



NATIONAL

1. Ashadha Purnima

Why in news – International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) celebrated Ashadha Purnima on July 3, 2023.

Key Points –

- Under - Ministry of Culture.
- Celebrated as the Dharma Chakra Pravartana Divas in New Delhi.
- 2nd most sacred day for Buddhists after the Buddha Purnima (Vaishakha Purnima).
- Dharma Chakra Pravartana- At Sarnath that Buddha gave his first sermon and set the wheel of dharma in motion.
- It marks Buddha's first teaching after attaining Enlightenment to the first 5 ascetic disciples (pañcavargiya) at 'Deer Park' Rīṣipatana Mrigadaya.
- Varsha Vassa - Rainy season retreat for the Monks and Nuns also starts with this day lasting for 3 lunar months from July to October.
- Also known as Esala Poya in Sri Lanka and Asanha Bucha in Thailand.
- Also observed as Guru Purnima by both Buddhists and Hindus.

2. Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP)

Why in news – India's first indigenously developed nuclear power reactor at KAPP in Gujarat started commercial operations on June 30, 2023.

Key Points –

- Capacity - 700 MW.
- Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is building two 700 MW pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) at Kakrapar.
- The NPCIL plans to build sixteen 700 MW PHWRs across the country.
- 4 locations - Gorakhpur (Haryana), Chutka (Madhya Pradesh), Mahi Banswara (Rajasthan) and Kaiga (Karnataka).

INTERNATIONAL

1. Aspartame

Why in news – International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is set to declare the artificial sweetener aspartame as a possible carcinogen.

Key Points –

- Carcinogen – cancer-causing agent.
- Aspartame – a common artificial sweetener often used in soft drinks and chewing gums.
- IARC is the cancer research arm of the World Health Organization (WHO).

About Aspartame –

- non-nutritive sweeteners
- Used in - soft drinks, jams, dairy products, canned food, ice creams, fruit juices, sugar-free energy bars.
- Usually found in products labelled as sugar-free, zero sugar, or diet.
- Include aspartic acid and phenylalanine. Both are naturally occurring amino acids ('building blocks' of proteins).
- Broke down into methanol in human body.

2. Digital nomad strategy

Why in news – Canada announced to launch its "digital nomad strategy."

Key Points –

- Aim - provide a temporary arrangement (upto 6 months) for foreigners to look for jobs in the country.
- Other initiatives - "tech talent strategy" and "innovation stream."

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

Why in news – PM Narendra Modi launched the mission from Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh on July 1, 2023.

Key Points –

- Aim - to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047.
- Target - screening approximately 7 crore people between 0-40 years of age in the next 3 years
- It prioritizes the health of tribal communities in India.
- Prevention - Match Sickle Cell Genetic Status Cards before marriage, to ensure that the disease is not transferred to the next generation.
- To be implemented in 17 high-focus states.

- To be executed in a mission mode as part of the National Health Mission (NHM).
- Developed by - M/o Health and Family Welfare and M/o Tribal Affairs.
- Announced in the Union Budget 2023.

About Sickle Cell Anaemia –

- Chronic single-gene disorder.
- Inherited (genetic) red blood cell disorder.
- Caused by - Mutation in the hemoglobin-Beta gene found on chromosome 11.
- Normal hemoglobin(hemoglobin-A) are smooth and round and glide through blood vessels.
- Abnormal hemoglobin molecules - hemoglobin S - stick to one another and form long, rod-like structures. It causes red blood cells to become stiffcausing blockages and damaging vital organs.
- Sickle cells are destroyed rapidly in the bodies of people with the disease, causing anemia.

Value Addition –

- Govt achievement – bringing down numbers of
 - a) Kala-azar from 11,000 (2013) to under 1000.
 - b) Malaria cases from 10 lakhs(2013) to under 2 lakhs.
 - c) Leprosy cases from 1.25 lakh to 70-75 thousand.

SCIENCE – TECH

1. ‘Certified’ Electric flying Car

Why in news - In a first, the United States government has given the official nod for a car to fly above traffic.

Key Points –

- Company - Alef Aeronautics.
- ‘Model A’ received a Special Airworthiness Certification
- It has a flight range of 110 miles or 177 km on a single charge.

RANKS & INDICES

1. 17thGlobal Peace Index2023

Why in news - Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) released the index.

Key Points –

- India’s rank – 126th (score – 2.314)
- Top 5 –

Rank	Country
1	Iceland
2	Denmark
3	Ireland
4	New Zealand
5	Austria

- Bottom 5 –

159	Democratic Republic of the Congo
160	South Sudan
161	Syria
162	Yemen
163	Afghanistan

- Russia – 158th. Ukraine – 157th.
- Largest improvements in peacefulness - North America and the Middle East and North Africa region.
- Most peaceful region - Western Europe.
- Least peaceful region - Middle East and North Africa region.
- Overall, the level of global peacefulness decreased this year by 0.42%.
- Coverage - 163 countries (99.7% of the world’s population). Use23 qualitative and quantitative indicators.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

1. 64thGlobal Environmental Facility (GEF) meeting

Why in news – The 64th meeting of the GEF council took place from June26-30, 2023 in Brasilia, Brazil.

Key Points –

- Approved plans to establish a new fund to finance the implementation of the



Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

- GBF includes 4 goals and 23 targets to put nature on a recovery path by the end of 2030.
- Fund name - Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.
- 50% of its funds are to be used for biodiversity-related work in the coming years during the GEF-8 period.
- Indigenous peoples and local communities to get 20% of the funds.

About GEF –

- Established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit of UNFCCC.
- 185 member countries including India.
- Secretariat - Washington, D.C
- GEF Council - GEF's main governing body (32

members) (14 - developed countries, 16 - developing countries, and 2 - economies in transition).

- Meets twice annually.

SECURITY

1. IN – FN exercise

Why in news – India and France undertook IN – FN Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) in Visakhapatnam, Bay of Bengal.

Key Points –

- INS Rana and INS Sumedha participated.
- Activities - tactical maneuvers, replenishment at sea (RAS), cross deck helicopter operations etc.



➤ CURRENT AFFAIRS ONE LINERS ◀

- In 2022, India added a total of how many animal species to its faunal database – **664**.
- What is India's external debt by the end of March 2023 - **USD 624.7 billion**.
- Union Minister for Environment & Forest and Climate Change Bhubender Yadav inaugurated the 3-day celebration program of the 108th Zoological Survey of India day in which city – **Kolkata**.
- Which ministry has organized a one day Regional Symposium on Child Protection, Safety and Child Welfare in New Delhi – **M/o Women and Child Development (MWCD)**.
- Which team emerged victorious in the historic Dubai Women's Kabaddi Final – **Kolkata**.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted the institution a non-banking institution license after revoking the banking permit - **Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank Ltd (Dharwad, Karnataka)**.
- King Willem-Alexander of which country apologized for his country's role in slavery - **The Netherlands**.
- Who has virtually launched the 'Akshar River Cruise' on Sabarmati Riverfront - **Amit Shah**.
- Where will the International Conference on Green Hydrogen be held - **New Delhi**.
- Who is the author of the book 'RAW Hitman' - **Hussain Zaidi**.