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# CRUX 10

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THE HINDU Page 1

# ASSAM-MEGHALAYA BORDER ISSUE

## (Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

# Six killed in firing on Meghalaya, Assam border

**The Hindu Bureau**
GUWAHATI

Six people were killed and several injured in an incident of firing on the Assam-Meghalaya border early on Tuesday morning.

The incident comes at a time when the two State governments are moving toward resolving their differences in six disputed sectors on the boundary.

The Assam government has ordered a probe by a retired judge of the Gauhati High Court into the firing and asked for a report within three months.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said six people were killed, five of them residents of Meghalaya, "due to firing by Assam police and Assam forest guards".

He announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh each to the families of the deceased.

**Context**: Six people were killed and several injured in an incident of firing on the Assam-Meghalaya border early on Tuesday morning.

**Assam-Meghalaya Border Issue**

- **Origin of issue**: During British rule, **undivided Assam** included present-day Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram.
  - **Meghalaya was carved out in 1972**, its boundaries demarcated as per the **Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act of 1969,** but has held a different interpretation of the border since.
- **12 points of dispute**: In 2011, the Meghalaya government had **identified 12 areas of difference** with Assam which include Areas of Upper Tarabari, Gazang reserve forest, Hahim, Langpih, Borduar, Boklapara, Nongwah, Matamur, Khanapara-Pilangkata, Deshdemoreah Block I and Block II, Khanduli and Retacherra.
  - **Assam's stand:** Assam says **Meghalaya does not have the requisite documents** to prove these areas historically belonged to Meghalaya.
- **Major Point of Contention**: A major point of contention between Assam and Meghalaya is the **district of Langpih in West Garo Hills bordering the Kamrup district of Assam**.
  - Langpih was part of the Kamrup district during the British colonial period but post-Independence, it became part of the Garo Hills and Meghalaya.
  - Assam considers it to be part of the Mikir Hills in Assam. Meghalaya has questioned Blocks I and II of the Mikir Hills -now Karbi Anglong region – being part of Assam. Meghalaya says these were **parts of erstwhile United Khasi and Jaintia Hills districts**.
- **Efforts to Resolve Disputes:**
  - **Border dispute settlement committees**: To set up two regional committees to resolve the border disputes in a phased manner.
  - **Identified six out of 12 disputed areas:** Both state governments **identified six out of 12 disputed areas** for resolution in the first phase: 3 areas contested between West Khasi Hills district in Meghalaya and Kamrup in Assam, 2 between RiBhoi in Meghalaya and Kamrup-Metro, and 1 between East Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya and Cachar in Assam.
  - **Five mutually agreed principles**: Both sides submitted reports based on five mutually agreed principles: **historical perspective, ethnicity of local population, contiguity with boundary, peoples' will and administrative convenience.**



BUSINESS STANDARD

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# ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

## (Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

# OECD trims India's GDP forecast for FY23 to 6.6%

### Global economy may grow just 3.1% this year, down from 5.9% in 2021

ARUP ROYCHOUDHURY
New Delhi, 22 November

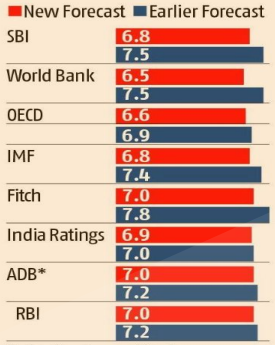
The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on Tuesday cut its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India to 6.6 per cent for FY23 from the earlier 6.9 per cent. While doing this, it cited higher medium-term global uncertainty and slowing domestic economic activity.

OECD is the latest of a host of banks, agencies and multilateral institutions, which have recently cut their India GDP forecast for FY23. "Economic growth has lost momentum over the summer, due to a combination of erratic rainfall, which impacted sowing activities, and falling purchasing power. Concerns over demand conditions are considerable in services and infrastructure sectors. And, consumers have become cautious regarding non-essential spending due to higher prices for food and energy," the agency said.

In OECD's estimation, the world economy will grow just 3.1 per cent this year, down sharply from a robust 5.9 per cent in 2021. The OECD predicts that next year will be even worse. The international economy will expand only 2.2 per cent in 2023, it estimates.

**SLOWING DOWN**

Agencies that have cut India's FY23 GDP forecast




*Asian Development Bank
Source: Economists' reports

OECD said tighter financial market conditions were weighing on the demand for capital goods. Also, the monthly energy and food import bill kept rising and the current account deficit widened during the July-September quarter to 2.9 per cent of GDP. It said India is set to be the second-fastest growing economy in the G20 during FY23. This is despite decelerating global demand and the tightening of policy to manage inflationary pressures.

**Context:** The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) cut its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India to 6.6 per cent for FY23 from the earlier 6.9 per cent.

**Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**

- **About:** An international**, intergovernmental economic organization** founded in the year 1961 to stimulate world trade and economic progress.
  - OECD originated in 1948, as the **Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC).**
  - **OEEC was renamed as the OECD** in 1961 when the USA and Canada joined to reflect a broader membership.
  - OECD is an **official Permanent observer to the United Nations** and is referred to as a think-tank or as a monitoring group.
- **Headquarters**: Paris, France.
- **38 Members**: The 38 Member Countries consist of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
  - **India isn't a member of OECD yet**. But it is a key partner to OECD.
- **Functions**: It provides a platform for its member countries to **compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems,** identify and share best practices, and coordinate domestic and international policies of its member nations.
  - The OECD is responsible for publishing economic reports, statistical databases, analyses, and forecasts on the outlook for economic growth worldwide.
  - The OECD maintains a "**blacklist**" of nations that are considered uncooperative tax havens.
  - It also took efforts to eradicate tax avoidance by profitable corporations and in the G-20 countries. It also encourages the G-20 countries to promote tax reforms.
- **Funding**: OECD is **funded by its member countries.**
  - **National contributions** are based on a formula that takes account of the size of each member's economy.
  - Countries may also make **voluntary contributions** to financially support outputs in the OECD program of work.
- **Reports and Indices by OECD**
  - The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
  - Government at a Glance report.
  - International Migration Outlook.
  - OECD Better Life Index.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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# ASIATIC ELEPHANTS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

## As Asiatic elephants are here to stay, MP learns to co-exist with them

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 22

TO PEACEFULLY coexist with its new guests (wild Asiatic elephants), Madhya Pradesh is gearing up to launch a bunch of measures ranging from a mobile app for speedy disposal of damages to launching an elephant manual putting in place the roles and duties of various departments and ensuring minimum man-elephant conflict.

These measures were decided after a two-day workshop was held in August with wildlife officials and experts from Karnataka, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. It was also decided to set up electrical fencing, preferably tentacle solar-powered fencing, to reduce crop raids, promote bee farming in villagers and dig up elephant-proof trenches to restrict wild tuskers from attacking houses in search of grains and mahua.

Learning from Karnataka, MP is in final stages of finalising a mobile app that will ensure compensation filed for damages to crops, cattle and human life is disposed of in less than a month. A senior official from forest department said in case of man-elephant conflict resulting in any kind of damage, the forest beat guard will enter details for compensation and within a week, if it is not addressed, the file will keep moving to top post official of the division, which is the Divisional Forest Official (DFO).

"At present, there is no way to ascertain what kind of compensation or how many compensation claims have been filed and at what level are they stuck unless that information is specifically called from a specific division. But this app will enable a user to review it any time," said a forest official, requesting anonymity.

A similar app being used in Karnataka is called e-Parihara. The MP government has called for suggestions from experts to name their app. Forest officials pointed out that delay in compensation often results in villagers getting agitated, which also leads to an attempt to harm the animal or the forest. Several forest fires reported in MP were attributed to villagers after their properties were damaged by animals and no compensation thereafter.



Elephant migration to MP is part of their ongoing movement in east-central region. *Sudhir Mishra /Asst Director Bandhavgarh*

In its report, an elephant task force constituted in 2021 had pointed out that migration of wild elephants into MP is part of ongoing dispersal and large-scale movement of elephants in the east-central region in India, which visibly began in 1980s with elephants from Jharkhand moving into West Bengal and Sarguja district of erstwhile MP. Since then, wild tuskers have continued to move from Jharkhand and Odisha into Chhattisgarh and onwards into MP. In MP, 17 people died between 2018 and 2022 and the highest of six deaths took place in 2021, followed by five in 2022.

After Chhattisgarh was carved out of MP in 2000, wild elephants began coming to MP's Sidhi, Singrauli and Shahdol districts, wherein they would stay for 2-3 months and then return to Chhattisgarh. But this changed in 2017 when a herd of seven elephants did not leave MP and continued to stay in Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve of Sidhi. In 2018, another herd of 40 elephants entered MP and began residing in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Umaria. This herd has now increased to nearly 50 elephants, pointed out a forest official.

In the same year, two human casualties were reported in Sidhi and Singrauli, along with damage to crops and property, making it the first such incident of man-elephant conflict.

The elephant manual formulated by MP forest department codifying the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is pending for administrative approval, while the app is expected to be launched at the end of this year.

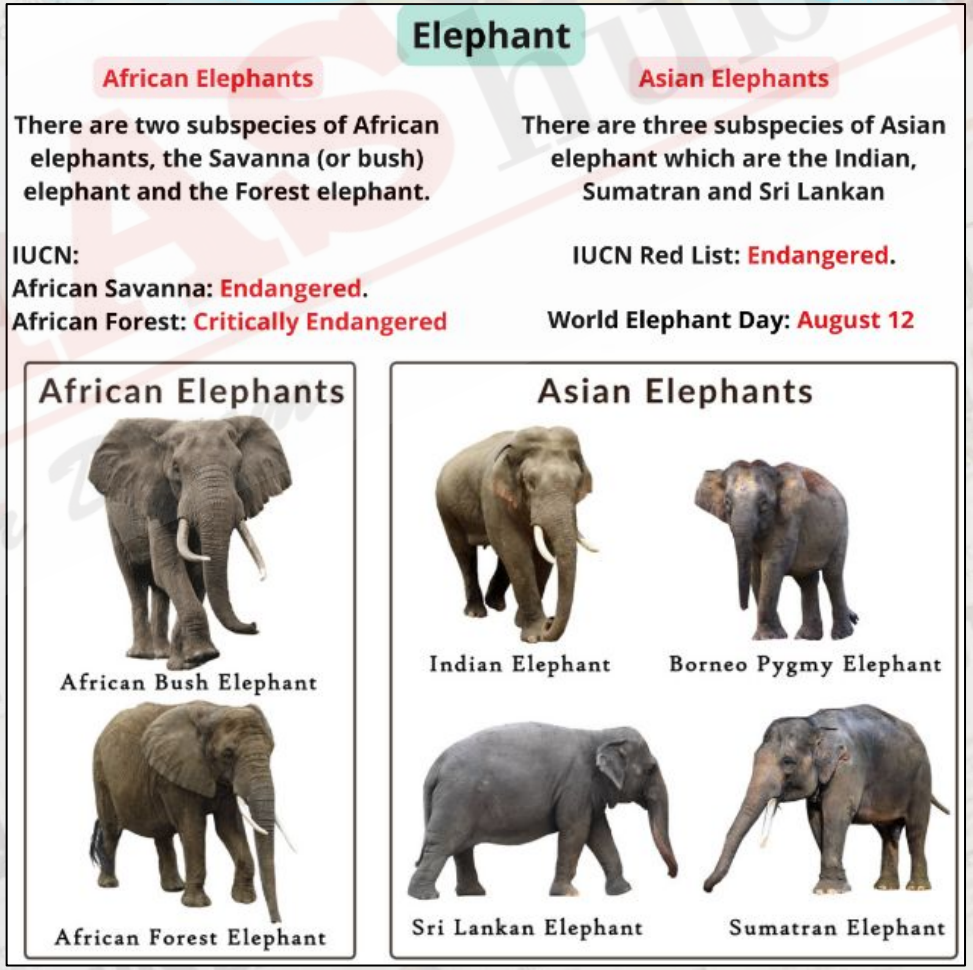
Meanwhile, forest officials have launched awareness drives to make villagers aware of how to react when attacked by an elephant and ensure minimum damage during a man-elephant conflict. These drives are being held in eight districts of Shahdol, Umaria, Sidhi, Singrauli, Annupur, Balaghat, Dindori and Mandal.

As per the population estimates of elephants in India, there were seven elephants in MP in 2007, but this figure, according to Chief Wildlife Warden JS Chauhan has increased to 60 at present. Besides, there are several elephant herds that come to MP and stay put for a few months taking that figure to over 100.

**Context**: To peacefully coexist with its **new guests (wild Asiatic elephants),** Madhya Pradesh is gearing up to launch a bunch of measures ranging from a **mobile app** for speedy disposal of damages to launching an elephant manual putting in place the roles and duties of various departments and ensuring minimum man-elephant conflict.

**Asiatic elephants**

- **About**: The Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus), also known as the Asiatic Elephant, is f**ound in India and Southeast Asia.**
  - It is the largest land mammal in Asia.
- **3 subspecies**:
  - Sri Lankan Elephant (Elephas maximus maximus)
  - Indian Elephant (Elephas maximus indicus)
  - Sumatran Elephant (Elephas maximus sumatranus)
- **Habitat**:India, Nepal, Bangladesh, China, Laos, Malay, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam, Sumatra, Sri Lanka.
- **Behaviour and Feeding Habits**: Active **during twilight hours** and are known for their huge consumption (about 150 kg per day) of plant matter.
  - Adult females and calves move together as groups while males disperse on their own when reaching adolescence.
  - The **leader of an elephant group is a female.**
  - The maximum **gestation period can be 22 months**.
  - An elephant can normally go on calving till the age of 40 years only.
- **Protection Status:**
  - **IUCN Red List:** Endangered.
  - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**: Schedule I.
  - **CITES**: Appendix I



LIVEMINT Page 4

# INDIA'S SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

## Men account for 71% suicides in India

India has a high suicide rate, with around 71% male and 29% female accounting for total number of suicide deaths in the country in 2020, said the latest report prepared by health ministry on National Suicide Prevention Strategy. On a high youth population base, in the last 3 years, the suicide rate has increased from 10.2 to 11.3 per 100,000 population. The report stated that economic and professional status of an individual also a bearing on suicides. The maximum number of suicides accounting for 63.3% occurred among those who earn less than ₹1 lakh per annum, followed by 32% suicides among those who earned between ₹1 lakh and ₹5 lakh per annum. While 3.8% suicides were by those who earn ₹5-10 lakh per annum, and 1% suicides were reported for those earning more than ₹10 lakh per annum in 2020. Around 65% of suicides happened in 18-45 years of age, stated the report.

PRIYANKA SHARMA

**Context**: India has a high suicide rate, with around 71% male and 29% female accounting for total number of suicide deaths in the country in 2020, said the latest report prepared by health ministry on National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

**India's First Suicide Prevention Policy**

- **About**: The newly launched National Suicide Prevention Strategy is the first of its kind in the country.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of **Health and Family Welfare.**
- **Time-bound**: The suicide prevention policy comes with time-bound action plans and multi-sectoral collaborations **to achieve reduction in suicide mortality by 10% 2030.**
- **In line with global strategy:** While the strategy is in line with the **WHO's South East-Asia Region Strategy** for suicide prevention, it says it will remain true to India's cultural and social milieu.
  - The **UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.4** aims to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one-third, through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being.
  - One of the indicators for this is the suicide rate.
- **Key Features:**
  - Establish **effective surveillance mechanisms** for suicide within the next three years,
  - Establish **psychiatric outpatient departments** that will provide suicide prevention services through the **District Mental Health Programme** in all districts within the next five years, and
  - To integrate a mental well-being curriculum in all educational institutions within the next eight years.
  - **Developing guidelines** for responsible media reporting of suicides, and
  - Restricting access to **means of suicide.**
  - The stress is on **developing community resilience** and societal support for suicide prevention.

ECONOMIC TIMES

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# CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

# India Ranks Among Top 5 Nations in Climate Change Performance

## Report released at COP27 shows country pipping G20 peers

**Urmi.Goswami**
@timesgroup.com



ET @ COP27

**Sharm El-Sheikh:** India is ranked among the top five countries in the world, and the best among the G20 countries on its climate change performance, according to an independent ranking.

The annual Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), an independent monitoring tool that tracks climate protection policy in 59 countries and the EU, placed India two positions up at the eighth place in the 2023 rankings.

The index is published by Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute, and Climate Action Network International based in Germany.

The latest CCPI report released at COP27 shows Denmark, Sweden, Chile and Morocco ranked above India at fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh place, respectively.

The first, second and third ranks were not awarded to any country.

The index comprises four parameters – greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, renewable energy, and climate policy.

India's improvement can be attributed to its performance, a high rating, with regard to greenhouse gas emissions and energy use. India's updated nationally determined contribution, as well as its announcement of net zero by 2070, have helped improve India's outlook.

On the parameters of Climate Policy and Renewable Energy, India gets a medium rating.

Though India is on track to meet its 2030 emissions targets, which is compatible with the well below 2°C goal, the country's renewable energy pathway, according to the index, is not on track for the 2030 target.

Another reason for a medium rating on climate policy and renewable energy is the absence of roadmaps and concrete action plans for achieving the targets. There is also mention of the need for a carbon pricing mechanism, and aggressive decentralised renewable energy programme. Its continued coal use is another factor for its medium rating.

The index does not take into consideration India's long-term strategy released at COP27, or the plans underway to set up a carbon market.

**Context:** India is ranked among the top five countries, and the best among the G-20 nations, under the global Climate Change Performance Index.

**Climate change performance Index 2023**

- **India's Performance:** India jumped two spots, and is now **ranked 8th** as per the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI, 2023).
  - India earned a **high rating in the GHG Emissions** and Energy Use categories, while a medium rating for Climate Policy and Renewable Energy
  - India is **on track to meet its 2030 emissions targets** (compatible with a well-below-2C scenario).
  - The ranking given by CCPI places India as the **only G-20 country in the top 10 rank.**
  - India's rank is the **best amongst all large economies.**
- **Global status:** The report shows Denmark, Sweden, Chile and Morocco as the only four small countries that were ranked above India at fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh, respectively.
  - The **first, second and third ranks were not awarded** to any country.

**Climate Change Performance Index**

- **About**: Published annually since 2005, the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is **an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate protection performance** of 59 countries and the EU.
- **Published by**: **German Watch**, New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network International based in Germany.
- **Objective**: to **enhance transparency in international climate politics** and enables comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.
- **Criteria**: The climate protection performance of these 59 countries, which together account for 92 per cent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, is assessed in four categories:
  - GHG Emissions (40 percent of overall score)
  - Renewable Energy (20 percent)
  - Energy Use (20 percent)
  - Climate Policy (20 percent).

TIMES OF INDIA

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# LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

## Godrej co takes in LGBTQ+ interns

Namrata.Singh
@timesgroup.com

In a move that could set a new direction in inclusion, diversity & equity (IDE), Godrej Properties has started an internship programme for the LGBTQIA+ community. LGBTQIA+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and more.

The internship module includes a nine-month learning in the same role, a structured performance feedback every three months, a mentor and buddy assigned to all interns and a permanent role with the company on successful completion of the internship. Godrej Properties is looking at absorbing 75% of the interns by the end of a successful completion of the stint. Of the total hires across the company, Godrej Properties targets to have 5% from both the LGBTQIA+ and PWD (persons with disabilities) cohorts by the year 2025.

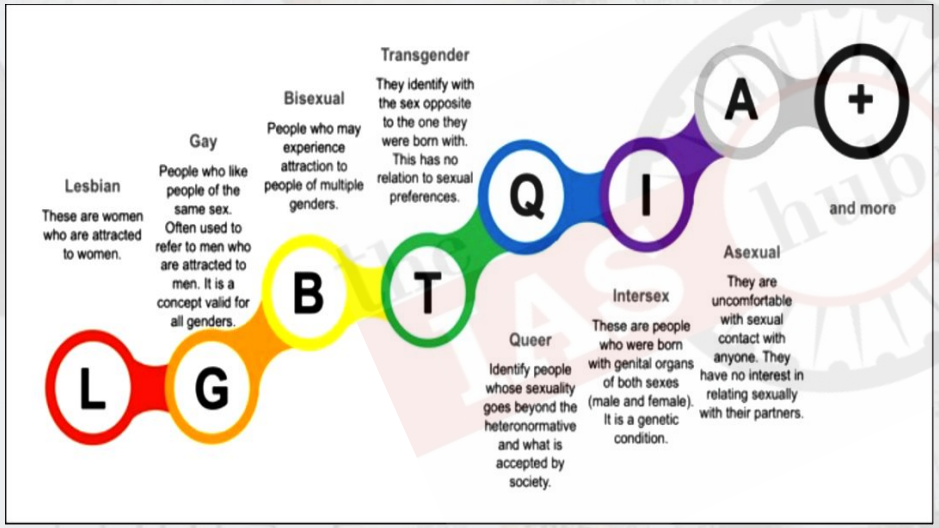
Godrej Properties CHRO Megha Goel said, "Currently, the 'Pride' internship is a pilot for us. The paucity of profiles from the LGBTQIA+ community is a big challenge. We are currently sourcing profiles via online promotions of the programme and also by partnering with consultants specialised in LGBTQIA+/diverse cohort hiring." Over the last six months, the company has seen a double-digit hiring under this programme.

Achal Khanna, CEO, Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) India, APAC & MENA, said, "With internship programmes targeted primarily at LGBTQ+, HR's view is to not just skill them in the line of work but truly celebrate diversity of their life experiences."

Sunit Sinha, head of people, performance and culture at KPMG in India, said, "IDE is a business imperative for us and our efforts will be to consciously embed it in everything we do — right from expanded understanding of IDE to reaching a level of maturity. From attracting & retaining more individuals from under-represented groups (gender, PWD, LGBTQIA+, veterans) into the profession , onboarding diverse talent with intentionality to prepare them to succeed, to creating consistency of experience and eventually being the clear employer of choice for under-represented groups as well."

### MOST PREFER TO REMAIN CLOSETED

- LGBTQIA+ community members form **around 10% of the general population**
- But **recruiting them is tough** since many have not yet come out of the closet
- India Inc is now making strides in tapping this talent
- Steps for **wider inclusion at the workplace** include normalising restroom/locker room use to neutralising pronouns in names/titles




**Context**: In a move that could set a new direction in inclusion, diversity & equity (IDE), Godrej Properties has started an internship programme for the LGBTQIA+ community.

- LGBTQIA+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and more.

**LGBTQIA+ community**

- **About:** LGBT is an initialism that **stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender.**
  - LGBTQ adds the letter Q for those who identify as queer or are **questioning their sexual or gender identity.**
- **Historical aspects:** Ancient India was about **acceptance and celebration** of all forms of love and neutrality to the idea of homosexuality.
  - Visual example is the **Khajuraho Temple of Madhya Pradesh**, showcasing the existence of sexual fluidity between homosexuals.
- **Pre-Independence status:** In 1861, Britishers considered sexual activities "against the order of nature" including all homosexual activities were **criminalized under section 377 of the Indian Penal Code.**
- **Post-Independence status:** In 1977, Shakuntala Devi published the first study of homosexuality in India, called "**The World of Homosexuals"**. It called for "full and complete acceptance and not just tolerance and sympathy".
  - In 1994, they were l**egally granted voting rights** as a third sex.
  - In 2014, the Supreme Court of India ruled that transgender people should be treated as the **third category of gender.**
  - In 2017, the Supreme Court gave the country's LGBTQ community the **freedom to safely express their sexual orientation**. An individual's sexual orientation was protected by the Right to Privacy.
  - On 6 September 2018, the Supreme Court struck down the part of **Section 377** which criminalized consensual homosexual activities.
  - In 2019, Parliament enacted **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act** with an objective to provide for protection of rights of transgender people, their welfare, and other related matters.

PIB

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# KARMAYOGI PRARAMBH MODULE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Government Policies & Interventions)

## Appointment letters handed over to 71,000 youths in Rozgar Mela-2, Karmayogi Prarambh module launched

**Context:** The Prime Minister launched the Karmayogi Prarambh Module for all who are appointed under Rojgar Mela.

- Under the **Rozgar Mela Scheme**, the vacancies will be filled for the post of Teacher, Lecturer, Nursing Officer, Nurse, Doctor, Radiographer, Pharmacist, and Other Technical and Paramedical posts.
- Nodal Ministry of Rozgar Mela Scheme is Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

**Karmayogi Prarambh Module**

- **About**: This is an **Online orientation course** for the new joiners of various government departments.
  - This program will help these government employees to **grab the code of conduct** required to adapt to the policies of their new role.
  - It will train about ethics in the workplace and integrity, human resource policies and other benefits and allowances which will be provided to the employees.
- **Initiative under Mission Karmayogi**: The Karmayogi Prarambh module is an i**nitiative under Mission Karmayogi** - a national programme for civil services capacity building (NPCSCB).

**Mission Karmayogi**

- **About**: It was launched in 2020 with the objective of **enhancing governance through Civil Service Capacity Building.**
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of **Education**.
- **Focus**: Promoting ease of living and ease of doing business, by considerably enhancing the citizen-government interface.
  - This involves creation of both functional and behavioural competencies among the civil servants.
- **Pillars**: Mission Karmayogi will have the following **six pillars:**
  - Policy Framework
  - Institutional Framework
  - Competency Framework
  - Digital Learning Framework (Integrated Government Online Training Karmayogi Platform (iGOT-Karmayogi)
  - electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS)
  - Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- **Coverage:** It will cover **all civil servants (including contractual employees**) across different ministries, departments, organisations and agencies of the Union Government.
  - The willing state governments will also be enabled to align their capacity building plans on similar lines.
- **iGOT Platform ( Integrated Government Online Training):** It is a portal on the **Ministry of Education's DIKSHA platform** for the purpose of capacity building.
  - It will **provide content to learn from global best practices** rooted in "Indian ethos".
  - Civil servants will also have to undertake courses on this platform on which the officers' performance will be evaluated.
  - **A Special Purpose Vehicle** will monitor the platform.
  - The SPV will be a not-for-profit organisation under Section 8 of the Companies Act.

PIB

Nov 23

# GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Organisations)

# India calls on GPAI member states to work together to come up with framework to prevent user harm

**Context:** On November 21 this year, India took over the chair of the **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)** for 2022-23.

**Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence**

- **About**: It is a multi-stakeholder initiative that was **developed by the G7 alliance**.
  - The **G7 is an informal grouping of seven of the world's advanced economies**, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as the European Union.
- **Origin**: The Global Partnership in Artificial Intelligence was **launched on June 15, 2020**.
- **Objectives**: To fill the **gap between theory and practice** on artificial intelligence by promoting cutting-edge research and related activities.
- **Significance**: This initiative **promotes global cooperation on artificial intelligence** technology by bringing together experts from fields like science, industry, civil society, governments, international bodies and academia on a single platform.
- **Members**: The GPAI currently has **25 member states.** These are:
  - Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the UK, the US and the EU.
  - **India** became part of this international alliance in 2020 as a **founding member.**
- **GPAI summits:**
  - **First in 2020**: The inaugural edition of the GPAI summit was held on December 3 and 4 of 2020. It was **hosted by Montreal, Canada**.
  - **Second in 2021**: The second edition was held on November 11 and 12, 2021.
  - **Third in 2022**: The third edition of the summit was organized in Tokyo. It was **held in Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo.**
    - **It focuses on 4 themes**: Responsible AI, Data governance, Future of work and Innovation and commercialisation
    - On the first day of the 3rd GPAI summit, **France – the current Council Chair** – handed over the presidency to India.
    - India became the Council Chair after it received more than **two-thirds majority of the first-preference votes,** followed by Canada and the United States respectively.

DST Nov 23

# SUPERNOVA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

## Recurrent outburst of twin star points towards rare future supernovae

Astronomers tracking the constellation Ophiuchus have spotted a recurrent nova system (a transient astronomical event that causes the sudden appearance of a bright, apparently "new" star that slowly fades over weeks or months) approximately 5,000 light-years away.

**Context:** Astronomers tracking the **constellation Ophiuchus** have spotted a recurrent **nova system** (a transient astronomical event that causes the sudden appearance of a bright, apparently "new" star that slowly fades over weeks or months) approximately 5,000 light-years away.

- **Ophiuchus** is a large constellation straddling the celestial equator which lies in the southern sky.
- A **constellation** is an area on the celestial sphere in which a group of visible stars forms a perceived pattern or outline, typically representing an animal, mythological subject, or inanimate object.

**Supernova**

- **About:** A supernova is the **explosion of a star**. It is the largest explosion that takes place in space.
- **Locations**: Supernovas are often seen in other galaxies. But supernovas are difficult to see in our own Milky Way galaxy because dust blocks our view.
  - In 1604, Johannes Kepler discovered the **last observed supernova in the Milky Way.**
  - NASA's **Chandra telescope** discovered the remains of a more recent supernova. It exploded in the Milky Way more than a hundred years ago.
- **Causes**: A supernova happens where there is a change in the core, or center, of a star. A change can occur in two different ways, with both resulting in a supernova.
  - The first type of supernova happens in **binary star systems**.
    - Binary stars are **two stars that orbit the same point.**
    - One of the stars, a carbon-oxygen white dwarf, steals matter from its companion star.
    - Eventually, the white dwarf accumulates too much matter.
    - Having **too much matter causes the star to explode,** resulting in a supernova.
  - The second type of supernova occurs at the end of a **single star's lifetime.**
    - As the star runs out of nuclear fuel, some of its mass flows into its core.
    - Eventually, the core is so heavy that it cannot withstand its own gravitational force.
    - The core collapses, which results in the **giant explosion of a supernova**.
    - The **sun is a single star,** but it does **not have enough mass** to become a supernova.

DTE

Nov 23

# EUROPEAN EELS

## (Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



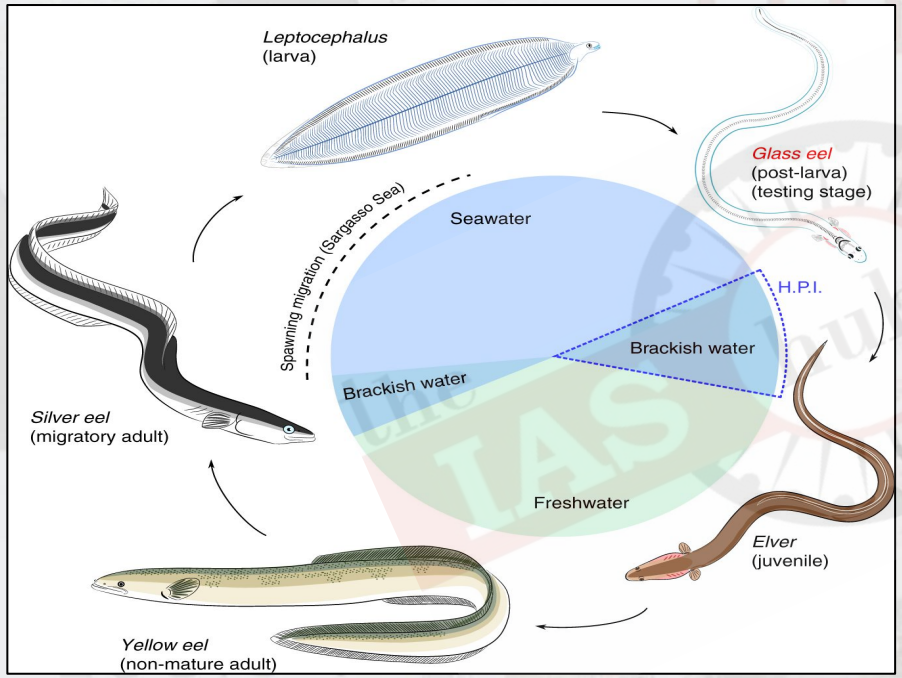
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**Effective enforcement of laws, traceability needed for trade in European eels: COP19 draft decision**

CITES Secretariat demands countries improve assessment of legal acquisition of eels

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By Shuchita Jha
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**Context:** The draft decision of the 19th Conference of Parties (COP19) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) has asked for strengthening of coordination between countries exporting and importing European eels and for improving traceability and effective enforcement measures for trade in the species.

**Key Points**

- The CITES Secretariat **demanded countries to develop and implement measures** to improve the assessment of legal acquisition of eels (live and dead) in trade and aquaculture and share the information with them.
- It has also demanded countries that **trade in anguillid eels report species**-level findings differentiated by life stage.

**European eels**

- **About**: A species of eel, a snake-like, catadromous fish.
- **Significance**: Eels have been important **sources of food both as adults** (including jellied eels of East London) and as glass eels.
  - Glass-eel fishing using basket traps has been of significant economic value in many river estuaries on the western seaboard of Europe.
- **Life span:** While the species' lifespan in the wild has **not been determined,** captive specimens have lived over 80 years.
  - A specimen known as "the Brantevik Eel" lived for 155 years in the well of a family home in Brantevik, a fishing village in southern Sweden.
- **Habitat**: European eel is found in the **continent's freshwaters and estuarine habitats.**
- **Threats**: **Overfishing**, parasites such as Anguillicola crassus, barriers to migration such as hydroelectric dams, and natural changes in the North Atlantic oscillation, Gulf Stream, and North Atlantic drift.
  - Recent work suggests **polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)** pollution may be a factor in the decline.
- **Protections status:**
  - **IUCN red list**: Critically endangered
  - **CITES Convention**: Appendix II

# THANK YOU!

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