

# Daily Current Affairs

## 28 November 2023

### India To Chair International Sugar Organisation

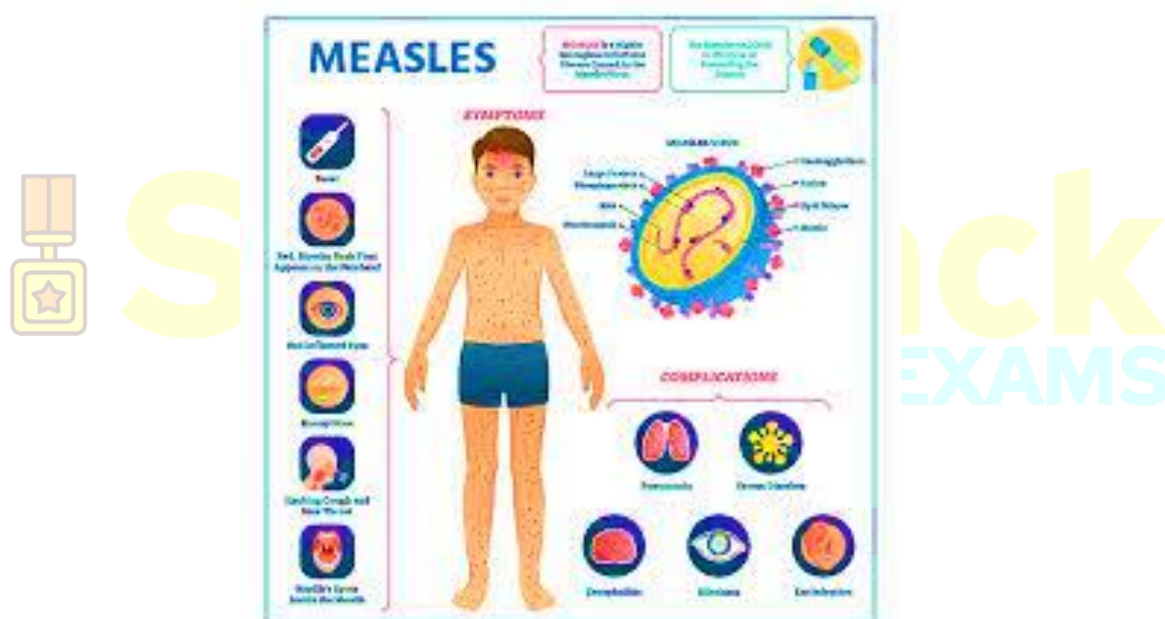
- **India** is set to take the helm as the **chairman of the International Sugar Organisation (ISO)** in 2024, marking a significant milestone for the country.
- As the **world's largest consumer and second-largest producer of sugar**, this leadership role reflects India's growing influence in the global sugar sector.



- The announcement came during the 63rd council meeting of the ISO, headquartered in London.
- The focus will be on uniting member countries to adopt **environmentally friendly** approaches in sugarcane cultivation, sugar and ethanol production, and the efficient utilization of by-products.
- This initiative aligns with India's commitment to **sustainable agricultural practices and responsible production**. India, now the third-largest country in the world in terms of ethanol production, demonstrates a strong commitment to green energy.
- Surplus sugar in the domestic market is being ingeniously transformed into a solution for reducing fossil fuel imports and achieving COP 26 targets for India.
- The **increase in ethanol blending** percentage from 5% in 2019-20 to 12% in 2022-23, with production rising from 173 crore liters to over 500 crore liters during the same period, showcases India's progress in this direction.

## Measles & Rubella Vaccine 'Mabella'

- Indian Immunologicals, IIL, launched the **measles and rubella vaccine 'Mabella'** for children.
- A live-attenuated **MR vaccine** developed in partnership with **Polyvac Institute of Vietnam** was launched as part of the 25th celebrations of the IIL division Human Biologicals Institute (HBI) in Udthagamandalam (Ooty), Tamil Nadu.
- The IIL said, the vaccine has been proven to be safe and effective through extensive human clinical trials.
- It stated that the launch addresses the urgent need for control of deadly measles and rubella that claim about one lakh lives of children globally.



## World Climate Action Summit

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will be on a two day visit to **Dubai, UAE** from 30th November to attend the World Climate Action Summit.
- The Summit is the High-Level Segment of the **28th Conference of Parties**, COP-28 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC.
- COP-28 is being held from 28th November to 12th December under the Presidency of the UAE.



- The Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC provides a unique opportunity to impart momentum for collective action towards combating the shared challenge of climate change.
- During **COP-26 in Glasgow**, Prime Minister had announced five specific targets, titled "**Panchamrit**", as India's unprecedented contribution to climate action.
- Prime Minister had also announced Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) on that occasion.
- **Climate change** has been an important priority area of India's G20 Presidency, and significant new steps have been captured in the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration and other outcomes during India's Presidency.
- COP-28 will provide an opportunity to take forward these successes.

## South East Asia's First Night Sky Sanctuary

- Ladakh will have South East Asia's **first Night Sky Sanctuary**, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh.
- The Minister informed that the Sanctuary is being set up with the help of Indian **Institute of Astrophysics Bengaluru**, which is affiliated to the Department of Science & Technology, Govt of India.
- He profusely appreciated the **Lt Governor of Ladakh, Brig (Retd) B.D. Mishra** for his active cooperation in the project.
- On behalf of the Ministry of Science & Technology and CSIR, we will request the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to inaugurate the Night Sky Reserve at Hanle, the Minister said.
- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, was addressing the gathering after inaugurating the exhibition 'Ladakh's Pride' being

held here to mark the fourth anniversary of the establishment of the Union Territory of Ladakh.



- The Dark Sky Reserve will be located at Hanle village in Eastern Ladakh as a part of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It will boost Astro-tourism in India and will be one of the **world's highest-located sites for optical, infra-red, and gamma-ray** telescopes.
- Spread over 1,073 square kilometres, the **Night Sky Reserve** is located within the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary and adjacent to the Indian Astronomical Observatory, the second-highest optical telescope in the world, of Indian Institute of Astrophysics at Hanle at an elevation of 4500 metres.
- “At a time when the country is celebrating the success of Chandrayaan-3 and **Aditya-L1 solar mission**, this **Dark Sky Reserve** will fascinate the stargazers, being among only the 15 or 16 of its kind in the world,” said Dr Jitendra Singh.



## ISSF World Cup Final 2023

- In Shooting, Indian shooter **Anish Bhanwala** won the **bronze medal** in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event at the ISSF World Cup Final 2023 in Doha, Qatar yesterday.
- Competing at the Lusail Shooting Range, Anish Bhanwala scored 27 out of 35 for third place in the final.
- It was also the **first medal for India in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol** event in the ISSF World Cup Final history.
- The ISSF World Cup Final 2023 is being held for rifle, pistol, and shotgun shooters. It will conclude with team events.



## Khelo India Para Games 2023

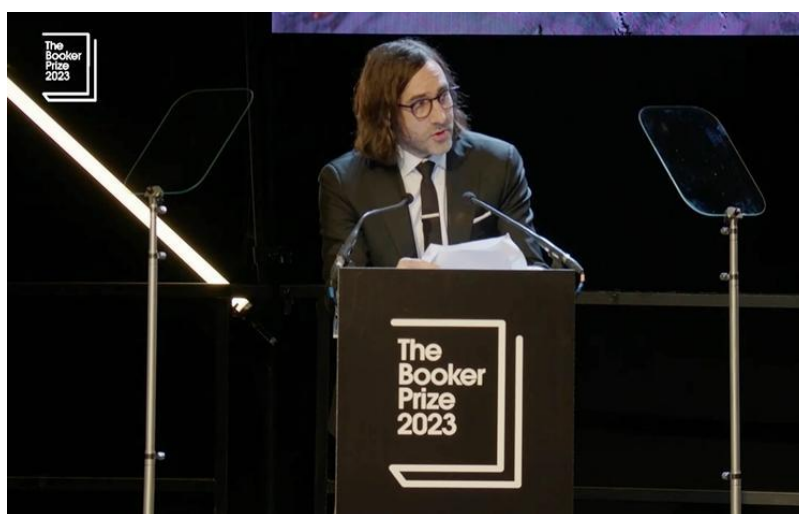
- In a momentous event held in New Delhi, **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur**, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, unveiled the logo and mascot for the **first-ever Khelo India Para Games 2023**.
- This historic occasion was graced by the presence of eminent athletes and para athletes, marking a significant step towards inclusivity and recognition in Indian sports.
- The **official mascot, 'Ujjwala,' a sparrow**, was revealed during the ceremony. Representing the pride of Delhi, this little sparrow stands as a symbol of determination and empathy.
- Ujjwala embodies the spirit of **Khelo India – Para Games 2023**, sending a powerful message that strength manifests in diverse forms, and the human spirit is unbreakable.
- Since its inception in 2018, Khelo India has successfully hosted 11 games, including Youth Games, University Games, and Winter Games.

- Shri Thakur emphasized the instrumental role these games have played in identifying and nurturing talent across the nation.
- With the introduction of Khelo India Para Games, the initiative **aims to further extend its impact by identifying and supporting talented para athletes**, contributing to India's success in multi-discipline events.



## Booker Prize 2023

- Paul Lynch who is an **Irish author** won the **2023 Booker prize** for his fifth novel **'Prophet Song'** beating London-based Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel "Western Lane", at a ceremony in London last night.
- After being honoured with the award. The novel, Lynch's fifth, seeks to show the **unrest in Western democracies** and their indifference towards disasters such as the implosion of Syria. The author **receives £50,000** and was presented with his trophy.



- The storyline of the book is set in imagined future Ireland that descends into oppressive rule.

- The story suggests that civil war leads to families' fleeing Ireland. The story centres on alternate Dublin where members of the newly formed secret police, established by a government proceed towards totalitarianism.
- The protagonist Eilish is a microbiologist who looks after her four children and her elderly father amid civil war following disappearance of her husband.
- Eilish's husband, a senior official in the Teachers' Union of Ireland goes into hiding when secret police knocks at their door .
- Last year, **Shehan Karunatilaka** won the Booker prize for '**The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida,**' whose story centres on Sri Lankan civil war.

## India's Largest Tiger Reserve

- In a landmark development, **Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh** is poised to become the home of the country's largest tiger reserve, marking a significant stride in wildlife conservation efforts.



- The central government has greenlit the **merger of Noradehi Sanctuary with the Durgavati Sanctuary in Damoh**, creating an expansive tiger reserve spanning an impressive **2,300 square kilometers**.
- The central government's issuance of a notification approving the merger reflects a commitment to preserving and protecting India's **rich biodiversity**.
- The amalgamation of these two sanctuaries underscores the nation's dedication to creating substantial habitats for its tiger population.



## Second Floating CNG Station In Varanasi

- In a landmark move towards a **pollution-free Varanasi**, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated the city's second floating Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Mobile Refueling Unit (MRU) station at **Ravidas Ghat**.
- Developed by **GAIL (India) Limited**, this initiative signifies a significant stride in adopting sustainable energy solutions.



- Both the **Namo Ghat** and **Ravidas Ghat** floating CNG stations were developed by GAIL (India) Limited, a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- The new CNG station at Ravidas Ghat is strategically located to provide great convenience to boatmen, eliminating the need to travel to NaMo Ghat for refueling.
- Under its **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** program, GAIL has collaborated with Varanasi Nagar Nigam (VNN) to convert boats to environmentally friendly CNG.

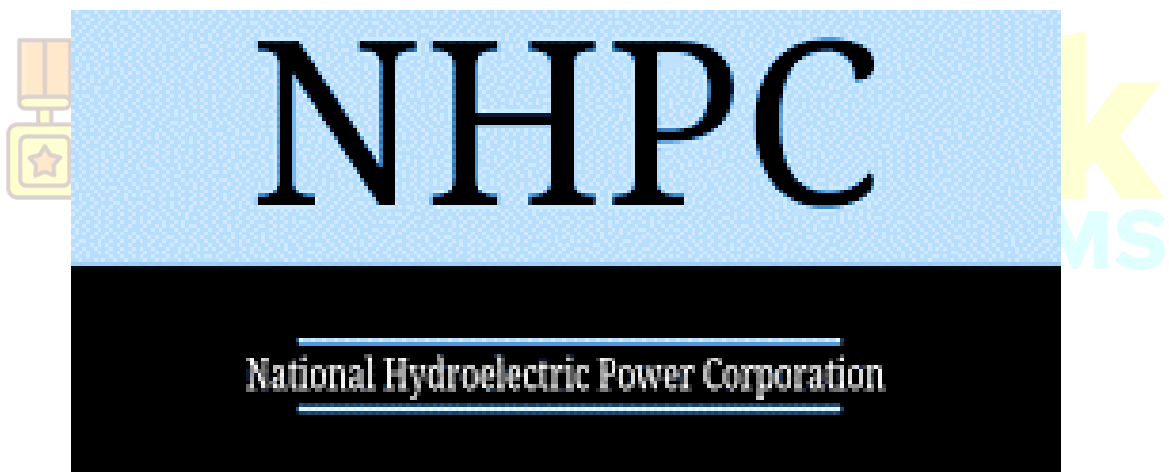
## Ayushman Arogya Mandir

- The central government **renamed Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres** as **Ayushman Arogya Mandir** with the tagline Arogyam Paramam Dhanam.
- In a letter to all States and Union Territories, the **Union Health Ministry** has issued guidelines to suitably replace the existing title across all operationalized Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres.
- The Ministry has also asked to upload pictures of the primary health facilities upon successful completion of the renaming task.



## PRSI National Awards 2023

- **NHPC Limited**, the leading **hydropower company** in India, secured the second prize in the 'Annual Report' category at the '**PRSI National Awards 2023.**'
- This accolade was bestowed upon NHPC during the International Public Relations Festival hosted by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) in New Delhi.
- The award specifically acknowledges the exceptional quality, layout, and design of **NHPC's Annual Report for the fiscal year 2022-23.**
- NHPC Limited, headquartered in Faridabad, India, is a prominent public sector hydropower company with a rich history dating back to its incorporation in 1975.
- Initially established with the primary goal of planning, promoting, and organizing the integrated development of hydroelectric power, NHPC has evolved over the years to embrace a diverse range of energy sources.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. HQ Of International Sugar Organisation**

- A. Paris
- B. London
- C. New Delhi
- D. New York

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Mabella Seen In News Is**

- A. Vaccine
- B. Disease
- C. Spacecraft
- D. Dance Form

**ANSWER: A**

**3. Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary Located In**

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Ladakh
- D. Daman & Diu

**ANSWER: C**

**4. Khelo India Para Games Mascot 2023 Launched Recently Is**

- A. Ujjwala
- B. Beaver
- C. Brown Bear
- D. Raccoon

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Who Won Booker Prize 2023**

- A. Chetna Maroo
- B. Paul Lynch
- C. Shehan Karunatilaka
- D. Anna Burns

**ANSWER: B**

**6. Novel Selected For Booker Prize 2023**

- A. The Bee Sting
- B. Western Lane
- C. Prophet Song
- D. This Other Eden

**ANSWER: C**

**7. India's Largest Tiger Reserve To Be Set Up In**

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Gujrat
- C. Kerala
- D. Tamil Nadu

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Which State Released An Exclusive Book On Its Snakes**

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Assam
- D. Kerala

**ANSWER: A**

**9. 'Al-Hiran Gas Field' Was Recently Discovered By Which Country**

- A. Qatar
- B. Bahrain
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. Israel

**ANSWER: C**

**10. FoSCos Is The Portal Of Which Institution**

- A. FAO
- B. FSSAI
- C. FICCI
- D. FCI

**ANSWER: B**

**11. Which Organisation Released The 'Impact Of Disaster On Agriculture And Food Security'**

- A. NABARD
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. FAO
- D. UNEP

**ANSWER: C**

**12. India's First Sloth Bear Rescue Centre Is Located In Which State**

- A. Assam
- B. West Bengal
- C. Karnataka
- D. Tamil Nadu

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Which Union Ministry Is Associated With 'National Gopal Ratna Awards'**

- A. Ministry of Agriculture
- B. Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
- C. Ministry of MSME
- D. Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**ANSWER: B**

**14. Noa Dihing Music Frog Is A Newly Discovered Species Found In**

- A. Assam
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Manipur
- D. Meghalaya

**ANSWER: B**

**15. Investor Risk Reduction Access Platform Ahs Been Developed By**

- A. SEBI
- B. RBI
- C. Stock Exchanges
- D. NSDL

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Which Country Has Developed A Robotic AI Chemist That Can Make Oxygen On Mars**

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

**ANSWER: C**

**17. 'St Petersburg Declaration' Is Associated With Which Species**

- A. Great Indian Bustard
- B. Tiger
- C. Lion
- D. Honey Bee

**ANSWER: B**

**18. Who Won The Las Vegas Grand Prix 2023**

- A. Charles Leclerc
- B. Sergio Perez
- C. Lewis Hamilton
- D. Max Verstappen

**ANSWER: D**

**19. Which Country Designated Lashkar-e- Taiba As Terrorist Organization**

- A. India
- B. United States
- C. United Kingdom
- D. Israel

**ANSWER: D**

**20. Who Elected As Vice-chair Of UN Panel Of External Auditors**

- A. Girish Chandra Murmu
- B. Rajesh Sharma
- C. Neha Kapoor
- D. Arjun Patel

**ANSWER: A**