

Daily Current Affairs

13 July 2023



Important News: National

1. European Sky Shield Initiative

Why in News:

- The neutral countries like Austria and Switzerland have recently joined the European Sky Shield Initiative.

Key Points:

- The European Sky Shield Initiative seeks to develop a common air defence shield in the wake of Russia's attack on Ukraine.
- As of July 2023, it has 19 members admitted in the regional grouping.
- The initiative aims to strengthen NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defence by facilitating the multinational acquisition and integration of a broad range of air defence capabilities by European countries.
- The initiative is a proposal of Germany's Chancellor in 2022, after Russia declared the war upon Ukrainian infrastructure.
- All the founding members are also member of NATO. In February 2023, Denmark and Sweden Joined the initiative.



Source: Indian Express



2. Phosphine in the clouds of Venus

Why in News:

- The discovery of phosphine gas in the clouds of Venus has sparked the debates about the possibility of life on the planet. The new finding suggests phosphine at deeper levels of the planet.

Key Points:

- The phosphine gas was discovered in the clouds of Venus by the scientists in 2020. Phosphine is a molecule that is associated with the biological activity on the Earth. The gas is developed by the bacteria that live in low oxygen environments.
- The scientists have detected phosphine gas at deeper levels in Venus' atmosphere by using James Clark Maxwell Telescope at Mauna Kea Observatory, Hawaii.
- The phosphine gas is also used in semiconductor and plastic industries; it is used in the production of a flame retardant and as a pesticide in stored grain.
- Venus is called the Earth's twin. It takes 243 earth days to rotates on its own axis.
- Unlike other planets that spin anti-clockwise, Venus rotates clockwise on its axis. It is the second planet from the sun.



Source: Business Standard

3. World Archery Youth Championships, 2023

Why in News:

- The Indian team won 11 medals at the 2023 World Archery Youth Championships which was held in Limerick, Ireland. Thus securing 2nd position in the overall event.



Key Points:

- Parth Salunkhe is the first Indian male archer to win the Youth World Championship in the recurve category. He is a rising Indian archer.
- The event saw the participation of 518 archers (comprising 277 men and 241 women) from 58 different countries.
- Aditi Gopichand Swami won gold medal in the compound Under-18 women's individual event.
- Priyansh won the gold medal in the compound Under-21 men's individual event and another gold in the same mixed team event alongside Avneet Kaur.
- Bhajan Kaur of India achieved a bronze medal in the Under-21 women's recurve individual event by defeating Su Hsien-yu from Chinese Taipei.
- South Korea proved its dominance in the world of archery by emerging as the top-ranked nation at the 2023 World Archery Youth Championships.
- India has won 6 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze medals in the championships.
- Last year India clinched a total of 15 medals, including eight golds, at the World Archery Youth Championships hosted in Wroclaw, Poland in 2021.



Source: Times of India

Important News: States

4. Shelf Cloud

Why in News:

- Recently, the shelf clouds appeared in Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

Key Points:

- The shelf cloud is also called as the Arcus cloud, they generally forms along the leading edge of the thunderstorms.



- The shelf cloud is characterized by a clearly defined line of solid clouds; they are low-lying and are horizontally formed.
- They are formed when cold and dense air is forced into a warm air mass by the winds. These clouds are known for their distinctive wedge-shaped formation.
- The thunderstorms are rain shower during which thunders are heard. Since thunder comes from lightning hence all thunderstorms have lightning.
- They are formed when warm, moist air rises into cold air. The warm air becomes cooler, which causes moisture and it is called water vapor. These form small water droplets – a process called condensation.
- The cool air drops and rise again forming a circuit of convection cell. If this happens with large amounts of air and moisture, a thunderstorm can form.



Source: Livemint

Important News: Economy

5. Hydrazine Hydrate

Why in News:

- The Indian economy imported Hydrazine Hydrate from European markets earlier but now the Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd (GACL) has started dispatching indigenous Hydrazine Hydrate thus saving India's valuable foreign exchange reserves.

Key Points:

- Hydrazine Hydrate is used in industries like Pesticides, Agrochemicals, Water Treatment, Pharmaceuticals, blowing agent in Polymer Industry, Fine Chemicals etc.
- It is a chemical compound with the formula - $N_2H_4 \cdot H_2O$.
- It is colourless liquid chemical that is used as a reducing agent.



- The GACL, in collaboration with CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad, has received patents for indigenous manufacturing of Hydrazine Hydrate.
- The company has established a commercial-scale plant in Dahej to produce 10,000 metric tonnes per annum of Hydrazine Hydrate.
- Additionally, GACL has also set up a Purified Phosphoric Acid plant to meet the demand for this chemical in various industries.



Source: The Hindu

Important News: Defense

6. Turkey Agrees to Allow Sweden to Join NATO

Why in News:

- In a historic expansion, Turkey has approved Sweden's bid to join the NATO in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Key Points:

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance also called the Washington Treaty, formed on April 1949. The founding countries are the United States, Canada and other west European nations.
- The aim of the organization is to provide a collective security against the Soviet Union. It has 30 member states as of now. NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes.
- If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military power to undertake crisis-management operations.



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- The Headquarter of NATO is in Brussels, Belgium.
- NATO promotes democratic values and enables members to consult and cooperate on defense and security-related issues to solve problems, build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict.

Source: Economic Times



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Important News: Economy

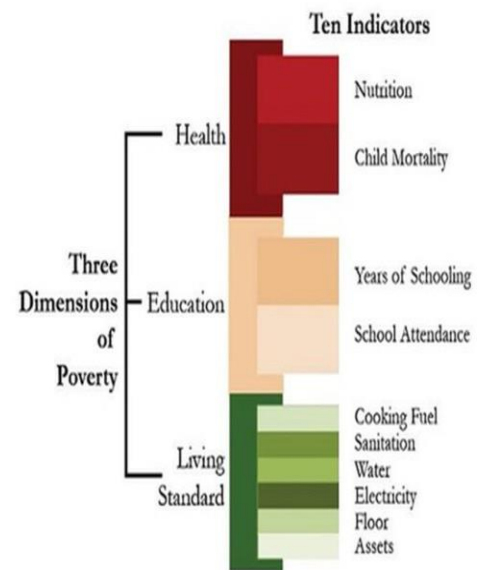
7. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index

Why in News:

- The report mentions that a total of 415 million people have been moved out of poverty in India between 2005-06 and 2019-20.

Key Points:

- The Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index is released by UNDP & the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative. It was first launched in 2010.
- The report highlights that 25 countries including India has reduced their MPI values by half within a span of 15 years. In India, deprivations have declined across all the sectors.
- It also mentions that the poorest states and the most vulnerable groups including children and disadvantaged people from different caste groups had the fastest absolute progress.
- The poverty rate among the children is 27.7 per cent while it is 13.4 per cent among the adults.
- The index has 10 indicators ranging from health, education and standard of living. It includes both incidence and intensity of poverty.



Source: Indian Express



Important News: Days

8. International Biology Olympiad

Why in News:

- India has secured four Gold medals at the 34th International Biology Olympiad which was organized at Al Ain, UAE from July 3 to 11, 2023.

Key Points:

- The student team comprised of 4 participants namely, Dhruv Advani from Bengaluru, Karnataka, Ishan Pednekar from Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, Megh Chhabda from Jalna, Maharashtra, Rohit Panda from Risali, Chhattisgarh.
- The event saw participation of 293 students from 76 nations.
- After India, Singapore was the only country to secure four gold medals in the International Biology Olympiad.
- The Olympiad is a biology competition for pre-university level students under the age of 20 years.
- Since 1990, the event is held annually. The first event was held in the Czechoslovakia in 1990. India has organized the Olympiad in 2008.



Source: Economic Times

