

# Current Affairs

11th January, 2024



## Today's Important News

India to chair UNESCO's world heritage committee for first time in July

### 1. India to chair UNESCO's world heritage committee for first time in July

- India is set to chair UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and host its 46th session in New Delhi from July 21 to 31, 2024, marking a historic milestone for our nation. Vishal V Sharma, India's Permanent Representative to UNESCO, announced this decision on January 9.
- The World Heritage Committee, comprising representatives from 21 member states, gathers annually to recognize global cultural and natural heritage. Their work contributes to the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage Sites list.



#### Foot Note:

#### About UNESCO:

**Headquarters:** Paris, France

**Founded:** 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom

**Head:** Audrey Azoulay

### 2. Supreme court orders constitution of committee in all high courts for implementation of Judicial pay commission

- Observing that judicial service cannot be equated with the service of other officers of the Government, the Supreme Court rejected the argument that the pay and

allowances of judicial officers and other government officers should be equivalent.

- The Court made this observation in the judgment passed in the All India Judges Association case directing the States to implement the recommendations of the Second National Judicial Pay Commission regarding the pay and allowances for judicial officers.



### 3. Chandubi festival was celebrated along the Chandubi Lake in Assam

- Preserving the waterbody, the water level of which has rapidly been lowering over the years, has been the motive for organising the festival every year. It is organised every year for five days starting from the first day of the New Year along the Chandubi lake, which is situated in the state of Assam.
- The main attractions of the Chandubi festival are the local folk culture, ethnic cuisine, local handloom and dresses, boating, etc. The major aim of the Chandubi Festival is to promote eco-tourism in this biodiversity hotspot of Assam.



#### Foot Note:

##### About Assam:

**Capital:** Dispur

**Chief Minister:** Himanta Biswa Sarma

**Governor:** Gulab Chand Kataria

### 4. Tamil Nadu may get four new Biodiversity Heritage sites

- There are several attractions in Arittapatti village but the most notable geographical feature is the chain of seven barren granite hillocks. This rocky landscape surprisingly supports a total of 72 lakes, 200 natural springs and three check dams. One of these lakes, Anaikondan Lake, dates back to the 16th century Pandya kingdom.
- Biodiversity heritage sites are biological areas with unique and ecologically fragile ecosystems comprising rare and threatened species. These kinds of areas are usually home to important species that are not only endemic or endangered but can also be either keystone species, flagship species or umbrella species.



#### Foot Note:

##### About Tamil Nadu:

**Capital:** Chennai

**Chief Minister:** M. K. Stalin

**Governor:** R. N. Ravi

### 5. Bhutan's Tshering Tobgay to become PM for second time

- Bhutanese voters have elected Tshering Tobgay to become Prime Minister for a second time after his party won nearly two-thirds of seats, the election commission said in results released on January 10. The party clinched almost a two-thirds majority, winning 30 seats of the 47 national assembly seats to return to power.
- The election was dominated by serious economic challenges that have called into question the Himalayan kingdom's long-standing policy of prioritising "Gross National Happiness" over growth. Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, Bhutan's key trading partner, offered his "heartiest congratulations to my friend" Tobgay for winning the polls, according to a post on X, formerly Twitter.



**Foot Note:**

**About Bhutan:**

**Capital:** Thimphu

**Prime Minister:** Tshering Tobgay

### 6. Gabriel Attal appointed as France's new Prime Minister

- Gabriel Attal has been named next Prime Minister of France, as Emmanuel Macron aims to revive his presidency with a new government. Gabriel Attal is currently working as an education minister. Before Attal, the Socialist leader Laurent Fabius was the youngest French PM, appointed at the age of 37 by President François Mitterrand in 1984.
- At 34, he is the youngest Prime Minister in modern French history, outranking even Socialist Laurent Fabius who was 37 when he was appointed by François Mitterrand in 1984. Mr Attal replaces Élisabeth Borne, who resigned after 20 months in office.



**Foot Note:**

**About France:**

**Capital:** Paris

**Prime Minister:** Gabriel Attal

## 7.IISC Bengaluru develops heat tolerant vaccine against current strains of SARS-COV-2

- A heat-tolerant vaccine developed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) researchers to be effective against all current strains of SARS-CoV-2 besides having the potential to be quickly adapted for future variants as well.
- The vaccine candidate has been designed by genetically engineering a domain of the surface spike glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2, called the Receptor Binding Domain (RBD), which plays a key role in facilitating viral entry and infection. Most of the neutralising antibodies produced by our body target the RBD.



### Foot Note:

#### About Karnataka:

**Capital:** Bengaluru (Executive Branch)

**Chief Minister:** Siddaramaiah

**Bengaluru :** City in Karnataka

## 8.Navy chief formally receives Drishti -10 long endurance UAV

- Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) is extremely challenging for the Indian Navy since the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) accounts for one of the busiest maritime traffic regions of the world. The IOR sea lines are critical in bringing prosperity to many nations in the region. With the growth of the Chinese Navy, the presence of Chinese submarines and Underwater Unmanned Vehicles (UUV) have increased in the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.
- Indian Navy is abreast with similar technology induction in many domains. The Navy had inducted the ship command and control system in the mid-eighties and developed an indigenous data link akin to Link 11 for networking warships and aircraft for Command, Control, Communications and Information (C3I) operations. The Navy has also acquired Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)s in the mid-nineties from Israel for long-range surveillance.



## 9.Willem Dafoe honoured with first Hollywood walk of Fame star in 2024

- Actor Willem Dafoe has become the first celebrity to be honoured with a Hollywood Walk of Fame star this year. Dafoe, who has featured in almost 150 films, was felicitated on Monday afternoon in California, as reported by CNN. His



wife, Giada Colagrande, attended the event, as did his friends and former co-stars Pedro Pascal, Patricia Arquette, Mark Ruffalo, and Camila Morrone.

- The actor concluded his speech by giving a shout-out to his wife and director Giada Colagrande. Finally, thank you to my wife Giada Colagrande, who teaches me gratitude and reminds me not to spit on my luck.



## 10. DPIIT organizes startup India Innovation week 2024 from 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

- With an aim to bring together the country's startups, entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and other stakeholders, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is organising the Startup India Innovation Week 2024 from 10th January 2024 to 18th January 2024 to celebrate the Indian Startup Ecosystem and the National Startup Day (16th January 2024).
- Startups Unlocking Infinite Potential on 11th January 2024, at the Tenth Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in Gandhinagar, Gujarat which aims to provide a global forum for business networking, knowledge sharing, and inclusive socio-economic development.



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