

Daily Current Affairs

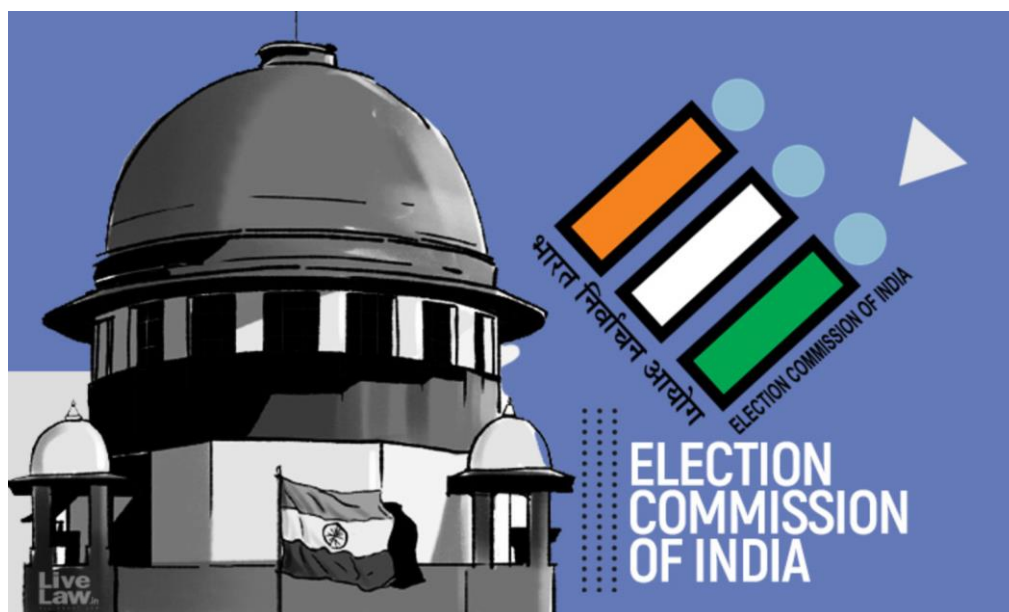
26 March 2024

Saksham App

- The Election Commission has always **focused on Accessible Voting** every time as it has the motto of no voter is left behind.
- The Election Commission has announced that the voters **above 85 years of age** and **Persons with Disabilities with 40 percent benchmark** disability can vote from home. Volunteers and wheelchairs will be available at every polling station.



- The poll body is also arranging transport facilities for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly.
- The Commission has launched **Saksham App to facilitate easier voting** for Persons with Disabilities and to avail facilities at Polling Stations.
- It is also pushing for permanent Assured Minimum Facilities AMF in schools as a gift of election process to the students.



- **Assured Minimum Facilities** consist of Drinking Water, Toilets, Signage, a Ramp or Wheelchair, Helpdesk, Voter Facilitation Centre, Sufficient Light and Shed.
- There will also be Polling Stations managed by Persons with Disabilities, Polling Stations exclusively managed by women and Model Polling Stations.

Asia's Largest Tulip Garden

- In the Kashmir Valley, **Tulip Garden**, one of the biggest in Asia, was officially thrown open for the public.
- According to officials, this year the garden will bloom with **17 lakh flowers** of different varieties with a boast of five new flower varieties this year.



- The picturesque garden, located on the **foothills of the Zabarwan mountain** range and banks of majestic **world-famous Dal Lake** – has multiple varieties of red, yellow and pink early blooming and late blooming tulip bulbs.
- This year, the garden boasts an impressive addition of five new tulip varieties, bringing the **total to 68 varieties**. Moreover, the department has expanded the garden's area by planting an additional two lakh bulbs, resulting in a record-breaking 17 lakh tulip bulbs spread across 55 hectares of land.



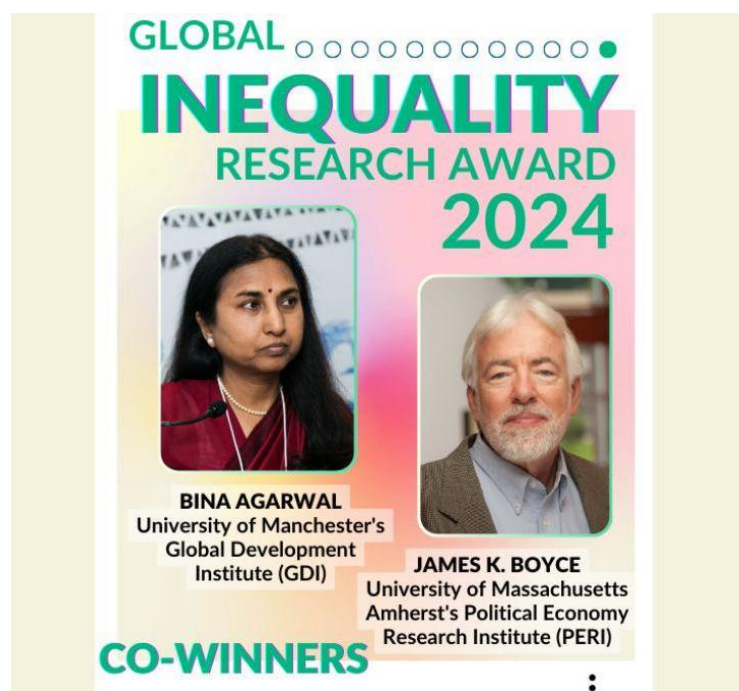
- In addition to tulips, visitors can also feast their eyes on other spring flowers such as hyacinths, daffodils, muscari, and cyclamens, enhancing the diversity of floral beauty on display.
- Established in **2007**, the **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden** is aimed to extend the tourist season in Jammu and Kashmir beyond just summers and winters. Initially starting with 50,000 tulip bulbs imported from Holland, the garden quickly gained popularity among tourists, experiencing steady growth both in terms of visitor numbers and tulip varieties.
- Last year, the **garden witnessed over 3.65 lakh visitors**, including both domestic and foreign tourists, reflecting its increasing appeal as a tourist destination. Notably, it has also become a preferred filming location for various movie and video productions, with several film units choosing to shoot parts of their projects amidst the scenic beauty of the garden.

Global Inequality Research Award

- **Bina Agarwal and James Boyce** have received the **inaugural "Global Inequality Research Award"** in recognition of their significant advancements in comprehending global inequalities, particularly within social and environmental realms.
- The recipients will be honored at **conferences held in Paris** during the fall and spring of 2024, organized in collaboration with Sciences Po's Social-Ecological Transitions (SET) initiative.
- The **University of Manchester's** Global Development Institute (GDI) for Bina Agarwal. The **University of Massachusetts Amherst's** Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) for James Boyce.



- The significance of this award lies in its acknowledgment of the imperative to **address global inequalities** through diverse perspectives and interdisciplinary approaches.
- It underscores the necessity for comprehensive research and cooperative endeavors to comprehend and alleviate the multifaceted challenges presented by economic, social, and environmental disparities worldwide.
- By honoring **exemplary researchers in this domain**, the award seeks to inspire further scholarly endeavors and foster a deeper comprehension of global inequalities, ultimately aiming to inform the formulation of effective solutions and policies.



- In recent years, the **study of global inequalities** has witnessed remarkable expansion, with economic, social, and environmental disparities garnering extensive theoretical and empirical scrutiny, exerting significant influence globally.
- Recognizing noteworthy contributions to the understanding of global inequalities, the **World Inequality Lab (WIL)** and **Sciences Po's Center for Research on Social Inequalities (CRIS)** have collaboratively launched the inaugural Global Inequality Research Award (GiRA).
- The GiRA Award endeavors to acknowledge scholars from diverse fields who have made exceptional strides in comprehending global inequalities. It will be bestowed biennially, with a twofold objective:
 - Recognizing inequality research conducted across various global contexts.
 - Emphasizing the complexity of inequality as a phenomenon requiring multifaceted examination for comprehensive understanding and effective mitigation.

India Hits Out At Pakistan

- **India has hit out at Pakistan for supporting terrorism** saying that Islamabad should be advised to stop terror factories that continue to launch cross-border terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.
- New Delhi said Islamabad has an established history of **harboring, aiding and actively supporting terrorists**.



- This was stated by **Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, Harivansh** in the Right of Reply against Pakistan during the **148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva**.
- He said Pakistan holds the ignoble record of *hosting one of the largest number of terrorists* proscribed by the UN Security Council. He added that Osama Bin Laden, the face of global terror, was also found in Pakistan.



SSB Crack
EXAMS

Geneva Switzerland #IPU148

Governing Council and Assembly

09:00 - 13:00 CET, 24 Mar 2024
The International Conference Center Geneva (CICG)
Switzerland

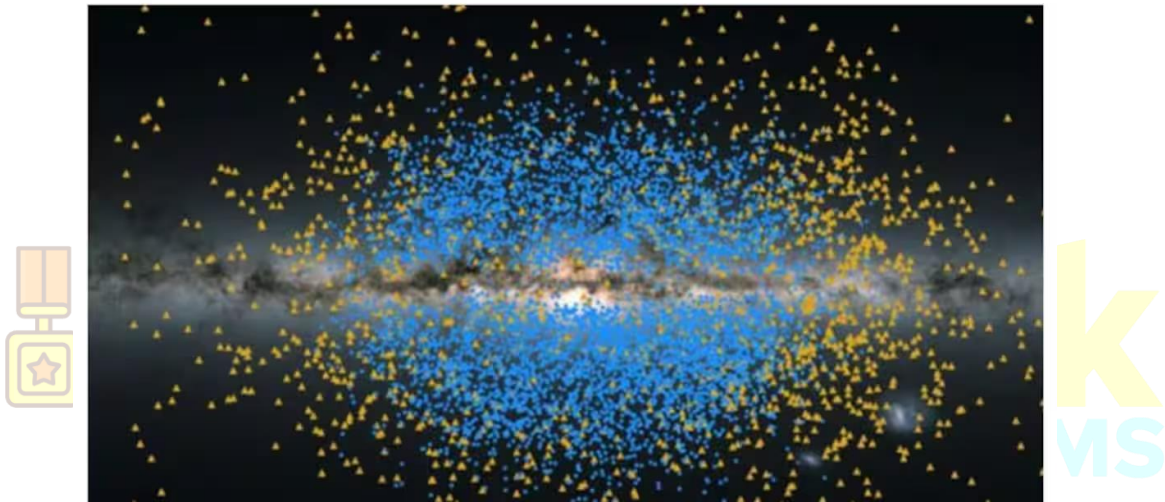
148th IPU ASSEMBLY
23-27 MARCH 2024

Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy For everyone

- Rejecting Pakistan's comments about Indian territory, Harivansh said lectures by a country which has an abysmal track record of democracy is laughable.
- He asserted that **India is the largest democracy in the world** and many consider the Indian democracy a model to be emulated. Describing Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as integral parts of India, the Deputy Chairman said, no amount of rhetoric and propaganda from anyone can override this fact.

Streams Of Stars Shiva & Shakti

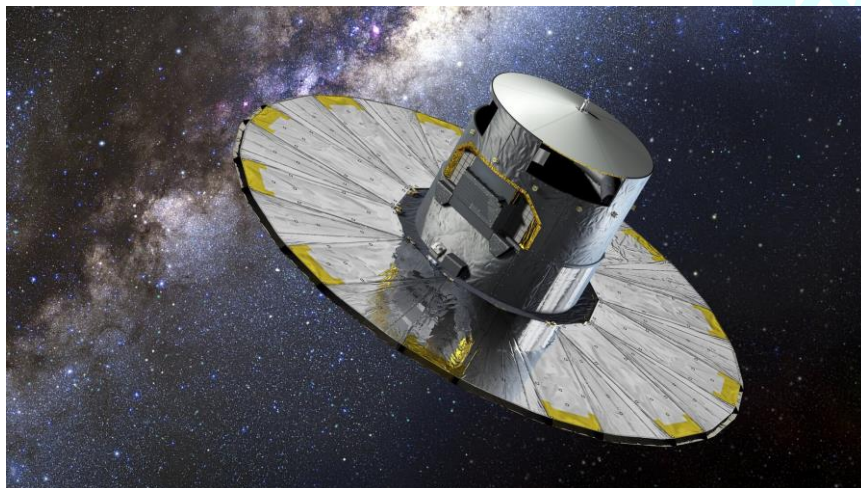
- The **Gaia space telescope** operated by the **European Space Agency** has achieved a significant breakthrough by identifying **two ancient streams of stars known as Shiva and Shakti**.
- Spearheaded by **Khyati Malhan** from the **Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA)** in Germany, this discovery represents a monumental leap forward in our comprehension of the **origins of the Milky Way galaxy**.
- Under the guidance of Khyati Malhan, Gaia's observations have unveiled the existence of two **ancient stellar streams, Shiva and Shakti**, which came into being roughly **12 billion years ago**.



- Distinct Orbits and Chemical Makeup: Gaia's observations have allowed researchers to map **the trajectories of stars, identifying two separate structures** with distinct chemical compositions, designated Shakti and Shiva.
- Each cluster comprises **approximately 10 million suns**, with stars ranging from **12 to 13 billion years old**, displaying remarkably consistent orbits and structures.
- Located toward the **core of the galaxy**, these streams emerged as discrete entities that fused into a single galaxy during its early history, shedding light on the Milky Way's initial formation.
- Gaia's exploration in **2022 uncovered the galaxy's oldest stars**, born even before the establishment of the galactic disk, suggesting a multifaceted origin involving gas and dust filaments.



- Named after a divine pair in Hindu philosophy, **Shiva and Shakti** symbolize the creation of the universe, mirroring the distinctive attributes of the stellar streams.
- Though similar, **Shakti stars exhibit slightly more distant orbits** from the galactic center, characterized by more circular paths compared to those of Shiva.



- This discovery yields insights into the early evolution of the Milky Way, indicating its emergence from lengthy, **irregular filaments of gas and dust** that eventually coalesced into stars and galaxies.

- Subsequent releases of Gaia data hold the promise of further elucidating these ancient components, contributing to ongoing investigations into the dynamics of star clusters, galaxies, and the discovery of exoplanets beyond our galaxy.
- **Gaia Space Telescope:** Launched in **December 2013**, Gaia, operated by the European Space Agency, has been surveying the cosmos for over a decade, amassing extensive data to construct a detailed 3D map of the Milky Way.
- Beyond mapping our galaxy, Gaia's data are harnessed to study various astronomical phenomena, including star clusters, galaxies, and exoplanets, advancing our comprehension of the universe's intricacies.

Aviation Week Laureates Award

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been honored with the prestigious **Aviation Week Laureates Award** for its remarkable achievements in the Chandrayaan-3 mission. Sripriya Ranganathan, Deputy Ambassador at the Indian Embassy in the US, accepted the award on behalf of ISRO.



- The Aviation Week Network's Laureate Awards are highly esteemed accolades in the aviation and aerospace industry.
- These awards celebrate **exceptional accomplishments** that embody the spirit of exploration, innovation, and vision.
- The ceremony, attended by over 400 industry professionals and influencers, recognizes groundbreaking achievements.
- ISRO's successful Chandrayaan-3 mission exemplifies the Laureate's tradition of honoring outstanding contributions to aerospace exploration.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Gaia Space Telescope Is Operated By

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

ANSWER: A

2. Saksham App Seen In News Is Launched BY

- A. ISRO
- B. CSIR
- C. DRDO
- D. ECI

ANSWER: D

3. Asia's Largest Tulip Garden Is Located In

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

ANSWER: B

4. Which Tropical Cyclone Recently Hit Northern Territory Of Australia, Bringing Heavy Rainfall And Strong Winds

- A. Cyclone Sigma
- B. Cyclone Onslow
- C. Cyclone Megan
- D. Cyclone Monica

ANSWER: C

5. UDGAM Portal Is Developed By Which Institution

- A. RBI
- B. NABARD
- C. SIDBI
- D. SBI

ANSWER: A

6. 'Profits And Poverty: The Economics Of Forced Labour' Report Is Released By Which Organization

- A. International Labour Organization
- B. World Health Organization
- C. World Trade Organization
- D. World Bank

ANSWER: A

7. Which Organization Of India Received The Aviation Week Laureates Award

- A. ISRO
- B. DRDO
- C. ICAR
- D. CSIR

ANSWER: A

8. Department Of Fisheries Inaugurated Integration Of The KCC Fisheries Scheme On Which Portal

- A. Jaivikkheti portal
- B. JanSamarth portal
- C. E- Matasya Haat portal
- D. Sagar portal

ANSWER: B

9. Where Was 'Agriculture Integrated Command And Control Centre' Inaugurated

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

ANSWER: A

10. Which Company Secured The 5th Spot In Business World Real 500

- A. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- B. Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- C. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- D. Reliance Industries Limited

ANSWER: A

11. Which Organization Achieved Miniratna Category- I Status As A Central Public Sector Enterprise

- A. GRID-INDIA
- B. Oil India Limited
- C. Power Finance Corporation
- D. Rashtriya ispat nigam

ANSWER: A

12. Which Company Unveiled Its Latest Artificial Intelligence (AI) Chip, The B200 'Blackwell'

- A. Google
- B. Hopper
- C. Microsoft
- D. Nvidia

ANSWER: D

13. Which Country Hosted The Summit "Warns Of AI Risks To Democracy"

- A. India
- B. Australia
- C. South Korea
- D. Japan

ANSWER: C

14. Which Indian State Is Home To Bugun Tribe & Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary

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

ANSWER: D

15. Which Space Startup Is Preparing To Launch India's Second Privately Developed Rocket

- A. Skyroot Aerospace
- B. SpaceX
- C. Blue Origin
- D. Agnikul Cosmos

ANSWER: D

16. Which Country Signed A Deal To Purchase Indian Made Dornier Aircraft With A Loan From The Export Import Bank Of India

- A. Guyana
- B. Suriname
- C. Trinidad and Tobago
- D. Jamaica

ANSWER: A

17. Where Is India's First Ayurvedic Cafe Located

- A. Mumbai
- B. Delhi
- C. Kolkata
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: B

18. Who Has Been Elected As President Of Indian Steel Association

- A. Sajjan Jindal
- B. TV Narendran
- C. Dilip Oommen
- D. Naveen Jindal

ANSWER: D

19. Who Has Been Elected As New Chairman Of Indian Banks' Association

- A. Dinesh Kumar Khara
- B. S L Jain
- C. M V Rao
- D. N Kamakodi

ANSWER: C

20. Reykjanes Peninsula Due To Volcanic Eruption, Is Located In Which Country

- A. Iceland
- B. Indonesia
- C. Japan
- D. Mexico

ANSWER: A