

### NATIONAL

#### 1. Judicial panel on Manipur violence

**Why in news** - Supreme Court sets up an all-women judicial panel to oversee relief, rehabilitation.

##### Key Points –

- Members - Justice Gita Mittal (chairman), Justice Shalini P Joshi and Justice Asha Menon.
- Reason - an effort to restore confidence, and faith in the rule of law and build trust.
- Supreme Court also decided to appoint former IPS officer Datta Padsalgikar to oversee the CBI investigation and report back to the court.

#### 2. Delhi Services Bill

**Why in news** - The bill was passed in both the upper and lower houses of the Indian parliament on August 7.

##### Key Points –

- Bill name - Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
- It overrides a directive of the Supreme Court that had given command to the government of Delhi over most services.
- The Supreme Court gave Delhi government complete command over most services in the capital (except - public order, land, and police).
- It gave powers to the Centre-appointed bureaucrats to overrule the elected chief minister and senior officers in the Delhi government.
- Entry 41 of List II of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution pertains to the State public services and State Public Service Commission.

#### 3. TC1

**Why in news** - Scientists discovered a specific strain of bacteria - TC1 that stop malaria transmission.

##### Key Points –

- It is a naturally occurring strain of bacteria that will be able to stop the transmission of malaria from mosquitoes to humans.
- The discovery was made at a research facility in Spain.
- The bacteria function by secreting a small molecule, which is known as harmaline.

#### 4. Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre

**Why in news** - Construction of the Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre kicks off in Lumbini, Nepal.

##### Key Points –

- PM Narendra Modi and then PM of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba jointly laid a foundation stone in 2022.
- It is expected to be lotus shaped which will be built in zero-net technology.

### INTERNATIONAL

#### 1. Trachoma eliminated

**Why in news** - World Health Organization (WHO) congratulated Iraq for eliminating trachoma as a public health problem.

##### Key Points –

- 18th country to eliminate trachoma.
- 50th country to eliminate at least one neglected tropical disease (NTD). (WHO road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021-2030 target -100 countries by 2030).
- According to WHO, the prevalence of trachoma should be less than 5% to mark it as eliminated.
- SAFE strategy (by WHO) - a comprehensive approach to reduce transmission of the causative organism to eliminate trachoma.

##### About Trachoma –

- A neglected tropical disease.
- Leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide.
- Caused by -Bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis.

#### 2. Dorra/Arash gas field

**Why in news** - Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have rejected Iran's claims to a disputed gas field located in the Persian gulf.

##### Key Points –

- The offshore field, known as Arash in Iran and Dorra in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, has long been a source of contention.
- Location- Eastern maritime border of Kuwait.

- It was discovered in 1967.
- Dorra/Arash lies in the partitioned Neutral Zone that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait share equally (Uqair Convention 1922).



### SCIENCE – TECH

#### 1. ‘Room-temperature’ superconductor

**Why in news** - South Korea claimed to have discovered a room-temperature ambient-pressure superconductor.

##### Key Points –

- It happened for the first time in the world.
- Claimed by - Quantum Energy Research Centre (Sukbae Lee and Ji-Hoon Kim).
- Both invented a lead-based element known as LK-99 (lead apatite).
- LK-99 is an element made up of lead, copper, phosphorus and oxygen.
- Unidentified superconducting objects (USOs) - Materials that hold superconducting promise at first but fall apart under scrutiny.

##### Value Addition –

- Superconductor - It allows electricity or electrons to be conducted with little to no resistance.
- Discovered by - Heike Kamerlingh Onnes (1911, Dutch physicist).
- They are made by cooling elements to very low temperatures.
- Two key signs of superconductivity - zero resistance and magnetic levitation (magnetic field generation).
- Uses - transmitting power to MRI machines, frequency filters in radio, and particle accelerators.

- Examples - Aluminium, niobium, magnesium diboride, cuprates etc.

### SECURITY

#### 1. Neerakshi

**Why in news** - India launched 'Neerakshi' - Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) for mine detection.

##### Key Points –

- “Neerakshi” meaning - “Eyes in the Water.”
- It is the first of its kind in the country.
- Functions - Mine detection, mine disposal and underwater survey.
- Developed by - Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd and AEPL.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### 1. International day of the world’s indigenous peoples 2023

**Why in news** – It is observed on August 9 every year.

##### Key Points –

- Theme - Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination.
- It marks the date of the inaugural session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1982.

##### Value Addition –

- India celebrates Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on November 15 in the memory of brave tribal freedom fighters.
- Related Committees - Xaxa Committee (2013), Bhuria Commission (2002-2004), Lokur Committee (1965).

### BIHAR

#### 1. Rhino Task Force

**Why in news** - Bihar government to constitute a Rhino Task Force.



### Key Points –

- Purpose – to suggest measures for the reintroduction of Rhino in Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in West Champaran.
- At present, there is only one rhino in VTR and 14 in Patna Zoo.
- It has been decided to increase the rhino-bearing areas in VTR by 5% in the next 2 years.
- Identified areas for the reintroduction scheme in VTR - Ganauli and Madanpur
- VTR has been selected as one of the potential sites under the National Rhino Conservation strategy (NRCS, 2019).

### Value Addition –

- VTR was established as the 18th tiger reserve in 1990 and ranked 4th in the density of the big cat population.
- Rivers Gandak and Masan flow through this area.
- NRCS is a project to create the DNA profiles of

rhinos in India and conserve the endangered greater one-horned rhinoceros.

- More than 93% of the Indian rhino population lives in just one protected area in Assam - the Kaziranga National Park.

### 2. Indoor air pollution

**Why in news** - The Central University of South Bihar (CUSB) has signed an MoU to study rural indoor air pollution.

### Key Points –

- Other partners - Linköping University (LiU), and Karolinska Institute of Sweden and IIT Mandi.
- CUSB representation - Rajesh Kumar Ranjan.
- CUSB would survey rural households in Bihar and Jharkhand areas.
- The actual study will commence in 2024.
- Indoor biomass burning contributes to particulate matter exposure, chronic human health burden, and an economic drain in rural households.




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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## ➤ CURRENT AFFAIRS ONE LINERS ◀

- How many railway stations across the country will be modernized under the 'Amrit Bharat Station' scheme – **508**.
- Which leader's Lok Sabha membership has been restored by the Lok Sabha Secretariat recently - **Rahul Gandhi**.
- Who has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Cambodia - **Hun Manet**.
- Which Indian became the youngest youngest-ever senior world champion at the World Archery Championship - **Aditi Swami**.
- Which Indian player has won the doubles title in the women's tennis hard court event in Spain - **Prarthana Thombare**.
- When is the National Javelin Day observed every year - **7 August**.
- Who became the highest-paid banker in India - **Sashidhar Jagdishan (Rs 10.55 crore)**.
- Which company topped the recently released Fortune Global 500 list - **Walmart**.
- Recently, Amit Shah has launched the digital portal of CRCS (Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies) office in which city - **Pune**.
- Who has been honored with the Diversity in Cinema Award at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne - **Mrunal Thakur**.

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