

NATIONAL

1. "Abundance in Millets" song

Why in news - PM Modi collaborated with Grammy-winning singer Falguni Shah for song on millets.

Key Points –

- Performed by - Falguni Shah (Mumbai-born singer-songwriter) and vocalist Gaurav Shah.
- 2023 – Declared as "International Year of Millets" by UN General Assembly at the request of India.
- Falguni Shah won the Grammy for Best Children's Album in 2022 for her album "A Colourful World".

Value Addition –

- Consumed during the Indus Valley civilization.
- One of the first crops to be domesticated in India.
- Currently grown in more than 130 countries.
- Staple diet for more than 500 million people in Asia and Africa.

- Aim - to improve road safety and reduce fatalities and injuries from road crashes.
- Target - halve road crash deaths by 2030.
- Pilot Project - two national highways of Bangladesh
 - a) Gazipur-Elenga (N4)
 - b) Natore-Nawabganj (N6)

Value Addition –

- With just 10% of the world's vehicles, South Asia accounts for over 25% of the world's crash fatalities.

2. Honouring fallen peacekeepers

Why in news - The UN General Assembly has adopted a draft resolution to establish a memorial wall to honor fallen peacekeepers.

Key Points –

- Resolution title – "Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers".
- Introduced by – India.
- Co-sponsored by nearly 190 UN Member States and was adopted by consensus.
- In 2015, India launched a virtual memorial wall dedicated to the Indian peacekeepers who made the supreme sacrifice.

INTERNATIONAL

1. World Bank road safety project

Why in news - The World Bank (WB) launched its first dedicated road safety project in South Asia.

Key Points –

- USD 358 million financing agreement was signed in Dhaka with the government of Bangladesh.

3. USA to rejoin UNESCO

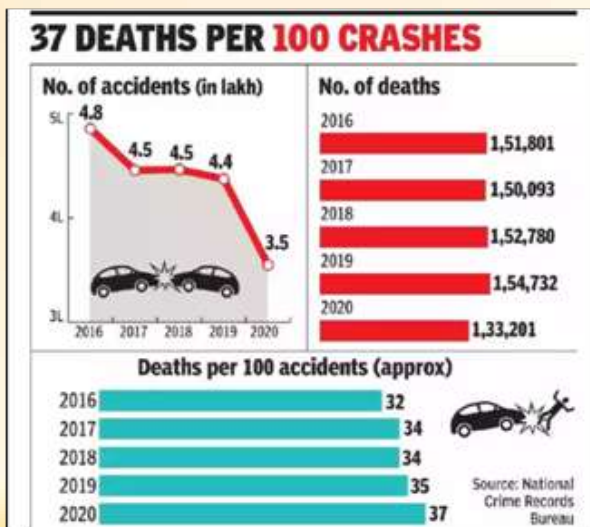
Why in news - The United States of America announced its intention to rejoin UNESCO in July 2023.

Key Points –

- Reason for return - China filling the gap left by the US in UNESCO policy making.
- USA (along with Israel) left the UNESCO on December 31, 2018.
- UNESCO inducted Palestine as a member in 2011. USA halted the agency's funding.
- USA previously pulled out of UNESCO under the Ronald Reagan administration in 1984. (rejoined in 2003).

About UNESCO (Hq - Paris)–

- UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- Specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
- Also a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG).
- 3 UNESCO members but not UN members - Cook Islands, Niue, and Palestine.



- Director-General of UNESCO - Audrey Azoulay.
- USA was a founding member of UNESCO in 1945.

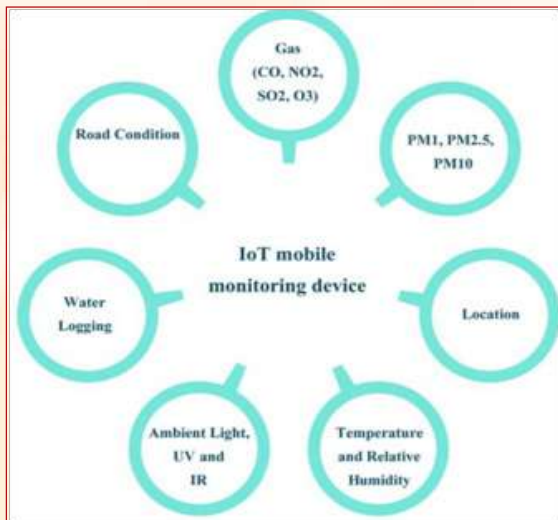
SCIENCE – TECH

1. Mobile air pollution monitoring

Why in news - IIT Madras researchers developed data science & IoT-based method for mobile air pollution monitoring.

Key Points –

- Pollution sensors mounted on public vehicles (incl 2 wheelers) can dynamically monitor the air quality of an extended area.
- Currently - air quality stations are at fixed locations and measure the air quality of a small geographic area.
- Features –
 - a) Measure - PM1, PM2.5, PM10 and gasses such as NOx and SOx.
 - b) Assess road roughness, potholes and UV index among others.



2. Betelgeuse

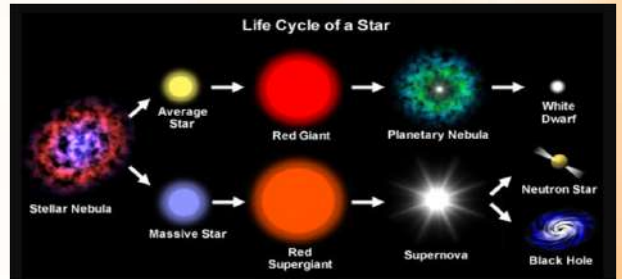
Why in news - Red giant star Betelgeuse is in its late carbon-burning stage (near the end of its life).

- It may explode as a supernova within a few decades.
- It is known as “Thiruvathirai” or “Ardra” in Indian astronomy.
- It is easily visible (naked eye) in the Orion constellation.

- A red giant star is a large, ageing star that has expanded and cooled down, causing it to appear red in colour.

Dying of star –

- Stars exhaust their hydrogen fuel and transition to using helium to create carbon.
- The energy released during helium fusion is lower than that of hydrogen.
- Eventually, the helium is depleted, leading to the star’s progression through various burning stages, including carbon and silicon burning.



AWARDS & HONOURS

1. Elizabeth Longford Prize 2023

Why in news - Historian Ramachandra Guha’s book wins Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023.

Key Points –

- Book - Rebels against the Raj: Western Fighters for India’s Freedom.
- Book is mainly about white Brits who were severely punished for going against the British establishment of their day to give their all for Indian independence.
- Published by William Collins.
- Guha also received a bound copy of Longford’s autobiography, The Pebbled Shore (1986).

RANKS & INDICES

1. 5th Global Slavery Index 2023

Why in news – The index was prepared by Walk Free, a human rights organization.

Key Points –

- It presents a global picture of modern slavery.
- Modern slavery - Forced labour, forced marriage, debt bondage, sexual exploitation,

- human trafficking, slavery-like practices and exploitation of children.
- SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth. (Target 8.7 - end modern slavery and human trafficking).
- Prevalence (incidence per 1000 population)–
 - Most - North Korea, Eritrea, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Turkey.
 - Least - Switzerland, Norway, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden.
- Countries with maximum number of people living in modern slavery - India, China, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia.
- Data provided by - Global Estimates of Modern Slavery (data produced by ILO, Walk Free, and International Organization for Migration).



- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, 1994) - Only legally binding framework set up to address desertification and the effects of drought.
 - Bonn Challenge - Global goal to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.
- India's efforts –
 - Aim - to achieve land degradation neutral status by 2030.
 - To restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

FESTIVALS

1. Palkhi festival

Why in news – G20 delegates in Pune got a first-hand glimpse of the Warkari community's Palkhi festival.

Key Points –

- Annual pilgrimage (yatra) to Pandharpur, the seat of the Hindu god Vithoba in Maharashtra.
- The whole process lasts a total of 22 days.
- Upon reaching Pandharpur on Ashadi Ekadashi, these devotees take a holy dip in the sacred Chandrabhaga River/Bhima River before proceeding to visit the Vitthal temple.

Value Addition –

- 800-year tradition.
- Saints associated - Sant Dnyaneshwar, Sant Tukaram etc.
- Narayan Baba, the youngest son of Tukaram introducing the Palkhi in 1685.
- Warkari is a Hindu religious sect that worships Vithoba (or Vitthal), an incarnation of Krishna.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Why in news – It is marked every year on June 17 to restore degraded land.

Key Points –

- Theme - "Her land. Her rights".
- By 2050 droughts may affect over 3-quarters of the world's population.
- The number and duration of droughts has increased by 29% since 2000.
- More than 2.3 billion people already facing water stress.
- In India, 12 million hectares are lost (23 hectares per minute) due to drought and desertification each year.

Value Addition –

- Global Efforts –

BIHAR

1. Ghariyal hatchlings

Why in news – 125 ghariyal hatchlings were released in the Gandak River in West Champaran on World Crocodile Day (June 17).



Key Points –

- As per Wildlife Trust of India, 9 gharial nests were discovered in 2023 (2022 - 5).
- Gharial nests - West Champaran (8) and Kushinagar, UP (1).
- The Gandak River was identified as a nesting habitat of critically endangered gharials for the first time in 2016.
- Gandak has the 2nd largest gharial population after the Chambal River.

2. Governor – Government tussle

Why in news – Government opposed Governor's decree for 4-year degree course.

Key Points –

- Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, who is also the chancellor of state universities want to implement the 4-year graduation programme with choice based credit system (CBCS).
- None of the Bihar universities had managed to implement the CBCS and semester system at the undergraduate level.



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➤ CURRENT AFFAIRS ONE LINERS ◀

- The first ever Hindu American Summit was held at which place - **US Capitol (seat of the US government).**
- Who addressed the plenary session of the 111th International Labor Conference in Geneva - **Bhupendra Yadav.**
- WihuKuh Festival was celebrated by which tribe - **Angsa tribe.**
- How many castes from six states are likely to be added to the central list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) - **About 80.**
- 22nd Law Commission sought opinion from public and religious organizations on which subject - **Uniform Civil Code.**
- Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off which country's first Agri- SEZ project from New Delhi - **Gabon.**
- As per U.N. refugee agency (UNHCR), the number of people forcibly displaced around the world has climbed to - **110 million people.**
- India is participating at the Annecy International Animation Festival (AIAF) for the first time of which country - **France.**
- India has achieved an all-time high exports of seafood both in terms of volume and value worth what rupees during financial year 2022-23 - **Over 63,969 crore rupees.**
- Indian team comprising how many members has left for Berlin, Germany to compete at the Special Olympics Summer Games - **280 members (198 athletes).**

PATNA CENTRE: NEW BPSC BATCHE STARTING FROM 28TH JULY 2023 TIMING 4:00PM - 07:00 PM (HINDI MEDIUM) AND 12TH JULY 2023 (TIMING 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ENGLISH MEDIUM))

DELHI CENTRE: NEW BPSC BATCHE STARTING FROM 5TH JULY 2023 TIMING 8:00AM - 12:00 PM (HINDI MEDIUM) AND 12TH JULY 2023 (TIMING 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ENGLISH MEDIUM))

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