

Daily Current Affairs

22 July 2024

UNESCO World Heritage Centre

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **46th Session of the World Heritage Committee** at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- India is hosting the World Heritage Committee Meeting for **the first time** which will continue till 31st of July.
- Mr Modi said, India is committed to promoting **global cooperation and engaging local communities** towards heritage conservation efforts. He said, India's heritage is not just a history but also a science.



- Prime Minister said, this event is taking place in India, which is one of the oldest living civilizations in the world. Prime Minister Modi announced that India will **contribute one million dollar to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre**. This grant will be used for capacity building, technical assistance and conservation of the world heritage sites.
- Mr Modi said, the grant will especially be used for the countries of the **Global South**. Prime Minister Modi said, the vision of India is development as well as heritage.
- Mr Modi said that the **northeast's historic Moidam** is proposed to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. it will be India's **43rd World Heritage** site and the first heritage of northeast India, rated as the Cultural World Heritage.



- During this meeting, proposals for nominating new sites on the World Heritage list, State of Conservation **reports of 124 existing World Heritage properties**, International Assistance and Utilisation of World Heritage Funds among others will be discussed. Over two thousand international and national delegates from more than 150 countries will attend the meeting.

India-Bhutan

- **Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri** and his Bhutanese counterpart **Aum Pema Choden** co-chaired the **3rd India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks** in Thimpu.
- During the meeting, the Bhutanese side presented the **Project Tied Assistance (PTA)** proposals as well as the **first tranche of the PTA projects** to be implemented during the **13th Five-Year Plan period**.
- In a statement, External Affairs Ministry said, the two sides approved a total of **61 projects amounting 4,958 crore rupees** in various sectors. These projects are related to infrastructure, energy, skill development, education, health, cultural heritage, capacity building, sports, youth exchanges, digital economy, and space technology.



- Besides, India and Bhutan also held wide-ranging discussions on all aspects of bilateral cooperation including development partnership, energy, trade and investment.
- During the State Visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bhutan in March this year, Mr Modi had announced Government of India's development support of **10,000 crore rupees** for Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan period. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri was on a two-day official visit to Bhutan which concluded today. This was his first visit abroad as Foreign Secretary.

UP Tourism Booth Inaugurated At Korea

- **Ninth Korea International Tourism Fair** is being held at the Korean International Exhibition at **Ilsan, Seoul**.
- **Embassy of India in Seoul** and the **UP government are jointly** participating in the fair. The UP Tourism booth was jointly inaugurated by all the dignitaries. Indian Ambassador Amit Kumar spoke of India's rich history and vibrant culture. In his remarks, he also highlighted India's natural beauty and wildlife, along with the country's incredible diversity of languages, cuisines, clothing, architecture and faiths.
- **Korea International Tourism Fair** is a tourism exhibition aimed at fostering the growth of the tourism industry by expanding the market through collaboration between domestic and international tourism. It also seeks to boost local tourism by promoting the internationalisation of domestic cities.



World's First Carbon Fiber High Speed Train

- China has shown off a revolutionary passenger train made of **only carbon fiber**. This is a big step forward in high-speed rail technology.
- **New train is so much lighter** than old steel trains, smog levels will drop by a large amount. The main goal is to move vehicles that are as light as possible without sacrificing performance. It is planned that the carbon fiber train will reach speeds of up **to 87 mph and use 7% less energy** than regular steel trains.
- This new idea is very important for a healthy, **low-carbon future** in transportation. It is already known that high-speed train is the most eco-friendly way to travel long distances.



- As a percentage of its passengers, it makes less noise, takes up less space, and pollutes the air less than cars and trains.
- **China has a high-speed train network** that covers about **28,000 miles** and can go as fast as **125 mph**. This makes travel quick and cheap.
- AI has recently been added to operations and repair management, which makes things more reliable and efficient.
- **High-speed rail (HSR) goes faster than 250 km/h (155 mph)**. Japan's **first high-speed rail line, the Shinkansen**, opened in 1964. The world record is held by **France's TGV**, which went 357 mph (574 km/h) in 2007. HSR systems use less energy per person than cars, so they are more environmentally friendly.



IISR Wins Best Technology Award

- **Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR)** has received the best technology award for its pioneering work in the field of horticultural sciences.
- Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan presented the award during the 96th Foundation Day celebrations of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in New Delhi.
- The technology titled **'Process for instant soluble turmeric enriched spice flavoured milk powder'** was one of the top five technologies under Horticulture Sciences Division of the ICAR.
- The technology had already been commercialised with **Malabar Regional Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Limited**. Two products –**Golden Milk and Golden Milk Mix** had been produced and marketed.



- The technology is being developed by K. Anees, Rajeev P., E. Radha, and C. K. Thankamani, all of whom are IISR scientists.
- The awarded technology is unique in its ability to **produce an instant, fully soluble spice mix powder** for preparing turmeric-flavored milk. Turmeric's water insolubility was previously a challenge, but with the technology developed by IISR, it no longer poses a challenge to the dairy industry.

UN Water Convention

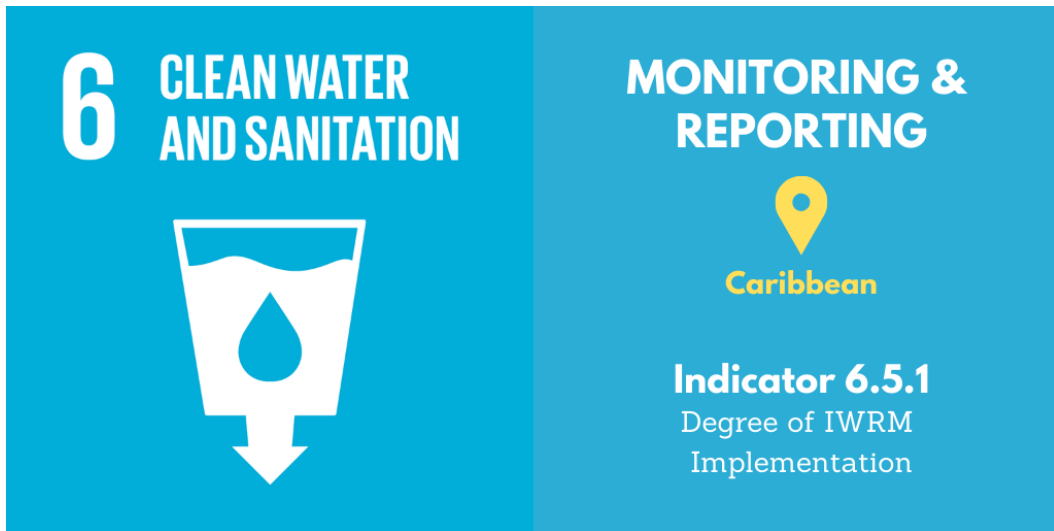
- **Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)** has recently become the **53rd Party to the 1992 UN Water Convention**, officially known as the **Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**.



- This accession marks **Ivory Coast as the 10th African nation** to join the treaty. The move highlights a growing trend among African nations to enhance cooperative water management amidst increasing water stress and climate change impacts.
- **Ivory Coast, with a population** of approximately 30 million, shares eight transboundary river basins with **neighboring countries, including** Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

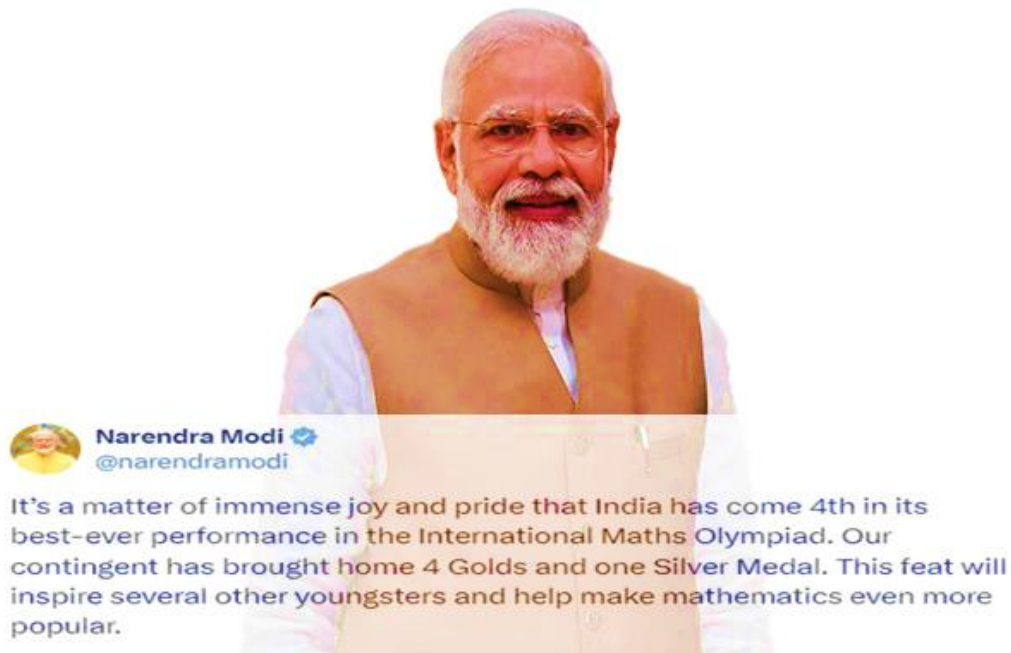


- The country's water resources face significant challenges due to rapid population growth, urbanization, and climate change effects such as drought and flooding. Additionally, **water quality is deteriorating** due to pollution from various sources. Joining the convention will support Ivory Coast in addressing these challenges through enhanced regional cooperation.
- **UN Water Convention, Adopted in Helsinki in 1992** and entering into force in 1996, the Convention promotes the sustainable management of shared water resources, conflict prevention, and regional integration.
- It requires Parties to cooperate on transboundary waters, prevent negative impacts, and use water resources equitably.
- **Initially a regional framework for Europe**, the Convention expanded globally in 2016. It now includes Parties from various regions, with recent additions from Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.
- The Convention supports the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, **particularly SDG 6.5**, which calls for integrated water resources management and transboundary cooperation.



International Math Olympiad

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed pride **that India has come fourth** in its best-ever performance in the International Maths Olympiad. In a social media post, Mr Modi said the contingent has brought home **four Gold and one Silver Medal**. He stated that this feat will inspire several other youngsters and help make mathematics even more popular.



World Choir Games 2024

- The Nagaland Madrigal Singers representing India has won **two Gold Medals** at the **World Choir Games, 2024** in New Zealand.
- The World Choir Games- the Largest Choral Competition was held at **Auckland, New Zealand** where over 11,000 singers from 42 countries participated at the event.



- Led by Hito Kiho, the Nagaland Madrigal Singers competed in two prestigious categories namely Contemporary Music Mixed Voices and Mixed Chamber Choir. They won gold medals in both categories.
- The Nagaland Madrigal Singers was founded by **Mr Kiho on September 2023**. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio congratulated the team on winning two Gold Medals for India. Rio taking to social media post, said they have fulfilled our wish of bringing laurels to the country, and have made the state proud. The Chief Minister also further wished the team to continue to excel in all their future endeavours.



Swiss Open

- Won In Swedish Open Tennis, **Nuno Borges Of Portugal** Defeated **Spaniard Rafael** To Win Men's Singles Tennis Title At **Bastad In Sweden**. It Was **Borges's First ATP Tour Title**. He Became Second Portuguese Player In Open Era To Win A Main Tour Singles Title, **After João Sousa**.



- India's **Yuki Bhambri** And His French Partner **Albano Olivetti** Clinched Men's Doubles Title At The Swiss Open ATP Tour Tennis Tournament Defeating French Pair Of Ugo Humbert And Fabrice Martin In The Final. Bhambri And Olivetti Also Won The Bavarian International Tennis Championships In Munich In April.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. HQ Of UNESCO

- A. New York
- B. Hague
- C. Paris
- D. Greece

ANSWER: C

2. High Speed Rail Line, The Shinkansen Located In

- A. China
- B. Japan
- C. USA
- D. UK

ANSWER: B

3. UN Water Convention, Adopted In

- A. 1992
- B. 1993
- C. 1994
- D. 1995

ANSWER: A

4. Davis Strait, Is Located Between Which Two Regions

- A. Alaska and Russia
- B. Greenland and Canada
- C. Iceland and Norway
- D. Siberia and Canada

ANSWER: B

5. What Is The 'MV Sea Change'

- A. World's First Electric Ferry
- B. World's 1st Commercial Passenger Ferry Powered By 100% Hydrogen Fuel
- C. The World's Largest Cargo Ship
- D. None Of The Above

ANSWER: B

6. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme Is Under Operational Domain Of Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Urban Development
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Rural Development

ANSWER: C

7. Which State Government Organizing Special Camps To Grant Indian Citizenship To Minority Refugees From Afghanistan, Pakistan & Bangladesh

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

ANSWER: B

8. What Is 'Kashmiri Willow'

- A. Irrigation technique
- B. New species of fish
- C. Deciduous tree
- D. Invasive weed

ANSWER: C

9. Harela Festival Is Celebrated In Which State

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: C

10. What Is The Primary Objective Of ASMITA Project

- A. To Promote & Integrate Indian Languages More Deeply Into Education System
- B. To Replace English With Indian Languages In All Subjects
- C. To Promote Foreign Languages In India
- D. To Build New Universities

ANSWER: A

11. Jerdon's Courser, Is A Nocturnal Bird Endemic To Which Region Of India

- A. Western Ghats
- B. Northeastern
- C. Eastern Ghats
- D. Ladakh

ANSWER: C

12. Which Country Hosted 9th Women's Cricket Asia Cup

- A. Myanmar
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Bhutan
- D. India

ANSWER: B

13. Sukinda Valley, Is Located In Which State

- A. Odisha
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Sikkim
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: A

14. Primary Objective Of Digital Bharat Nidhi Initiative

- A. Increasing telecom services in urban areas
- B. Enhancing telecom networks in remote and rural areas
- C. Enhancing digital literacy in tribal areas
- D. Providing school kit to children in flood prone areas

ANSWER: B

15. Which State Government Launched 'IT Saksham Yuva Scheme 2024'

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

ANSWER: A

16. Which Ministry Is Hosting 2024 World Heritage Young Professionals Forum

- A. Ministry of External Affairs
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Culture
- D. Ministry of Defence

ANSWER: C

17. National Geophysical Research Is Located In Which City

- A. Bombay
- B. Chennai
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Bhopal

ANSWER: C

18. Syphilis Disease, Is Caused By Which Agent

- A. Virus
- B. Fungus
- C. Bacteria
- D. Protozoa

ANSWER: C

19. Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, Is Located In Which State

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Kerala
- D. West Bengal

ANSWER: B

20. Pyithu Hluttaw Is The Lower House Of The Parliament Of Which Among The Following Countries

- A. Myanmar
- B. Thailand
- C. Cambodia
- D. Vietnam

ANSWER: A