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Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2023

Context: On the first day of Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2023, nearly 10 lakh activities were observed across the country.

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating the 6th Rashtriya Poshan Maah throughout September 2023.
- The themes of the event include 'Improving Nutrition through Mission LiFE' and 'Exclusive Breastfeeding & Complimentary Feeding.'
- The campaign aims to involve every citizen in promoting better nutrition for a healthier India.
- The objective of Poshan Maah 2023 is to address malnutrition comprehensively through a life-cycle approach, focusing on stages like pregnancy, infancy, childhood, and adolescence.
- The central theme of Poshan Maah 2023 is "Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat" (Nutrition-rich India, Educated India, Empowered India).
- The month-long event will involve nationwide efforts to raise awareness about nutrition, with a special focus on Exclusive Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding.

POSHAN 2.0

- Mission POSHAN 2.0 is an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme aimed at addressing malnutrition challenges in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
- It focuses on improving nutrition content and delivery through a strategic shift and creating a convergent ecosystem to promote health, wellness, and immunity.
- Poshan 2.0 aims to optimize the quality and delivery of food under the Supplementary Nutrition Program.
- The mission contributes to human capital development, raises nutrition awareness, promotes good eating habits, and addresses nutrition-related deficiencies.
- It includes three important programs/schemes:
 - Anganwadi Services
 - Scheme for Adolescent Girls
 - Poshan Abhiyaan.
- Poshan 2.0 focuses on maternal nutrition, infant and young child feeding norms, treatment of malnutrition, and wellness through AYUSH.
- It is based on the pillars of Convergence, Governance, and Capacity-building, with Poshan Abhiyan as a key pillar for Outreach.
- The mission integrates various strategies, including corrective, nutrition awareness, communication, and the creation of green ecosystems.
- Strong interventions-driven convergent activities with key Ministries/Departments/ Organizations will help realize the mission's objectives.
- The "Poshan Tracker," rolled out on March 1, 2021, strengthens the digital infrastructure for transparent nutrition delivery support systems.
- Poshan Tracker leverages technology for dynamic identification of child malnutrition and last-mile tracking of nutrition service delivery.

G20 Workstreams

Context: The 18th annual G20 Heads of State and Government Summit is just around the corner, scheduled to be held at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, on September 9th and 10th.

- Established in 1999, the G20 initially focused on finance ministers and central bank governors.
- It transitioned into a leaders' forum following the 2008 financial and economic crisis.
- The G20 Summit is the culmination of meetings held throughout the host country during the year.
- These meetings involve ministers, government officials, and civil society representatives.
- The G20 operates through three major tracks: Finance Track, Sherpa Track, and unofficial engagement groups.

Finance track

- The Finance Track is led by finance ministers and central bank governors.
- They convene approximately four times a year, including two meetings during World Bank and IMF gatherings.
- The Finance Track primarily addresses fiscal and monetary matters.
- Key topics include the global economy, infrastructure, financial regulations, financial inclusion, international financial architecture, and international taxation.
- The Finance Track has expanded over time and now consists of eight working groups.
- The Finance Track has achieved several key milestones, especially in the post-pandemic phase:
 - The Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) is among these notable accomplishments.
 - Establishment of the Common Framework for debt treatments beyond DSSI has been a significant achievement.
 - Played a vital role in developing the G20 Sustainable Finance Roadmap.
 - Addressed tax challenges arising from the digitalization of the economy through the two-pillar solution.
 - Introduced essential G20 principles aimed at promoting quality infrastructure investment.
 - Proposed the creation of a Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) dedicated to pandemic Preparedness and Response (PPR).

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Sherpa Track

- The Sherpa Track was established in 2008 as the G20 transitioned into a leaders' summit.
- It is composed of representatives appointed by heads of state.
- The Sherpa Track focuses on a wide range of socio-economic issues, including agriculture, anti-corruption, climate, digital economy, education, employment, energy, environment, health, tourism, trade, and investment.
- Each representative within the Sherpa Track is referred to as a Sherpa, drawing an analogy from mountaineering, where Sherpas assist climbers in challenging expeditions.
- There are a total of 13 working groups operating within the Sherpa Track, each dedicated to specific areas of concern.
- These working groups include Agriculture, Anti-corruption, Culture, Development, Digital Economy, Disaster Risk Reduction, Education, Employment, Energy Transitions, Environment and Climate Sustainability, Health, Tourism, and Trade and Investment.

Engagement Groups

- The unofficial track of the G20 includes engagement groups consisting of civil society organizations.
- These engagement groups actively participate in the G20 process by formulating recommendations for G20 Leaders that influence policy decisions.
- There are a total of 11 engagement groups within the unofficial track, each representing different sectors and interests.
- The engagement groups include Business20 (B20), Civil20 (C20), Labour20 (L20), Parliament20 (P20), Science20 (S20), SAI20, Startup20 (S20), Think20 (T20), Urban20 (U20), Women20 (W20), and Youth20 (Y20).

Article 368 and Basic Structure

Context: The Chief Justice of India inquires whether Article 370 takes precedence over the Basic Structure of the Constitution and the Parliament's authority to make amendments.

- The debate concerns Article 370's significance in relation to the Constitution's Basic Structure doctrine and Parliament's amending powers.
- It stems from a legal challenge to the abolition of Article 370.
- There's a dispute about whether Article 370 became unamendable after the dissolution of the Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly in 1957.
- The debate hinges on whether Article 370 is subject to Article 368 (Parliament's power to amend the Constitution) or has a distinct procedure under Article 370(3).
- 7. A change in the government's position emphasizes the President's extraordinary power to revoke Article 370.

Basic Structure

- The term "Basic Structure" is not explicitly mentioned in the Indian Constitution; instead, it has evolved gradually over time through various cases and legal interpretations.
- The concept aims to safeguard the essence of Indian democracy and protect the rights and freedoms of its citizens.
- The Basic Structure doctrine is essential in preserving the core principles of the Indian Constitution.
- The landmark Kesavananda Bharati case prominently introduced and established this doctrine by asserting that the Indian Constitution's basic structure could not be altered through constitutional amendments.
- Evolution of Basic Structure
 - **Shankari Prasad Case (1951):** Established Parliament's power to amend the Constitution, including Fundamental Rights under Article 368.
 - **Sajjan Singh Case (1965):** Reaffirmed Parliament's authority to amend any part of the Constitution, including Fundamental Rights.
 - **Golaknath Case (1967):** Overturned previous rulings, asserting that Fundamental Rights cannot be amended without a new Constituent Assembly.
 - **Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973):** Introduced the Basic Structure doctrine, declaring that the basic structure of the Constitution cannot be abrogated by constitutional amendments.
 - **Indira Nehru Gandhi v. Raj Narain Case (1975):** Applied the Basic Structure theory to strike down a constitutional amendment during the Emergency Period, emphasizing the protection of basic features.
 - **Minerva Mills Case (1980):** Reinforced the Basic Structure doctrine, struck down amendments, and emphasized the supremacy of the Constitution over Parliament.
 - **Waman Rao Case (1981):** Reiterated the Basic Structure doctrine and set a cutoff date for its application to constitutional amendments.
 - **Indra Sawhney and Union of India Case (1992):** Addressed reservation policies under Article 16(4) and added the "Rule of Law" to the list of basic features.
 - **S.R. Bommai Case (1994):** Applied the Basic Structure doctrine to curb misuse of Article 356 by state governments that threatened the basic structure of the Constitution.

Article 368

"Article 368 of the Indian Constitution allows Parliament to make amendments to any part of the Constitution, including Fundamental Rights, as long as they do not alter the 'basic structure' of the Constitution. The Constitution provides for two types of amendments under Article 368:

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- **Simple Majority:** This requires a majority of more than 50% of the members present and voting.
- **Special Majority:** A bill is considered passed if it is supported by a majority of 2/3rd of the members present and voting, along with the support of over 50% of the total strength of the House.
- **Special Majority of Parliament and Consent of States:** This type of majority is necessary when amending federal structures. Besides the special majority in both houses of Parliament, it also requires the consent of half of the state legislatures through a simple majority. There is no fixed time limit for states to provide their consent.

In the Indian Constitution, provisions related to special majority can be found in various articles, such as Article 249, Article 368, and Article 361, each specifying the requirements for different scenarios.

Procedure for amending the Indian Constitution:

- Amendment begins with the introduction of a bill in either house of Parliament, which can be initiated by a minister or a private member without requiring the President's permission.
- The bill must secure passage in each house, with a special majority, meaning a majority of the total membership and a 2/3rd majority of members present and voting.
- Both houses must individually approve the bill, and there's no provision for a joint sitting in case of disagreement.
- If the amendment affects the Constitution's provisions, it must be ratified by half of the state legislatures through a simple majority.
- Following approval by both houses, the bill is presented to the President for assent. The President is unable to withhold assent or send the bill back for reconsideration.
- Once the President grants assent, the bill becomes a part of the Constitution.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Aizawl Zoological Park



Location: Aizawl Zoological Park is located in Aizawl, the capital city of Mizoram, India.
Purpose: The Zoological Park was established for conserving and showcasing the biodiversity of Mizoram and the northeastern region.
Biodiversity: It houses a diverse range of indigenous and exotic species, including mammals, birds and reptiles.
Conservation Focus: Aizawl Zoo actively participates in conservation programs, protects local wildlife, and works on preserving endangered species.
Research: It may facilitate wildlife research and studies on behavior, ecology, and conservation.
Collaborations: It collaborates with organizations for conservation and research.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



Establishment: UNFPA was established in 1967 as a trust fund and became operational in 1969.
Headquarters: New York.
Abbreviation: Originally known as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), it was renamed the United Nations Population Fund in 1987, retaining the UNFPA abbreviation.
Funding: UNFPA relies on voluntary contributions from donor governments, foundations, individuals, and intergovernmental organizations and is not funded through the UN regular budget.
Mission: UNFPA's mission is to ensure wanted pregnancies, safe childbirth, and fulfill the potential of young people.
Mandate: Its mandate is established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and includes raising awareness about population issues and supporting related strategies.
Alignment with SDGs: UNFPA contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 (health), 4 (education) and 5 (gender equality).
UNFPA and India: India is projected to become the most populous country by 2028, and UNFPA works in India to address challenges such as maternal mortality and gender discrimination.
UNFPA Report 2019: In 2019, UNFPA marked 50 years of operation and 25 years since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, emphasizing the ongoing pursuit of reproductive health and rights for all.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT)


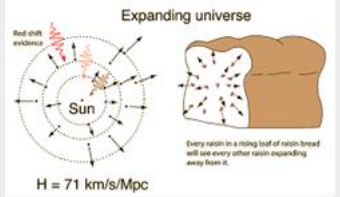




Establishment: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established under the National Green Tribunal Act of 2010.
Principal Place of Sitting: The principal place of sitting for the NGT is New Delhi. It has four other places of sitting in Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai.
Mandated Disposal Time: The NGT is mandated to make the final disposal of applications or appeals within 6 months from the date of filing.
Composition of NGT:
Members: The NGT comprises the Chairperson, Judicial Members, and Expert Members. They hold office for a term of 5 years and are not eligible for reappointment.
Chairperson Appointment: The Chairperson is appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
Selection Committee: A Selection Committee formed by the central government appoints the Judicial Members and Expert Members.
Membership Range: The NGT can have a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 full-time Judicial Members and Expert Members.
Powers and Jurisdiction:
Purpose: The NGT was established for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases related to environmental protection and the conservation of forests and natural resources.

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<p>Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA)</p> 	<p>Appellate Jurisdiction: The NGT has appellate jurisdiction, allowing it to hear appeals as a Court. Procedural Independence: While the NGT is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, it is guided by the principles of natural justice.</p> <p>What is Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya? The Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA) is a payload on the Aditya-L1 mission. The payload will measure the properties of the solar wind plasma, such as its density, temperature, and composition. It will also study the interaction between the solar wind and the Earth's magnetosphere.</p> <p>PAPA contains two sensors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Solar Wind Electron Energy Probe (SWEEP): Measures the solar wind electron fluxes ➤ Solar Wind Ion Composition Analyser (SWICAR): Measures the solar wind ion fluxes <p>The Aditya-L1 mission also includes other payloads, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) ➤ Solar Ultra-violet Imaging Telescope ➤ Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer (SoLEXS) ➤ High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS)
<p>Hubble Constant</p> 	<p>What is Hubble Constant? The Hubble constant quantifies the current rate of the universe's expansion.</p> <p>Edwin Hubble: He discovered the expansion of the universe, laying the foundation for Hubble constant research.</p> <p>Significance: It provides essential information about the universe's age, size and evolution. Units: Measured in km/s/Mpc, representing the speed of galactic separation per megaparsec.</p> <p>Measurement Methods: Techniques include supernova brightness, cosmic microwave background analysis, and gravitational waves.</p> <p>New Methods: Researchers explore innovative approaches like lensed gravitational waves.</p> <p>Cosmic Significance: Crucial for cosmological models and understanding the universe's past, present, and future.</p> <p>Implications: Resolving discrepancies impacts our fundamental understanding of the universe. Future Research: Ongoing efforts aim to improve measurement precision and advance cosmological knowledge.</p>
<p>Invasive Species</p> 	<p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Invasive species are non-native organisms introduced by humans to new habitats, often disrupting ecosystems and threatening biodiversity. ➤ They harm ecosystems by displacing natives, altering habitats and disturbing natural processes, reducing biodiversity and balance. ➤ Invasive species can damage crops, fisheries, and infrastructure, incurring substantial economic costs. ➤ Some carry diseases impacting humans, livestock, and wildlife, like mosquitoes transmitting malaria or Zika. <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mention regional or global invasive species (e.g., water hyacinth, Asian carp) causing ecological and economic problems. ➤ Human activities like trade, transport, and agriculture facilitate their spread. ➤ Invasive species outcompete natives, leading to native species' decline or extinction.
<p>Place in News</p> <p>Nine-Dash Line</p>	<p>Recently, several Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Taiwan, have united with India in rejecting China's new national map and its disputed 9-Dashed Line in the South China Sea.</p> <p>What is Nine-Dash Line? The Nine-Dash Line is a geographical demarcation line, consisting of nine dashes or dashes, drawn on maps by China. It is used by China to assert territorial claims and maritime rights in the South China Sea.</p> <p>Countries Rejecting China's Claims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Several Southeast Asian nations, including the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan, and India, have expressed their disagreement with China's claims associated with the Nine-Dash Line. ➤ These countries dispute China's territorial assertions in the South China Sea, leading to regional tensions and conflicts. <p>China's Claim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ China's claim is extensive, covering approximately 90% of the South China Sea. 

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- This assertion is primarily based on the historical U-shaped Nine-Dash Line that was initially drawn on maps in the 1940s.
 - The claim encompasses numerous islands and features in the South China Sea, including the Parcel Islands and the Spratly Islands.
- Controversy and Tensions:**
- The Nine-Dash Line is a major source of controversy and geopolitical tension in the South China Sea region.
 - Multiple countries, besides China, have competing territorial claims and interests in the same waters, leading to disputes and conflicts over fishing rights, resource exploration and maritime boundaries.

POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ **Kishore Jena, who was seen in the news, is associated with which sports?** – Javelin Throw
- ❖ **Under RCS, Utkela Airport is inaugurated in which state?** – Odisha
- ❖ **The disorder of gestational hypertension starting around 20th week is called?** – Preeclampsia
- ❖ **What is the name of Sauropod dinosaur fossils from the Middle Jurassic period, found in the Thar desert, Rajasthan by the Geological Survey of India?** - Tharosaurus Indicus
- ❖ **Which institution developed India's first 'Farmland price index'?** – IIM Ahmedabad

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