

Daily Current Affairs

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UNESCO's World Heritage Committee

- In a historic milestone for India, the nation is set to chair the **UNESCO World Heritage Committee** and host its **46th session in New Delhi** from July 21 to 31, 2024.
- This significant announcement was made by **Vishal V Sharma**, India's Permanent Representative to UNESCO underlining the nation's growing influence and commitment to global cultural and natural heritage conservation.
- The decision to hold the **46th session in India was confirmed during the 19th extraordinary session** of the World Heritage Committee in 2023. This decision, stemming from a proposal by Indian authorities in consultation with the UNESCO Director-General, reflects the **collaborative efforts between India and UNESCO** in fostering global cooperation in education, arts, science, and culture to promote world peace.



- The official UNESCO statement expressed enthusiasm for India's role in hosting this esteemed event, highlighting the nation's rich cultural heritage and dedication to the preservation of global treasures.
- As a United Nations agency, **UNESCO plays a crucial role in recognizing** and safeguarding cultural and natural heritage worldwide.
- The World Heritage Committee, consisting of representatives from **21 member states, gathers annually to deliberate** on matters related to the identification,

protection, conservation, and presentation of cultural and natural heritage sites. These discussions contribute to the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage Sites list, a catalog of exceptional places that hold universal value.

- **India's chairing of the World Heritage Committee in 2024** not only underscores its commitment to the principles of UNESCO but also provides a platform for the nation to showcase its diverse cultural and natural heritage.



- The event is expected to bring together experts, policymakers, and representatives from around the world to engage in meaningful discussions on the challenges and opportunities in preserving our global heritage.
- This momentous occasion is a testament to India's standing in the international community and its dedication to the ideals of UNESCO.
- **The hosting of the 46th session in New Delhi** presents an excellent opportunity for the world to appreciate India's rich history, diverse traditions, and ongoing efforts in heritage conservation.
- As the nation takes on this pivotal role, it reinforces the collective responsibility of nations to safeguard and celebrate the cultural and natural treasures that unite humanity.

Gender Inclusive Framework For Cross Border Trade

- **Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)** released a report on '**Engendering Land Ports in India**' in New Delhi. The main objective of the report is to develop a framework for gender inclusive cross border trade and tourism through land Ports in the country.
- Chairman of LPAI Aditya Mishra said that the report released today is a step towards making a **gender positive environment**. He added the Land Ports

Authority of India will implement the recommendation of the reports to make land Ports more gender neutral.



Gabriel Attal: France's New Prime Minister

- French President Emmanuel Macron has made a significant political move by appointing Gabriel Attal as the new prime minister of France.
- At 34 years old, Attal not only becomes the **youngest prime minister** in the country's history but also the **first openly gay official** to hold this prestigious position.



- In the French political system, the prime minister is appointed by the president and is directly **accountable to the parliament**. This key role involves implementing domestic policies, particularly economic measures, and coordinating the government's team of ministers.

- With the **departure of outgoing Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne**, Attal is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the direction of the administration.
- Despite his youthful appearance, **Gabriel Attal has a substantial history** in French politics. Joining the **Socialist Party at the age of 17**, he quickly climbed the political ladder, serving as a junior minister in the Ministry of Economics and Finance before being appointed as the education minister in 2023.
- Attal gained prominence during the COVID-19 pandemic when he assumed the role of government spokesperson. His ease in public appearances and strategic communication skills have positioned him as a key figure in Macron's strategy to rejuvenate the government.

IIT Madras To Open New Campus

- **Sri Lanka's Education minister Dr. Susil Premajyantha** has said that a new campus of **IIT Madras would be started in Kandy in Sri Lanka**.



- Minister said that the proposal was part of the Budget 2024 presented by Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremasinghe in his capacity as Finance Minister. He added that he held discussions with Director and Deans of faculties at IIT Madras during his visit last month.
- Dr. Premajyantha added that a team of academics would be sent by his ministry to IIT Madras before the team from IIT would visit Sri Lanka for starting the Campus.

Textiles Hackathon

- **Ministry of Textiles** under **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)** is organizing a hackathon titled “Fostering Innovations in Technical Textiles – Hackathon for unleashing creativity in technical textiles” under “**BHARAT TEX 2024**” scheduled to be held on 26-29 Feb, 2024.
- The **primary goal of the hackathon** is to create a platform that brings together students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry professionals.



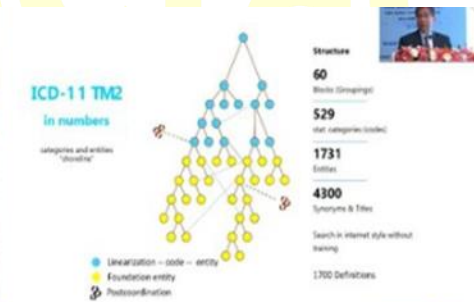
- This platform aims to **raise awareness**, stimulate innovation, encourage collaboration, and address real-world challenges in the field of technical textiles. **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)**, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India shall be the sponsor and partner for the hackathon.
- The **textiles industry is undergoing a revolutionary shift**, integrating advanced materials and innovations into traditional textiles, giving rise to the dynamic field of Technical Textiles. Recognizing the transformative potential of this sector, NTTM is a flagship scheme of Government of India.
- **NTTM primarily focusses** on research, development, and innovation (RD &I) along with education, skill, and market promotion for the technical textiles. NTTM has funded several projects in the form of ideation, prototype grants along with applied projects of national importance.
- The hackathon will consist of **3 phases namely** Ideation Phase; Development Phase & Presentation and Judging Phase with **10 thematic areas**: Smart Textiles; Sustainable Textile; Medical Textile; Protective Textiles; Composites; Functional Fabrics; Development of Specialty Fibres and high-performance fibers;

Development of Indigenous Machinery/Equipment/Instruments; Integration of Technical Textiles with applied sciences and Engineering and any other areas in the domain of technical textiles.

- The **top 3 winners may be considered for funding under the Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship** across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) for a grant amounting up to INR 50 lakhs for a period of maximum 18 Months subject to fulfilment of other eligibility criteria of the GREAT scheme.

ICD-11 Traditional Medicine Module 2

- **WHO launched International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 11, Traditional Medicine Module 2.**
- With the launch, preparations have started for its implementation. The data and terminology relating to diseases based on Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Medicine have been included in the WHO ICD-11 classification.
- With this effort, the terminology defining diseases in **Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha medicine** has been indexed as a code and included in the WHO Disease Classification Series ICD-11.

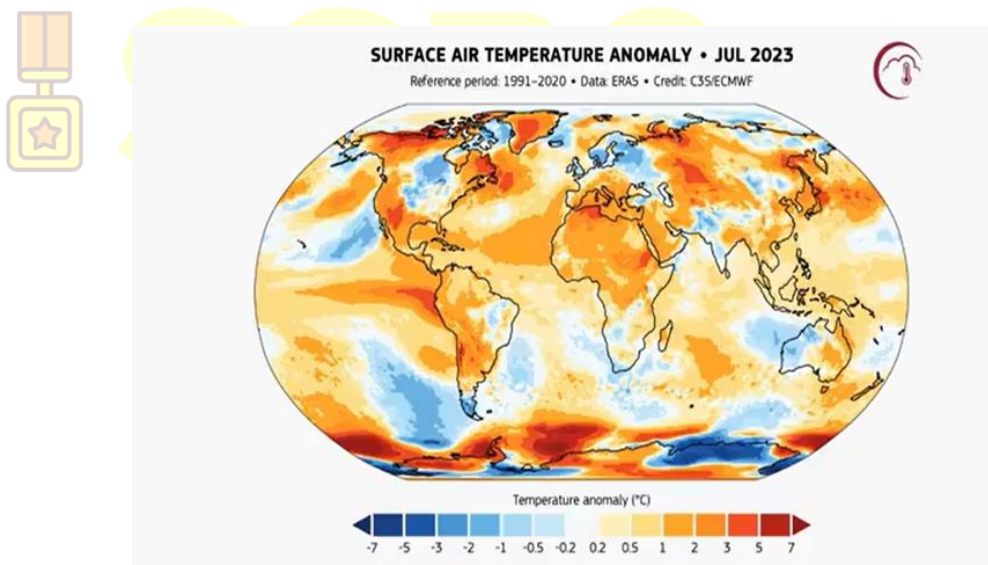


- The **Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with World Health Organization** has prepared a classification of diseases used in Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani systems under TM-2 module of ICD-11 series.
- A **Donor Agreement between the World Health Organization** and the Ministry of Ayush was also signed earlier, for this classification.

- This effort will further strengthen and **expand India's healthcare delivery** system, research, Ayush insurance coverage, research and development, policy making system.
- Apart from this, these codes can also be used to formulate future strategies to control various diseases in the society.
- **Launching the ICD-11, TM Module-2 in New Delhi**, Minister of State for AYUSH Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai said that there is a need to modernize Ayush medicine by integrating it with global standards in India as well as across the world.

2023 Confirmed As Warmest Year

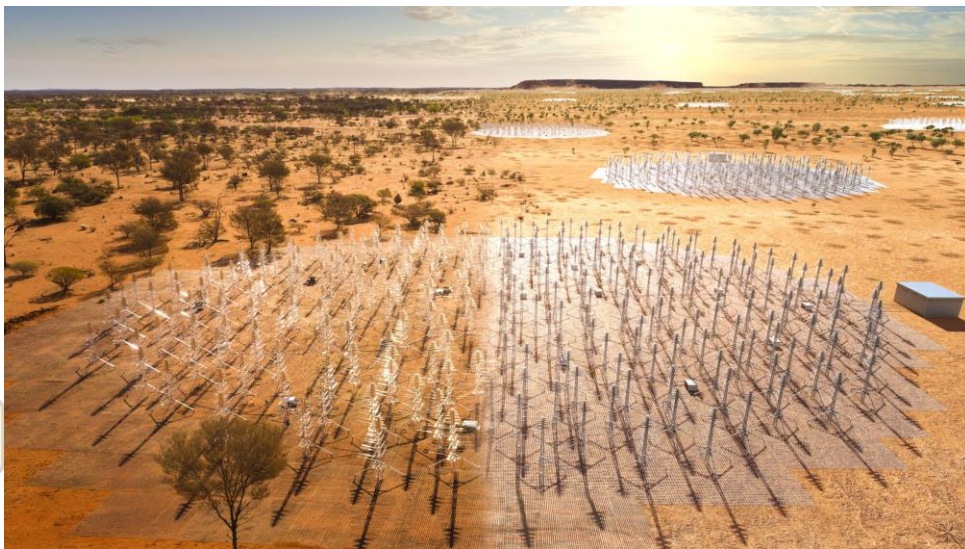
- The **year 2023 has been confirmed as the warmest on record**, driven by human-caused **climate change** and boosted by the **natural El Niño weather event**.
- The **European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S)** released its 2023 Global Climate Highlights report today, backing up scientific consensus that 2023 was the hottest year on record.



- The report shows 2023 had a global average temperature of **14.98 degree Celsius**, which is **0.17 degree Celsius higher than 2016**, the previous record-breaking year.
- Samantha Burgess, Deputy Director of C3S, said that 2023 was an exceptional year with climate records tumbling like dominoes.
- It is also the first year with all days over **1 degree Celsius warmer** than the pre-industrial period. She said, temperatures during 2023 exceeded those of any period in at least the last 100,000 years.

Square Kilometer Array

- **Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO)** was founded **in 2019** and has 16 consortium members: Australia, South Africa, Canada, China, India, Japan, South Korea, the UK, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Italy.
- The SKA Observatory aims to build the **world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope**, combining cutting-edge technology with a vast collecting area to address a wide range of scientific questions in astronomy, astrophysics, and cosmology.



- The Square Kilometer Array will **not be a single large telescope**, but a collection of thousands of dish antennas operating as a single unit.
- The name, Square Kilometer Array, comes from the **original intention to create one square kilometre** (one million square metre) of effective area for collecting radio waves.
- This was meant to be achieved by installing thousands of smaller antennas in a specific array design that would make them function like a single radio telescope.
- As of now, it appears that the USD 2.4-billion project (2021 prices) would eventually have a lesser collecting area than one square kilometre, but the original name has been retained.
- The **antennas, about 200 of them in South Africa** and more than **130,000 in Australia**, are being installed in sparsely populated locations, chosen to ensure they are as far away from human activities as possible.



- This has been done in order to **minimise signal interference** from undesirable Earth-based sources. Construction at both the sites began in December 2022, and the first phase of the project is expected to be completed by next year.
- Once operational, **SKA would be between 5 to 60 times** more powerful than the most advanced existing radio telescopes functioning in comparable frequency ranges.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When is India scheduled to chair the UNESCO World Heritage Committee

- A. January 2024
- B. July 2024
- C. December 2024
- D. April 2024

ANSWER: C

2. Who Is The Youngest Prime Minister In The History Of France

- A. Emmanuel Macron
- B. Elisabeth Borne
- C. Gabriel Attal
- D. Gabriel Borne

ANSWER: C

3. In Which Country Will A New Campus Of IIT Madras Be Established

- A. India
- B. France
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. United States

ANSWER: C

4. AT European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service Which Year Has Been Confirmed As The Warmest On Record

- A. 2016
- B. 2023
- C. 2024
- D. 2019

ANSWER: B

5. What Was The Global Average Temperature In 2023

- A. 14.98 degree Celsius
- B. 16.00 degree Celsius
- C. 13.50 degree Celsius
- D. 15.75 degree Celsius

ANSWER: A

6. Who To Assume Role Of Director (Human Resources) At Indian Oil Corporation

- A. Anita Singh
- B. Meera Sharma
- C. Rashmi Govil
- D. Neha Gupta

ANSWER: C

7. Which Union Territory Has Become First To Implement The PM Vishwakarma Yojana

- A. Ladakh
- B. Puducherry
- C. Lakshadweep
- D. Jammu and Kashmir

ANSWER: D

8. On Which Date Is World Hindi Day 2024 Celebrated Annually

- A. January 10
- B. February 15
- C. March 5
- D. April 20

ANSWER: A

9. Under The New Traffic Law For Hit & Run Cases, What Is The Increased Maximum Jail Term For Drivers

- A. 10 years
- B. 5 years
- C. 7 years
- D. 3 years

ANSWER: A

10. Adora Magic City Is The First Homegrown Cruise Ship Of Which Country

- A. Thailand
- B. China
- C. Japan
- D. South Korea

ANSWER: B

11. Which Three Items From Arunachal Pradesh Received The GI Tag

- A. Adi Kekir, Wancho Crafts, Changlang Textiles
- B. Apatani Rice, Adi Kekir, Tibetan Carpets
- C. Adi Kekir, Tibetan Carpets, Wancho Wooden Crafts
- D. Khamti Rice, Adi Kekir, Changlang Textiles

ANSWER: C

12. Author Of Recently Released Book Titled “Why Bharat Matters”

- A. Amit Shah
- B. Nirmala Sitharaman
- C. S. Jaishankar
- D. Rajnath Singh

ANSWER: C

13. New Requirement Election Commission Of India Introduced For Registered Unrecognized Political Parties Seeking Election Symbols

- A. Voter Endorsement
- B. Party Manifesto
- C. Membership Numbers
- D. Audited Accounts

ANSWER: D

14. Which Company Recently Secured A Contract To Survey India's First PRT Metro Corridor Using Drones

- A. ideaForge
- B. Omnipresent
- C. IG Drones
- D. Skylark Drones

ANSWER: C

15. On Bank Of Which River, West Bengal Government Plans To Develop Tea Park

- A. Ganga
- B. Hooghly
- C. Anjana
- D. Kalindi

ANSWER: A

16. Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, Is Located In Which State

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Karnataka
- C. West Bengal
- D. Chhattisgarh

ANSWER: D

17. Sheikh Hasina, Secured A Record Fourth Consecutive Term As Prime Minister Of Bangladesh, Belongs To Which Political Party

- A. Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)
- B. Jatiya Party
- C. Awami League
- D. Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami

ANSWER: C

18. As Per UN World Economic Situation & Prospects Report For 2024, What Is Projected GDP Growth Rate For India In 2024

- A. 5.9%
- B. 7.1%
- C. 6.2%
- D. 4.0%

ANSWER: C

19. Which Country Chartered The MV Vasily Golovnin For The 43rd Scientific Expedition To Antarctica

- A. Brazil
- B. Russia
- C. India
- D. South Africa

ANSWER: C

20. Which Company Has Recently Received A Patent For Its 'Solar Flour Mill' Innovation

- A. Philips
- B. Kirloskar Brothers
- C. Shakti Pumps
- D. Crompton Greaves

ANSWER: C

