

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SEPTEMBER 2023

NARI SHAKTI VANDAN [CONSTITUTION (106TH AMENDMENT)] ACT, 2023

Recently, Parliament passed Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023, to provide for one-third reservation to women in the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and the assembly of NCT of Delhi.

Articles amended

o **Article 239AA:** Reservation of 1/3rd seats for women in the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

Articles inserted

o **Article 330A:** Reservation of 1/3rd seats for women in the House of People (Lok Sabha).

✓ It also includes reservation of 1/3rd seats for women under total number of seats reserved for SCs/STs under Article 330.

o **Article 332A:** Reservation of 1/3rd seats for women in the Legislative Assembly of every State.

✓ It also includes reservation of 1/3rd seats for women under total number of seats reserved for SCs/STs under Article 332.

o **Article 334A:** Provisions of this act shall come into effect after delimitation after the first census taken after the commencement of this act.

✓ Sunset clause: Provisions relating to reservation of seats for women shall cease to have effect after the expiration of 15 years.

✓ The reservation for women, however, can be extended by the Parliament by law.

✓ Periodic rotation of seats reserved for women after each subsequent delimitation as Parliament may by law determine.

✓ Provisions of this act shall not affect any representation in legislative assemblies and the Lok Sabha until their dissolution.

SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS

The Union government has recently notified an 8-member committee under the leadership of the former President Shri Ram Nath Kovind to examine and make recommendations on simultaneous election.

About Simultaneous elections

- It is an idea aimed to synchronize the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies elections, Municipalities and Panchayats such that voters in a particular constituency vote on the same day.
- Simultaneous elections do not mean that voting across the country for all elections needs to happen on a single day.
 - o For instance, this can be conducted in a phase-wise manner as per the existing practice, provided voters in a particular constituency vote for both State Assembly and Lok Sabha the same day.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ELECTIONS

Five Swiss political parties have signed a code of conduct agreeing to limit the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in their campaigns for the federal elections.

Role of AI in elections

- **Predictive Modelling:** The prediction models can be built using AI. It will help determine the probability of a voter backing a specific candidate.
 - o Factors such as demographics, voting patterns and issues that matter can be considered to build a model that helps identify the voters who will vote for a particular candidate.
- **Social Media Analysis:** Using AI, parties can analyze the trends and sentiment to build a social media outreach program, as per the voters' preferences.
- **Personalization:** AI can aid in tailoring communications for specific voters based on their interests, preferences, and traits. This can assist candidates in connecting with the audience more deeply.

- **Real-Time Data Analysis:** Campaigns may adapt their messaging and outreach methods in reaction to shifting conditions by using AI to evaluate real-time data on social media trends, sentiment, and influencers.
- **Increased Efficiency:** AI can track and measure the performance of various campaign activities such as advertising, canvassing, and events. This enables campaigns to identify what works and what doesn't and make data-driven decisions to optimize their activities.
- **Enhance participation:** AI also generates chances for participative democracy, like enhanced voter education and mobilisation.

PERSONALITY RIGHTS

Recently, Delhi High Court granted protection to a famous Bollywood actor's personality rights from misuse by third parties.

About Personality Rights

- Personality rights refer to the right of a person to protect his/her personality under the right to privacy or property.
 - o It includes name, voice, signature, images or any other feature easily identified as markers of personality.
- It is significant to protect privacy of individuals, individual's right to derive economic benefits out of their personality traits, and consumers from misleading advertisements.

Personality Rights in India

- Personality rights or their protection are not expressly mentioned in any statute in India but are traced to fall under the right to privacy and the right to property.
- Two components of Personality Rights
 - o Right to publicity: Right to keep one's image and likeness from being commercially exploited without permission or contractual compensation.

✓ It is governed by statutes like the Trade Marks Act, 1999 and the Copyright Act, 1957.

o Right to privacy: Right to not have one's personality represented publicly without permission.

✓ It is broadly governed under the Article 21 of the Constitution and the Supreme Court judgment in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) Case (2018).

Posthumous Personality Rights

- **Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950:** Protects unauthorized use of few dignitaries' names and symbols listed in its schedule.
- **IPC:** If negative reference or derogatory representation is made to any deceased person's reputation or their family, defamation suit can be filed under the Indian Penal Code.
- **Trademark law:** It ensures the benefit to refrain others from using other's name unjustifiably in addition to personal right to sue them for the misuse of other's name.

SECRETARIAT OF THE PARLIAMENT

As the Parliament completes 75 years, Parliament secretariat has been the custodian of procedure, precedent and legislative knowledge of the two Houses. Constitutional provisions

- **Article 98:** Each House of Parliament shall have a separate secretarial staff.
 - o Parliament may by law regulate the recruitment, and the conditions of service of persons appointed, to the secretarial staff of either House of Parliament.
 - o It also allows creation of posts common to both the Houses of Parliament.
- **Article 187** makes similar provisions for Secretariat of State Legislatures.
- Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the House of the People (Lok Sabha) came into existence in 1952.
 - o However, the Secretariat of the House of the People continued to be called the 'Parliament Secretariat' and a new Secretariat called the 'Council of States Secretariat' was set up for the Rajya Sabha.
 - o The names of the two Secretariats were changed in 1954 to Rajya Sabha Secretariat and Lok Sabha Secretariat respectively.

108 MIGRANTS FROM PAKISTAN AWARDED CITIZENSHIP IN GUJARAT

- A Ministry of Home Affairs Order, 2021 empowered the Collectors from certain districts in the States of Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Punjab for:
 - o Registration of Citizen of India and grant certificate of naturalization under Section 5 and 6 of the Citizenship Act 1955 respectively.
 - o This is applicable in respect of any person belonging to the minority community in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.
- Citizenship by naturalization can be acquired by a foreigner (not an illegal immigrant)
 - o Who is ordinarily resident in India for 12 Years
 - ✓ Throughout the period of twelve months immediately preceding the date of application; and
 - ✓ For 11 Years in the aggregate in the 14 Years preceding the twelve months
 - o Other qualifications as specified in the Third Schedule to the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- Constitutional provisions for citizenship (**Part II of the Constitution**)
 - o **Articles 5, 6, 7** and 8, detail provisions regarding who will be the citizens of India at the commencement of the Constitution.
 - o **Article 11** grants Parliament the authority to make any provision regarding the acquisition and termination of citizenship.

DISQUALIFICATION OF LAWMAKERS

- Karnataka High Court recently declared the election of a member of Lok Sabha from Hassan constituency as void
- The decision of disqualification is made on grounds of guilty of corrupt practices including wrong disclosure of value of properties, evading taxes, etc.
- **Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951** enables the High Court to declare an election void on certain grounds.
 - o Once the election is declared void the member has to vacate the office.

- o The aggrieved person can appeal to the Supreme Court against the order of the High Court.
- Disqualification of a lawmaker is prescribed in three situations:
 - o **RPA, 1951: Under Section 8(4)**, a lawmaker is disqualified for the period of imprisonment and a further six years if convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for two years or more.
 - o **Tenth Schedule of the Constitution:** Provides for the disqualification of the members on grounds of defection.
 - o **Articles 102 (1) and 191 (1):** For disqualification of a Member of Parliament and a Member of the Legislative Assembly respectively.
 - o The grounds here include holding an office of profit, being of unsound mind or insolvent or not having valid citizenship.

PUBLIC SERVANTS LOSE IMMUNITY IN PRE-2014 CORRUPTION CASES

- A constitution bench of the Supreme Court (SC) declared that its 2014 judgment, which declared Section 6A of the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act 1946** as unconstitutional, will have a retrospective effect.
 - o Section 6A of DSPE Act (inserted in 2003) required CBI to obtain prior sanction from the central government to investigate corruption cases against an officer of the rank of joint secretary and above.
 - o This provision was struck down as unconstitutional (violation of right to equality under Article 14) by SC in the Subramanian Swamy v. Union of India case (2014).
- Key highlights of SC judgment
 - o Once a law is declared unconstitutional on grounds of it infringing any of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution, it would be held to be an unenforceable right from date of enactment (Void Ab Initio).
 - o Article 20(1) has no bearing in the context of declaration of Section 6A as unconstitutional as Article 20 (1) doesn't bar retrospective application of procedural changes in criminal trial.

✓ Article 20(1) lays down that no person shall be convicted of any offense except for violation of a law in force at the time of the commission of the alleged act.

FIVE EYES ALLIANCE

- It is an intelligence-sharing arrangement between US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
- Under this, intelligence agencies of these five countries share signal, military and human intelligence among themselves.

INDIA AND G20






















India recently held the Presidency of the G20 summit for the first time at New Delhi, with the theme “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” or “One Earth, One Family, One Future”.






The infographic features a central title 'G20' in a red-bordered box. Below it are four sections: 'About', 'Genesis', 'Purpose', and 'Working'. Each section contains a list of key points. A small Indian flag icon is visible in the top right corner of the infographic area.

G20

- About**
 - ▶ Premier forum for **international economic cooperation**, that meets regularly to discuss the most pressing issues facing the global economy.
- Genesis**
 - ▶ **Founded in 1999**, following the **Asian financial crisis**, as a forum for finance ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss global economic and financial issues.
- Purpose**
 - ▶ Plays an important role in **shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance** on all major international economic issues.
- Working**
 - ▶ G20 Summit held annually, under the leadership of a **rotating Presidency**.
 - ▶ Presidency is supported by the **Troika** – previous, current and incoming Presidency.
 - **Troika consists of Indonesia, India and Brazil.**
 - ▶ Consists of two parallel tracks: the **Finance Track** and the **Sherpa Track**.
 - ▶ Does not have any permanent secretariat or staff.

Members						
						
United States of America	China	United Kingdom	India	Indonesia	European Union	African Union
						
Russia	Mexico	South Korea	Argentina	France	Brazil	Germany
						
South Africa	Canada	Australia	Turkey	Italy	Saudi Arabia	Japan

Represents	Achievements of G20	
		
Global GDP	Global Trade	World Population
*Data prior to the inclusion of African Union as a member.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Addressed financial crises such as - the Global Financial Crisis 2008-09, the Eurozone Crisis in 2010, etc. ▶ A USD 10 trillion rescue package for the COVID-19 pandemic. ▶ US-China trade truce in 2018 ▶ Bringing tax reform for the benefit of low-income countries. 		

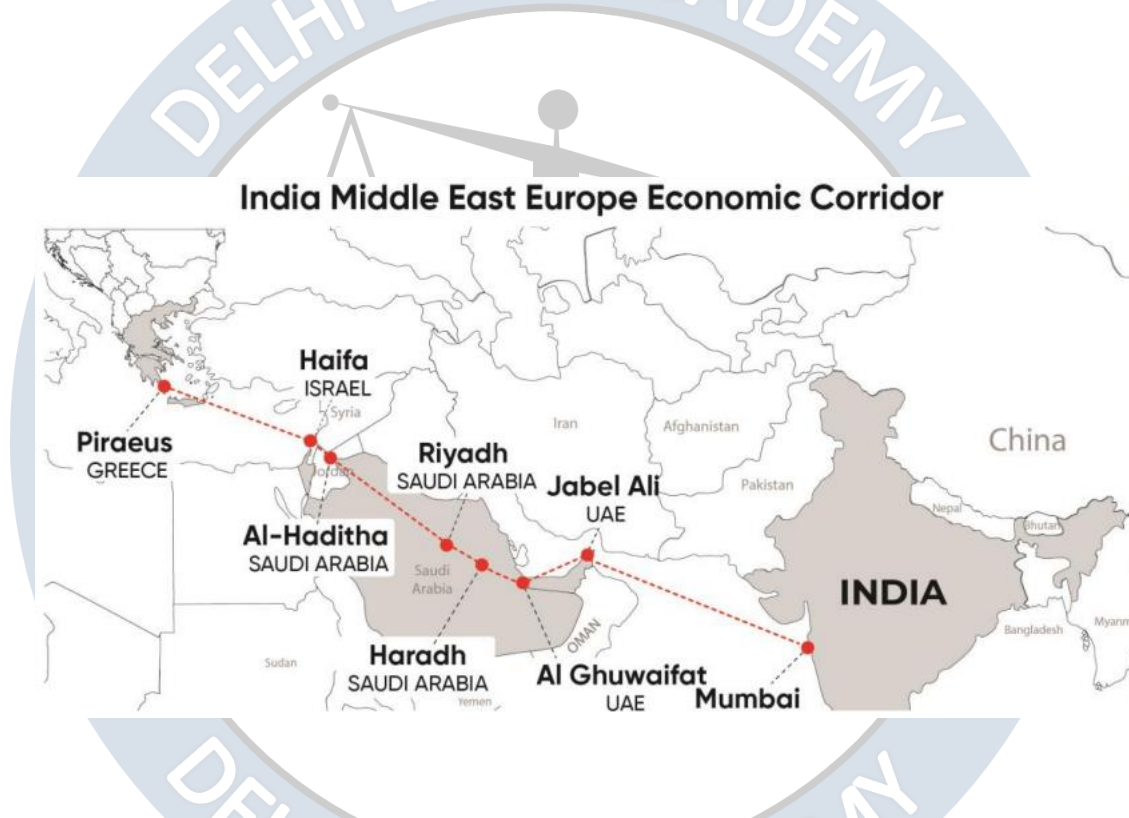
Key Outcomes of the G20 Summit

- Unanimous adoption of the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Joint Declaration.
- Launch of the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) to increase the consumption of biofuels.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
- Formal inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20.

INDIA-MIDDLE EAST- EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (IMEC)

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the 'India-Middle East- Europe Economic Corridor' (IMEC) was signed between India, US, Saudi Arabia, European Union, UAE, France, Germany, and Italy.

- The IMEC will consist of railroad, ship-to-rail networks (road and sea) and road transport routes (and networks), extending across two corridors
 - o The east corridor: Connects India to the Arabian Gulf.
 - o The northern corridor: Connects the Arabian Gulf to Europe.
- It aims to provide a reliable and cost-effective cross-border ship-to-rail transit network enabling goods and services to transit to, from, and between India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and Europe.



IMEC vs China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

- In terms of objectives, both mega transnational projects are similar.
- China's New Silk Route is larger in terms of scale.
 - o Announced in 2013, China has signed BRI cooperation documents with more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations and created over 3,000 projects.

Expected benefits of IMEC over BRI		
Parameters	IMEC	BRI
Design	Based on collaborative consultations with all participants.	Centrally designed.
Benefits	For the common benefit of all in the region	Primarily serves China's interests.
Employment	Focus on generating employment for the local population	Mainly generates employment for Chinese companies.
Debt practices	Proposes to follow the best international debt practices	Criticised for putting unsustainable debt burdens on participating nations.

AFRICAN UNION: A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE G20

- African Union became the second regional organization to become a permanent member of the G20.

African Union



African Union



Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia.

- i About:** It is a continental body consisting of the **55 member states** that make up the countries of the African Continent.
- 🧪 Genesis:** Launched in 2002 as a **successor to the Organisation of African Unity** (OAU, 1963-1999).
- 📋 Aim:** Promoting Africa's growth and **economic development** by championing citizen inclusion and **increased cooperation** and **integration of African states**.
- ⚙️ Other Key Information:**
Collectively the group has a GDP of \$3 trillion with some 1.4 billion people.

PM VISHWAKARMA SCHEME

Recently, Prime Minister launched 'PM Vishwakarma' Scheme for traditional artisans and craftspeople on occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti.

About PM Vishwakarma scheme

It envisages to provide end-to-end holistic support to the traditional artisans and craftspeople in scaling up of their conventional products and services.

- Objective:
 - o To enable recognition of artisans and craftspeople as Vishwakarmas.
 - o To provide incentives for digital transactions to encourage digital empowerment of Vishwakarmas.
 - o To provide a platform for brand promotion and market linkages to help them access new opportunities for growth.



ARMED FORCES SPECIAL POWERS ACT (AFSPA) 1958

- Union Ministry of Home Affairs has extended AFSPA in parts of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh by another 6 months.
- AFSPA grants special powers to armed forces to bring back order in “disturbed areas”.
 - They can open fire against any person in contravention to law, arrest and search premises without warrant, etc.
- Key highlights
 - Disturbed areas: A part or whole state/UT is declared disturbed area when use of armed forces in aid of civil power is necessary to restore order.
 - ✓ Declaration is made by Governor of state, administrator of UT or by Centre.
 - Immunity to Armed forces personnel: Prohibition legal proceeding against them except with the previous sanction of the Central Government.
 - ✓ In 2016, Supreme Court ruled that the armed forces could not be immune from investigation for excesses committed during the discharge of their duties even in disturbed areas.
 - Treatment of arrested person: Army authority is duty bound to handover the arrested person to the officer-in-charge of the nearest police station with least possible delay.
 - Applicability: Parts of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.
 - Concern: Abuse of powers, Human right violation, etc.

FUGITIVE ECONOMIC OFFENDER (FEO)

- Assets worth over \$1.8 billion recovered under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act.
- A Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO) is a person against whom an arrest warrant has been issued for involvement in economic offenses involving at least Rs. 100 crore and the person has left India to avoid criminal prosecution.

- Presently, only 10 people have been declared as fugitive economic offenders.

OPERATION POLO

- 75th anniversary of Operation Polo is being celebrated.
- It is the code name of military action launched by the Indian Army on September 13, 1948, to integrate the princely state of Hyderabad.
 - o It was launched because Nizam Mir Osman Ali Shah was reluctant to join India after Independence in 1947.

MILITARY EXERCISES IN NEWS

- **Varuna:** It is bilateral exercise between Indian and French Navy.
- **SIMBEX:** Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) is an annual bilateral naval exercise between India and Singapore.

NORMAN BORLAUG FIELD AWARD FOR FIELD RESEARCH AND APPLICATION

- Dr. Swati Nayak, an Indian scientist at International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), was named the recipient of the prestigious award in 2023.
 - o She is recognized for her innovative approach to engaging smallholder farmers in demand-driven rice seed systems and adoption of climate-resilient and nutritious rice varieties.

MITHUN

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has recognised the Mithun (*Bos frontalis*) as a food animal.
- Food Animals are those that are raised and used for food production or consumption by humans.

- Categorization can help check its declining population.
- Earlier in 2022, Himalayan yak was accepted as a food animal by FSSAI.

AAROGYA MAITRI CUBE UNDER PROJECT BHISHM

- India has built the world's first disaster hospital, called Aarogya Maitri Cube which can be airlifted and assembled in 72 cubes.
 - o These cubes contain medical equipment and supplies to support 200 survivors for 48 hours.
 - o These medical cubes have been indigenously developed under Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri).
 - o India has already donated two Aarogya Maitri Cubes to Myanmar as a goodwill gesture and one is being readied for donation to Sri Lanka.

DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY STATUS

- NCERT has been granted the status of deemed to be university. Deemed university status will now allow NCERT to
 - o offer its own graduate, post-graduate and doctoral degrees and
 - o have autonomy in terms of introduction of programmes, course structure, conducting examinations and management, among others.
- An institution of higher education, other than a university, doing the work of high standard in a specific area, can be declared as an institution deemed to be university.
- Declared by Central Government under section 3 of University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956.

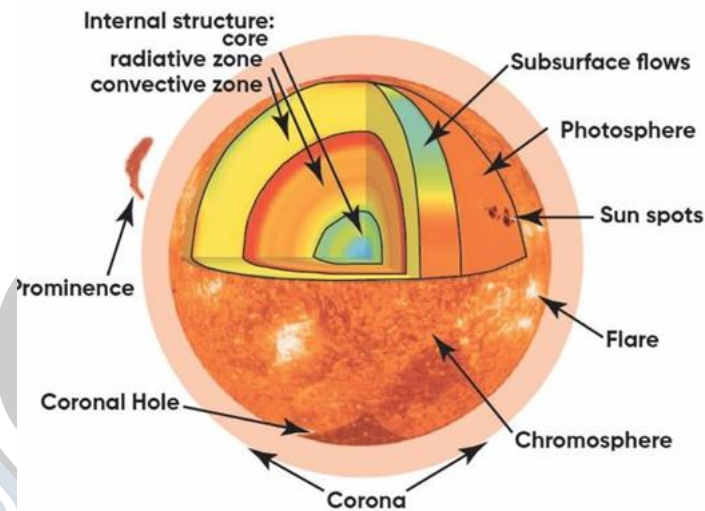
ADITYA-L1

ISRO successfully launched India's first space-based observatory-class solar mission to study the Sun on September 2, to study the Sun.

Know the term

- **Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs):** These are large eruptions of **magnetized plasma** from the **Sun's outer atmosphere (Corona)** that propagates outwards into the **interplanetary space**.
- **Solar flares:** A solar flare is an **intense burst of radiation** coming from the release of **magnetic energy** associated with **sunspots**. These are our solar system's largest explosive events.

Layers of the Sun



TIDAL LOCKING

As the sun rises on the Moon, ISRO is trying to wake up rover Pragyan and lander Vikram which were put to sleep to survive the lunar night.

- The Chandrayaan-3 mission was solar-powered, and its landing was planned to coincide with the daylight period on the Moon.

o The diurnal temperature range on the Moon is very high, making it difficult for Chandrayaan-3 Mission's electronics to withstand the extremely low temperatures during the Lunar Night.

o Therefore, the lander and rover were put into hibernation a little before lunar sunset.

- Re-awakening would validate ISRO's lander-rover technology for future space exploration.

About Lunar Day

- A mean solar day on the Moon i.e. Lunar Day is the time the moon takes to complete one rotation on its axis with respect to the Sun.
- One mean solar day on the Moon is 29.5 Earth days (one mean solar day on Earth is 24 hrs).

VANADIUM

Researchers at the Geological Survey of India (GSI) discovered vanadium, a critical mineral from the Gulf of Khambhat in Gujarat.

- Titanomagnetite – ore containing vanadium has been identified in samples taken from the Gulf of Khambhat.
- According to GSI, deposits in the gulf were drained from the Deccan basalt mainly through the rivers of Narmada and Tapi.
- It is the first report of vanadium occurrence in the offshore sediments of India.

About Vanadium

- It is a chemical element with the symbol "V" and the atomic number 23 and is classified as a transition metal.
- It is an abundant element in the earth's crust, ranking 22nd in position in the upper continental crust.
- It is listed as one of the 30 critical minerals identified by the Government of India.

KAKRAPAR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (KAPP 3)

- First largest indigenous 700 MWe Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant (KAPP 3) started working in Gujarat.
- KAPP-3 is also the biggest indigenously developed variant of the Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR).
 - In 2020, it had achieved its first criticality (when each fission event releases a sufficient number of neutrons to sustain an ongoing series of reactions).
 - PHWRs use natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as moderator.

SANTINIKETAN

Santiniketan has been designated as the 41st UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) of India.

- It has been designated on the basis of following Cultural Criteria of UNESCO:
 - Exhibit an important interchange of human values on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design.
 - Directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.
- It is the third WHS of West Bengal, after the Sundarbans National Park and the Darjeeling Mountain Railways.
- Along with Rabindranath Tagore, Surendranath Kar, Nandalal Bose, Patrick and Arthur Geddes played key role in shaping it.

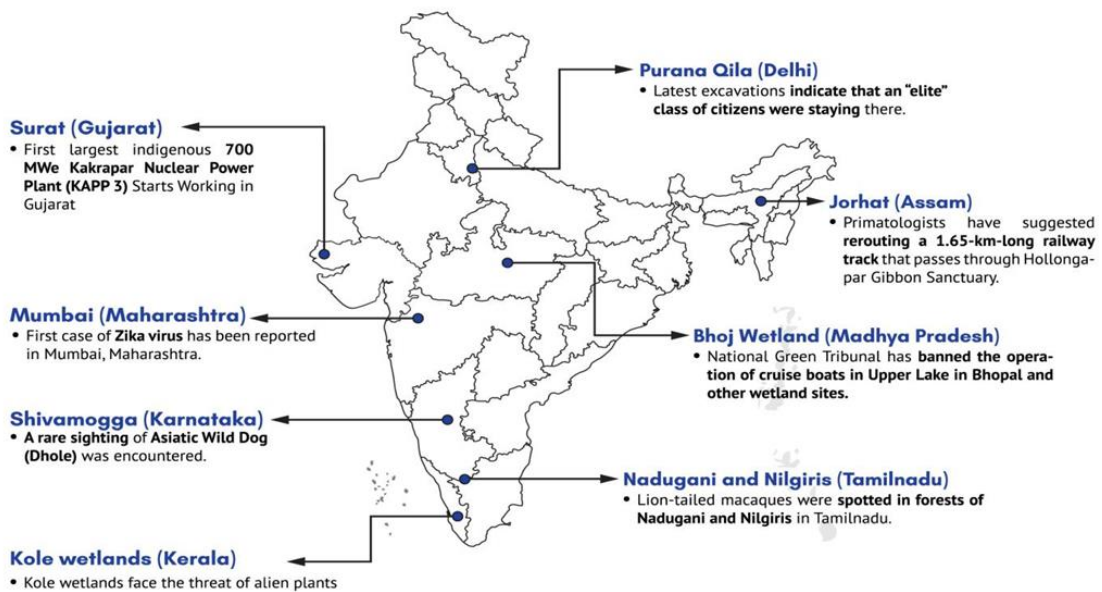
STATUE OF ONENESS

- Madhya Pradesh government unveiled a 108-foot-tall statue Adi Shankaracharya in Omkareshwar and named it as Statue of Oneness.
 - Adi Shankaracharya, also known as Jagadguru, was the founder of Advaita Vedanta (non-dualism) in 8th century.
 - He was born in Kaladi in Kerala.

RAMON MAGASAYSAY AWARD

- Assam-based oncologist Ravi Kannan is among winners of 2023 Ramon Magsaysay Award.
- Established in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.
- It is named after Ramon Magsaysay, the 7th president (1953-57) of Philippines. Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) honours individuals or organizations in Asia every year for social contribution activities.

Places in News: India



Places in News: World

