

### Gandhi Jayanti 2024



#### Key Points:

- ❖ Every year on the 2nd of October, Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.
- ❖ During the Independence of India, Mahatma Gandhi played a very important role. Gandhi Jayanti is one of the three National holidays of India. On 15th June 2007, the UN General Assembly announced that it will be celebrated as the International Day of Nonviolence.
- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi is also known as the Father of the Nation and this title was given to him by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- ❖ Gandhi Jayanti is marked by prayers services and tributes all over India, including Gandhi's memorial, Raj Ghat, in New Delhi where he was cremated.
- ❖ In 2019, India celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and paid several tributes including the release of a coin of ₹150
- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi was born on 2nd October 1869 in Porbandar city of Gujarat. He went to London to complete his law degree and then went to South Africa to practice barrister. When he was in South Africa, he observed that Indians were treated poorly and belonged to a lower section of people along with the other people of color.
- ❖ In 1915, he joined the Indian National Congress.
- ❖ During this time, he started various movements to fight against British rule in India which affected the nation severely.

- ❖ The various movements include Quit India Movement, the Dandi March, and the Non-cooperation Movement.
- ❖ He was known as 'Bapu'. He chooses the path of non-violence to fight against the injustice of the British government. He also opposed the partition of India.

#### Ideological Differences between Gandhi and Ambedkar

- ❖ Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, revered as the 'Father of the Nation', and B.R. Ambedkar, hailed as the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, were seminal figures in the Indian political landscape.
- ❖ Despite converging on several issues pertaining to India's future, their perspectives on the caste system starkly diverged.
- ❖ Gandhi viewed the oppressed classes as an essential component of society, and he named them "Harijans," meaning "children of God." He endeavored to assimilate them into the Indian National Congress and the struggle for independence.
- ❖ Ultimately, he intended to shift people's attitudes as a means of resolving the issue.
- ❖ In contrast, Ambedkar proposed a "two-nation" theory, which identified the dominant nation as the upper castes and the subordinate nation as the lower castes. He maintained that implementing reforms could bring an end to the caste system. He thought that the upper castes were in charge, and the lower castes were not treated fairly. He suggested making changes to the system to end this discrimination.

#### Religious Interpretation

- ❖ Gandhi, while acknowledging the moral wrong of untouchability, viewed it as a perversion of Hindu scriptures, not an outcome of them.

- ❖ Ambedkar, after comprehensive studies, concluded that untouchability and caste discrimination had their roots in Hindu scriptures, leading to his eventual renunciation of Hinduism.

<b>Harijan Naming Controversy</b>	The term <b>Harijana</b> was coined by Gandhiji to pay respect to the lower caste people.	Ambedkar disagreed with Gandhi's naming of the depressed and untouchables as "Harijans" and saw it as a scheme to provide a superficial solution.
<b>Separate electorates</b>	Separate electorates offered limited benefits to lower castes. The introduction of separate electorates could lead to the division of Hinduism by creating internal divisions within the community.	The <b>Depressed Classes</b> would not gain any political influence unless there was a specially designed political machinery for the new constitution.
<b>Freedom</b>	He believed that freedom must be earned through active demands and intentions to use it.	Ambedkar expected the imperial rulers to bestow freedom.

### Ambedkar Vs Gandhian view on separate electorates

#### What is the issue?

- ❖ In the early 1930, the issue of separate electorates for lower castes became a source of major debate between the two of India's tallest leaders: Dr BR Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi
- ❖ What is the system currently followed in India?
- ❖ India has a system of caste-based reservations.
- ❖ It sets aside a certain number of seats for people belonging to castes that historically experienced social and economic discrimination.
- ❖ Reservations are applicable on higher education, government jobs, and even political office.
- ❖ There are a certain number of seats reserved for scheduled castes (SCs) and (STs) in all legislative bodies, including Parliament.

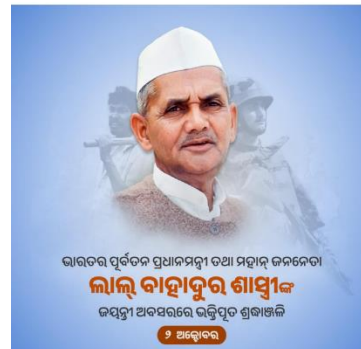
#### What is the Poona Pact of 1932?

- ❖ Gandhi's fast - In 1932, Gandhi began a fast unto death in the Yerawada Jail against the British decision to create separate electorates based on caste.
- ❖ With pressure from Gandhi, Ambedkar signed the historic Poona Pact in 1932. According to this pact, Hindu joint

electorate was retained and gave reserved seats to the depressed classes.

- ❖ It was signed by Ambedkar on behalf of the depressed classes and Madan Mohan Malviya on behalf of the Upper Caste Hindus. Ambedkar was never satisfied with the outcome of the Poona pact.

### India celebrates 120th birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri



#### Key Points:

- ❖ India celebrates the 120th birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri, the nation's second Prime Minister. Shastri, who succeeded Jawaharlal Nehru, was respected for his forthrightness and honesty, and after his passing, he was awarded the Bharat Ratna, making him the first posthumous laureate of this prestigious award.
- ❖ Shastri has the same birthday (2 October) as Mahatma Gandhi even though he was born in 1904, 35 years later. He is also remembered for composing the slogan of "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan".
- ❖ Lal Bahadur Shastri was born on October 2, 1904, to Sharada Prasad Srivastava, who was a clerk at the revenue office in Allahabad, and mother Ramadulari Devi in Mughalsarai.
- ❖ Lal Bahadur Shastri was a student in the East Central Railway Inter College in Mughalsarai and Varanasi.
- ❖ In 1926 he successfully completed his graduation from the Kashi Vidyapeeth. At the age of 16, Shastri joined the non-

cooperation movement to fight against the British.

- ❖ His Prime ministership was for a short term of 19 months, but he has served the nation for 30 years by being a part of India's struggle for independence.
- ❖ He was a life member of the servants of the people's society (Lok Sevak Mandal) founded by Lala Lajpat Rai.
- ❖ There he started working for the upliftment of the backward classes and later became the President of that society. In the 1930s, he participated in salt satyagraha and was sent to jail for more than two years.
- ❖ In 1937, he was the organising secretary of the Parliamentary Board of UP and, later in 1942, was again sent to jail when Mahatma Gandhi delivered the Quit India speech in Mumbai.
- ❖ His imprisonment continued till 1946, with an average of nine years in total in jail. His time in jail was utilised by reading books and understanding the work of western philosophers, revolutionaries, and social reformers.
- ❖ He promoted the white and green revolution in India that helped in increasing the production of milk by supporting the Amul milk co-operative in Gujrat and creating the National Dairy Development Board.
- ❖ In 1965, his boost to the green revolution helped in the productivity of food grain in places like Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh. He received the highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna, posthumously in 1966.
- ❖ Shastri died on January 11, 1966, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, just a day after the peace treaty was signed for the end of the 1965 Indo-Pakistan War.
- ❖ The cause of death was reported as a cardiac arrest but the Shastri family claimed it to be poisoned.

## MISSION MARS

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ Notably, so far, only uncrewed spacecraft have made the trip to Mars, but that could soon change.
- ❖ US space agency NASA is hoping to land the first humans on Mars by the 2030s and SpaceX chief Elon Musk recently said that humans could be living in a city on the Red Planet in the next 30 years. Several new missions are also launching before these given timelines to push exploration forward.
- ❖ Proposals for human missions to Mars have come from agencies such as NASA, CNSA, the European Space Agency, Boeing, SpaceX, and space advocacy groups such as the Mars Society and The Planetary Society.
- ❖ Sending humans to Mars seems to be the new milestone in space exploration. However, the dream of colonising Mars appears difficult to achieve due to the brutal conditions on the planet, which experts have warned can cause people to turn green and lose their eyesight.
- ❖ According to Indy100, biologist Dr Scott Solomon from Rice University in Texas, US, explained that children born to human settlers on the Red Planet would experience a series of drastic mutations and evolutionary changes.
- ❖ In his book, Future Humans, Dr Solomon claimed that due to the incredibly harsh conditions on the surface of Mars, it could be extremely difficult for humans to survive, let alone thrive, on the Red Planet.
- ❖ He wrote that if human settlers on Mars give birth to children, the latter are likely to undergo various drastic mutations and evolutionary changes.
- ❖ These mutations can occur because of low gravitation forces and high radiation and can result in green skin tone, weak

muscles, poor eyesight and brittle bones, Dr Solomon explained.

- ❖ According to Indy100, Mars is a smaller planet than Earth and has 30% less gravity than we have evolved to live with.
- ❖ The Red Planet also lacks a magnetic field, and a protective ozone layer, leaving the planet open to space radiation, UV and charged particles from the sun and cosmic rays. This kind of environment has led to the mutation of humans at extreme rates so that they can cope with new conditions.
- ❖ This, Dr Solomon explained, could see skin colour change to help cope with radiation.
- ❖ "Perhaps in the face of this high radiation, we might evolve some new type of skin pigment to help us deal with that radiation. Maybe we get our own green men," he wrote in his book
- ❖ Moreover, the expert claimed that brittle bones brought on by the lack of gravity could cause women's pelvises to break during childbirth.
- ❖ He also argued that eyesight could start to become weaker due to the reduction of the need to see far distances, as humans would be living together in small enclaves.

#### India maintains unbeaten record to win the Men's SAFF U17 Championship



#### Key Points:

- ❖ The undefeated Indian football team lifted the 2024 Men's SAFF U17 Championship by defeating Bangladesh 2-0 in the final.
- ❖ The final was played at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan, on 30 September 2024.

- ❖ The Indian boy's football team, also famously known as Blue Colts, remained undefeated throughout the tournament.
- ❖ The 2024 Men's SAFF U17 Championship was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, from 22-30 September 2024.
- ❖ India and Bangladesh have met five times in the SAFF men's age group tournament finals. India has won four times - U18 in 2019, U20 in 2022, U16 in 2023 and U17 in 2024.
- ❖ Bangladesh has won once in U16 in 2015

#### Unbeaten India in the SAFF U17 Championships

- ❖ Seven teams -India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan participated in the 2024 Men's SAFF U17 Championships.
- ❖ India, Bangladesh, and the Maldives were in Group A, and Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan were in Group B.
- ❖ India defeated Bangladesh 1-0 and Maldives 3-0. In the semi-final, India defeated Nepal by 4-2. Bangladesh defeated Pakistan in the penalty shoot 8-7 in the other semifinal to qualify for the finals.
- ❖ In the final, Mohammed Kaif scored the opening goal for India, and Mohammed Arbash scored the second goal in the 95th minute. Ngamgouhou Mate captained the Indian team.

#### Awards Winners

- ❖ Player of the Tournament: Mohammed Arbash of India.
- ❖ Goalkeeper of the Tournament: Aheibam Suraj Singh.

#### About SAFF (South Asian Football Federation)

- ❖ The South Asian Football Federation is a regional football association of South Asian countries.

- ❖ It was founded in 1997 by Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan later joined the Federation.
- ❖ SAFF organises both seniors and juniors tournaments for men and women.
- ❖ The tournament organised for seniors (men/women) is called the SAAF Championships.
- ❖ The junior event for men is organised for the various age groups: U-16, U-17, U-19, and U-20.
- ❖ The junior events for women are organised in U-15, U-16, U-17, U-18, and U-20 categories.
- ❖ Headquarters: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- ❖ President of SAFF: Kazi Md. Salahuddin of Bangladesh

### Cruise Bharat Mission launched to promote Cruise Tourism



#### Key Points:

- ❖ The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Saraband Sonowal, launched the Cruise Bharat Mission on 30 September 2024 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The Minister launched the mission onboard the cruise ship Empress. The initiative aims to achieve India's vision of becoming a global hub for cruise tourism and promote the country as the leading global cruise destination.

#### Who will implement the Cruise Bharat Mission?

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is the nodal ministry for implementing the Cruise Bharat Mission. The mission will be implemented with the

support of all regulatory agencies, such as Customs, Immigration, CISF, State Tourism Departments, State Maritime Agencies, District Administrations, and local police.

- ❖ The ministry will establish a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for cruise development under the Indian Ports Association. The Indian Port Association is an association of major ports in India.

#### Phases of the Cruise Bharat Mission

- ❖ The Cruise Bharat Mission will be implemented from 1 October 2024 up to 31 March 2029 in three phases.
- ❖ **Phase -1** (1 October 2024-30 September 2025) The main focus will be on planning and forming cruise alliances with neighbouring countries. The existing cruise terminals and marinas will be modernized.
- ❖ **Phase II** (1 October 2025-31 March 2027) Focus will be on developing new cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations.
- ❖ **Phase III** (1 April 2027- 31 March 2029) The focus will be on integrating all cruise circuits across the Indian Subcontinent, continuing the development of cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations.

#### Performance Target

- ❖ The mission has also set a performance target, which will be achieved during the mission period.
- ❖ Increase in sea cruise passenger traffic from 5 lakhs to 10 lakhs by Phase III.
- ❖ Increase in river cruise passenger traffic from 5 lakhs to 15 lakhs by Phase III.
- ❖ Number of international cruise terminals from 2 to 10 by Phase III.
- ❖ Number of river cruise terminals from 50 to 100. Similarly, marinas will grow from 1 to 5, and employment generation will grow from 1 lakhs to 4 lakhs by the end of Phase III.

#### Cruise Segments

- ❖ Under the Cruise Bharat Mission, there are three cruise segments - Ocean and Harbour, River and inland and Islands segments.
- ❖ The Ocean and Harbour segment will focus on ocean, deep sea and coastal cruises with a focus on yachting and sailing cruises.
- ❖ River and Inland Cruise will focus on rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks, and lakes.
- ❖ The Island Cruise segment will focus on lighthouse tours, live-aboard experiences, expedition cruises, and boutique cruises to lesser-known destinations.

### Kamal Chawla clinches Gold in IBSF World 6 Red Snooker Championship



#### Key Points:

- ❖ In snooker, Indian veteran Kamal Chawla has clinched his maiden IBSF World 6-Red title with a commanding 6-2 victory over Pakistan's Asjad Iqbal in the final at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- ❖ In the women's category, India's Vidya was unable to defend her title, finishing with a bronze medal after a hard-fought semifinal loss to Hong Kong's Ng On Yee, with the scoreline at 2-4.
- ❖ This triumph marks a significant turnaround for Chawla, who was the runner-up in the 2017 edition of the tournament.
- ❖ India also won three more bronze medals through Malkeet Singh, Vidya Pillai, and Keerthana Pandian.

### India elected to GlobE Steering Committee on combating corruption



#### Key Points:

- ❖ India has been elected to the fifteen-member steering committee of the GlobE Network following a multi-stage voting process during a plenary session in Beijing.
- ❖ The Global Operational Network of AntiCorruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) is an initiative launched under the G20 framework to address international corruption and financial crime.
- ❖ India's election to the steering committee will allow it to actively contribute to global efforts in combating corruption and facilitating asset recovery.
- ❖ The GlobE Network provides a platform for international cooperation, enhancing the ability of member countries to address cross-border corruption and financial crime.
- ❖ India has been a supporter of this initiative since 2020, with the network officially launched on June 3, 2021, during a UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption (UNGASS).

### India elected to GlobE Steering Committee on combating corruption



#### Key Points:

- ❖ During India's G20 Presidency in 2023, two key principles for combating corruption

were adopted, focusing on the use of the GlobE Network to further global anti-corruption efforts.

- ❖ Today, the GlobE Network includes 121 member countries and 219 member authorities.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) serves as the Central Authority for GlobE Network in India, while the CBI and Enforcement Directorate (ED) represent India as member authorities.

### World Heart Day



#### Key Points:

- ❖ World Heart Day is celebrated annually on September 29th.
- ❖ Objective – To raise awareness about the importance of heart health and preventing cardiovascular diseases.
- ❖ Theme 2024 – Use Heart for Action The day brings people together to increase awareness, engage communities and

advocate for universal access to cardiovascular disease prevention, detection and treatment.

### International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction



#### Key Points:

- ❖ The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW) is celebrated on September 29th each year.
- ❖ The day's goal is to raise awareness about food loss and waste, and to encourage action to reduce it.
- ❖ Theme 2024 – Climate Finance for Food Loss and Waste Reduction
- ❖ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – specifically SDG 12, Target 12.3 – calls for halving per-capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reducing food losses along production and supply chains.



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