

Daily Current Affairs

09 October 2024

Nobel Prize In Physics

- The 2024 **Nobel Prize in Physics** has been awarded to **John J. Hopfield** and **Geoffrey E. Hinton** for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks.



- The two Nobel Laureates used tools from physics to develop methods that form the foundation of **modern-day powerful machine learning**.
- **John Hopfield created** an associative **memory capable of storing** and reconstructing images and other patterns in data.
- **Geoffrey Hinton invented a method** that autonomously identifies properties in data and performs tasks such as recognizing specific elements in images.

PM Modi On Two Day Visit To Vientiane In Laos

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a **two-day visit to Vientiane in Laos** from the 10th of this month. During the visit, Mr. Modi will attend the **21st ASEAN-India Summit** and the **19th East Asia Summit**, with Laos as the current Chair of ASEAN.



- Prime Minister is also expected to hold bilateral meetings on the margins of the summit. theme of this year's **ASEAN summit** is “**ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience**”.
- ASEAN and India together share **7 per cent of the world GDP** and **26 per cent of the world population**. Their combined strength is, therefore, phenomenal. ASEAN is currently India’s 4th largest trading partner, and India is ASEAN’s 7th largest trade partner.



WAZA Conservation Award

- **Red Panda Program of Darjeeling’s Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park** has been selected as a finalist for the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) Conservation Award 2024.
- Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has undertaken several habitat restoration initiatives in collaboration with various institutions and the government of India.



- Between 2022 and 2024, **nine captive-bred red pandas** (seven females and two males) were released into **Singalila National Park in West Bengal**.
- The zoo's conservation efforts are strengthened by its Biobanking and Genetic Resource Facility, wherein gametes, tissues, and DNA of Red Pandas and other endangered species will be preserved for future use.
- **The winner for the WAZA award** will be announced on the 7th of next month at the 79th WAZA Annual Conference in Australia's Tarong Zoo.

'Humsafar Policy'

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** launched the **'Humsafar Policy'** in **New Delhi** to enhance the convenience of traveling on national highways and accelerate the development of wayside amenities.
- Addressing the gathering, Mr. Gadkari said that **local marginal sections of society** will benefit from this initiative.



- He also underscored that this scheme will facilitate smooth, safe, and pleasant journeys for users. Mr. Gadkari highlighted that this policy will be **environmentally friendly, which has been prepared** with ecology and cleanliness in perspective. He further mentioned that water conservation, soil conservation, waste recycling, and solar energy have been kept in mind while formulating the policy.
- The Highways Minister also called upon the owners of petrol pumps to ensure basic amenities at their stations.
- **The 'Humsafar' policy will benefit commuters** by enabling access to standardized, well-maintained, and hygienic facilities. Commuters can find details of relevant service providers near their location instantly through the **'Rajmarg Yatra' app**.

India Eliminates Trachoma As Public Health Problem

- World Health Organization, WHO has declared that this year India has **eliminated trachoma as a public health problem**.
- With this, **India has become the third country** in the Southeast Asia Region to achieve this milestone. The WHO officially certified India during its Regional Committee meeting in New Delhi.



**World Health
Organization**

- **Trachoma is a contagious bacterial infection** that affects the eyes and spreads through the eyes, eyelids, nose, or throat secretions of infected people.
- **During 1950-60, trachoma** was among the leading **causes of blindness** in the country. To tackle the spread, the government of India launched the National Trachoma Control Program in 1963.

Stages of trachoma



1.
Infection caused by Chlamydia bacterium causes inflammation and thickens the upper eyelid



2.
Scarring of the eyelid pulls the eyelashes into the eye



3.
The eyelashes scratch the cornea and continue to infect and damage the eye, which can lead to blindness


Nijut Moina Scheme

- **Assam government** has started an important program called the '**Nijut Moina**' scheme to fight against child marriage. This initiative **aims to encourage girls** to continue their education, especially since child marriage has been a serious problem in the state.



- '**Nijut Moina**' scheme provides **monthly financial support**, known as stipends, to girl students from Class 11 up to postgraduate levels.
- Here's how much they will receive:
 - Rs 1,000 for girls in Classes 11 and 12.
 - Rs 1,250 for girls studying for their degree.
 - Rs 2,500 for girls pursuing postgraduate studies.

- **To get these stipends, students must meet two main conditions:**
- They need to attend school regularly and perform well in their studies.
- They must promise to **delay their marriage until** they have finished their postgraduate education.
- It's important to note that daughters of government officials cannot benefit from this scheme.
- The initiative, led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, aims to eliminate child marriage in Assam by 2026. By providing financial assistance, the scheme encourages girls to continue their education instead of marrying at a young age.



Important Decisions

of Govt. of Assam

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June 12, 2024

▶

Empowering Girl Students through Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina

- ▶ In a push to increase enrolment of girl students in higher education, the Cabinet has accorded approval to provide financial assistance to girl students under the **Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina** scheme to be offered as Admission Assistance
- ▶ **Girl students** enrolled in Higher Secondary, Degree First Year and PG First Year of Government and Venture Schools, Colleges and Universities **irrespective of their economic status are eligible for this scheme**
- ▶ The admission incentive will be provided to the girl students as per the following schedule
 - For students enrolled in Class XI: ₹1,000 per month over a period of 10 months, totalling **₹10,000**
 - For students enrolled in Graduation 1st year (B.A./B.Sc/B.Com): ₹1,250 per month over a period of 10 months, totalling **₹12,500**
 - For students enrolled in Post Graduation 1st year (BEd/M.A./M.Sc/M.Com): ₹2,500 per month for a period of 10 months, totalling **₹25,000** (by merging Mobility grant under Pragyan Bharati scheme with Nijut Moina scheme)
 - However, for the current academic session, benefits can be availed for 9 months
- ▶ From the second year onwards, no application needs to be submitted. A certificate from the head of the institution, certifying her continuity in the institution will be sufficient for availing benefits

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WHO South-East Asia Session

- India's Minister of Health, **JP Nadda**, has been elected as the Chairperson for the **77th Session (RC77) of the World Health Organization (WHO)** South-East Asia Region. This meeting is an annual event where health ministers and other important officials **come together to talk about major health issues** that affect over two billion people in this region.



- This region of the **WHO includes 11 countries**, such as India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. It is one of the **largest regions in the world**, with more than **25% of the global population** living here. Due to its size and diversity, it faces unique health challenges that need to be addressed.
- **The RC77 session is focused on identifying** key health priorities and improving healthcare access for all. The representatives will work together to come up with plans to solve emerging health problems and strengthen healthcare systems in their countries.
- **Razia Pendse, the WHO Chef de Cabinet**, outlined several major health challenges in the region, including:
 - The **rise of non-communicable diseases**, like heart disease and diabetes, as well as mental health problems.
 - **High rates of newborn** and child mortality (children under 5 years of age).
 - The **growing problem of antimicrobial resistance** (when bacteria and viruses no longer respond to medicines).
 - **The ongoing crisis of tuberculosis**, a disease that still affects many in this region.
- In his opening speech, JP Nadda emphasized the importance of working together across countries to improve health. He said that **“health transcends**

borders,” meaning that countries should share knowledge and experiences to build better health systems for everyone.

Women’s Asian Champions Trophy

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar unveiled the **logo and mascot** for the **Women’s Asian Champions Trophy 2024**. Scheduled to take place in Rajgir from November 11 to 20, the tournament will **feature the mascot named ‘Gudiya,’** inspired by **Bihar’s state bird, the sparrow.**
- **The mascot, named ‘Gudiya,’** is inspired by **Bihar’s state bird, the Sparrow.**
- **Gudiya holds a hockey stick,** symbolizing the sport, while the goalkeeper’s glove and defensive posture represent alertness and strategy.



- A nearby hockey ball signifies teamwork and sportsmanship.
- competition is for women hockey players. So the **Gudiya mascot** has been chosen as a symbol to reinforce the priority and commitment of the Bihar government to women empowerment.
- **The design of the ‘logo’ of this competition** is a symbol of the rich cultural heritage and all-round progress of glorious Bihar.
- The **Bodhi tree and hockey stick** have been kept in the logo.
- The **Bodhi tree is a symbol of knowledge,** power, harmony, tolerance and development which connects people with the rich spiritual and cultural history of Bihar.
- Hockey stick is the symbol of India’s national sport hockey.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When Is National Wildlife Week 2024 Observed

- A. September 1-7
- B. October 2-8
- C. November 10-16
- D. December 20-26

ANSWER: B

2. Which State Government Launched “Nijut Moina Scheme” For Girls Education

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

ANSWER: A

3. Shigeru Ishiba Has Been Elected As PM Of Which Country

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

ANSWER: C

4. Which Country Developed The Hypersonic Ballistic Missile Named “Fattah-2”

- A. Russia
- B. Israel
- C. Iran
- D. China

ANSWER: C

5. Which African Country Reported An Outbreak Of The Marburg Virus

- A. Tanzania
- B. Kenya
- C. Somalia
- D. Rwanda

ANSWER: D

6. Peechi Wildlife Sanctuary, Is Located In Which State

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Kerala
- C. Karnataka
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: B

7. What Is Primary Reservoir Of Rocahepevirus Ratti Strain Of Hepatitis E Virus

- A. Pigs
- B. Rats
- C. Mosquitoes
- D. Birds

ANSWER: B

8. Mahakaleshwar Temple, In News Due To Temple Collapse, Is Located In Which State

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Karnataka
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: D

9. Which Ministry Has Launched The “Jal Hi AMRIT” Program

- A. Ministry of Jal Shakti
- B. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- C. Ministry of Urban Development
- D. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

ANSWER: B

10. What is the objective of ‘SARTHIE 1.0’ initiative

- A. Increase the GDP of the country
- B. Empower disadvantaged communities through awareness and legal support
- C. Promote tourism in India
- D. Enhance digital literacy among youth

ANSWER: B

11. Who Received ' Kalaiah Krishnamurthy National Award' For Research Work On Gummy Stem Blight In Bottle Gourd

- A. SS Dey
- B. Dhananjaya M.V.
- C. Asima Chatterjee
- D. Jayant Deshmukh

ANSWER: B

12. VIPER Mission, Is Associated With Which Space Organization

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

ANSWER: C

13. What Is ' Sarco Pod'

- A. Euthanasia device
- B. Space craft
- C. Invasive weed
- D. Large Language Model

ANSWER: A

14. Theme Of Annual Indian Navy Conference "Indo-pacific Regional Dialogue 2024"

- A. Resource-Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific
- B. Evolving Maritime-Strategies within the Indo-Pacific
- C. Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative
- D. Geopolitical Impacts Upon Indo-Pacific Maritime Trade and Connectivity

ANSWER: A

15. Which Organization Successfully Traced The Flow Of The Sahibi River

- A. Archaeological Survey of India
- B. National Monuments Authority
- C. National Institute of Hydrology
- D. Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

ANSWER: D

16. Which Ministry Recently Launched The People's Plan Campaign

- A. Ministry of Rural Development
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: C

17. What Is 'Vuhledar', Captured By Russian Forces In Ukraine

- A. Historical city
- B. Coal mining town
- C. Military base
- D. Gun factory

ANSWER: B

18. Who have been awarded the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2024

- A. Vera Voronova and Ysabel Agustina Calderón Carlos
- B. Jane Goodall and David Attenborough
- C. Assad Serhal and Alfred Oteng-Yeboah
- D. Kathy MacKinnon and Greta Thunberg

ANSWER: A

19. Cabinet Declared Which Day As 'National Space Day' In India

- A. August 20
- B. August 23
- C. August 25
- D. August 27

ANSWER: B

20. In Which Country Will India Participate In The Euronaval 2024 Event

- A. Germany
- B. France
- C. United Kingdom
- D. Italy

ANSWER: B