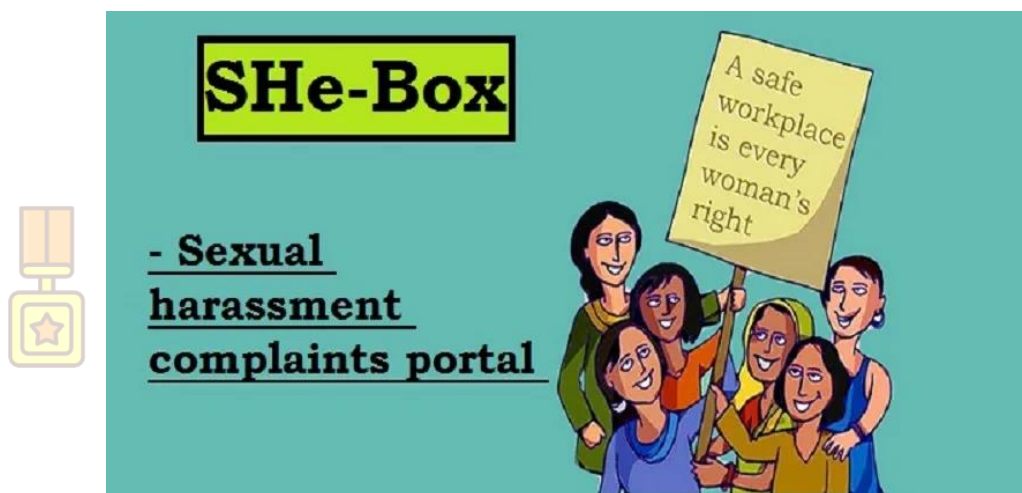


# Daily Current Affairs

## 30 August 2024

### She-Box portal

- The government has launched the **She-Box portal** to make workplaces safer for women.
- Women and Child Development Minister **Annpurna Devi launched** the portal in New Delhi today. She-Box portal is a centralized platform for registering and monitoring complaints of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.



- This platform provides facility to file complaints, track its status and ensure a time-bound processing of complaints by Internal Committees.
- WCD Minister Annpurna Devi said, this initiative is a critical step forward in providing a more efficient and secure platform for addressing workplace-related sexual harassment complaints.
- She said, the government is committed to **creating a safer and more inclusive** working environment for women in the country.
- She expressed confidence that with the help of portal complaints can be safely registered without personal information being publicly accessible.

## ASSOCHAM Environment And Carbon Conference

- Union minister of state for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Kirti Vardhan Singh** has inaugurated the **ASSOCHAM Environment and Carbon Conference** in New Delhi.
- The theme of the conference is **'Fostering a collaborative ecosystem for achieving net zero by 2070'**.
- Addressing the conference, Mr. Singh said, the **Climate and Environment change** is a global issue now, but the government is taking several steps to protect the country from its impact.



- He said that the government is working to achieve **net zero by 2070**, as well as fulfill the **Vikshit Bharat 2047** vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Mr. Singh said that it is need of the hour to find solution of the problems that are effecting the Climate and Environment globally.
- **Highlighting the Water crisis** and its effect in rural India, Mr. Singh said that people in rural part of the country, especially farmers are presently happy after their problems have been solved under the **Jal Jeevan Mission scheme**.
- The Minister said that government is committed to provide all required support to the industries and stakeholders to solve the environmental issues in the country.

## Dhulikhel Becomes Nepal's First 'Healthy City'

- WHO has declared **Dhulikhel Municipality** of Kavrepalanchok district as Nepal's **first 'healthy city' and second healthiest** city in Asia.
- Since 2014, Dhulikhel Municipality has implemented various programmes to achieve the status.
- Dhulikhel Municipality, which initiated a campaign to become a healthy city, has been monitored by the **World Health Organisation since 2021** to achieve the feat of becoming Nepal's healthiest city.



- **Dhulikhel scored 65.48 points** on various indicators for healthy cities, joining the **WHO Healthy City Network**.
- The evaluations were made on various indicators, including citizens' access to health, their **participation in health policy-making**, political commitment to health, nutrition, child health and innovative health initiatives such as tuberculosis-free and nutrition-friendly programmes, among others.
- The municipality is **awarded USD 5,000 for implementing** various programmes under the Healthy City initiative.
- With a **score of 65.48**, Dhulikhel stands second only to Pune's Banda City in India, which holds the top position as the healthiest city in Asia.

## RESET Programme

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya today launched the “**Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training**” (RESET) Programme on the occasion of National Sports Day in New Delhi.
- On the occasion, Dr. Mandaviya said, “**RESET Programme** is aimed at empowering retired sportspersons who have played for the country and brought immense laurels to the nation.



- The programme will **support retired athletes** on their career development journey by empowering them with the necessary knowledge and skills and making them more employable.
- He mentioned that the **RESET programme will bridge** the gap between generations, allowing the unique skills of our retired athletes to benefit the new generation of aspiring athletes.
- He added that their rich experience will serve as a foundation for nurturing future champions, contributing to the growth of sports in India and fostering nation-building.
- The applications will be invited through a dedicated portal. Initially, the programmes will be of two levels based on educational qualifications of **Class 12th and above** and **Class 11th** and below.

## Karnataka Launches Ovitrap Baskets

- Karnataka has reported around **24,028 dengue cases** and five deaths. To tackle this outbreak, the state’s health department started a pilot project, using **Ovitrap baskets** to attract and monitor mosquitoes.
- **Ovitrap baskets are special traps** designed to attract mosquitoes that breed in containers, like Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus.

- These traps are **dark containers filled with water** and a surface for mosquitoes to lay their eggs on.
- The baskets also have a **mesh to keep** the mosquitoes from escaping and can contain insecticides to kill them. The main purpose of Ovitrap is to keep an eye on mosquito populations.



- When **mosquitoes lay their eggs** in the Ovitrap, the eggs fall into the water. This helps health officials identify areas where mosquitoes are breeding.
- Regular monitoring with Ovitrap allows for quick action to prevent potential dengue outbreaks. Ovitrap have been proven effective for monitoring mosquitoes worldwide.
- Studies show that they can detect **mosquito presence and track population** trends. More advanced versions, **called lethal Ovitrap**, have significantly reduced mosquito populations, with some tests showing an 87% drop in Aedes females caught.
- Countries like Hong Kong, Singapore, and Australia have successfully used Ovitrap for regular mosquito monitoring and dengue control. In Indonesia, Ovitrap with copper effectively killed mosquito larvae, while Taiwan used Ovitrap data to manage dengue outbreaks. The Philippines saw a 97% decrease in dengue cases using larvicidal Ovitrap.

## Whitetopping Technology

- **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** in India is proposing a new policy to repair and upgrade old national highways using a method called Whitetopping Technology.
- **MoRTH is asking for feedback** on this idea from stakeholders by September 7. This policy is needed because many parts of India's national highways, which cover about 1.46 lakh km, are aging and require improvement. Whitetopping is a process where a layer of **Portland Cement Concrete (PCC)** is placed on top of existing bituminous (asphalt) roads.



**WHITE-TOPPING** | A whitetop is a cement concrete layer placed over an existing asphalt pavement. It is stronger than asphalt overlay, and thus more resistant to rutting and surface initiated cracking

**ULTRA-THIN WHITE-TOPPING**  
A type of whitetopping in which a concrete overlay of 50mm to 100mm thickness is placed over a distressed asphalt pavement

**ADVANTAGES**

- ▶ Long life, low maintenance and low life-cycle cost
- ▶ Improved safety and environmental benefits
- ▶ Can help reduce rutting and cracking considerably
- ▶ Improves structural capacity of existing asphalt roads

- This technique is especially useful for roads that have ongoing problems due to poor drainage. Whitetopping has already been used successfully in various government projects, such as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), and cities like Bengaluru.
- Whitetopping offers several advantages compared to traditional asphalt overlays:
- **Longer Lifespan:** It can extend the life of a road by 20-25 years.
- **Less Maintenance:** Roads require fewer repairs and less frequent lane closures. Cost-Effective: Although the initial cost is higher, the long-term savings from reduced maintenance make it a smart investment.
- **Environmental Benefits:** The lighter color of concrete reflects more light, helping to cool urban areas and reduce the heat island effect.
- **Better Performance:** Whitetopping is more resistant to common road issues like deformation, rutting, and cracking, especially in hot climates.

- **Improved Fuel Efficiency:** Vehicles use less fuel when driving on concrete roads compared to asphalt roads.

## Listeria Outbreak

- **More than 50 illnesses** and nine deaths have been reported due Listeria outbreak in US. According to latest data released by the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention CDC, the outbreak has been reported in 18 states with a total of 57 people have been hospitalised.
- This is the largest **listeriosis outbreak since the 2011** linked to cantaloupe. Symptoms of listeria include fever, chills, and headache and can take up to ten weeks to manifest in some individuals.



- Listeria can be very serious for people with weakened immune systems, pregnant women and people over 65. In 2011, more than 30 people died from affected cantaloupe.
- **Listeria monocytogenes** is a type of bacteria found in soil, water, vegetation, and animal feces, which can lead to an infection called listeriosis when ingested through contaminated food.
- **Listeria is a resilient bacterium** that can survive on surfaces, such as meat slicers, and in foods, even at refrigerated temperatures. Reheating foods to a sufficiently high temperature before consumption can eliminate the bacteria.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Which Country Hosts 'International Conference Of Agricultural Economists On**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**2. What Is 'Vattezhuthu'**

- A. Syllabic alphabet
- B. Northeastern festival
- C. Martial art
- D. Classical dance

**ANSWER: A**

**3. What Is 'Genetic Screening'**

- A. Identify Individuals At Higher Risk For Developing A Specific Disorder
- B. A Method To Change An Individual's Genetic Material
- C. A Process To Determine One's Hair Or Eye Color
- D. A Technique To Cure Genetic Disorders

**ANSWER: A**

**4. Auroville Cultural Township, Is Administered By Which Ministry**

- A. Ministry of Culture
- B. Ministry of Education
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry of Urban Development

**ANSWER: B**

**5. Koraput Kalajeera Rice Got GI Status, Is Cultivated In Which State**

- A. Punjab
- B. Odisha
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

**ANSWER: B**



**6. Which Country Won “CAVA Women’s Volleyball Nations League 2024”**

- A. Pakistan
- B. India
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Bangladesh

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Which State Government Released ‘Justice Hema Committee Report’**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**8. What Does The Term ‘Green Shoots’ Refer To**

- A. Investment in eco-friendly projects
- B. Indicators of high inflation
- C. A term used for agricultural growth
- D. Signs of economic recovery or positive data during a downturn

**ANSWER: D**

**9. Government Of Uttar Pradesh Has Inaugurated The State’s First Semiconductor Park In Which City**

- A. Lucknow
- B. Kanpur
- C. Noida
- D. Varanasi

**ANSWER: C**

**10. Umiam Lake Seen In The News, Is Located In Which State**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**11. What Is The Conservation Status Of “Northern Bald Ibis”**

- A. Vulnerable
- B. Endangered
- C. Least Concern
- D. None of the Above

**ANSWER: B**

**12. ‘Typhoon Shanshan’ Has Hit Which Country Recently**

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Japan
- D. Australia

**ANSWER: C**

**13. The Term ‘Axis Of Resistance’, Is Associated With Which Country**

- A. Iran
- B. Australia
- C. US
- D. Myanmar

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Where Was ‘National Conclave: Sangathan Swasthya Samriddhi’ Inaugurated**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**15. Jaldapara National Park, Is Located In Which State**

- A. Odisha
- B. Assam
- C. West Bengal
- D. Bihar

**ANSWER: C**

**16. India Signed The 'Security Of Supplies Arrangement Agreement With Which Country**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Long Range Glide Bomb 'GAURAV', Is Developed By Which Organization**

- A. DRDO
- B. ISRO
- C. HAL
- D. JAXA

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Shiveluch Volcano, Is Located In Which Country**

- A. Malaysia
- B. Indonesia
- C. Russia
- D. Vietnam

**ANSWER: C**

**19. Which Among The Following Bodhisattva Holds Thunderbolt**

- A. Vajrapani
- B. Manjushri
- C. Maitreya
- D. Amitabha

**ANSWER: A**

**20. During The Reign Of Devaraya II Which Of The Following Famous Temples Were Built In Vijaynagar Empire**

- A. Hampi
- B. Hazura
- C. Belgaum
- D. None of them

**ANSWER: A**