremony happens on the auspicious occasion of Goa Kranti Din at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium-Taleigao organized by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Sports Authority of Goa.

ASIAN KABADDI CHAMPIONSHIP 2023



KEY POINTS

- India beat Iran 42-32 in the final of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023 at the Dong-Eui Institute of Technology Seokdang Cultural Center in Busan, Republic of Korea.
- This year six teams featured in the tournament - India, Iran, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, and Hong Kong.
- The Asian Kabaddi Championship is taking place after six years.
- The Championship was last held in Gorgan, Iran, in 2017, where India emerged as the champions and defeated old rival Pakistan in the finale with a score of 36-22.
- India remained undefeated throughout the 2017 season.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VIRGIN GALACTIC COMPLETES ITS FIRST MANNED MISSION TO SPACE



KEY POINTS

- Virgin Galactic, Richard Branson's space tourism company, achieved a critical milestone on June 29 when it completed its first commercial spaceflight.
- The Virgin Space Ship (VSS) Unity spacecraft, carrying the Galactic 01 crew, safely returned to land after a successful journey to space.
- This was the fourth spaceflight by Virgin Galactic and the first test flight to include a full crew in the cabin, including the company's visionary founder himself.
- With the entire world watching through the first global livestream of the spaceflight experience, Virgin Galactic provided a tantalizing glimpse into the future of space tourism and what their future astronauts can expect once the company launches its commercial flight service.

ASIA'S FIRST DEMONSTRATION OF PERFORMANCE-BASED NAVIGATION FOR HELICOPTERS



KEY POINTS

- India's demonstration of performance-based navigation for helicopters using GAGAN satellite technology marks a historic milestone in Asia.
- India conducted Asia's first demonstration of performance-based navigation for helicopters for a flight from Juhu in Mumbai to Pune using GAGAN satellite technology,
- GAGAN — GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation — is a state-of-the-art space-based augmentation system which adds more accuracy to output of GPS Navigation system by providing local geographical positioning for better accuracy of location of aircraft for more efficient traffic management.
- The technology was jointly developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

REPORTS

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2024



KEY POINTS

- With nine of its institutions finding a place among the global top 20, led by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) at the topmost spot, the United States continues to dominate the QS World University rankings.
- University of Cambridge has managed to retain the second spot while University of Oxford has replaced Stanford University on the third spot.
- Overall, 201 US universities have been ranked in the QS 2023 report, the highest globally followed by the United Kingdom's 90 and China's 71 universities.
- American universities once again dominated the QS rankings, taking half of the places in the top 20. Meanwhile, the National University of Singapore (NUS) moved up three places from last year's rankings and was placed 8th this year, becoming the only Asian university to break into the top 10.
- As many as 103 US-based universities have shown an overall decline in performance, drawn up on the basis of academic reputation (40 percent weightage), employer reputation (10 per cent), faculty-student ratio (20 percent), citations per faculty (20 percent), international faculty ratio (5 percent and international students ratio (5 percent).

UNIVERSITIES	WORLD RANKING
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	01
Stanford University	03
Harvard University	05
California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	06
University of Chicago	10
University of Pennsylvania	13
Princeton University	16
Yale University	18
Cornell University	20
Columbia University	22

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM'S (WEF) ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX



KEY POINTS

- India has secured the 67th position in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) energy transition index, making it the only major economy to witness acceleration across all dimensions.
- Sweden topped the list and was followed by Denmark, Norway, Finland and Switzerland in the top five on the list of 120 countries.
- The Index highlights India as the sole major economy with energy transition momentum acceleration across all dimensions and Singapore is the only other major economy showing true momentum by advancing sustainability energy security and equity in a balanced way.

ECONOMIC SCENARIO

RBI'S '100 DAYS 100 PAYS' CAMPAIGN



KEY POINTS

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 1 launched a '100 Days 100 Pays' campaign to trace and settle the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district within 100 days.
- The banking regulator's '100 Days 100 Pays' campaign will complement its efforts to cut the quantum of unclaimed deposits in the banking system and return such deposits to their rightful owners/claimants.
- Unclaimed deposits refer to funds that have remained untouched or inactive for a period of ten years or longer. When such deposits exhibit no activity, banks transfer the funds to the "Depositor Education and Awareness" (DEA) Fund, which is maintained by the RBI.

PERSONS IN NEWS

UNOPOSED PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK



KEY POINTS

- Ajay Banga of Indian origin will become the unopposed President of World Bank.
- He is the only honouree from India in this year's list of 'Great Immigrants' by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.
- With over 30 years of experience in key positions, 63-year-old Banga is expected to usher in transformative policies at the World Bank to combat poverty and address climate change, opening opportunities for people around the globe.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI)



KEY POINTS

- Government of India has appointed Swaminathan Janakiraman as a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- He was appointed by the Government of India for a period of three years or until further orders.
- Prior to his appointment as Deputy Governor, Swaminathan was the State Bank of India's (SBI) Managing Director (Corporate Banking and Subsidiaries).

ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR IN CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



KEY POINTS

- Anurag (IPS) has been appointed the Additional Director in CBI. Anurag is 1994-batch IPS officer of Tripura cadre. Presently, he is posted as Joint Director in the agency. He has been appointed to the post for a period till July 24, 2023, i.e. Completion of his 7 years tenure or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

PRESIDENT OF TURKEY



KEY POINTS

- The Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has emerged victorious in the recent election following a tense run-off, according to unofficial data from the state-run Anadolu Agency and the country's Supreme Election Council.

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)



KEY POINTS

- Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- Prof. Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), taking the helm of an organization at the fore of international efforts to monitor and tackle climate change and increasingly extreme weather.
- The general assembly of the WMO's 193 member states and territories, which takes place every four years.

PRESIDENT OF THE 78TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY



KEY POINTS

- UN – Election of Dennis Francis as president of the 78th Session of the General Assembly (2 June 2023) - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.
- The theme of the General Assembly’s 78th session will be ‘Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all’.

IMPORTANT DAYS

WORLD MILK DAY



KEY POINTS

- World Milk Day, observed every year on 1st June, was created in the year 2001 by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) to promote the consumption and benefits of milk around the world.
- The theme of World Milk Day 2023 is “Showcasing how dairy is reducing its environmental footprint, while also providing nutritious foods and livelihoods.”

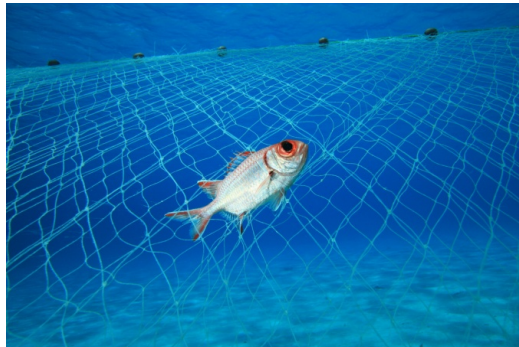
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF INNOCENT CHILDREN VICTIMS OF AGGRESSION



KEY POINTS

- International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression emphasizes the commitment of the United Nations towards protecting the rights of children.
- The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, observed every year on June 4.
- The idea of the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression emerged from the UN General Assembly's emergency special session held on August 19, 1982.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING



KEY POINT

- International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing is celebrated on June 5 every year.
- The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 to raise awareness of the problem of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY



KEY POINTS

- World Food Safety Day is celebrated annually on 7 June, with the purpose to promote awareness and action on food safety.
- World Food Safety Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018 to highlight the importance of safe food for public health and well-being.
- The theme of this year's World Food Safety Day 2023 is Food standards save lives.

WORLD OCEANS DAY



KEY POINTS

- World Oceans Day, observed annually on June 8th, serves as a global reminder of the crucial role oceans play in sustaining life on Earth.
- Recognized by the United Nations, this day promotes ocean awareness and encourages people worldwide to take action towards protecting our marine environments.
- This year, the theme of World Oceans day 2023 is “Planet Ocean: The Tides are Changing.”

WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY



KEY POINTS

- This World Sickle Cell Day observed every year on June 19.
- This year the theme of World Sickle Disease Day is 'Building and strengthening global sickle cell communities, formalizing newborn screening and knowing your sickle cell disease status'

WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY



KEY POINTS

- On June 21st, World Hydrography Day highlights the importance of surveying and charting bodies of water.
- The day also encourages the general public to learn more about the science of hydrographs.
- The theme for World Hydrography Day 2023 is "Hydrography – underpinning the digital twin of the ocean"

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY



KEY POINTS

- This year the theme for International Yoga Day 2023 is 'Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.'
- The International Day of Yoga is marked annually on June 21 on a global scale since 2015.

WORLD MUSIC DAY



KEY POINT

- World Music Day is an annual music celebration that takes place on 21 June.
- The theme for World Music Day 2023 is “Music on the Intersections.”
- World Music Day aims to make music as an art form more consumable for the young generation.
- The day originated in France in 1982.

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY



KEY POINTS

- International Widows Day, observed on June 23, aims to raise awareness about the challenging circumstances faced by countless widows who often find themselves in poverty.
- The reported theme for International Widows Day is “Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality.”
- The Loomba Foundation established International Widows Day in 2005.

WORLD MSME DAY



KEY POINTS

- International Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day/World MSME Day is observed each year on 27th June.
- The theme MSME Day 2023 in India is “Future-ready MSMEs for India@100.”
- The United Nations (UN) designated 27th June as Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day through a resolution passed in the UN General Assembly in April 2017

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PARLIAMENTARISM



KEY POINTS

- The International Day of Parliamentarism is celebrated every year on 30 June, the date in 1889 on which the International Day of Parliamentarism was founded.
- The theme for this year's 2023 celebration is 'Parliaments for the Planet.'
- This special day established by a United Nations General Assembly Resolution in 2018 serves as an opportunity to reflect on the progress made by parliaments worldwide in achieving predetermined goals.

WORLD ASTEROID DAY



KEY POINTS

- World Asteroid Day which is observed annually on June 30.
- It serves as a reminder of the historical significance and potential dangers posed by asteroids and is also the anniversary of the Tunguska event that occurred in remote Siberia in 1908.