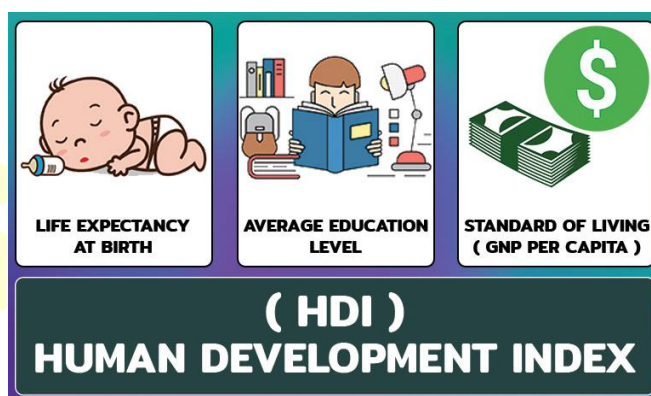


Daily Current Affairs

17 March 2024

Human Development Index

- India's position in the **United Nations Human Development Index (HDI)** for 2022 improved slightly, ranking **134 out of 193 countries** with an HDI value of 0.644.
- This signifies progress in various dimensions of human development, albeit with a continued need to focus on women-led development, as highlighted by the UNDP.



- Between 1990 and 2022, India experienced a significant increase in its HDI value by **48.4%**, **from 0.434 to 0.644**, placing it in the medium human development category.
- The country's HDI improvement reflects advancements in life expectancy, education, and **Gross National Income (GNI)** per capita. India has shown progress in reducing gender inequality, ranking **108 out of 166 countries** in the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022.
- Despite improvements, there remains a significant gender gap in the labor force participation rate, with a difference of 47.8 percentage points between women and men. Comparatively, India's neighbors vary in their human development achievements.
- **Sri Lanka and China** are ranked higher, categorized under the High Human Development category. Nepal and Pakistan have been ranked even lower in the HDI index.

Rank	Country	HDI Value	Change from 2021
75	China	0.788	+0.003
78	Iran	0.780	+0.004
78	Sri Lanka	0.780	-0.003
87	Maldives	0.762	+0.009
125	Bhutan	0.681	+0.004
129	Bangladesh	0.670	+0.008
134	India	0.644	+0.011
146	Nepal	0.601	+0.010
164	Pakistan	0.540	+0.003
182	Afghanistan	0.462	-0.011

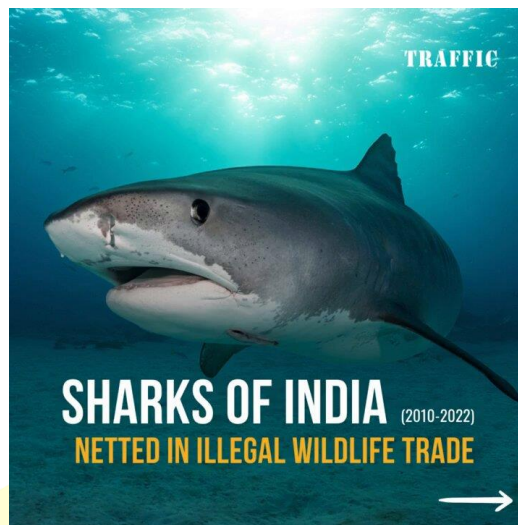
Illegal Trade in Shark Body Parts

- **Tamil Nadu dominates the illegal trade in shark body parts**, comprising nearly **65% of seizures between** January 2010 and December 2022, as per a recent analysis by **TRAFFIC and WWF-India**.
- This alarming trend poses a significant threat to marine biodiversity, with Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala, and Maharashtra also contributing to this illicit trade.
- **TRAFFIC and WWF-India conducted** a comprehensive study titled 'Netted in illegal wildlife trade: Sharks of India'.

SHARKS FACING RISK OF EXTINCTION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ According to a recent report, 16,000kg of shark fins were seized in India in the last 12 years from January 2010 to December 2022 ➤ Tamil Nadu accounted for 65% of shark seizure incidents, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> followed by Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra ➤ Confiscated products were destined for Singapore, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka and China
	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overfishing, coupled with low biological productivity, puts them at a higher risk of extinction 	

- The confiscated shark products were intended for destinations such as **Singapore, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, and mainland China.**
- The global demand for shark fins, primarily for shark-fin soup, remains a major driver of illegal shark fisheries.
- Sharks play a crucial role in marine ecosystems as apex predators, regulating various marine species' populations.



- **Overfishing, combined with sharks' low biological productivity,** elevates their risk of extinction. Despite 160 reported shark species in India, only 26 are granted the highest protection status under wildlife protection laws.
- The **illegal shark trade poses** a grave conservation threat, exacerbated by misdeclaration of species on permits. Inadequate monitoring mechanisms hinder the differentiation between legal and illegal shark trade.
- Identifying shark fins accurately remains a challenge due to the multitude of potential shark species in trade.



- **TRAFFIC has developed 3D-printed replica fins** to aid law enforcement agencies in identifying dried and unprocessed fins.

- A new 3D Shark Fin Identification Guidebook has been published, focusing on 11 commercially traded shark and ray species.
- **WWF-India and TRAFFIC collaborate** closely to distribute resources and knowledge to enforcement agencies across India's coastal regions, airports, and seaports.

Government To Conduct FLNAT

- The Government will conduct the **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test** (FLNAT) as part of Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram across 23 States.
- The Union Education Ministry said, approximately 37 lakh learners will appear for this important nationwide assessment.



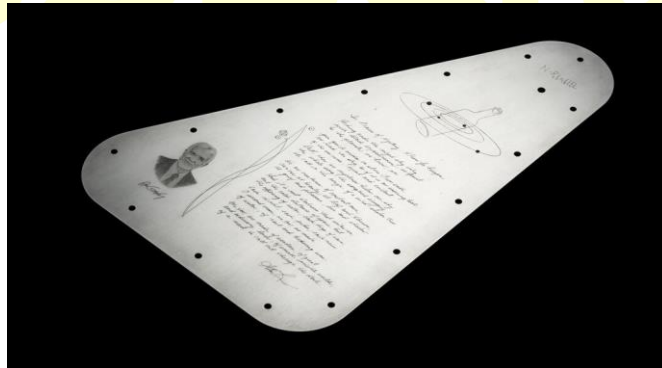
- **The FLNAT will be held** in all districts of each participating State and UT. The assessment comprises three subjects – **Reading, Writing, and Numeracy** – each carrying 50 marks, totalling 150 marks.
- The Ministry said, the test will be conducted in the regional language of the learners, in line with **National Education Policy 2020's** focus on promoting multilingualism.
- This time Chandigarh, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, and Goa are aiming to declare 100 percent literacy through FLNAT.
- The test is crucial in assessing the impact of teaching-learning sessions conducted **as part of the ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**.
- Qualifying learners will receive a certificate issued by the National Institute of Open Schooling, recognising their achievement in acquiring foundational literacy and numeracy skills.



सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Education
Government of India

NASA To Carry 'Message In Bottle'

- **NASA will carry 'message in a bottle' to Europa**, one of Jupiter's moon in October this year. The mission dubbed as **Europa Clipper mission** will explore signs of life as Scientists chose predicts a salty lake under its icy crust.
- **The Europa Clipper spacecraft** will carry a triangular metal plate with an engraving of US Poet Laureate Ada Limón's handwritten "In Praise of Mystery: A Poem for Europa," along with a silicon microchip stenciled with more than 2.6 million names submitted by the public.



- But that is not all, it has an Indian connection as well. The other, outward-facing side of metal plate will sport etchings of 103 waveforms, a visual representation of the sound wave produced by saying the word "**water**" in **103 different languages – including Hindi**.
- Last year, the US space agency had conducted a "**Message in a Bottle**" campaign, which invited the public to send their names with the spacecraft.

National PwD Icon

- Election Commission has announced **Para Archer and Arjuna Awardee, Sheetal Devi as its National PwD Icon.**
- Her name was announced at an Exhibition Cricket Match between the Indian Deaf Cricket Association Team and the Delhi and District Cricket Association team held on Saturday in Delhi.



- The match was organised by the **Election Commission in association** with the Board of Control for Cricket in India to foster voter education and inclusivity.
- The event was graced by **Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar** and Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu.
- On the occasion, the Commission launched a **dedicated Voter's Guide for PwDs and Senior Citizen Electors.**
- The comprehensive booklet outlines essential provisions available to PwDs and senior citizens, including infrastructural, informative, and procedural details at polling stations.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award Is Given To

- A. Mukesh Ambani
- B. Ratan Tata
- C. Gautam Adani
- D. Piyush Bansal

ANSWER: B

2. Who Is Named As National PwD Icon

- A. Varun Bhati
- B. Deepa Malik
- C. Sheetal Devi
- D. Girish Sharma

ANSWER: C

3. Ahmednagar Is Named As

- A. Ahilyanagar
- B. Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar
- C. Dharashiv Nagar
- D. Nana Jagannath Nagar

ANSWER: A

4. Theme Of 'International Day Of Action For Rivers 2024

- A. The Importance of Rivers for Biodiversity
- B. Rights to Rivers
- C. Water for All
- D. Accelerating Change

ANSWER: C

5. Where 12th Edition Of India Italy Military Cooperation Group Meeting Held

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

ANSWER: A

6. PB-SHABD Is Recently Launched By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
- D. Ministry of Communications

ANSWER: A

7. PM Of India Inaugurated The First Oil Palm Processing Mill Under Mission Palm Oil In Which State

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Assam
- C. Karnataka
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: A

8. Where Was The India's First Indoor Athletics And Aquatic Centre Inaugurated

- A. Bhubaneswar
- B. Chennai
- C. New Delhi
- D. Jaipur

ANSWER: A

9. India's Numaligarh Refinery Limited Inaugurated Its First International Office In Which Country

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Myanmar
- C. Bhutan
- D. Nepal

ANSWER: A

10. Rank Of India In The Global Human Development Index

- A. 133
- B. 134
- C. 145
- D. 140

ANSWER: B

11. Which Ministry Signed An Mou With ISRO On Urban Framed Survey Using Bhuvan

- A. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- C. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- D. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

ANSWER: C

12. Which State Government Recently Issued A Notification Declaring 'Orans (Sacred Groves)' As Deemed Forests

- A. Bihar
- B. Gujarat
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER:C

13. Who Became The 14th President Of Pakistan

- A. Amir Muqam
- B. Musadik Malik
- C. Mahmood Khan Achakzai
- D. Asif Ali Zardari

ANSWER: D

14. What is Devin AI, Recently Seen In The News

- A. India's first government owned OTT platform
- B. Species of Fish known for its high omega 3 content
- C. World's first fully autonomous AI software engineer
- D. Anti drone system

ANSWER: C

15. Who Has Been Appointed As The Chairman Of The Central Board Of Secondary Education

- A. Rahul Singh
- B. Anurag Tripathi
- C. Navin Maini
- D. Vijay Singh

ANSWER: A

16. Which State Government Decided To Distribute Free Seeds Of Millets And Coarse Grains To Farmers

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Punjab
- C. Haryana
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: A

17. Recently, Which Team Won The 42nd Ranji Trophy Title

- A. Mumbai
- B. Vidarbha
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: A

18. Which IIT Partnered With Israel Aerospace Industries For Applied Research

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Delhi
- C. IIT Madras
- D. IIT Kanpur

ANSWER: B

19. Which Indian State Plans To Establish A Tourist Facility In Jammu And Kashmir

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Gujarat
- C. Karnataka
- D. Punjab

ANSWER: A

20. Surdas Was A Disciple Of Which Among The Following

- A. Ramanujacharya
- B. Ramananda
- C. Vallabhacharya
- D. Gyaneshwar

ANSWER: C