

# Regent Education and Research Foundation Group of Institutions

## Daily Current Affairs Synopsis

Date: 25th NOV 2023

(Useful for UPSC/WBPSC/SSC Exams.)

- The directions were issued on a plea seeking a proportionate representation of the **Limbu and Tamang tribal communities in Sikkim and West Bengal assemblies.**
- The SC's decision was made to **ensure the rights** as guaranteed under
  - ⊖ **Articles 330** (reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the House of People) and
  - ⊖ **Article 332** (reservation of seats for SCs and STs in legislative assemblies of states) of the Constitution,
  - ⊖ To prevent a violation of **Article 14** (equality before law).

### Delimitations in India

- ⊖ The Delimitation Commission has been set up **four times since independence i.e. in 1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002.**
- ⊖ **In 1976, the 42nd Constitutional Amendment** froze this delimitation exercise until the first Census after 2000 was published.
- ⊖ **In 2002, the 84th Constitutional Amendment** further extended the freeze for 25 years **till 2026.**

- **Delimitation Commission: Under Article 82 of the Constitution,** the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act.
  - ⊖ It is responsible for the **readjustment of the constituencies** (number and boundaries) of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies **after every Census.**
  - ⊖ **Its decisions are considered final** and are unchallengeable in any court.
  - ⊖ The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but **no modifications are permissible therein by them.**
- ⊖ **Composition:**
  - ◆ A **SC judge** (Current or retired) acts as **Chairman**
  - ◆ The **Chief Election Commissioner of India** or an Election Commissioner nominated by him/her.
  - ◆ Respective **State's Election Commissioner.**

## Prime Minister (PM) participated in the 525th birth anniversary celebration of Sant Meerabai in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh

- **About Meerabai (1498-1546)**
  - ⊖ Meera Bai is one of the **great saint poets of the Bhakti movement.**
    - ◆ She was a **Saguna Bhakt** and held a **deep devotion to Lord Krishna**, whom she considered her husband.
  - ⊖ **Early Life and Marriage:**
    - ◆ She was born to Rajput King **Ratan Singh in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.**
    - ◆ In 1516, she was married to **Bhoj Raj** (son of Rana Sanga and prince of Mewar) who died in 1521.
  - ⊖ **Devotion to Lord Krishna:**
    - ◆ She refused to be a part of the royal household and **moved to Brindavan in pursuit of her devotion.**
    - ◆ She is believed to have **spent her last years in Dwarka.**
  - ⊖ **Composition**
    - ◆ She composed her poems in the **Rajasthani dialect of Hindi and Braj**
    - ◆ **'Mere to giridhar gopal'**, and **"Paayoji maine Ram Ratan dhan paayo"** is her most famous poem.
    - ◆ **Robert Bly and Jane Hirshfield** in **'Meerabai: Ecstatic Poems'** rendered some of her poems into English.
  - ⊖ **Social Reformer:**
    - ◆ She was a disciple of **Saint Ravidas** who hailed from a caste considered **"untouchable".**
    - ◆ Her religious pursuits **challenged societal norms for princesses and widows.**



### About Bhakti Movement

- ⊖ Bhakti means **personal devotion to God.**
- ⊖ The **Bhakti saints** advocated for **attaining God through devotion (bhakti)** rather than adhering to rules, regulations, or societal structures.
- ⊖ In North India, the **religious movement of this period lies between 1300 – 1550 A.D**
- ⊖ This tradition of Bhakti is classified into two categories:
  - ◆ **saguna** (with attributes): Worship of **specific deities** with **Anthropomorphic forms** such as Shiva, Vishnu, goddess.
  - ◆ **Nirguna** (without attributes): It was a worship of an abstract form of God.
- ⊖ **Guru Nanak, Tulsidas, Kabirdas, Ravidas and Surdas** among others are famous saints belong to this movement.

## Right To Information (RTI) Act, 2005

- ▶ **Department of Personnel and Training** issued a notification under section 24 (2) of the RTI Act, 2005 adding CERT-In in the Second Schedule of the RTI Act.
  - ⊖ **RTI act provides the right to citizens to secure access to information** under the control of public authorities, to promote transparency and accountability.
- ▶ **Section 24 of the RTI Act:** It says that this law is not applicable to the intelligence and security organizations specified in the Second Schedule.
  - ⊖ However, the information pertaining to the **allegations of corruption and human rights violations shall not be excluded.**
  - ⊖ The second Schedule **includes intelligence and security agencies** under its ambit like RAW, IB, etc. After CERT-in it has 27 agencies.
- ▶ **Other exemptions under RTI**
  - ⊖ Certain categories of information have been exempted from disclosure under **sections 8,9,10 and 11** like, information affecting the **sovereignty and integrity of India**, records of deliberations of the Council of Ministers, information forbidden by court of law, etc.
  - ⊖ **Section 8(2)**, states that information exempted under sub-section (1) and the Official Secrets Act, 1923 can be disclosed if **the public interest in disclosure outweighs the harm to the protected interest.**

## International Energy Agency (IEA) releases “Emissions from Oil and Gas Operations in Net Zero Transitions” report

- ▶ **Key highlights**
  - ⊖ Around **15% of global energy-related emissions** stem from the production, transport, and processing of **oil and gas**.
  - ⊖ Use of **oil and gas** contributes to **another 40% of emissions**.
  - ⊖ **US\$600 billion** would be required to **halve the emissions intensity** of oil and gas operations globally by 2030.
- ▶ **Recommendations to reduce emissions of oil and gas sector**
  - ⊖ **Minimise methane emissions:** Methane is responsible for **around 30% of rise in global temperatures** since Industrial Revolution.
  - ⊖ **Eliminating all non-emergency flaring:** Non-emergency flaring happens when oil field operators choose to burn the "associated" gas that comes with oil production.
    - ◆ Operators may **invest in equipment and pipelines to capture "associated" gas.**
  - ⊖ **Electrify upstream operations:** Electrifying operations (including drilling rigs, pumps, compressors, etc.) cuts in half CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from upstream energy use in 2030.
  - ⊖ **Deployment of CCUS:** Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) **involves capture of CO<sub>2</sub>** from large point sources like power generation.
    - ◆ **This captured CO<sub>2</sub>** is compressed, transported, and either **used in various applications or injected into deep geological formations.**
  - ⊖ **Use of low-emissions electrolysis hydrogen** (i.e., using electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen).

## For the first time, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare introduced generic drugs for treating four rare diseases

- ▶ **Price** of these unbranded generic versions of medicine for the **four rare diseases** will be **100 times lower** than the current market value of the branded drugs.
- ▶ **Four Rare disease are**
  - ⊖ **Tyrosinemia-Type 1:** An **autosomal recessive genetic metabolic disorder** characterised by lack of **Fumarylacetoacetate hydrolase enzyme** (needed for the final breakdown of the amino acid tyrosine)
  - ⊖ **Gaucher's Disease:** Inherited metabolic disorder characterised by lack of **glucocerebrosidase enzyme** needed for **breaks down lipids**
  - ⊖ **Wilson's Disease:** An autosomal recessive disorder caused by **abnormal copper accumulation in the body** particularly involving the brain, liver, and cornea.
  - ⊖ **Dravet or Lennox Gastaut Syndrome- seizures:** A genetic epilepsy
- ▶ **About rare disease**
  - ⊖ WHO defines rare disease as often **debilitating lifelong disease or disorder** with a prevalence of **1 or less, per 1000 population.**
  - ⊖ It collectively afflicts **6-8% of the population** in any country at any given time.
  - ⊖ **India** could have **8.4 crore to 10 crore** such cases.
  - ⊖ Nearly 80% of these diseases are **genetic in nature.**
- ▶ **Challenges:** Late diagnosis due to lack of awareness, unavailability of treatment, Prohibitive cost of treatment, etc.

### Key initiative for rare diseases

- ⊖ **National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD), 2021:** Financial support of **up to Rs. 50 lakhs** to rare disease patients for treatment in any of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) mentioned in NPRD. **Exemption from Basic Customs Duty** to Rare Diseases drugs when imported by CoEs or a person or institution (on the recommendations of CoE) for personal use.
- ⊖ **Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Pharmaceuticals** covers orphan drugs (drugs of rare diseases).

## Welfare (MoA&FW) launched the training of Krishi Sakhis for the promotion of Natural Farming

- The initiative aimed to train and certify **50,000 Krishi Sakhis** in a phased manner by the National Centre for Organic and Natural Farming (NCONF).
  - ⊕ NCONF is a subordinate office of the MoA&FW.
- They will be trained under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.
  - ⊕ DAY-NRLM is a poverty alleviation program of MoRD that enables poor households in rural areas to access **gainful self-employment and skilled-wage employment opportunities**.
- **Krishi Sakhis:** They are practicing farmers and trained para-extension professionals in agriculture at the grassroots level.
  - ⊕ They **encourage the adoption** of environmentally friendly and economically viable agricultural methods by **raising awareness**.
- **Natural farming:** it is a chemical-free farming system with an understanding of ecology, resource recycling, and on-farm resource optimization.
  - ⊕ It aims at **restoring soil health, maintaining diversity, ensuring animal welfare, stressing on efficient use of natural/local resources, and promoting ecological fairness**.
  - ⊕ **Challenges associated:** susceptible to pest attacks, time-consuming, labor-intensive, etc.
  - ⊕ **Initiative to promote natural farming:** National Mission on Natural Farming, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, etc.



### Beejamrit

The process includes treatment of seed using cow dung, urine and lime based formulations.

### Whapasa

The process involves activating earthworms in the soil in order to create water vapor condensation.

## COMPONENTS OF NATURAL FARMING



### Jivamrit

The process enhances the fertility of soil using cow urine, dung, flour of pulses and jaggery concoction.

### Mulching

The process involves creating micro climate using different mulches with trees, crop biomass to conserve soil moisture.

### Plant Protection

The process involves spraying of biological concoctions which prevents pest, disease and weed problems and protects the plant and improves their soil fertility.

## Also in News



### 9th schedule of the Constitution

**Bihar government asked Centre to include recently amended laws (raising caste-based quotas from 50% to 65%) in 9th schedule.**

#### ➤ 9th schedule

- ⊕ It was added to Constitution by **1st Constitutional Amendment (1951)** under **Article 31B**.
- ⊕ Central and state laws included in 9th schedule cannot be challenged in courts for violation of **Fundamental Rights**.
- ⊕ However, Supreme Court in **I R Coelho v State of Tamil Nadu (2007)**, ruled that any law added to 9th Schedule after April 24, 1973, violating fundamental rights **can be challenged if:**
  - ◆ it undermines the basic structure, as outlined in **Article 21** along with **Articles 14 and 19**.



### Cashew crop

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA)**, facilitated the export of over 30 tonnes of cashew on National Cashew Day (23rd November).
- **About Cashew**
  - ⊕ **Origin:** Native to **Brazil**; it was introduced in the Malabar coast in the **16th century**.
  - ⊕ **Soil and climate:** Well-drained deep sandy loam soils.
    - ◆ **Temperature:** Range of 20 to 38 degree Celsius.
    - ◆ **Relative humidity:** 60 to 95%
    - ◆ **Annual precipitation:** 2000 to 3500 mm.
  - ⊕ **India is the second largest producer and exporter** of Cashew Nuts.
  - ⊕ **Major Cashew producing states:** Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.



### Coseismic ionospheric perturbations (CIP)

- A study has revealed that even smaller earthquakes have their reflection in the ionosphere.
- Earthquakes generate ionospheric disturbances that are referred to as CIP.
- Coseismic vertical crustal movements excite acoustic waves in the atmosphere.
  - ⊕ These waves propagate to reach the ionosphere, causing disturbances in electrons along the line of sights connecting ground **Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)** receivers and satellites.
- The CIPs can help to observe earthquake sources from space and may pave the way for deciphering earthquake precursors using space-based observations.



### Avian influenza A(H9N2) virus

- Union Health Ministry is closely monitoring the reported outbreak of **H9N2 in China**.
- H9N2 is a subtype of the influenza A virus, which causes human influenza (rare) as well as bird flu.
- H9N2 viruses are found worldwide in wild birds and are endemic in poultry in many areas.
- Transmission of virus infection can take place due to exposure to infected poultry or contaminated environments.
- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Institute of High-Security Animal Diseases (ICAR-NIHSAD)** has developed an 'Inactivated low pathogenic avian influenza (H9N2) vaccine for chickens'.





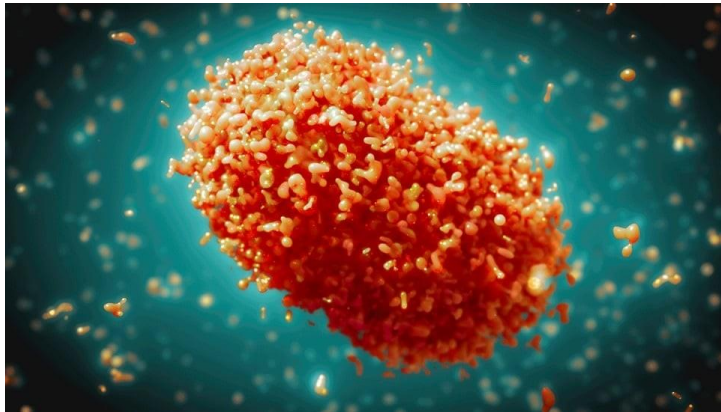
## India's banking liquidity deficit at near 5-year high

- In banking system **Liquidity deficit (LD)** means banks do not have sufficient funds for credit demands by customers.
  - ⊖ **Tightened monetary policy, Payments of advance tax and GST by businesses** (shifting money away from banking system) are being considered as key reasons for LD.
- **RBI controls liquidity in banking system** through a **Liquidity Adjustment Facility** (operates through Repo and Reverse Repo auctions).
  - ⊖ **Additional instruments for liquidity management:** Marginal standing facility, Statutory Liquidity ratio, etc.



## Monkeypox (mpox)

- WHO confirms sexual spread of mpox in Congo for the 1st time as the country sees a record outbreak.
- **About mpox:**
  - ⊖ It is an **infectious disease caused by the monkeypox virus.**
  - ⊖ **Symptoms:** painful rash, enlarged lymph nodes, and fever.
  - ⊖ The **natural reservoir of the virus is unknown** – various small mammals such as squirrels and monkeys are susceptible. **Person-to-person transmission** of mpox can occur through direct contact with infectious skin or other lesions.
  - ⊖ Initially limited to **certain African countries until early 2022**, it later spread globally.



## World's largest solar facilities

- Recently launched **Noor Abu Dhabi** of the UAE is **one of the world's largest stand-alone operational solar plant** with a total capacity of 1.2 GW.
- **Other largest solar power plants**
  - ⊖ **Bhadla Solar Park** (multiple plants) in **Rajasthan** has a capacity of **2.25GW**.
  - ⊖ **Pavagada Solar Park** in **Karnataka** has a capacity of **2 GW**.
  - ⊖ **Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project** at **Ramagundam, Telangana** is **India's largest floating solar power project** (commissioned in 2022).
- **Cochin International Airport** is the world's first solar-powered airport.



## Account Aggregators(AA)

- The Finance Minister has assured that **the customer data shared with AA is completely safe in India.**
- An AA is a type of **RBI-regulated entity (with an NBFC-AA license).**
  - ⊖ It helps an individual **securely and digitally access and share information** from one financial institution to other in the AA network.
  - ⊖ It replaces **sharing physical signed and scanned copies of bank statements, or having to share usernames and passwords** with third parties.
  - ⊖ It creates **opportunities for new kinds** of services -- eg new types of loans.

## Personality in news



## Guru Teg Bahadur (1621- 1675)

- **Martyrdom Day** of Guru Teg Bahadur (9th Guru of Sikhs) was **observed.** He was born to **Mata Nanki and Guru Hargobind (6th Sikh guru).**
- He was married to **Mata Gujri** and was **father of** Guru Gobind Singh (the 10th Guru).
- In childhood, he was called **Tyag Mal** because of his ascetic nature. **At 13 years of age remarkable bravery** in a battle against a **Mughal chieftain** earned him the name **Tegh Bahadur.**
- His sermons were delivered in **Sadukhri and Braj languages.**
- He was **executed in 1675** on orders of **Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.**
- **Ethical values:** Courage of conviction, compassion, empathy, etc.

