



23 September 2023

National and International News

<p><b>United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)</b></p>	<p><b>Contexts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 78th session of the UN General Assembly session was held recently.</li> </ul> <p><b>About the UN General Assembly (UNGA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The UNGA is the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN.</li> <li>All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly.</li> <li>UNGA meets annually in session where general debate and discussion is held which many heads of state attend and address.</li> <li>Decisions on important questions, such as admission of new members and budgetary matters require a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.</li> <li>Decisions on other questions are by a simple majority.</li> <li>The President of the General Assembly is elected each year by the assembly to serve a one-year term of office.</li> </ul> <p><b>Did you know?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>UNGA is the only body with universal representation.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Constitution Bench has decided to check the validity of the 104th AA</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <p>Constitution Bench decided to examine whether Parliament can use its constituent power to repeatedly amend Article 334</p> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Article 334</b> of the constitution is related to the <b>reservation of seats for SC/ST in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies</b> to cease after a certain period.</li> <li>It was originally provided for ten years but the article has been amended several times to continue the reservation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Did you know?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 15(4) and Article 16(4) of the Indian Constitution allow the federal government and state governments to reserve seats in government services for members of the SC and ST communities.</li> </ul>



# Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

## Oldest fossils of a plant-eating dinosaur found in Rajasthan



### Context

The fossils of dinosaurs were found in the Thar desert near the Jaisalmer Basin.

### Key points

- Scientists from IIT Roorkee have characterized the dinosaur fossils from the **Middle Jurassic period**.
- They discovered that they had uncovered the remains of a **sauropod dinosaur**.
- They are the same as **Clade, the long-necked herbivores in Jurassic Park**.
- It may be the oldest known fossil of this kind.
- These fossils are the **first sauropods** of the Dicraeosaurus family to have been found in India.
- At 167 million years old, they are **the oldest known diplodocus fossils in the world**.
- The scientists named the dinosaur Titanosaurus indicus, with Tharo deriving from the Thar desert.

## Geological survey of india

### About:

- It was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways.
- Its HQ is in Kolkata
- Over the years, it has grown into a repository of geo-science information required in various fields in the country..
- It also emphasizes systematic documentation of all geological processes, both surface and subsurface, of India and its offshore areas.
- The main functions of the GSI relate to the creation and update of national geoscientific information and mineral resource assessment.
- Presently, GSI is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines.

## CM Chouhan unveils 'Statue of Oneness' in Omkareshwar



### Context

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled a gigantic statue of Adi Guru Shankaracharya on the Mandhata hillock at Omkareshwar in Khandwa district.

### Key points

- It is called the Ekatmata ki Murti (Statue of Oneness).
- The 108-foot-tall statue portrays the 8th-century Indian philosopher and theologian, who consolidated the **doctrine of Advaita Vedanta**.



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- The unveiling is part of the ambitious **Ekatma Dham project of the State government** and marks the initiation of its first phase.
- The government wants to develop it along the lines of the **Mahakal Lok corridor as a major destination for spiritual-religious tourism.**

**Adi Shankaracharya**

- He was an Indian philosopher and theologian, Sankara (Jagatguru), and was a firm believer in ancient Hinduism.
- He took guidance from guru Govinda Bhagavatpada under whom he studied '**GaudapadiyaKarika**', 'Brahmasutra', Vedas, and Upanishads.
- Shankara propagated 'Advaita Vedanta' and 'Dashanami Sampradaya'

**Did you know?**

**Advaita Vedanta school advocates monism i.e. soul and Brahman are not distinguished but one.**

**India's rank 87 in the Economic Freedom Index**

**Context**

India has fallen one notch to the 87th position out of 165 countries.

**Key facts:**

- The 'Economic Freedom of the World: 2021 Report' released by Canada's Fraser Institute.
- It is released annually

**About economic freedom index**

- It measures the degree of economic freedom enjoyed by the nation
- As economic freedom protects the liberty of an individual to pursue their own economic interest
- Economic freedom promotes greater prosperity for the larger society.

**Did you know?**

According to the report, the poor rank shows the country's dependability.

**U.N.'s Climate Ambition Summit(CAS)**

**Context**

Major economies China, India, and the US did not attend the summit.



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### Key points

- The CAS happened at the 78th session of UNGA
- China, the United States, and India, are collectively responsible for **42% of global greenhouse gas emissions.**
- The CAS aimed to showcase leaders with credible actions and policies **to uphold the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C degree goal** and promote climate justice.

### Did you know?

India has specified the target of net zero by 2070.

## Kerala Regional News

### Neelakurinji

#### In News:

Neelakurinji is a name given to **the biodiversity knowledge center** which provides tourists with information on Idukki's biodiversity

#### Key facts

- The center will be opened at Adimaly, the entry point of the Munnar hill station.
- The center has been set up by the **State Haritha Keralam Mission**, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Idukki district panchayat.
- The knowledge center will be housed at Government High School at Adimaly.
- It has 3D models of evergreen forests.
- A 3D map provides a clear picture of the biodiversity hotspots in Munnar, highlighting the plants, animals, birds, fish, and reptiles of the area.

#### Did you know?

Neelakurinji is a flower that blooms once every 12 years and is found in the shola forests of the western ghats.

### State Haritha Keralam Mission



#### Key Points:

- The Haritha Keralam Mission is a comprehensive environmental protection and development program.
- launched by the Government of Kerala in 2018.
- The mission aims to make Kerala a green and sustainable state through a number of initiatives,

#### Initiatives

1. Increasing forest cover
2. Promoting organic farming
3. Protecting water resources
4. Managing waste effectively



## 5. Creating awareness about environmental issues

**Brahmins Global Meet****In News:**

The second edition of Brahmins Global Meet is starting today in Palakkad and is organized by Kerala Brahmin Sabha

**Key Points:**

- It is a biennial event will be held at Club 6 Convention Centre in Palakkad from September 22 to 24
- At least 3,000 persons from India and abroad will participate in the meeting.
- On the first day of the meeting, a session on the “**Importance of Vedic knowledge in modern times**” will be held.
- It was first held in 2019 in Kochi
- The BGM is a platform for Brahmins from all over the world to come together to discuss and address issues facing the community, such as education, employment, and social welfare.

**Bhagavati Kandam****In News:**

Bhagavati Kandam tradition held in the Paddy field of Angadipuram village in Malappuram district helps bonds of community

**Key Points:**

- Every year, devotees of Thirumandhamkunnu bhagavathy gather for the ‘**Nadeel Yatnam**’, the planting of paddy seedlings, on 1.88 acres of land, known as **Bhagavathi Kandam**.
- The Yatnam event draws participants and onlookers from outside Angadipuram.
- This tradition helps to bond the community
- The tradition believes in securing blessings from bhagavati

**About Bhagwathi Kandam**

- The Bhagavathi Kandam is the **third book of the Skanda Purana**, a Hindu scripture.
- It is dedicated to the goddess Bhagavathi, also known as Durga, Kali, and Parvati.
- The Bhagavathi Kandam **contains stories about the goddess's exploits**, as well as **her teachings on various subjects**, such as philosophy, yoga, and meditation.



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### Energy Management Award

#### In News:

The **Malabar union of the Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation** also known as MILMA has bagged the national energy management award

#### Key facts

- The award is instituted by the Society of Energy Engineers and Managers (SEEM).
- it recognizes organizations or individuals that have demonstrated excellence in energy management.
- Energy management is the process of overseeing and optimizing energy consumption in order to reduce costs, improve efficiency, and reduce environmental impact.
- The award was granted under the category of Food and Beverages (Dairy).

#### Did you know ?

- The award was a recognition of the efforts taken by the Milma to implement new energy conservation models in the industry.



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