

NATIONAL

1. Disqualification of MP

Why in news - Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was held guilty and sentenced to two years in jail in a 2019 defamation case by a Surat court.

Key Points –

- He was held Gandhi guilty under Indian Penal Code sections 499 and 500.
- Articles 102(1) - Disqualifications for members in either House of Parliament.
- Article 191(1) - Disqualifications for members in the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of the state.
- Disqualification can happen in two instances –
 - a) Section 8(1) of the Representation of the People Act (RoPA) of 1951 – Convicted of promoting enmity, bribery and undue influence or personation at an election. Defamation does not fall under this list.
 - b) Section 8(3) of RoPA 1951 - An MP can be disqualified if convicted and sentenced to not less than two years of imprisonment.

Lily Thomas case (2013)

- Section 8(4) of the RoPA was struck down as “unconstitutional” by the Supreme Court’.
- Section 8(4) protected convicted legislators from disqualification on account of their appeals pending before the higher courts.

2. Festival of India

Why in news - Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurated the “Festival of India” in Kuwait on March 17, 2023.

Key Points –

- Organized by - Ministry of Culture.
- 3 troupes performed –
 - (i) Qutbi Brothers – Qawwali performance
 - (ii) Hasan Khan and Group - Rajasthani Folk
 - (iii) The Anirudh Varma Collective – Fusion of Indian classical and contemporary music.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Uganda’s anti-LGBTQ law

Why in news - The Ugandan Parliament passed the Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2023.

Key Points –

- It attracts stringent penalties, from life imprisonment to capital punishment, for anyone engaging in sex with a person of the same gender.

2. New Development Bank

Why in news - Egypt officially became a member of BRICS' New Development Bank (NDB).

Key Points –

- In Sept 2021, BRICS development bank admits UAE, Bangladesh, Uruguay as new members.

About NDB (2014) –

- A multilateral bank operated by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- Headquarter: Shanghai, China
- Established at the 6th BRICS Summit (2014) at Fortaleza, Brazil.
- The Bank’s membership is open to members of the UN.
- Initial subscribed capital - USD 100 billion.
- None of the countries has the veto power.
- In 2018, the NDB received observer status in UN General Assembly.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World TB Day 2023

Why in news – It is observed on March 24 each year.

Key Points –

- Theme 2023 - "Yes! We can end TB!".
- Global tuberculosis report is released by WHO.
- India Tuberculosis (TB) report is released by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- India (28% of global cases) - Largest contributor to global TB cases.
- Nikshay portal (by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) - Helps in real-time reporting of new TB cases.
- Ni-kshay mitras - To adopt TB patients and provide them with monthly nutritional support.

India’s TB elimination target -

- Indian scenario - 312 cases per lakh population.

- India aims to eliminate tuberculosis by 2025 (global target – 2030).
- National strategic plan 2017-2025 –
 - Reporting no more than 44 new TB cases or 65 total cases per lakh population by 2025.
 - Reduce mortality to 3 deaths per lakh population by 2025.
 - Reduce catastrophic costs for the affected family to zero.
- The plan is in line with WHO's End TB strategy.

Global TB elimination target (2030) - WHO calls for –

- 80% reduction in the number of new cases
- 90% reduction in mortality
- Zero catastrophic cost by 2030.

About TB –

- On March 24, 1882, Dr Robert Koch announced discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis that causes TB.
- Newer drugs - Bedaquiline and Delamanid for the treatment of drug-resistant TB.
- CB-NAAT and TureNat test– To make an early and definitive diagnosis of tuberculosis, including MDR-TB.
- BCG (bacille Calmette-Guerin) vaccine - to prevent tuberculosis.
- New vaccines (under trail) –
 - Immuvac – New vaccine to prevent TB (initially developed to prevent leprosy).
 - VPM1002 - Recombinant form of the BCG vaccine.

2. World Water Day 2023

Why in news – It is celebrated on March 22 every year.

Key Points –

- Theme - Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis.
- It aims to achieve the vision of sustainable water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- The UN held the UN Water Conference 2023 on March 22-24, 2023 in New York (first of its kind in the last 50 years).

- SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation for all.
- SDG 14 - Life below water.
- The UN World Water Development Report is published by UNESCO.
- The first World Water Day Was observed on March 22, 1993.

3. 5th Poshan Pakhwada

Why in news – It was celebrated from 20th March to 3rd April 2023.

Key Points –

- By - Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Theme 2023 - "Nutrition for All: Together Towards a Healthy India".
- Focus – Popularisation of 'Shree Anna' (millets).
- Poshan Abhiyaan was launched by PM Narendra Modi on March 8, 2018 to improve nutritional outcomes in a holistic manner.
- Poshan Pakhwada - Celebrated in the month of March for 15 days.
- Rashtriya Poshan Maah – Celebrated in September.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

1. 12th World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2023

Why in news – The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was held in Geneva.

Key Points –

- Theme - WSIS Action Lines for Building Back Better and Accelerating the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- It was organized by International Telecommunication Union, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD.
- Aim of WSIS - to promote Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals.

AWARDS & HONOURS

1. World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2023

Why in news – The Ministry of Panchayati Raj

(MoPR) and National Informatics Centre (NIC) have been honored with the prize.

Key Points –

- Reason - for conducting online audit of all Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- AuditOnline Application of (MoPR) has been awarded under the Action Line category ICT Applications: e-Government.
- The 12th edition of summit was held in Geneva by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

2. Order of Australia

Why in news – Australia has appointed India's well-known business tycoon Ratan Tata to the Order of Australia.

Key Points –

- Ratan Tata is Chairman Emeritus of India's one of largest business houses Tata Sons.
- The Order of Australia recognises persons who have demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement.

3. Sangit Kalanidhi award

Why in news – Bombay Jayashri would be awarded with by the Music Academy.

Key Points –

- She is a renowned Carnatic vocalist and musician.
- Nritya Kalanithi award - Vasanthalakshmi Narasimhachari (Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi dancer).
- Sangit Kala Acharya - Palkulangara Ambika Devi (Carnatic musician) and KS Kalidas (mridangam vidwan).
- TTK award - Thirunageswaram T R Subramaniam and Sargurunatha Odhuvar.
- Musicologist award - Arimalam S Padmanabhan

- Aim - to provide a platform to employers and candidates looking for employment.

BIHAR

1. Dr. Lohia Jayanti

Why in news – Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia's 113th birth anniversary was celebrated on March 23, 2023.

Key Points –

- He was born on March 23, 1910 in Faizabad, UP.
- He was one of the founders of the Congress Socialist Party and editor of its mouthpiece Congress Socialist.
- He Formed the Socialist Party (Lohia) in 1956 and became editor of the journal, Mankind.
- Lohia wrote a pamphlet titled "The Concept of Civil Liberties".

STATES/UTS

1. Jharniyojan portal

Why in news – Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren inaugurated the Jharniyojan Portal.

Key Points –

- By - Department of Labour Planning, Training and Skill development.



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POINTERS

- Who has been appointed as the new MD & CEO of Invest India - **Manmeet K. Nanda.**
- Which Indian-American has been named as the Deputy CEO of the US Finance Agency - **Nisha Biswal.**
- Which state government has declared Gandhamardan hill range as Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) – **Odisha.**
- In which state Asia's largest 4-metre 'International Liquid Mirror Telescope' has been inaugurated – **Uttarakhand.**
- How many billion dollar bailout package has been given by IMF to Sri Lanka facing financial crisis - **3 billion dollars.**
- Which state government has proposed to implement State Millets Mission for five years - **Tamil Nadu.**
- Which Bollywood actor has been selected as India's Most Valuable Celebrity as per Brand Valuation Report 2022 - **Ranveer Singh.**
- What is the name the world's first LAB manufacturing company to get BIS certification recently - **Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd.**
- Which American astrophysicist who contributed to solar physics, passed away recently - **Eugene Newman Parker.**
- Which leader has topped the “Morning Consult Ratings” recently - **Narendra Modi.**

PI

PATNA CENTRE- BPSC (ENGLISH AND HINDI MEDIUM) STARTING FROM 29 TH MARCH 2023