

Daily Current Affairs

21 November 2023

India's GDP Surpasses \$4 Trillion Mark

- In a significant economic achievement, India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** has crossed the **\$4 trillion mark** in nominal terms. This milestone underscores India's robust economic growth and solidifies its position as a major global economic force.
- India's consistent efforts across various sectors, coupled with strategic policies and a thriving entrepreneurial spirit, have played a pivotal role in achieving this historic milestone.



- The nation's ascent highlights its status as one of the **world's fastest-growing major economies**.
- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) November bulletin revealed a stronger-than-expected GDP growth in the second quarter, surpassing the RBI's initial forecast of 6.5%.
- Early economic indicators and robust corporate results for September support this optimistic outlook.
- Leading institutions such as **S&P Global Ratings and Morgan Stanley Research** foresee strong growth in India's economy in the coming years. S&P anticipates an annual GDP expansion of 6-7.1% through 2026, while Morgan Stanley expects approximately 6.5% growth for the fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

- These projections underscore India's solid domestic fundamentals and resilience amid global economic challenges.



Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- The prestigious **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development** for the year 2022 was jointly awarded to the **Indian Medical Association (IMA)** and **Trained Nurses Association of India**.
- The award ceremony took place on November 19, where former Vice-President Hamid Ansari presented the honor to **Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal**, President of the IMA and Professor (Dr.) Roy K. George, President of the Trained Nurses Association of India.



- The award symbolizes a tribute to the relentless **efforts of the COVID-19 warriors in India**.
- The Indira Gandhi Prize, or the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize, also known as Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, is the prestigious award accorded annually by **Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust** to individuals or

organisations in recognition of creative efforts toward promoting international peace, development and a new international economic order; ensuring that scientific discoveries are used for the larger good of humanity, and enlarging the scope of freedom.

Bengaluru Tops In Women Led Startups

- **India's startup landscape** has witnessed remarkable growth, emerging as the **third-largest hub in the world**, following the United States and China.
- **Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka**, topped the list of women-led startups, boasting **1,783 women-led startups**, leading the charge for gender diversity in entrepreneurship. Despite the overall success of the startup ecosystem, the gender gap remains a significant challenge.



- According to the data of Traxon, **Bengaluru is at the forefront of women-led startups**, with 1,783 ventures, followed by **Mumbai (1,480)** and **Delhi (1,195)**. Noida, Kolkata and Ahmedabad also make notable contributions, ranking eighth, ninth and tenth, respectively, showcasing the geographic distribution of women entrepreneurs in India.
- **Karnataka has taken pioneering steps** to support women entrepreneurs. It became the first state in India to provide a grant-in-aid of **Rs.50 lakh to encourage innovators** in need of early-stage funding, without taking equity in return. This program has specially highlighted women entrepreneurs, with 30% of the winners being female founders.

Haryana's 75% Private Job Reservation Law

- The Punjab and Haryana High Court, declared the **Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020, unconstitutional.**
- The law, which **mandated 75% reservation in private jobs** for Haryana residents, was deemed discriminatory by the court.

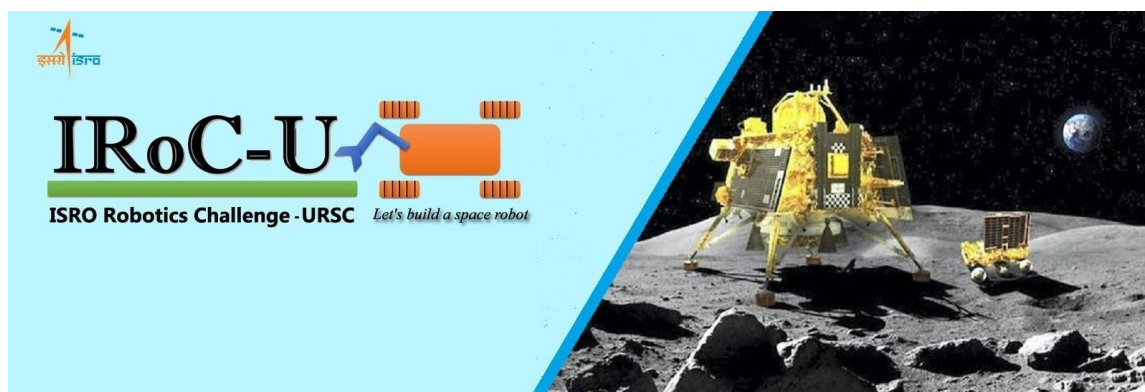


- The Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020, passed by the Haryana Assembly in November 2020, reserved **75% of private sector jobs** with a monthly salary below Rs 30,000 for residents of Haryana.
- The law came into effect on January 15, 2022, following the Governor's assent on March 2, 2021.
- The Punjab and Haryana High Court declared the law **violative of fundamental rights outlined in Part III of the Constitution.**

ISRO Robotics Challenge

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is inviting the student community to give ideas and designs for space robots via a **Robotics challenge.**
- ISRO aims to use these robotic rovers in future missions. Launched with the tagline, **"Let's build a space robot"**, the registrations of this initiative will begin on November 20 and will end on December 15, 2023.
- The aim of this challenge is to provide a standardised **platform for exploring the area of space robotics.**
- It will also enhance communication, collaboration, inquiry, problem-solving and flexibility skills that will help students in their academic and professional lives.

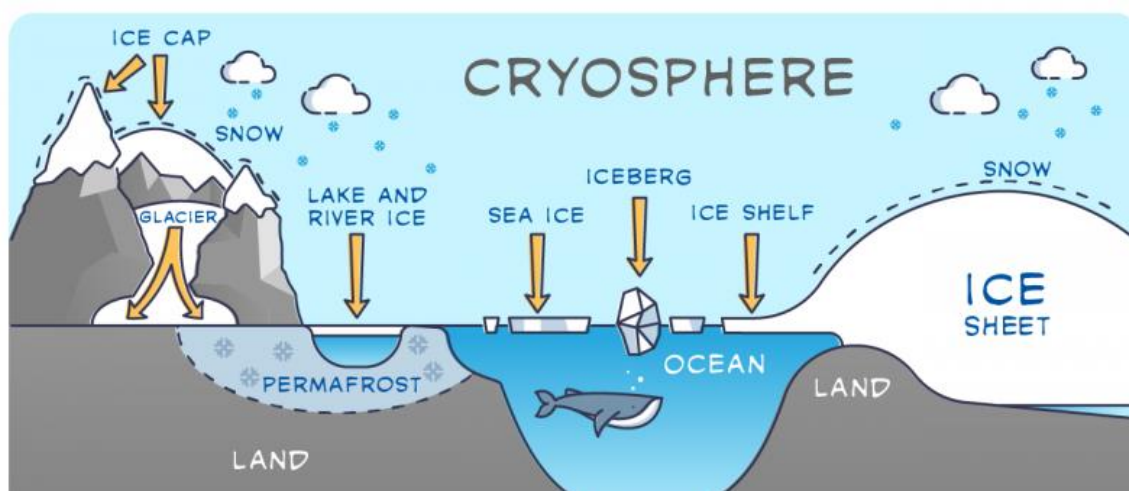
ISRO will help students co-develop future technologies that will be used in space robotics.



- In terms of rewards, the first three teams will be awarded based on the evaluation by the jury and the fair play attitude of the teams.
- The **first winner will receive a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh**, the second winner will get Rs 3 lakh and the third winner will get Rs 2 lakh. ISRO will also give a consolation prize of Rs 1 lakh each for two participants. The ISRO Robotics Challenge Day has been scheduled for **August 2024 at URSC Bengaluru Campus**.

State Of The Cryosphere 2023 Report

- The recently released **State of the Cryosphere 2023** report highlights the profound impacts of global temperature rise on Earth's frozen water, emphasizing the vulnerability of the cryosphere to climate change.
- The report underscores the alarming trends, including the **loss of tropical glaciers, mid-latitude glaciers**, and polar regions, with a specific focus on the Himalayas.



- The report predicts the disappearance of nearly all tropical glaciers, most mid-latitude glaciers, and polar regions, even if the world manages to limit global temperature rise to **2 degrees Celsius above the preindustrial era**.
- The **Himalayas are expected to lose 50% of their current ice** if global average temperatures reach 2°C. This has significant implications for water resources and ecosystems in the region.
- The impacts are already noticeable at the current **temperature rise of 1.2°C**, with glaciers in the northern Andes, East Africa, and Indonesia rapidly disappearing.
- Experts consider the cryosphere, encompassing ice sheets, sea ice, permafrost, polar oceans, glaciers, and snow, as ground zero for climate change.
- The report emphasizes that, from the cryosphere's perspective, limiting global temperature **rise to 1.5°C is not just preferable** but the only viable option.
- The report connects the year 2023 to climate disasters and ice loss, urging global leaders to **reconsider the 2°C target**.



State of the Cryosphere 2023

Two Degrees Is Too High



2°C is too high to prevent dangerous, irreversible, global impacts from the Earth's cryosphere



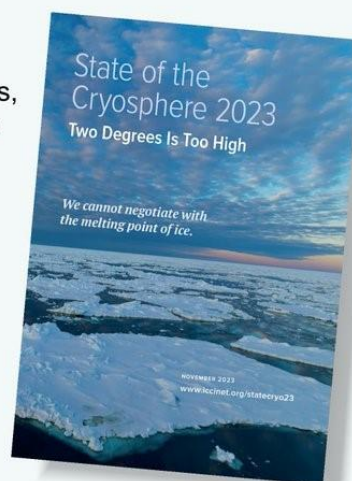
Preface by the President of Chile and the Prime Minister of Iceland



Reviewed and supported by over 65 leading cryosphere scientists



We cannot negotiate with the melting point of ice

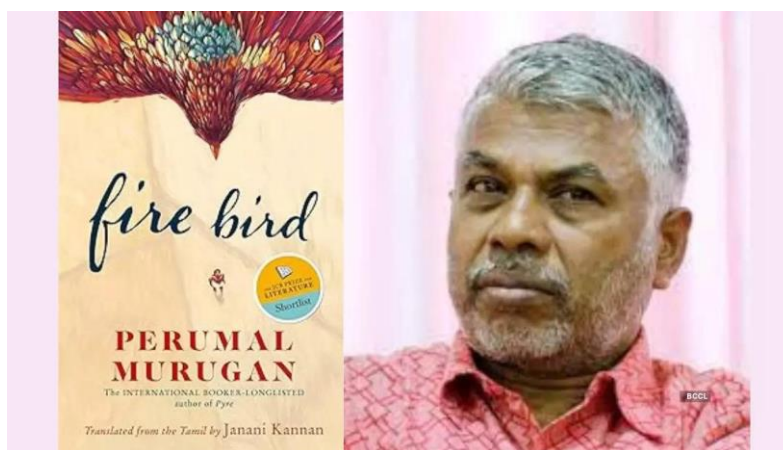


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JCB Prize For Literature

- Tamil writer **Perumal Murugan's** novel **'Fire Bird,'** skillfully translated into **English by Janani Kannan,** emerged victorious at the **2023 JCB Prize for Literature.**
- The prestigious award was announced in New Delhi, with the book published by Penguin Random House India. Lord Bamford, Chairman of JCB Group, virtually

announced the award, which was presented in person by Deepak Shetty, CEO and Managing Director of JCB India Limited.



- The **JCB Literary Prize** includes a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh for the author and an additional Rs 10 lakh for the translator.
- Perumal Murugan, with 12 novels, six collections of short stories, six anthologies of poetry, and numerous non-fiction books to his name, has made a significant mark in the literary world. Ten of his novels, including **'Seasons of the Palm,'** **'Current Show,'** and **'One Part Woman,'** have been translated into English.



Javier Milei

- **Argentina** elected right-wing libertarian **Javier Milei** as its new president rolling the dice on an outsider with radical views to fix an economy battered by triple-digit inflation, a looming recession and rising poverty.
- Milei is pledging **economic shock therapy**.

- His plans include shutting the central bank, ditching the peso, and slashing spending, potentially painful reforms that resonated with voters angry at the economic malaise.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Indian City Had Maximum Number Of Women Led Startups

- A. Bengaluru
- B. New Delhi
- C. Indore
- D. Bhubaneshwar

ANSWER: A

2. National President Of Indian Medical Association

- A. Dr. Madhusudhana Kariganoor
- B. Dr. Sharad Kumar Aggarwal
- C. Dr. Avinash Vinayak
- D. Dr. Shyamkumar Laishram

ANSWER: B

3. Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 2022 Is Awarded To

- A. IMA
- B. Balmer Lawrie
- C. Alertnet
- D. Association of Medical Doctors of Asia

ANSWER: A

4. "Let's Build A Space Robot" Theme Challenge Is Launched By

- A. NASA
- B. ESA
- C. JAXA
- D. ISRO

ANSWER: D

5. ISRO Robotics Challenge In August 2024 Will Be Held In

- A. Chennai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Indore
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: B

6. Who Is Elected As President Of Argentina

- A. Sergio Massa
- B. Efraim Viveros
- C. Javier Milei
- D. Alberto Fernández

ANSWER: C

7. As Of 2023, Which Country Is The World's Biggest Polluter

- A. USA
- B. India
- C. China
- D. Russia

ANSWER: C

8. Which Institution Released Report Titled Sand And Dust Storms

- A. FAO
- B. UNEP
- C. World Bank
- D. UNESCO

ANSWER: A

9. WHO Officially Recognized Which Condition As A Grave Global Health Threat

- A. Loneliness
- B. Social Exclusion
- C. Racism
- D. Casteism

ANSWER: A

10. Zorawar Light Tank Project Is Initiative Between DRDO & ___

- A. ISRO
- B. Indian Army
- C. Larsen and Toubro
- D. BHEL

ANSWER: C

11. Jannik Sinner, Seen News, Is Associated With Which Sports

- A. Shooting
- B. Archery
- C. Steeplechase
- D. Tennis

ANSWER: D

12. Midhili, Hamoon And Mocha In The News, They Are

- A. Recent Earthquake Epicenters In Nepal
- B. Cyclones In The Indian Ocean Region
- C. Cyclones In The In The Atlantic Ocean
- D. Volcanic Region In Hawaii Island

ANSWER: B

13. Houthi Rebels/ Tribals Hail From —

- A. Syria
- B. Lebanon
- C. Yemen
- D. Palestine

ANSWER: C

14. 'Global Talent Competitiveness Index' Is Released By

- A. World Economic Forum (WEF)
- B. International Institute for Management Development (IMD)
- C. INSEAD
- D. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

ANSWER: C

15. Recently, Hippophae Rhamnoides Was In The News. It Is A

- A. Sea Urchin
- B. Fruit plant
- C. Seagrass
- D. Mushroom

ANSWER: B

16. Which Country Announced On World's First Sperm Whale Reserve

- A. Papua New Guinea
- B. Dominica
- C. Belarus
- D. Germany

ANSWER: B

17. Which High Court Created Record In Disposal Of Cases With The Highest-ever Case Clearance Rate Of 114% In 2022

- A. Delhi High Court
- B. Madras High Court
- C. Allahabad High Court
- D. Calcutta High Court

ANSWER: B

18. Where Is The National Institute Of Hydrology (NIH) Located

- A. Roorkee
- B. Shimla
- C. Guwahati
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

19. Recently, Large Magellanic Cloud X-3 Was In The News. It Is A/An

- A. Polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs)
- B. Methane-bearing cloud of Jupiter planet
- C. Brightest Galaxy in the universe
- D. Binary star system

ANSWER: D

20. Kadalundi Bird Sanctuary Is Located In

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: D