

Daily Current Affairs

19 June 2024

Post Office Act, 2023

- The **Post Office Act, 2023** has officially come into effect on Tuesday. The Act replaced the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.
- As per the provisions of the Act, the government can intercept an article transmitted through India Post on specified grounds, including security of the state and public order.



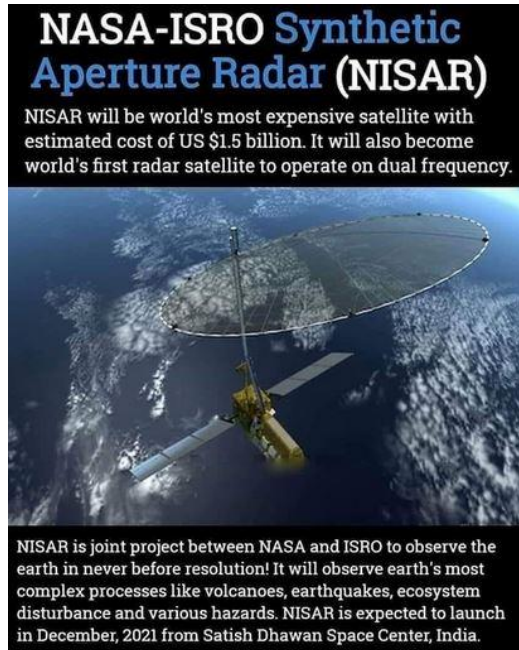
- An interception may be carried out on the **occurrence of any public emergency** or in the interest of public safety or tranquility. Such interceptions may be carried out by the central government, state governments, or any officer specially authorized by them.
- An **intercepted shipment** can be detained or disposed of by the officer in charge. The officer also has powers to open, detain, or destroy shipments carrying items prohibited under the Act or any other law.
- The Act also states that the Director General of Postal Services will be appointed to head India Post. He will have powers to make regulations on various matters including tariffs for services and supply of postage stamps.
- The **Parliament passed the Post Office Bill 2023** in December, last year. It received the assent of the President of India on 24th December 2023.

NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar

- **India and the United States (US)** are preparing to jointly launch NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar to combat climate change and other global challenges. Announced the White House as National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan is on a two-day visit to New Delhi.
- A new partnership between the US Space Force and the Indian startups, 114ai and 3rdiTech.



- Launching a **new partnership between the U.S. Space Force** and the Indian startups, 114ai and 3rdiTech, including on advancing space situational awareness, data fusion technologies, and infra-red sensor semiconductor manufacturing.
- As the world's two oldest and largest democracies, the United States and India share a unique bond of friendship, and Mr. Sullivan's trip will further deepen the already strong US-India partnership to create a safer and more prosperous Indo-Pacific.
- The **NISAR (NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite** – a joint NASA-Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Earth-observing mission – is nearly complete, and a launch readiness date will be determined at the end of April. The spacecraft will launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre on India's southeastern coast.



- **NISAR, the first hardware collaboration between NASA and ISRO on an Earth-observing mission, is a uniquely powerful and trailblazing satellite. By combining two kinds of synthetic aperture radars, it will offer measurements of Earth's evolving surface – including changes in ice sheets and glaciers, wetlands and forests, and land around volcanoes and earthquake faults.**

World's Highest Steel Arch Rail Bridge

- Indian Railways completed a successful trial of an electric engine from Sangaldan to Reasi, crossing the **world's highest steel arch rail bridge**, the Chenab Bridge.
- **1st trial train has successfully** run from Sangaldan to Reasi, including crossing the Chenab Bridge. All construction works for the USBRL are nearly finished, with only tunnel No.1 remaining partially incomplete.



- The **46-km Sangaldan-Reasi stretch** would be inspected over two days by Commissioner of Railways Safety (CRS) D C Deshwal, as the ministry gets closer to its ambitious project.
- **Since 1997, the USBRL project**, which spans 272 km, has seen 209 km commissioned in phases. By the end of the year, the last 17 km from Reasi to Katra should be finished, allowing a train to finally connect Kashmir with the rest of the nation.
- **The geology, topography and weather** have presented this large-scale project with several obstacles. According to railway sources, the first train between Sangaldan and Reasi is probably going to operate on June 30 after the successful trial of an electric engine on the route.



- The **Chenab Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir** stands taller than the Eiffel Tower in Paris, marking a significant engineering feat under the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project. Indian Railways nears completion of this project, which will connect the Kashmir Valley to the national railway network. Constructed over the Chenab River gorge in Reasi district, Jammu and Kashmir, the Chenab Bridge reaches a height of 359 meters (approximately 1,178 feet), surpassing the Eiffel Tower by 35 meters.



Sahitya Akademi

- **Sahitya Akademi**, announced the names of **23 writers**, including English writer K Vaishali and Hindi author Gaurav Pandey, who will receive the prestigious Yuva Puraskar across as many languages.



- **The Yuva Puraskar has been awarded** for 10 poetry books, seven collections of short stories, two collections of articles and one of essays, one novel, one book of ghazals and one memoir.
- Yuva Puraskar awardees will receive a casket containing an **engraved copper plaque and a cheque of Rs 50,000** at an awards ceremony later. For the Bal Sahitya Puraskar, the Akademi has picked English writer Nandini Sengupta for her historical fiction “The Blue Horse and Other Amazing Animal Stories from Indian History” and Devender Kumar’s collection of children’s stories “51 Baal Kahaniyan”.
- The **Bal Sahitya Puraskar** has been awarded for seven novels, six books of poetry, four stories, five short stories, one play, and one historical fiction.

- The **Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters**, is an organisation dedicated to the promotion of literature in the languages of India. Founded on 12 March 1954, it is supported by, though independent of the Indian government.

Skin Bank Facility

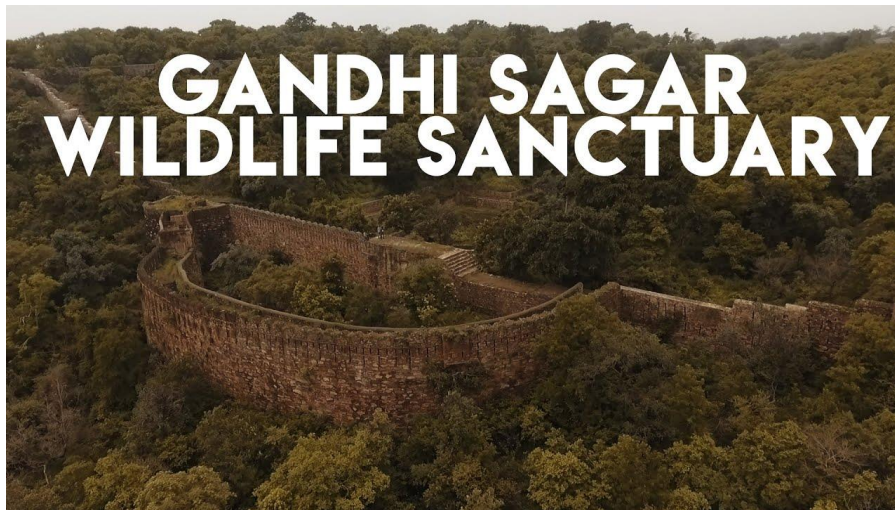
- Army's Research and Referral Hospital in New Delhi has opened a **state-of-the-art skin bank facility**, a first-of-its-kind to be established within the Armed Forces Medical Services.
- The Defence Ministry said that this landmark initiative **aims to revolutionise the treatment of severe burn injuries** and other skin-related conditions among service members and their families.



- Director General Medical Services and Colonel Commandant Lieutenant General Arindam Chatterjee termed the launch of the skin bank as a testament to the unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of service members.
- He added that the facility will not only enhance the quality of care, but also strengthen the ability to support those who have been affected by serious injuries.
- The **new skin bank aims to serve as a centralised hub** for the collection, processing, storage, and distribution of skin grafts, providing a critical resource for military medical centers across the country. The Ministry said that the facility will adhere to the highest standards of quality control and safety, ensuring the integrity and reliability of the skin grafts.

Reintroduce Cheetahs to Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary

- **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary**, located in Madhya Pradesh, has been identified as the second potential habitat for cheetah reintroduction after Kuno National Park.
- This initiative is part of a broader effort to reintroduce cheetahs in India, sourcing them from **Namibia and South Africa**.



- The sanctuary covers **368.62 square kilometers** and is in the districts of Mandsaur and Neemuch. It has a **savanna environment** that is good for cheetahs. The area is made up of flat, rocky plateaus and is split in half by the Chambal River.
- The landscape ranges from open grasslands to river valleys. The Gandhi Sagar dam and some of its big reservoirs are now part of the sanctuary. They make the landscape more varied.
- There have been a lot of plans made before the cheetahs arrive. A 64-square-kilometer area has been set aside just for cheetahs, and a soft-release cage has been built to make sure they have a safe place to learn and adapt.
- Also, a wildlife hospital to take care of the cheetahs' unique animal health needs. To keep the ecosystem balanced, the area herbivore and predator populations are also being looked at.
- **India is reintroducing cheetahs** after a 70-year extinction, starting with 12 from Namibia in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh. To help local environments, the government chose Kuno because it has great grasslands.



- According to the 2020 announcement, this move is meant to restore natural balance and increase biodiversity. African experts are helping the cats get used to their new home by focusing on reducing conflicts between people and animals. According to rules from the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the plan calls for 50 cheetahs to be born over 5 years to create a stable population.

Neeraj Chopra

- Olympic and World Champion **Neeraj Chopra** has won the Gold medal in the **men's javelin throw competition** at the World Athletics Continental Gold Tour at the Paavo Nurmi Stadium in Turku, Finland.
- He topped an eight-man field with a best effort of 85.97 meters last night. Chopra began steadily with a throw of 83.62 meters.
- Local favourite Oliver Helander pushed him for the lead, taking the top spot with an 83.96-meter throw in the second round. However, Chopra responded with his best throw of the day, a soaring 85.97-meter effort in his third attempt.



Arjun Erigaisi

- **India's highest-rated chess player Grandmaster (GM) Arjun Erigasi**, has won the Stepan Avagyan Memorial 2024 crown in Jermuk, Armenia, with a round to spare.
- The 20-year-old chess player from Telangana defeated Russian GM Volodar Murzin in 63 moves in the eighth and penultimate round to take his six points with four wins and as many draws.



- He now has an unassailable lead of 1.5 points over three players tied for second spot in a strong 10-player field.
- In the final round of the tournament, Arjun will face GM Manuel Petrosyan of Armenia.
- The victory also helped **Arjun jump to a career-high live rating** of No. 4. Arjun has been in fine form this year, bagging the Menorca Open crown in April, finished second in the TePe Sigeman Chess Tournament in May and also finished joint-fifth in the Sharjah Masters Open tournament.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World's Highest Steel Arch Rail Bridge Located In

- A. J & K
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Ladakh

ANSWER: A

2. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary Located In

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Chattisgarh

ANSWER: B

3. World Athletics Continental Gold Tour Held At

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

ANSWER: A

4. Matsya 6000 Is Developed By Which Institute

- A. IIT, Roorkee
- B. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai
- C. IIT, Kanpur
- D. National Institute of Oceanography

ANSWER: B

5. What Is 'Aedes Albopictus'

- A. Mosquito
- B. Spider
- C. Frog
- D. Ant

ANSWER: A

6. Which Organization Supported Greater Chennai Corporation To Achieve Sustainable Waste Management In The City

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

ANSWER: B

7. Which Country Will Host Multinational Air Exercise 'Tarang Shakti 2024'

- A. Germany
- B. Spain
- C. France
- D. India

ANSWER: D

8. "Starship" Spacecraft, Is Built By Which Organization

- A. SpaceX
- B. NASA
- C. DRDO
- D. Skyroot Aerospace

ANSWER: A

9. Visakhapatnam Port Has Secured Which Place In The Container Port Performance Index

- A. 18th
- B. 19th
- C. 17th
- D. 16th

ANSWER: B

10. Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Odisha
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: B

11. Where Was The 'Swiss Peace Summit' Held

- A. India
- B. Switzerland
- C. France
- D. Germany

ANSWER: B

12. Which Regulatory Body Has Been Awarded 'Risk Manager Of The Year Award 2024' By Central Banking, London, UK

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

ANSWER: A

13. Crete Island Is The Largest Island Of Which Country

- A. Malaysia
- B. Maldives
- C. Greece
- D. Indonesia

ANSWER: C

14. Which Organization Collaborated With National Commission For Indian Medical Systems To Organize The 'PRANA' Conference

- A. All India Council for Technical Education
- B. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Ministry of Education

ANSWER: A

15. Which Country Became First Country To Adopt The India's 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme'

- A. Maldives
- B. Bhutan
- C. Mauritius
- D. Nepal

ANSWER: C

16. Volkhov River, Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Country

- A. China
- B. India
- C. France
- D. Russia

ANSWER: D

17. Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan-2 Scheme, Associated With Which State

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

ANSWER: A

18. Gardi Sugdub Island, Is Located In Which Country

- A. Chile
- B. Peru
- C. Panama
- D. Mexico

ANSWER: C

19. Where Was The East Asia Summit And ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials' Meeting Held

- A. Beijing, China
- B. New Delhi, India
- C. Bangkok, Thailand
- D. Vientiane, Lao

ANSWER: D

20. Which Of The Following Term Is Used For Writers Of Charyapadas

- A. Yogachari
- B. Mahasiddha
- C. Sakyapa
- D. Charyapurusha

ANSWER: B