

DESCRIPTIVE SESSION**❖ World Vegan Day**

- World Vegan Day is celebrated every year on November 1 to encourage people to follow the vegan lifestyle and spread awareness about veganism.
- The day is dedicated to the practice of abstaining from use of animal products and exploitation of animals. All across the world, World Vegan Day is celebrated a day after Halloween. Halloween falls on October 31.
- According to World Vegan Day, this year's theme will be based on the animal rights-focused campaign 'Future Normal'.
- World Vegan Day originated in England in 1994, when vegan animal rights activist Louise Wallis established the day to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Vegan Society.
- Since then, November 1, 1994, has been celebrated as the World Vegan Day

❖ SKOCH Award to West Bengal's Lakshmir Bhandar scheme

- The West Bengal government's Lakshmir Bhandar scheme has bagged the SKOCH award in the women and child development category.
- The award is a recognition for the government as well as the nearly two crore women of the state who have been empowered by the scheme.
- The West Bengal government had launched the scheme in August 2021 to provide financial support to a woman head of a family in the age group of 25-60 years.
- Under the scheme, Rs 500 is given every month to women in the general caste category and around Rs 1,000 per month to women in the SC and ST categories. The state government spends around Rs 11,000 crore every year to fund the scheme, sources in the government said.

➤ Instituted in 2003, the SKOCH Award is given for good governance, inclusive growth, excellence in technology and applications, change management, corporate leadership, corporate governance, citizen services delivery, capacity building and empowerment among others.

❖ **Rajyotsava awards**

➤ Former ISRO Chairman K Sivan, actors Dattanna, Avinash and Sihi Kahi Chandru are among 67 personalities who will be awarded Rajyotsava Award this year, by the Karnataka government.

➤ The award, carrying a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a gold medal and a citation, will be distributed on November 1, the state formation day.

❖ **BPCL recognised as country's most sustainable oil & gas company**

➤ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), 'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company has once again achieved the No.1 rank in the Indian oil and gas sector for its sustainability performance in the 2022 edition of the S&P Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) rankings.

➤ This is the 3rd consecutive year that BPCL is at the top of the DJSI Indices in India having achieved a score of 65 percentage points, against an industry average score of 31 which is far better than last year's score of 59 against an industry average score of 39 on DJSI platform.

❖ **53rd Tiger Reserve of India**

➤ Uttar Pradesh is set to have its fourth Tiger Reserve and 53rd tiger reserve in India.

➤ The tiger reserve is spread across over 529.36 sq km out of which the core area is 230.32 sq km and the buffer area is 299.05 sq km. Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate change Bhupendra Yadav confirmed the development.

➤ The UP government also approved the notification of the Ranipur Wildlife Protection Act 1973.

➤ Ranipur Tiger Reserve is covered by northern tropical dry deciduous forests and is home to mammals like megafauna tiger, leopard, bear, spotted deer, sambhar, and chinkara among others.

❖ **103 million People Forcibly Displaced Worldwide: UNHCR Report**

➤ The number of people forcibly displaced from their homes due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order globally surged to 103 million in the first half of 2022, meaning that one in 77 people on Earth is forcibly displaced, the UNHCR said in Geneva.

➤ According to the report, the total number of refugees and people in need of international protection worldwide rose by 24 per cent from 25.7 million at the end of 2021 to 32 million by mid-2022.

➤ At the end of June this year, more than half (56 per cent) of all refugees were Syrian, Venezuelan or Ukrainian. In mid-2022, the report showed, Turkey hosted 3.7 million refugees, the largest refugee population worldwide. Colombia was second with 2.5 million and Germany third with 2.2 million refugees, followed by Pakistan and Uganda (1.5 million each).

➤ The UNHCR report also showed that the number of asylum-seekers waiting for a decision had climbed to 4.9 million by mid-2022 from 4.6 million at the end of 2021. In the first half of this year, more than 9.6 million new displacements due to conflict and violence were reported. The vast majority were in Ukraine, which accounted for 74 per cent of all new internal displacements.

➤ UNHCR headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

➤ The UNHCR has won two Nobel Peace Prizes (in 1954 and again in 1981).

❖ **India's Defence Ministry Is World's Biggest Employer: 'Statista' report**

➤ India's Ministry of Defence is the world's biggest employer with 2.92 million people, which includes combined active service personnel, reservists and civilian staff, according to a report in 'Statista'. Combining active service personnel, reservists and civilian staff, the total headcount comes to 2.92 million

- A touch ahead of the United States equivalent, the Department of Defense.
- Statista is a Germany-based private organisation that provides data and statistics about various issues worldwide.
- According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the five largest spenders in 2021 were the United States, China, India, the United Kingdom and Russia.

❖ **Lula da Silva – New President of Brazil**

- Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, popularly known as Lula, served as the President of Brazil for two terms between 2002 and 2010.

❖ **4th Bangladesh Film Festival in Kolkata**

- The fourth edition of the Bangladesh Film Festival in Kolkata began on October 29.
- 37 films and documentaries from the neighbouring country will be screened at the five-day event which will conclude on November 2.
- Bangladeshi films such as ‘Hawa’, ‘Chironjib Mujib’, ‘Hasina – A daughter’s tale’, ‘Paap Punyo’, ‘Laal Moroger Jhuti’, ‘Hridita’, ‘Kalbela’, ‘Gondi’ and ‘Bishwoshundori’ will be screened at the five-day event.

❖ **UNESCO: Mawmluh Cave in Meghalaya first Indian Geoheritage Site**

- The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), one of the largest scientific organisations of UNESCO, has recognised the Mawmluh Cave, located in the East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya, as one of the first 100 IUGS geological heritage sites.
- The full list will be presented at the IUGS’s 60th-anniversary event, which will take place in Zumaia, Spain. The announcement of the 100 geological heritage sites is expected to kick start an endeavour to designate geological sites from around the world that are iconic, and recognised by all geoscience communities for their impact in understanding the Earth and its history.

➤ The Society of Earth Scientists had submitted the proposal to recognise Mawmluh Cave for consideration under the first 100 Global Geoheritage sites. More than 200 specialists from almost 40 nations and 10 international organisations helped identify and shortlist the sites.

❖ **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup**

➤ Spain, defending champions won the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup against the first-time finalists Colombia.

➤ Spain won the match after an own goal in the 82nd minute of the finals by Colombian defender Ana María Guzmán Zapata. The final match of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup was played between Spain and Colombia in the Patil Sports Stadium. Spain won by 1-0 in the finals of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup against Colombia.

➤ FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup is an international association football tournament for women under the age of 17. The head organizer of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup is FIFA. The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 began on 11th October and the finals were on 30th October 2022. The host country of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup was India.

❖ **Sultan of Johor Cup**

➤ Indian junior men's hockey team defeated Australia to win the Sultan of Johor Cup 2022 in a shootout 5-4 after a 1-1 draw at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

➤ This is the third time India has won the Sultan of Johor Cup.

➤ The Indians have won the age group tournament twice in 2013 and 2014 and finished second best four times in 2012, 2015, 2018 and the last edition of the event in 2019. The tournament was not held in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

❖ **French Open 2022**

➤ India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched the French Open Super 2022 badminton tournament men's doubles title after defeating Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han in straight games 21-13, 21-19 in the final, in Paris.

➤ Rafael Nadal defeated Casper Ruud in the final, 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 to win the men's singles tennis title at the 2022 French Open.

➤ China's He Bingjiao and the pair of Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong took the women's singles and mixed doubles titles respectively

❖ **'Steel Man of India' Jamshed Irani passes away**

➤ Jamshed J Irani, also known as the "Steel Man of India", passed away aged 86 at Tata Main Hospital in Jamshedpur.

➤ He was born on June 2, 1936, in Nagpur to Jiji Irani and Khorshed Irani, Irani completed his BSc from Science College, Nagpur in 1956 and M.Sc in Geology from Nagpur University in 1958. Irani retired from the Board of Directors at Tata Steel in June 2011.

➤ He became joint managing director of Tata Steel in 1988, and managing director in 1992, before retiring in 2011.

➤ He joined the Board of Tata Steel in 1981 and was also a non-executive director from 2001 for a decade. Besides Tata Steel and Tata Sons, Irani also served as a director of several Tata Group companies, including Tata Motors and Tata Teleservices.

➤ After being appointed an International Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1996, he was conferred an honorary knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II in 1997. Later in 2007, he received the Padma Bhushan government of India. After 43 years of service, he retired from Tata Steel in 2011.

❖ **Assam's eminent artist Neel Pawan Baruah passes away**

➤ Assam's eminent artist, Neel Pawan Baruah has passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 84. Baruah was born in Jorhat to Assam's eminent poet Binanda Chandra Baruah, popularly called 'Dhwani Kobi', and Labanya Prava Baruah.

➤ An alumnus of Santiniketan's Kala Bhawan, Baruah was a versatile artist with his oeuvre ranging from painting, pottery, mask-making and writing poetry.

➤ In 2021, he was awarded the 'Assam Sourabh' award by the Government of Assam. Baruah was married to Dipali Borthakur, the 'Nightingale of Assam' who passed away on December 21, 2018.