



13 October 2023

National and International News

<p>India reiterates the call for a 'sovereign Palestine state'</p>	<p>Context India reiterated its call for the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state saying that there was an "obligation" to uphold humanitarian principles.</p> <p>India's stand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's position on Palestine has been "long-standing and consistent". • India always advocated the resumption of direct negotiations towards establishing a sovereign, independent, and viable state of Palestine, living within secure and recognized borders, side by side at peace with Israel.
<p>Retail inflation cooled from 6.83% in Aug. to 5% in Sept.</p>	<p>Context India's retail inflation eased from 6.83% in August to 5.02% in September with the rise in food prices easing to 6.6% from almost 10%.</p> <p>About the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (RBI Act) has been amended by the Finance Act, 2016 to provide for a statutory and standardized framework for an MPC. • The MPC is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) required to contain inflation within the specified target level. • MPC will have six members - the RBI Governor (Chairperson), the RBI Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, one official nominated by the RBI Board, and the remaining three members will represent the Government of India. • The MPC makes decisions based on a majority vote. In case of a tie, the RBI governor will have the second or casting vote. • The decision of the MPC would be binding on the RBI.
<p>Inflation cooled to 5% in September</p>	<p>Key facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rajasthan and Haryana recorded the steepest inflation at 6.5%. • Inflation was the lowest in Chhatisgarh at 1.98% • It was below the 5% mark in eight other States, including Tamil Nadu (4.5%), Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal (3.7% each), and Kerala (4.7%). • Costs of services like health, up 5.9% in September, and personal care, up 8.5%, are still rising.



Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023



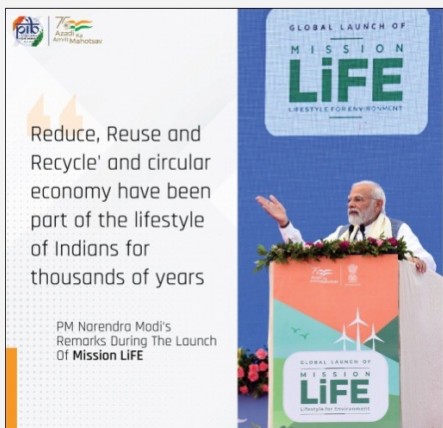
Context

- India ranks **111 out of a total of 125 countries** in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023, with its progress against hunger nearly halted since 2015, reflecting a global trend.
- The Union government, though, contested India's performance for the third year in a row, citing flawed methodology.

Key points

- India's ranking is based on a GHI score of **28.7** on a 100-point scale
- This categorizes India's severity of hunger as "serious".
- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool for **comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger** at global, regional, and national levels.
- GHI scores are based on the values of four component indicators:
 1. Undernourishment
 2. Child stunting
 3. Child wasting
 4. Child mortality
- The GHI score is calculated on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger - zero is the best score (implies no hunger) and 100 is the worst.
- The GHI is prepared by European NGOs of **Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe**.

Parliamentary Forum on 'LiFE: Lifestyle for Environment'



Context

- The Speaker addressed the Parliamentary Forum on 'LiFE: Lifestyle for Environment', ahead of the ninth G-20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P-20).
- The pre-P-20 Summit event focused on Mission Lifestyle.

About LiFE Mission

- Mission LiFE, or Lifestyle for Environment, is an India-led global mass movement to nudge individual and community action to protect and preserve the environment.
- It was launched by the Indian Prime Minister at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (**COP26**) in Glasgow in November 2021.
- The program hopes to "mobilize one billion Indians as well as people in other countries to become individuals who practice sustainable lifestyles.
- The global movement will showcase sustainable goals and climate actions taken by countries and individuals around the world
- It emboldens the spirit of the P3 model, i.e. **Pro Planet People**.
- It functions on the basic principles of 'Lifestyle of the planet, for the planet and by the planet'.



IIP rises at a 14-month high of 10.3%

Context

India's industrial output surged at a 14-month high pace of 10.3% in August, from a revised 6% rise in July, aided by favorable base effects

About IIP

- It is one of the Prime indicators of economic development for the measurement of trends in the behavior of Industrial Production over a period of time with reference to a chosen base year.
- It indicates the relative change of physical production in the field of industries during a specified year as compared to the previous year.
- It is computed and published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) on a monthly basis.
- The current base year for the IIP series in India is 2011-12.

About Eight Core Sectors

- These comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- The eight core sector industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.

World Arthritis Day



Context

October 12 is marked as World Arthritis Day.

Key points

- This year 2023, the World Arthritis Day Theme is "**Living with an RMD at all stages of life**"
- Arthritis is an inflammatory joint disorder that affects the joints tissues around the joint, and other connective tissues, causing joint pain and stiffness.
- The most common are **osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis**.

PM Modi to inaugurate 141st IOC session

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **141st International Olympic Committee (IOC)** session at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai.
- India is hosting the IOC session for the second time after a gap of about 40 years.

Key points

- The IOC session serves as a key meeting of the members of the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**.
- Important decisions regarding the future of the Olympic games are made at the IOC Sessions.



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- The 141st IOC session, being held in India, embodies the nation's dedication to fostering global cooperation, celebrating sporting excellence, and furthering the Olympic ideals of friendship, respect, and excellence.
- It provides an opportunity for interaction and knowledge sharing among the various sports-related stakeholders.

Kerala Regional News

Decline in patronage for coconut farming in Kerala.

In news:

- **Low prices and high labor costs hit coconut cultivation**

Key Points:

- Factors contributing to the decline include **increased land value, low prices, and high labor costs.**
- Kerala's coconut productivity is much lower compared to **Andhra Pradesh.**
- The Coconut Development Board (CDB) established "**Friends of Coconut Tree (FoST)**" to assist farmers with coconut climbing, but most trainees have left the profession.

Zhen Hua 15



In news:

- The Zhen Hua 15, a ship from **China, arrived at Vizhinjam Port**, the deep-water international port.

Key Points:

- The Vizhinjam port is expected to be commissioned by May next year, with 75% of the breakwater construction already complete.
- The port is being developed as a **public-private partnership project with the Adani Group** as the private partner.

Think:

Read about Ports in Kerala.

Development projects worth 1617 cr

In news:

- Nine mega industrial clusters are coming up in the **Kanjikode industrial area** as part of the **Kochi-Bangalore Industrial Corridor.**



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Key points:

- 1,377 acres of land have been set aside for this purpose.
- 33 percent of this will be converted into a **green belt**
- **Mega clusters** include food, light engineering, gems, plastics, e-waste, solid waste recycling, oil and natural gas industries, machinery and equipment manufacturing, apparel, and pharmaceutical manufacturing units, electronics, IT, logistics, and automotive
- Hospitals and schools are to be set up in the area.

'Five-star' effort to revamp 22 beaches

In news:

- A 5 member group of friends have taken up the task of cleaning beaches.

Key Points:

- **Kattoor Beach** is currently undergoing a cleaning process.
- Their association is named '**Opulence in Action**'
- **Edison Anthony**, a businessman, came up with such an idea after getting distressed witnessing plastic waste on beaches.

Read about:

Blue flag certification for Beaches in India

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