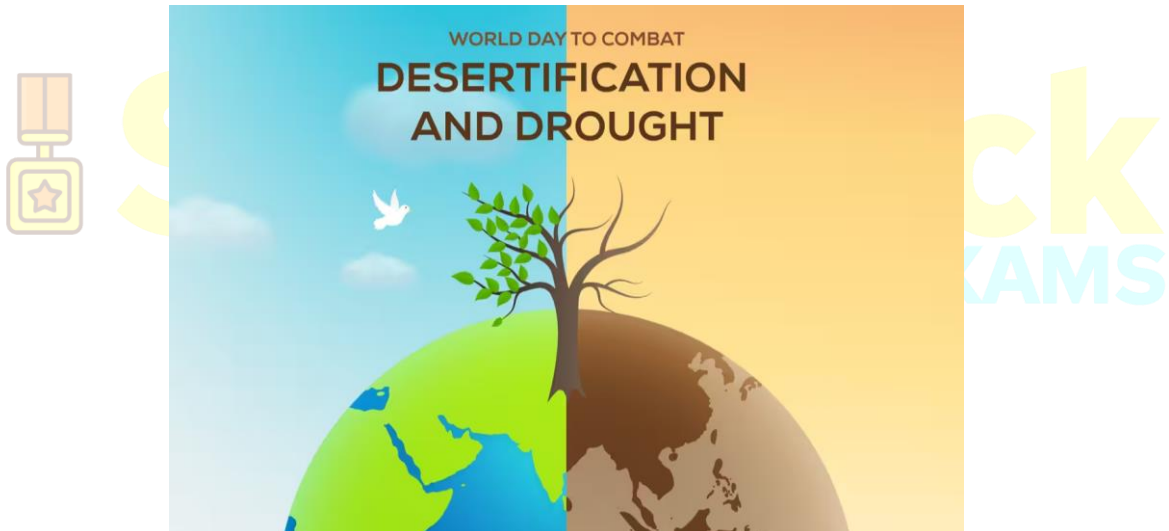


Daily Current Affairs

17 June 2024

World Day To Combat Desertification And Drought

- In **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**: It was established in 1994 to protect and restore our land and ensure a safer, just, and more sustainable future.
- UNCCD is the only legally binding framework set up to address desertification and the effects of drought.
- There are 197 Parties to the Convention, including 196 country Parties and the European Union.



- This year, the **theme of the Desertification and Drought Day** “United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future” spotlights the future of land stewardship — our most precious resource to ensure the stability and prosperity of billions of people around the world.
- **Desertification, land degradation, and drought** are among the most pressing environmental challenges of our time, with up to 40% of all land area worldwide already considered degraded. Healthy land not only provides us with almost 95% of our food but so much more: it clothes and shelters us, provides jobs and livelihoods, and protects us from the worsening droughts, floods and wildfires.

Deep Sea Mission

- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh has said that **India is set to be the 6th country** to have its own Deep Sea Mission. Dr Singh said this while chairing a meeting to discuss the 100-day Action Plan of the Ministry of Earth Sciences in New Delhi.



- During the meeting, Dr Singh expressed pride and happiness on the progress of Deep Sea mission and India being among the very few nations to achieve this feat. He asked institutes to focus on achieving a **resilient blue economy** to empower people dependent on the ocean and its energy for livelihood. On drawing contours of the deep sea mission, he said that the mission is not limited to mineral exploration but the development of ocean sciences, exploration of flora and fauna and conservation of marine biodiversity among others.



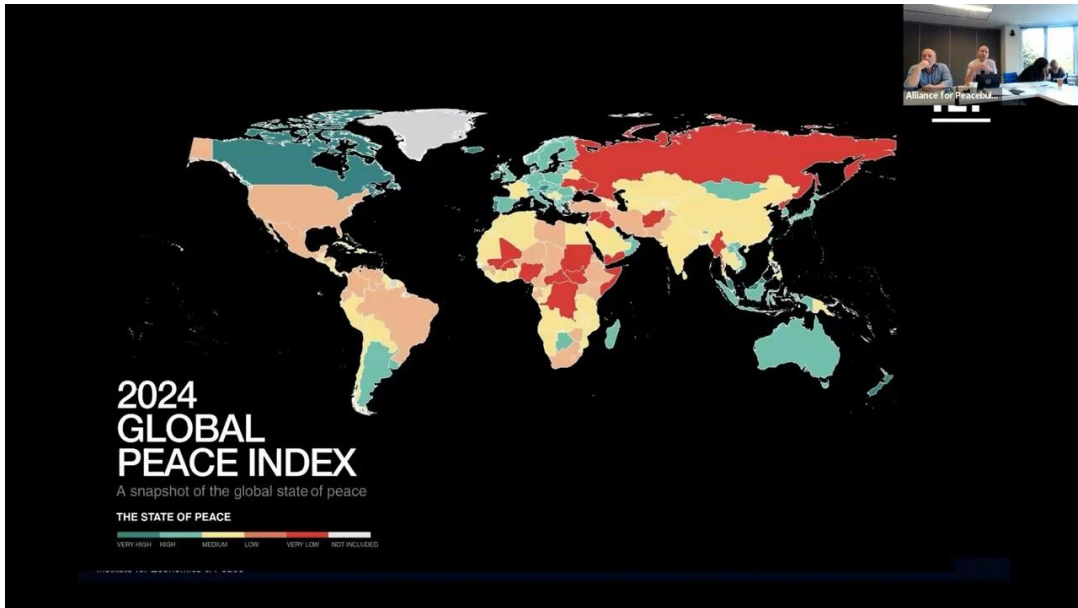
Global Peace Index 2024

- **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2024**, published by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), provides a comprehensive measure of global peacefulness, **evaluating 163 independent states** and territories.
- This report highlights the **trends, results, and economic impacts** of violence across the world, offering valuable insights into the current state of peace and the factors influencing it. The average level of global peacefulness deteriorated by 0.56% in 2024.

The logo for the Global Peace Index 2024, featuring the text "Global Peace Index 2024" in white, bold, sans-serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.

Global Peace Index 2024

- This marks the fifth consecutive year of declining peacefulness. In the past year, 65 countries recorded improvements in peacefulness, while 97 countries saw deteriorations.
- This is the highest number of countries to experience a decline in a single year since the index's inception.
- **Most Peaceful Countries:** Iceland remains the most peaceful country, a position it has held since 2008, followed by Ireland, Austria, New Zealand, and Singapore. Yemen is now the least peaceful country, followed by Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.
- **Europe continues to be the most peaceful region**, despite a slight deterioration in peacefulness over the past year. Middle East & north Africa remains the least peaceful region, with significant conflicts in countries like Yemen and Sudan contributing to its low ranking. North America recorded the largest regional deterioration, driven by increased violent crime and perceptions of criminality in both Canada and the US.



Three Craters on Mars

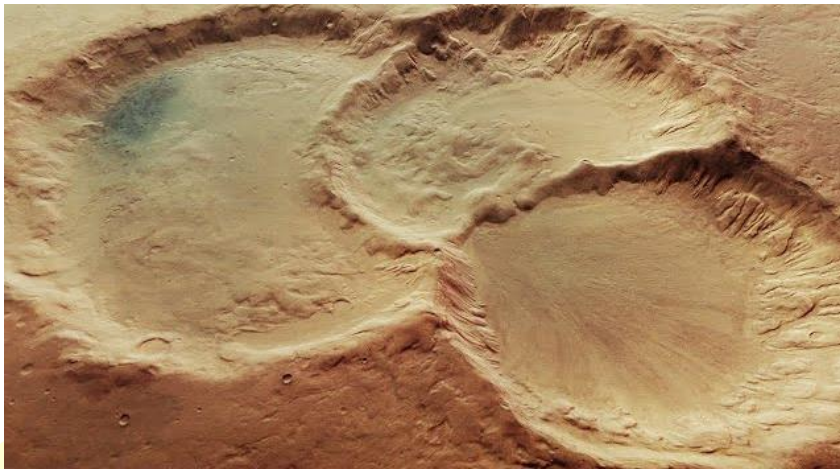
- ‘Lal’, ‘Mursan’ and ‘Hilsa’. These are the names given to three craters on the surface of Mars recently discovered by **Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)**, that hint at the red planet’s wet past.
- Lal has been named after legendary cosmic ray physicist from Varanasi, the late **Professor Devendra Lal**. The other two have been named after **Mursan town** in UP’s Hathras district, and **Hilsa town in Nalanda** district of Bihar.



- The **largest of these craters**, spanning approximately 65 kilometres in diameter, has been named “Lal Crater” in honour of Professor Devendra Lal.
- Professor Lal, who served as the director of PRL from 1972 to 1983, made substantial contributions to the fields of cosmic ray physics and space research. His leadership and pioneering work have left an indelible mark on the scientific

community, particularly in advancing our understanding of cosmic rays and their impact on planetary environments.

- **In the case of Lal Crater, SHARAD identified** substantial sedimentary deposits, providing compelling evidence that water once flowed across the Martian surface. This discovery contributes significantly to our knowledge of Mars's past climate and potential for habitability, offering insights into the planet's evolution over billions of years.



- Both towns hold cultural and historical significance in the region, and naming these craters after them serves as a nod to the rich cultural tapestry that informs our exploration and understanding of space. The discovery of these craters was facilitated by **SHARAD (Mars SHallow RADar sounder)**, a cutting-edge subsurface sounding radar mounted on NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO). This technology allows scientists to probe beneath Mars' surface, revealing details about its geological composition and history.

India-IORA Cruise Tourism Conference

- The two day India-IORA Cruise Tourism Conference concluded in New Delhi. Officials and experts from the **Indian Ocean Rim Association**, IORA Member States including Bangladesh, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Seychelles and Tanzania participated in the Conference.
- External Affairs Ministry said that the Conference provided a platform for stakeholders to share best practices and policy initiatives towards developing and strengthening the cruise tourism sector in IORA Member States.



Spotlight On The Indian Ocean

- Discussions covered infrastructure development, regulatory issues, sustainable tourism, employment generation, inclusion of women and business opportunities among others.

Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina

- Assam government has taken a commendable step towards **promoting girl education** and addressing the issue of child marriage in the state.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the launch of the Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM) scheme, which was approved by the Assam government cabinet.



Assam Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina Scheme

- Objectives of the Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina scheme are: The scheme aims to **empower girls in the state** by promoting education through financial incentives and support from the government. By empowering girls through education, the scheme aims to contribute to the **reduction of child marriage** incidents in

Assam. The Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina scheme will benefit approximately 10 lakh girl students in the state.

- Girl students enrolled in higher secondary education will **receive Rs. 1,000 per month** from the government. For girls pursuing a three-year or four-year degree graduation course, the incentive is **Rs. 1,200 per month**. Girl students enrolled in Post-Graduation or B.Ed. degree programs will receive Rs. 2,500 per month.



Singapore National Swimming Championship

- In Swimming, India's **Likith SP and Dhinidhi Desinghu** bagged two bronze medals in Singapore National Swimming Championship 2024.
- Ace swimmer, Likith SP claimed bronze in men's 100 metre breaststroke with a timing of 1 minute and 2 seconds.
- Dhinidhi Desinghu grabbed a bronze medal in the women's 200-metre freestyle event clocking in 2 minutes 5 seconds.
- The **Singapore National Swimming Championship** is seen as the last opportunity for swimmers to qualify for the Paris Olympics ahead of the June 23rd deadline.



Ankita Bhakat

- **Ankita Bhakat and Bhajan Kaur** sealed India a quota place in the women's individual recurve event from the Final Olympic Qualifier in **Antalya, Turkey**. By progressing to the quarter-final stage, they helped book a place for India at the **Paris Olympics**. Eight individual quota places were there with a maximum of one individual quota for each country. India have also made it to the mixed team event as Dhiraj Bommadevara's got quota in the men's event.



EXAMS

Euro Cup 2024

- The 2024 season of the **European Football Championship**, also known as Euro Cup 2024, will kick-start on June 15 (according to Indian Standard Time) when the **hosts Germany**.



- A **total of 24 teams** will be vying for glory, starting June 15. Italy are the defending champions after they defeat England in the final in the previous edition of Euro Cup, which was held in 2021, a delay in year due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal are place in Group F, along with Turkey, Georgia and Czechia, formerly known as Czech Republic.
- **The 17th edition of the Germany** will be hosting its first major tournament since the 2006 FIFA World Cup and the matches will take place across ten world-class stadiums in the country. Germany goes into the tournament with the most titles (3), tied with Spain, while Georgia is the only team making its debut.

Divya Deshmukh

- In chess, **India's Divya Deshmukh** won the World Junior Girls' Chess Championship after beating Bulgaria's Beloslava Krasteva in the final round at the Gift City Club in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Top-seeded Divya beat Krasteva in the 10th round with just 26 moves to claim her maiden U-20 title. She finished unbeaten in the championship by winning nine of her games while drawing the other two.



Shruti Vora

- **In Equestrian, Shruti Vora** scripts history as she becomes the **first Indian** rider to win a three-star Grand Prix event.
- Shruti along with her astride Magnanimous, scored 67.761 points in the CDI-3 event in FEI Dressage World Cup held in Lipica, Slovenia. She finished ahead of Moldova's Tatiana Antonenco, who scored 66.552 points.



- On the historic feat, General Col Jaiveer Singh, Secretary of Equestrian Federation of India said, this is a great news for the **Indian equestrian fraternity** and Shruti's inspiring performance has made the country proud.
- **Veteran rider Shruti Vora** has also represented India in Dressage World Championship 2022 and in the Asian Games of 2010 and 2014.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Global Peace Index 2024 Is Topped By**

- A. Iceland
- B. Sweden
- C. Italy
- D. Denmark

ANSWER: A

2. **'Lal', 'Mursan' And 'Hilsa Seen In News Related To**

- A. Earth
- B. Mars
- C. Saturn
- D. Jupiter

ANSWER: B

3. Divya Deshmukh relates to

- A. Squash
- B. Tennis
- C. Chess
- D. Swimming

ANSWER: C

4. Saulos Klaus Chilima Was The Vice President Of Which Country

- A. Rwanda
- B. Mauritius
- C. Malawi
- D. Tanzania

ANSWER: C

5. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: A

6. Pema Khandu Became Chief Minister Of Which Northeastern State

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

ANSWER: A

7. Which Organization Released 'Global Economic Prospects' Report

- A. World Bank
- B. UNEP
- C. UNDP
- D. ILO

ANSWER: A

8. Who Has Been Appointed As The Next Chief Of The Army Staff

- A. Mukesh Chadha
- B. Upendra Dwivedi
- C. Dheerendra Singh
- D. Manjit Kumar

ANSWER: B

9. Which State Launched The 'Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina Scheme To Promote Girl Education In The State

- A. Manipur
- B. Nagaland
- C. Sikkim
- D. Assam

ANSWER: D

10. Parapatrechina neela, belongs to which species

- A. West Bengal
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Sikkim
- D. Meghalaya

ANSWER: D

11. How Much Gold Did RBI Allocate From U.K. To Domestic Vaults In FY24

- A. 50 metric tonnes
- B. 100 metric tonnes
- C. 150 metric tonnes
- D. 200 metric tonnes

ANSWER: B

12. Pig Liver Transplanted Into A Living Cancer Patient For The First Time In Which Country

- A. China
- B. Singapore
- C. India
- D. Bangladesh

ANSWER: A

13. Primary Objective Of The ‘Phenome India Project’

- A. To study the genetic diversity of India
- B. To develop India-specific risk prediction models for cardio-metabolic diseases
- C. To promote traditional Indian medicine
- D. To conduct clinical trials for new drugs

ANSWER: B

14. Which Countries Are Involved In The “Air Of The Anthropocene” Project

- A. India, Ethiopia, and the USA
- B. India, Ethiopia, and the UK
- C. China, Ethiopia, and the UK
- D. India, China, and the UK

ANSWER: B

15. Nagi Bird Sanctuary, Declared As New Ramsar Site, Is Located In Which State

- A. Bihar
- B. Haryana
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: A

16. State Of Ocean Report, 2024’, Released By Which Organization

- A. UNCTAD
- B. UNDP
- C. UNEP
- D. UNESCO

ANSWER: D

17. ‘World Wealth Report 2024’, Released By Which Organization

- A. International Monetary Fund
- B. Capgemini Research Institute
- C. World Bank
- D. International Labour Organization

ANSWER: B

18. Which Organization Released 'Child Nutrition Report 2024'

- A. UNICEF
- B. WHO
- C. UNDP
- D. World Bank

ANSWER: A

19. MTU 1271, BPT 2846, and NLR-3238, Are Related To Which Crop

- A. Rice
- B. Cotton
- C. Sugarcane
- D. Mustard

ANSWER: A

20. Which Among Following Building Built By Shah Jahan At Agra Is Similar In Pattern Of The Saint Basil's Cathedral In Moscow

- A. Taj Mahal
- B. Agra fort
- C. Pearl Mosque
- D. Shah Jahani Mahal

ANSWER: C