



# ACE

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# ESE-2023

## (Preliminary Examination)

### Current Issues

(July - 2023)

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**27 All India 1<sup>st</sup> Ranks in ESE**

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# Current Issues

(July - 2023)

## POLICY OF GOVERNANCE

### NATURAL ARCH DISCOVERED LOCATED IN THE KANIKA RANGE



#### Why in News?

Recently, The Geological Survey of India (GSI) plans to declare the 'Brahmani Natural Arch' in Kanika range of Sundargarh forest division of Odisha as a Geo Heritage Site.

#### KEY POINTS

- This natural arch is believed to date back to the Jurassic period and would be the largest natural arch in India with the Geo Heritage tag.
- The site showcases primary sedimentary structures and is believed to have formed due to fault activities and sub-aerial weathering.
- Apart from the arch at Sundargarh, India has two others-one at Tirumala hills in Tirupati and another at Andaman and Nicobar.
- Both are smaller as compared to Brahmani Natural Arch in Kanika range, Sundargarh.

## PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA



### KEY POINTS

- Centrally sponsored scheme Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched during the year 2015-16, with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc.
- PMKSY is an umbrella scheme, consisting, inter alia, of two major components being implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, namely, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), and Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP).
- HKKP, in turn, consists of four sub-components: Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM), Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI), Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies, and Ground Water (GW) Development. However, GW Development component was provisionally approved till March, 2022 only.
- PMKSY has Watershed Development (WD) component which is implemented by Department of Land Resources. Further, during the period 2015-22, Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) component was also being implemented under PMKSY by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

## “MERI MATI MERA DESH” CAMPAIGN



### KEY POINTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of “Meri Mati Mera Desh” campaign in run-up to Independence Day to honor the martyred bravehearts of the country.
- During the campaign of Meri Mati Mera Desh an Amrit Kalash Yatra will also be taken out.
- This yatra will reach Delhi carrying the soil in 7,500 Kalash from villages and various corners of the country and also carry plants from various parts of the country.
- An ‘Amrit Vatika’ will be built close to the National War Memorial from these 7,500 Kalash of soil and plants.

## ATAL BEEMIT VYAKTI KALYAN YOJANA



### KEY POINTS

- The Government has decided to extend the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana for an additional two years, continuing until June 30, 2024.
- This scheme is a welfare measure for employees covered under Section 2(9) of ESI Act, 1948, in the form of relief payment upto 90 days, once in a lifetime. The Scheme was introduced w.e.f. 01-

07-2018 on pilot basis for a period of two years initially.

- Under this scheme, eligible beneficiaries receive relief equal to 50% of their average per day earnings from the preceding four contribution periods. This is calculated as the total earning during those four periods divided by 730.

### MISSION SHAKTI SCOOTER YOJANA



### KEY POINTS

- Odisha Cabinet authorized the new “Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana” program.
- With this access to scooters will be made easier for Community Support Staff (CSS) and EC (Executive Committee) members of SHG federations.
- This program will provide qualified persons with full interest subvention on bank loans up to Rs 1 lakh for the purchase of a scooter of their choosing.
- It will empower them to fulfill their responsibilities more efficiently, thus increasing their effectiveness and extending their outreach within the community.
- This scheme is expected to benefit roughly 75,000 community support staff members of SHGs (Self Help Groups) and approximately 1,25,000 federation leaders associated with SHGs.

## “UREA GOLD”



### KEY POINTS

- PM Modi during his visit in Rajasthan launched a new type of Urea called “Urea Gold” which is coated with sulphur that can help improve the soil quality and reduce the expenses of the farmers.
- Urea Gold is a new fertilizer for Indian farmers that promises to address sulphur deficiency in the soil, reduce fertilizer consumption, improve nitrogen use efficiency, and enhance crop quality.
- As a result plants maintain their greenness for an extended duration.
- It is a product of innovation and vision that reflects the government's commitment to the welfare and prosperity of farmers.

## ‘CHIEF MINISTER’S COMMAND CENTRE’



### KEY POINTS

- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath launched Command Centre and CM Dashboard to ensure needy and deserving have access to the benefits of the government schemes and services.
- With the help of the Command Centre and Dashboard, the performance of officials working in the police service, municipal corporations, and development authorities, and the implementation of



various government schemes, will be evaluated through monthly rankings and grades.

- “Currently, 588 schemes of 53 departments are registered.
- A performance index has been developed based on the information received from departments on the CM Dashboard, and accordingly, monthly state-level grading will be issued.
- A Data Quality Index has been developed to ensure the quality of departmental data, and its monthly evaluation will also be displayed.

### **MUKHYAMANTRI KHET SURAKSHA YOJANA**



#### **KEY POINT**

- The Uttar Pradesh government is all set to launch the Mukhyamantri Khet Suraksha Yojana across the state, with the primary objective of protecting crops from stray animals.
- On July 21, 2023, for the welfare of the farmers of Uttar Pradesh, the UP Government launched Mukhyamantri Khet Suraksha Yojana.
- Under this scheme, farmers will be able to install solar fencing around their farms to prevent their crops from getting damaged by animals.
- This fence will have a 12 volt of current. Therefore, it will not harm animals but only shock them.
- There will also be a sound alarm that will restrict the wild animals such as Monkey, Pig and Nilgai to damage the crop in the farm.
- It should be noted that this scheme has been launched exclusively for small and marginal farmers.
- Therefore the financial assistance for the solar fencing will be available only to them. Through Mukhyamantri Khet Suraksha Yojana, the government seeks to empower farmers and help them to safeguard their crops from getting damaged.
- The UP Government has increased the budget for Mukhyamantri Khet Suraksha Yojana from Rs 75 Crore to 350 Crore (5 times) in order to provide the benefit of the scheme to every small and marginal farmer.

## INDIA'S FIRST ATAL INCUBATION CENTRE (AIC) IN FISHERIES



### KEY POINTS

- Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) received a grant of Rs. 10 crore from NITI Aayog in order to set up India's first Atal Incubation Centre in fisheries.
- The grant will foster a culture of innovation and technological advancement.
- The primary objective behind setting up of Fisheries Atal Incubation Centre is to promote progress in the fisheries industry by providing a supportive and encouraging environment for start-ups and innovative initiatives within the fisheries sector.

## SEMICON INDIA 2023

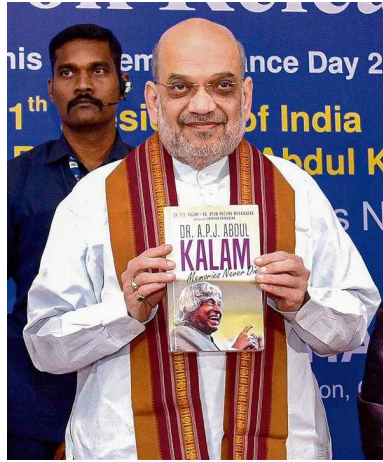


### KEY POINTS

- PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Semicon India 2023: Focus on Investment Opportunities in India's Semiconductor Sector with Expert-led Discussions
- India Semiconductor Mission organized SemiconIndia 2023 Conference with the theme 'Catalysing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem' at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- More than 8,000 persons from over 23 countries participated in the Conference.



## DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM: MEMORIES NEVER DIE



### KEY POINTS

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah released the 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die' book in Rameshwaram.
- Rameswaram temple is symbol of the ancient and glorious Sanatan Culture. Lord Shri Ram worshiped Lord Shiva at Shri Rameshwaram which is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas.
- This book assimilates the history of Indian rocketry, science, technology and innovation, beautiful representation of Indian politics and administrative system and description of many incidents related to wishes and imagination of Dr. Kalam.
- this book would prove to be very helpful in understanding the struggle of an ordinary boy born in a poor household in Rameshwaram to reach the highest peak of Indian politics.
- Abdul Kalam had become a well-known scientist of the country and in 1997 he was awarded the Bharat Ratna.

## FLOATING STORE ON DAL LAKE



### KEY POINT

- Amazon India has inaugurated its first-ever floating store on Dal Lake in Srinagar, Kashmir.
- This initiative is a part of Amazon India's last-mile delivery program that collaborates with local stores for efficient delivery.
- Amazon India's last-mile delivery program launched in 2015 is called 'I Have Space'.
- Amazon Logistics, India, Director Karuna Shankar Pande

# INTERNATION ISSUES

## GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORS SUMMIT



### KEY POINTS

- India inaugurates the Global Food Regulators Summit in New Delhi on July 20th and 21st.
- The summit is expected to include participation from a wide range of stakeholders representing various countries, international organizations, and national entities.
- Additionally, an integrated digital dashboard will be introduced at the Global Food Regulators Summit, 2023, acting as a centralized platform for food-related regulations and standards.

## RESOURCE EFFICIENCY CIRCULAR ECONOMY INDUSTRY COALITION (RECEIC)



### KEY POINTS

- Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, in line with India's G20 Presidency, launched the Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC) in Chennai.
- The coalition aims to promote resource efficiency and circular economy practices worldwide, bringing together companies from various sectors and countries.

## INDIA-MYANMAR-THAILAND TRILATERAL HIGHWAY



### KEY POINTS

- The external affairs minister met his Myanmar counterpart Than Swe and discussed expediting projects, especially the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway, and underlined the importance of ensuring peace and stability in the border areas.
- India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway (IMT Highway), 1,360 km long route, is a highway under construction under India's Look East policy that will connect Moreh, India with Mae Sot, Thailand via Myanmar.
- The construction work of this highway began in 2012 and is being implemented in several phases.
- India also plans to add a new connection to the IMT highway by upgrading the route from Zokhawthar in Mizoram to Tedim in the Chin state of Myanmar.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> G20 SHERPA MEETING



#### KEY POINTS

- The third meeting of G20 Sherpas, chaired by Indian G20 Sherpa Shri Amitabh Kant, concluded in Hampi, Karnataka.
- Hampi, located in Karnataka, India, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is hosting the third Sherpas meeting as part of India's G20 Presidency, with Amitabh Kant leading the meeting as the chairperson.
- The summit, organized by the Ministry of Cultural and External Affairs, anticipates the participation of more than 200 individuals representing 43 countries.
- The summit is themed "Vasudhaiva Kutumbhakam" which translates to "One Earth, One Family, One Future"

### BLACK SEA GRAIN INITIATIVE



#### KEY POINTS

- India has voiced support for the UN's efforts in continuing the Black Sea Grain initiative and expressed hope for an early resolution to the present impasse, The reaction came a day after Russia announced it was terminating implementation of the UN-brokered deal that allowed export of grain and related foodstuffs and fertilisers from Ukrainian ports.



## AWARDS

### UDYOG RATNA AWARD



#### KEY POINTS

- The Udyog Ratna award is a prestigious award that recognizes the achievements of outstanding industrialists in Maharashtra.
- Renowned industrialist Ratan Tata receives 'Udyog Ratna' award from Maharashtra government.
- The Tata Group, spanning from steel to salt, operates in over 100 countries across six continents. In the fiscal year 2021-22, the combined revenue of Tata companies amounted to \$128 billion.

### GOLDEN PEACOCK ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AWARD 2023 (GPEMA)



#### KEY POINTS

- Adani Transmission Limited has received 'Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2023 (GPEMA) in the 'Power Transmission Sector' from 'Institute of Directors.'
- The award is given for reducing its ecological footprint through programs such as zero waste in landfills, single-use plastic free, water-positive operations, promoting renewable energy

integration and implementation of best-in-class environmental management strategies

- NTPC Ramagundam received Golden Peacock Award 2023 in Energy Efficiency category.
- Shri Sunil Kumar, Executive Director (R&T) received this prestigious award from the Institute of Directors. Shri Ashutosh Kumar, AGM (Operation) & Shri Munaga Vamsi Krishna, Sr. Manager (EEMG) were also present the at the award ceremony.

## ENI AWARD



## KEY POINTS

- Prof. T. Pradeep from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras' Department of Chemistry has won the prestigious 'Eni Award,' which is considered among the top global honours for scientific research in energy and environment.
- Eni Awards are given in three categories; Energy Transition, Energy Frontiers and Advanced Environmental Solutions.
- Yu Huang, University of California (Los Angeles, USA) and Jeffrey R. Long, University of California (Berkeley, USA) were given the award for the first category.
- Matthew Rosseinsky, University of Liverpool (UK) won the award for the second category.
- Prof. Pradeep has been awarded for Advanced Environmental Solutions.
- The prize is composed of a gold medal, a citation and a cash component.

## GUINNESS WORLD RECORD FOR THE FASTEST HIT



### KEY POINTS

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy made history by establishing a Guinness world record for the fastest hit of 565 km/h in badminton by a male player.
- Satwik-Chirag won their opening round men's doubles match at BWF Super 500 Korea open
- The Guinness World Records officially verified Satwik's smash, which took place at the Yonex factory gymnasium in Soka, Saitama, Japan during the Korea Open 2023, and it was performed under controlled conditions.

## 8TH AND 9TH NATIONAL COMMUNITY RADIO AWARDS



### KEY POINTS

- Union Minister, Shri Anurag Thakur presented the 8th and 9th National Community Radio Awards during the Inaugural session of the two-day Regional Community Radio Sammelan.
- The National Community Radio Awards carry 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize for Rs, 1 Lakh, 75,000/= and 50,000/=respectively.

**Thematic Awards:**

**First Prize:** Radio Mind Tree, Ambala, Haryana; Name of Programme: Hope Jeene Ki Rah.

**Second Prize:** Radio Hirakhand, Sambalpur, Odisha; Name of Programme: Adhar O PoshanBigyan.

**Third Prize:** Green Radio, Sabour, Bihar; Name of Programme: PoshanShrinkhla

**Most Innovative Community Engagement Awards:**

**First Prize:** Radio SD, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh; Name of the programme: Hizra in Between

**Second Prize:** Kabir Radio, Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh; Name of Program: Selfie Le Le Re

**Third Award:** Radio Mind Tree, Ambala, Haryana Name of Programme: Book Bugs

**Promoting Local Culture Awards:**

**First Prize:** Voice of SOA, Cuttack, Odisha; Name of Programme: Asmita

**Second Prize:** Friends FM, Tripura, Agartala; Name of Programme: Revived a dying art: MASK & POT

**Third Prize:** PantnagarJanvani, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand; Name of Program: Dadi Ma Ka Batua

**Sustainability Model Awards:**

**First Prize:** Radio Hirakhand, Sambhalpur, Odisha

**Second Prize:** VayalagaVanoli, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

**Third Prize:** VAGAD Radio “90.8”, Banswara, Rajasthan

# SPORTS

## ASIAN KABADDI CHAMPIONSHIP 2023



### KEY POINTS

- The Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023 concluded in Busan, Republic of Korea, with India beating Iran in the final to lift the title.
- The Indian men's kabaddi team won the title, beating Iran in the final. Know the results, scores from all matches and the full points table.
- Six teams - India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong - participated in the Asian Kabaddi Championships.
- In the final of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023 held at the Dong-Eui Institute of Technology Seokdang Cultural Center in Busan, Republic of Korea, India emerged victorious, defeating Iran with a score of 42-32. This marked India's eighth championship title in the past nine editions.



## LAUSANNE DIAMOND LEAGUE 2023



### KEY POINTS

- The competition in Silesia was the eighth event of the Diamond League 2023 season.
- The series will wrap up with the two-day final in Eugene, the USA on September 16 and 17.
- After Silesia, only the Monaco and Shenzhen legs of the 2023 Diamond League season will feature the men's 3000m steeplechase race.

## WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS



### KEY POINTS

- The 2023 World Aquatics Championships, the 20th edition of the World Aquatics Championships, were held in Fukuoka, Japan, from 14 to 30 July 2023.
- It was the second time Fukuoka hosted the event having previously held the 9th World Aquatics Championships in 2001.
- The championships included 2,392 athletes competing from 192 member federations.

- While originally listed as 195 nations competing, due to the status of their member federation with World Aquatics, athletes from both the Philippines and Kenya were required to compete under the banner 'Suspended Member Federation', while two athletes of Syrian heritage competed under the banner 'World Aquatics Refugee Team'.
- World Aquatics ban on athletes from Russia and Belarus remained in effect for these championships

### **JUNIOR ASIAN JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023**



### **KEY POINTS**

- Tripura's Asmita Dey clinched gold medal in the Junior Asia Cup Judo Championships in Macau, China.
- In addition to her gold medal at the Junior Asian Judo Championships 2023 in Macau, China, she had secured a silver medal at the Asian Open 2023 held in Kuwait City in April of this year and a bronze medal at the Asian Junior Championships in 2022.

## AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX 2023



### KEY POINTS

- Max Verstappen, the reigning Formula One champion, continued his impressive performance by securing a commanding victory at the Austrian Grand Prix 2023.

## TORNEO DEL CENTENARIO 2023



### KEY POINTS

- Recently on 30<sup>th</sup> July, The Indian women's hockey team wins the title of Torneo del Centenario 2023 by defeating hosts Spain 3-0.
- The 100th anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation International tournament 2023 also known as Torneo del Centenario 2023 was held in Terrassa, Barcelona, Spain.
- Vandana Katariya, Monika and Udita scored vs Spain as the Indian women's hockey team finished the three-nation tournament with eight points from four matches.
- There were three teams Spain, India and England participated in the Tournament it held in the round robin format.

## SUMMITS

### CINEMATOGRAPH AMENDMENT BILL 2023



#### KEY POINTS

- The Minister of Union Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur introduced the Cinematograph Amendment Bill 2023 in Rajya Sabha which aims to tackle film piracy.
- The landmark bill aims to comprehensively curb the menace of 'Piracy' causing losses of Rs 20,000 Crores to the film industry, based on certain estimates.
- The provisions include strict punishment of minimum 3 months imprisonment and fine of Rs. 3 lakhs which can be extended up to 3 years imprisonment and fine upto 5% of the audited gross production cost.
- The new bill has also provisions to classify films on the basis of age group, instead of the current practice of 'U', 'A' or 'UA'. The amendment seek to add new classification- "UA-7+", UA-13+" and "UA-16+" in place of 12 years.
- According to a report by Ernest and Young the Indian film industry suffered a loss of about Rs.18k crore in 2019 due to piracy.
- To address this issue of piracy the Government of India has introduced the Cinematograph Amendment Bill 2023 in Rajya Sabha.
- The bill seeks to amend the Cinematograph Bill 1952, which regulates the certification and exhibition of films in India.

# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## INDIAN AIRFORCE 'TARANG SHAKTI' EXERCISE



### KEY POINTS

- The Tarang Shakti exercise represents a crucial step by the Indian Air Force toward fostering cooperation and interoperability among nations.
- Meanwhile, concurrently, the Indian Navy is participating in the Malabar series of naval exercises, which are being conducted along the eastern coast of Australia.
- This exercise aims to enhance military cooperation and collaboration with air forces from 12 nations.



## "JUPITER-3"



### KEY POINTS

- Elon Musk-led SpaceX launched Hughes Jupiter 3 which is the largest private communications satellite using the Falcon Heavy launch vehicle.
- The Jupiter 3 satellite is designed to deliver internet services to customers in North and South America.
- The Jupiter 3 satellite features a new architecture based on a range of new technologies, including the miniaturisation of electronics, solid-state amplifiers and more efficient antenna designs.
- It will join Hughes' existing Jupiter satellite network, doubling its current capacity to 500 GBps.

## INS KIRPAN



### KEY POINTS

- Indian Naval Ship Kirpan has been Decommissioned from the Indian Navy and Handed Over to Vietnam People's Navy (VPN) at Cam Ranh, Vietnam.
- INS Kirpan, since commissioning in 1991, has been an integral part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet and has participated in many operations over the last 32 years.
- Manned by about 12 officers and 100 sailors, the ship is 90 meters long and 10.45 meters in width with a maximum displacement of 1450 tons.
- The transfer of Kirpan to the Vietnam People's Navy resonates with India's G20 vision of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth, One Family, One Future"

## GAGANYAAN HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT MISSION



### KEY POINTS

- ISRO successfully tested Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission on 19th July at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.
- This test involved five liquid apogee motor (LAM) engines with a thrust of 440 N, and 16 reaction

control system (RCS) thrusters with a thrust of 100 N.

- It involves sending a crew of three members to a 400 km orbit for a three-day mission and bringing them back safely to Earth, with a planned landing in Indian Sea Waters.

### **SATELLITE NETWORK PORTAL SITE**



### **KEY POINTS**

- The Gujarat government signed an MoU in Gandhinagar with London-based Company, OneWeb and the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India for setting up a ‘Satellite Network Portal Site’.
- OneWeb Company is setting up two ‘Satellite Network Portal Site’ and one of them will be in Mehsana District of Gujarat.
- This Satellite network portal site is going to be initiated in Jotana taluka of Mehsana district.
- The satellite network portal to be established in Katosan and Tejura in Jotana Taluka of Mehsana district is scheduled to be launched in 2023 with an estimated cost of over Rs.100 crore for its Phase-1.

## REPORTS

### HEAT INDEX



### KEY POINTS

- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) started issuing heat index for different parts of the country on 21st July on an experimental basis.
- Heat Index is implemented on experimental basis across the entire country including the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- The experimental Heat Index has been launched by IMD to provide general guidance for the regions within India where, the apparent temperature/feel like temperature (considering the impact of humidity along with the temperature) are on the higher side causing discomfort for the people.
- heat index for Bhubaneswar and Ahmedabad under Heat Action Plan is done under project mode by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with local agencies like Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH)
- At present, heat index is derived using the heat index equation similar to what is used by National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA.

## QS BEST STUDENT CITIES 2024 RANKING



### KEY POINTS

- Mumbai has ranked 118, the highest among Indian cities in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Rankings for Best Student Cities 2024 released on July 19.
- At 132nd position, Delhi has come as the second most affordable student-friendly city followed by Bengaluru at 147, and Chennai at 154.
- QS has ranked cities on six parameters, including university rankings, student mix, desirability, employer activity, affordability and student voice, a press statement reveals.

## HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX



### KEY POINTS

- According to the Henley Passport Index, Singapore now holds the title of the world's most powerful passport, granting visa-free access to 192 out of 227 global travel destinations.
- Japan, which had held the number one position for five years, has dropped to third place due to a decrease in the number of destinations offering visa-free access to its passport holders.
- The Henley Passport Index 2023 assesses passports by the number of countries their owners can enter without a visa. It was published by Henley & Partners, a worldwide firm that provides advice

on citizenship and residence.

- The index relies on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which has the most extensive and precise travel information database globally.
- India has made significant progress in the Henley Passport Index, improving its ranking by 5 spots compared to the previous year. It currently shares the 80th position on the index with Togo and Senegal.

## EXPORT PREPAREDNESS INDEX (EPI)



# Niti Aayog

नीति आयोग  
National Institution for Transforming India

## KEY POINTS

- Recently, NITI Aayog has released the 3rd edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for States/UTs of India for the year 2022.
- The report was released by Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Shri. Suman Bery.
- The release of the third edition of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) by NITI Aayog aims to assess and improve the export performance of Indian states and UTs.
- The report presents a comprehensive analysis of India's export performance in FY22, along with its sector-specific and district-level merchandise export trends.
- The EPI 2022 Report evaluates the performance of the states across four pillars – Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, and Export Performance.
- The index uses 56 indicators which holistically capture the export preparedness of States and UTs in terms of exports at both the state and district-level.
- These pillars are further based on ten sub-pillars – Export Promotion Policy; Institutional Framework; Business Environment; Infrastructure; Transport Connectivity; Export Infrastructure; Trade Support; R&D Infrastructure; Export Diversification; and Growth Orientation.



## PERSONS IN NEWS

### CHAIRPERSON OF IPCC



### KEY POINTS

- On July 26 – Jim Skea of the United Kingdom is the newly elected Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- With nearly forty years of climate science experience and expertise, Jim Skea will lead the IPCC through its seventh assessment cycle.
- The IPCC was created to provide policymakers with regular scientific assessments on climate change, its implications and potential future risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation options.

## SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA



### KEY POINTS

- The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet approved the reappointment of Tushar Mehta as the Solicitor General of India for three years along with six others.
- The committee reappointment of six Additional Solicitor Generals of India for the same period is: Vikramjit Banerjee, K.M. Nataraj, Balbir Singh, S.V. Raju, N. Venkataraman and Aishwarya Bhati.

## AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION



### KEY POINTS

- The government extended the tenure of Brajendra Navnit as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the World Trade Organization (WTO) by nine months till March 31, 2024.
- Navnit had assumed office as ambassador in June 2020 and his tenure was till June 28, 2023.

## NAAC DIRECTOR



### KEY POINTS

- The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has appointed educationist Prof Ganesan Kannabiran as its new director.
- Prof Kannabiran is a senior professor of Information Systems at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli, and has served in the education sector for over 30 years.
- He has carried out projects in the fields of computer-base learning, industry 4.0, entrepreneurship development, gender equality and data privacy among others.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC BAG FREE DAY



#### KEY POINTS

- International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed every year on July 3rd to increase awareness about the detrimental effects of disposable plastic bags on the environment.
- There is no specific theme for 2023 International Plastic Bag Free day.
- In 2008, Zero Waste Europe initiated a campaign targeting the issue of single-use plastic bags, which took place on July 3rd. Subsequently, in 2015, the European Union introduced specific directives to diminish the utilization of single-use plastic bags.

## WORLD UFO DAY



### KEY POINTS

- World UFO Day, celebrated annually on July 2, serves as a platform for individuals around the globe to delve into the intriguing realm of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).
- World UFO Day traces its roots back to two significant events in the United States. The first event occurred on June 24, 1947.

## WORLD POPULATION DAY



### KEY POINTS

- The World Population Day is observed every year on July 11 in order to raise awareness about the global population issues, including population control.
- 2023 Theme: Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities. What women and girls want matters.
- The United Nations established World Population Day in 1989. The initiative was proposed by Dr. KC Zachariah to mark the day when the global population reached five billion on July 11, 1987.

## INTERNATIONAL MALALA DAY



### KEY POINTS

- International Malala Day is observed on July 12 to celebrate the life and legacy of education activist Malala Yousafzai.
- International Malala Day is observed every year on July 12 to celebrate the life and legacy of Pakistani education activist and Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai.
- The theme of fame is prominent in the book “I Am Malala,”
- It observed annually since 2013, celebrates Malala Yousafzai's fight for girls' education.
- Malala Yousafzai, the renowned education activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner, shared throwback images on the eve of her 26th birthday, which coincides with Malala Day, observed annually since 2013



## WORLD PAPER BAG DAY



### KEY POINTS

- On July 12, World Paper Bag Day is celebrated annually to promote the significance of utilizing paper bags instead of plastic.
- This observance serves as a reminder to prioritize environmentally conscious choices in our everyday lives and encourages individuals and businesses to adopt more sustainable alternatives.
- The origins of paper bags can be traced back to the 19th century when Francis Wolle invented the first paper bag machine in 1852.

## WORLD DAY FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE



### KEY POINTS

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) observes the Day of International Criminal Justice on 17 July each year.
- This significant date commemorates the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, which established the ICC.
- World Day for International Justice is celebrated on July 17 to respect the significant role played by The International Criminal Court and other organizations in serving justice to people who have been victims of a lot of crimes.

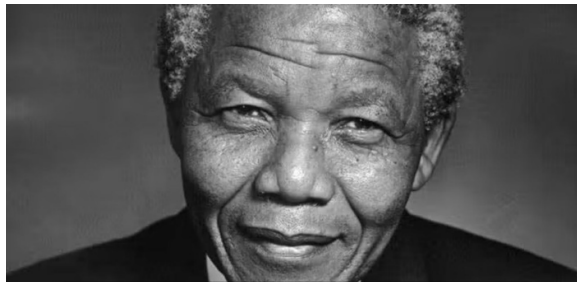
## INTERNATIONAL MOON DAY



### KEY POINTS

- International Moon Day marks the anniversary of the first landing by humans on the Moon as part of the Apollo 11 lunar mission.
- International Moon Day is an annual day dedicated to the Earth's one and only natural satellite, the Moon.
- It's held every year on the 20th of July, which is the anniversary of the day on which astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin famously set foot on the Moon in 1969.

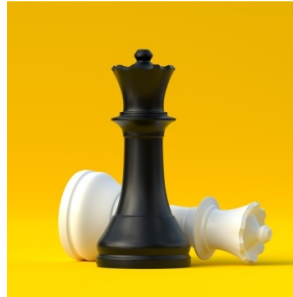
## NELSON MANDELA DAY



### KEY POINTS

- Nelson Mandela day is observed on July 18 every year. The United Nations (UN) had in 2009 declared July 18 as Nelson Mandela Day to honour Nelson Mandela.
- The theme for this year is “The Legacy Lives on Through You: Climate, Food, and Solidarity.”
- Mandela Day was created to inspire people to embrace the values of democracy and contribute towards the ideals of ensuring a just and fair society.

## WORLD CHESS DAY



### KEY POINTS

- International Chess Day is celebrated annually on 20 July, the day the International Chess Federation (FIDE) was found, in 1924.
- The idea to celebrate this day as the international chess day was proposed by UNESCO, and it has been celebrated as such since 1966.

## WORLD BRAIN TUMOUR DAY



### KEY POINTS

- World Brain Day, also known as International Brain Day, is a worldwide healthcare event that takes place annually on July 22.
- In 2023, the theme for World Brain Day is “Brain Health and Disability: Leave No One Behind.”
- The annual event dedicated to raising awareness about brain health and neurological disorders.
- It is celebrated annually with the goal of encouraging brain health, furthering research and helping people who are suffering from neurological disorders.
- Every age group, race, gender, and socioeconomic level is impacted by brain disorders.
- This day aims to increase public awareness of brain health and disorders to widen access and reduce equity disparities.

## INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY



### KEY POINTS

- 29th July is observed as International Tiger Day (ITD) to promote the conservation of the striped cat as well as to advocate a global system for protecting its natural habitats.
- International Tiger Day has been observed annually on July 29th since its inception in 2010 during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit.

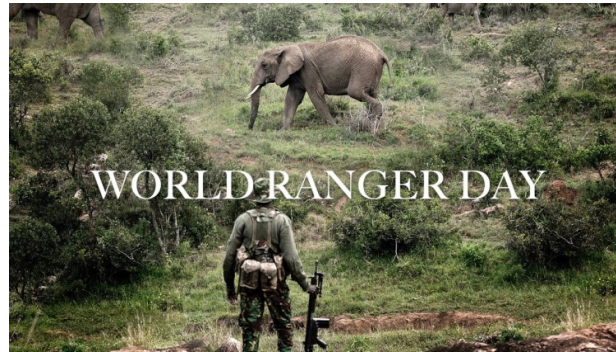
## WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS



### KEY POINTS

- World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed on July 30 every year to raise awareness about the trends in human trafficking identified by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- The theme of World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2023 is "Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind".
- It also aims to put pressure on governments, law enforcement agencies and civil society to strengthen the prevention of trafficking and the identification and support of victims.

## WORLD RANGER DAY



### KEY POINTS

- World Ranger Day, celebrated on July 31, serves as a special occasion to pay tribute and show gratitude to the courageous men and women who devote their lives to safeguarding wildlife and preserving our precious natural resources.
- The World Ranger Day 2023 theme is '30 by 30'
- A ranger is typically someone in a law enforcement or military/paramilitary role specializing in patrolling a given territory, called “ranging”.
- The day was first observed in 2007 in memory of eight rangers who tragically lost their lives while on duty in Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo.