

17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2023

❖ Context

- The 17th PBD Convention is being organized from January 08-10, 2023 at Indore, Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

About Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or NRI Day is formally observed on 9 January to celebrate the day when **Mahatma Gandhi** returned from South Africa to Mumbai, India.
- It is important to note that this event took place in **the year 1915**.
- The day is also observed to highlight the **contribution of the Non-Resident Indian community** to the development of India.
- NRI Day was **first observed in 2003** by the people of the Republic of India.

About 17th PBD 2023:

- The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is being organized in **partnership with the Madhya Pradesh Government**.
- **The theme of this PBD Convention** is "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal".

- **A Commemorative Postal Stamp** 'Surakshit Jaayen, Prashikshit Jaayen' will be released to underline the importance of **safe, legal, orderly and skilled migration**.
- Prime Minister will also inaugurate the **first-ever digital PBD Exhibition** on theme "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Contribution of Diaspora in Indian Freedom Struggle" to highlight the **contribution of our diaspora freedom fighters in India's Independence**.
- On 10 January 2023, President, will confer **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2023** and preside over the Valedictory Session.
- The PBD Convention will have five thematic Plenary sessions-
 - **First Plenary session** on 'Role of Diaspora Youth in Innovations and new Technologies.
 - **Second Plenary session** on 'Role of Indian Diaspora in promoting Indian Healthcare Eco-system.
 - **Third Plenary session** on 'Leveraging the soft power of India.
 - **Fourth Plenary session** on 'Enabling global mobility of Indian workforce.
 - **Fifth Plenary session** on 'Harnessing the potential of diaspora entrepreneurs towards an inclusive approach to nation building.

Draft UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations 2023

❖ Context

- Recently, higher education regulator **University Grants Commission (UGC)** released draft regulations to allow foreign universities to enter India.

Key Highlights:

- The **National Education Policy, 2020**, envisages a legislative framework to allow top global universities to operate in India.
- According to draft norms **Foreign universities can set up their campuses in India**, decide their admission process, fee structure, and will also be able to repatriate funds to their parent campuses.
- It seeks to **offer considerable freedom to foreign education players** willing to explore the Indian market.
- It underlines that they shall not offer any such "programme of study that jeopardises the national interest of India or the standards of higher education in India.
- The draft says the operation of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions **shall not be contrary to** -
 - The sovereignty and integrity of India.
 - The security of the State.
 - Friendly relations with foreign States.
 - Public order, decency, or morality.

- **Eligibility**
 - Universities that participate in global rankings **will require a place in the top 500** — either in the overall or subject-wise category — to apply to set up campuses in India.
 - Those that do not participate in such rankings will need to be "reputed" in their respective countries.
 - The draft regulations do not specify a metric to judge the 'reputation' of the university.
- **Approval**
 - Initially, universities will be granted approval to operate **for 10 years**.
 - At the end of the ninth year, they will have to file for renewal of approval.
- **Working of Finances**
 - Cross border movement of funds under **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999**.
- **Validity of the Degree**
 - Equivalence with degree awarded by foreign HEI in their country of origin.

News in Between the Lines

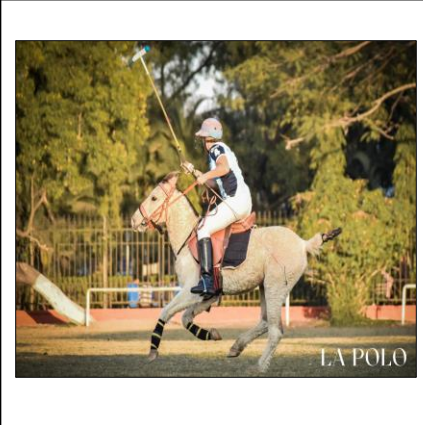
Sagol Kangjei

❖ Context

- Recently, Home Minister of India inaugurated a **122-foot-high Sagol Kangjei (Polo) Statue of a polo player** at the Ibudhou Marjing complex at Heingang in Imphal East district.

❖ Key Highlights

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- Modern polo is said to have **originated from Sagol Kangjei, a sport indigenous to Manipur.**
- In this sport players ride horses, specifically the Manipur Ponies, which are referenced in records dating back to the 14th century.
- The Manipur Pony is one of five recognised **equine breeds of India**, and has a powerful cultural significance for Manipuri society.
- The Marjing Polo Complex has been developed as a way to conserve the Manipur Pony.
- The Manipur Pony features in mythological stories, and is celebrated in oral tradition, ballads, and rituals.

Indian Army Deploys Its Largest Contingent Women Peacekeepers In United Nation Mission



❖ Context

- The Prime Minister has expressed pride as **Indian Army deploys its largest contingent of women peacekeepers** in United Nation mission at **Abyei, UNISFA.**

❖ About United Nations Peacekeeping:

- Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the **most effective tools available to the UN** to assist host countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace.
- **Peacekeeping has unique strengths**, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multidimensional mandates.
- UN peacekeepers **provide security and the political and peacebuilding** support to help countries make the difficult, early transition from conflict to peace.
- UN Peacekeeping is guided by **three basic principles**:
 - **Consent** of the parties.
 - **Impartiality.**
 - **Non-use of force** except in self-defense and defence of the mandate.
- Peacekeeping is **flexible and over the past two decades** has been deployed in many configurations.
- There are currently **12 UN peacekeeping operations** deployed on three continents.
- Peacekeeping demonstrable record of success over our 60 years of existence, **including winning the Nobel Peace Prize.**

Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity



❖ Context

- Recently, India's first-of-its-kind inclusivity, '**Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity**' began in a glorious ceremony in Goa.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The Purple Fest will be **hosted by the Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities** in association with the Directorate of Social Welfare and Entertainment Society of Goa.
- The festival aims to showcase how we can come together to create a welcoming and inclusive world for everyone.
- It will go long way in **furthering the agenda of empowerment of Divyangjan.**
- Such festivities that **celebrate the spirit of inclusivity** are essential for boosting the confidence of persons with disabilities as well as sensitizing society towards their needs and issues.

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)






❖ Context

- The sugarcane farmers in Haryana sat on dharnas outside the sugar mills across the State recently kicking off the agitation to **seek hike in the crop's support price.**

❖ About FRP

- FRP is the price **declared by the government**, which mills are legally bound to pay to farmers for the cane procured from them.
- It was **introduced in 2009** and replaced the concept of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP).
- **Determination of FRP**
 - Since sugar pricing comes under the **concurrent list**, the Supreme Court has held that **both the center and the state have the power to fix sugarcane prices** — while the center's price is the minimum price, states can set an **SAP** that will always be higher than the center's FRP.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Central Government announces Fair and Remunerative Prices in consultation with state governments and sugar industries. ■ These prices are determined on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and are announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which is chaired by the Prime Minister. ■ SAP- State Advised Price or SAP is the price announced by the state government, over and above the FRP.
<p>Deepor Beel</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently, The Assam Cabinet approved the construction of elephant underpasses in seven jumbo corridors along the boundary of Deepor Beel. ❖ Key Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepor Beel is a perennial freshwater lake located 10 km south-west of Guwahati city. • It is the only wetland in Assam designated as a site of importance for “conservation and sustainable use” under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. • It is known for its fish and bird diversity and rich aquatic vegetation that attracts wild elephants, faces conservation threats from garbage dumping, quarrying, and the construction of a railway line. • It sustains over 200 species of birds, including about 70 species of migratory birds. • Some globally threatened birds are supported, including Spot-billed Pelican, Lesser Greater Adjutant Stork and Baer's Pochard. • The Rani and Garbhanga hills, the habitat of the Asiatic elephants in the southern side of the beel, are part of this ecosystem. • In 2021, the Environment Ministry notified it as an Eco-sensitive zone.
<p>India Is Hosting The Y20 Summit For The First Time</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports launched the themes of Y20 summit, logo and website in the Curtain raiser event of Y20 Summit India. ❖ Key Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India is hosting the Y20 summit for the first time. • Panel discussions of young achievers will also take place in the second session of the event. • Youth 20 (Y20) is an official consultation forum for youth from all G20 member countries to be able to dialogue with each other. • For the next 8 months, there will be Pre summits on the five Y20(Youth 20) themes along with various discussions and seminars at different Universities across states in India in a run up to the final Youth-20 Summit. • India's key focus is to bring young leaders from all across the globe together and discuss ideas for a better tomorrow and draft an agenda for action. • The activities to be undertaken by Y20 during India's presidency will focus on global youth leadership and partnership. • India is playing a significant role in finding workable solutions at the international level to ensure holistic well-being embodying the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.
<p>Astro Tourism- A Sky Gazing Event At India Gate</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) in association with Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML) organises Astro Tourism- A Sky Gazing event at India Gate. ❖ Key Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event was inaugurated by Minister of state for Culture. • The programme will help in developing scientific temper among the people which is a fundamental duty as per our constitution. • The Astro Tourism event includes various activities like Astro Talks by expert Astronomers, Exhibition on Astronomy, Storytelling related to celestial objects, Experience of using telescope to see craters of Moon, Astronomy Activities, Photographic Panel Exhibition, Astro-Photography. • This 3-day program will be a great learning experience for children of all age groups, as it will be interactive & practical & will be the best way to present science in a popular manner. • The program will continue on 7th and 8th January with various activities.

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Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano Erupts Again



❖ Context

- **Hawaii's Kilauea began erupting** inside its summit crater, the U.S. Geological Survey said, less than one month after the volcano and its larger **neighbor Mauna Loa stopped releasing lava.**

❖ Key Highlights:

- Kilauea's summit is inside **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park** and away from residential communities.
- Kilauea is one of the **world's most active volcanoes.**
- **Hawaii had two volcanoes spewing lava** side by side when **Mauna Loa** erupted for the first time in 38 years. **Both volcanoes stopped erupting at about the same time.**
- Scientists planned to look at data to study the **relationship between the two volcanoes.**
- **For Native Hawaiians**, volcanic eruptions have deep cultural and spiritual significance.
- During Mauna Loa's eruption, many **Hawaiians took part in cultural traditions**, such as singing, chanting and dancing to honor Pele, the deity of volcanoes and fire, and leaving offerings known as "**hookupu.**"

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