

International

UNESCO designates 11 new biosphere reserves



About News:-

- ❖ Eleven new Biosphere Reserves (BR), including two transboundary biosphere reserves, have been designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in eleven nations. Belgium and the Gambia's biosphere reserves were added to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves for the first time.
- ❖ Currently, 759 sites in 136 nations make up the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, including 24 transboundary sites.
- ❖ The 36th session of the International Coordinating Council (ICC), which oversees UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) program, was convened in Agadir, Morocco, from July 2–5, 2024, and authorized these 11 additional BRs.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The entire area of these recently authorized biosphere reserves is 37,400 square kilometers (km²), or the same size as the Netherlands.
- ❖ Of the 11 new BRs that UNESCO certified, only two were transboundary BRs: the Julian Alps transboundary BR (between Italy and Slovenia) and the Kempen-Broek transboundary BR (between Belgium and the Kingdom of the Netherlands).

- ❖ The other new biosphere reserves are in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Italy, Mongolia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Belgium and the Gambia.
- ❖ Under the MAB Program, 12 BRs from India have received international recognition.

The New Additions to the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve List:-

1. Kempen-Broek Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Belgium, Kingdom of the Netherlands)
2. Darién Norte Chocoano Biosphere Reserve (Colombia)
3. Madre de las Aguas Biosphere Reserve (Dominican Republic)
4. Niimi Biosphere Reserve (Gambia)
5. Colli Euganei Biosphere Reserve (Italy)
6. Julian Alps Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Italy, Slovenia)
7. Khar Us Lake Biosphere Reserve (Mongolia)
8. Apayaos Biosphere Reserve (Philippines)
9. Changnyeong Biosphere Reserve (Republic of Korea)
10. Val d'Aran Biosphere Reserve (Spain)
11. Irati Biosphere Reserve (Spain)

About United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO):-

- ❖ **Established-**1945
- ❖ **Headquarters-** Paris, France
- ❖ **Director-General-** Audrey Azoulay
- ❖ **Member Nations-** 194 member states

National

The Finance Commission constitutes a five-member Advisory Council



About News:-

- ❖ An advisory council comprising five members has been established by the Sixteenth Finance Commission to provide counsel on matters about the Commission's Terms of Reference (ToR) and related areas.
- ❖ By the ToR, the Finance Commission will also recommend actions to increase a state's Consolidated Fund to augment the resources of municipalities and panchayats.

Members of the Advisory Council :-

The National Council of Applied Economic Research's Director General, Poonam Gupta, has been named the Advisory Council's convenor.

The other members are:

- ❖ Neelkanth Mishra, Chief Economist at Axis Bank;
- ❖ D.K. Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor at EY
- ❖ Pranjul Bhandari is HSBC Securities & Capital Markets' chief economist for India.
- ❖ Rahul Bajoria, MD, Head of Barclays' EM Asia (ex-China) Economics

Role and Functions of the Advisory Council

- ❖ drafting research studies or papers
- ❖ observing or evaluating research that the Finance Commission has commissioned
- ❖ Increasing the Commission's comprehension of the matters covered in its ToR
- ❖ expanding the Commission's purview and knowledge base by looking for the best national and worldwide fiscal devolution methods

key Points:-

- ❖ On December 31, 2023, the President established the 16th Finance Commission, chaired by Arvind Panagariya.
- ❖ The commission was established to provide recommendations for five years starting on April 1, 2026.
- ❖ The commission is also required to examine the current finance arrangements for disaster management efforts, taking into account the funds established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (53 of 2005), and to provide pertinent suggestions based on its findings.

- ❖ The proposals of the 15th Finance Commission say that the federal government should give the states 41% of tax revenue. We call this vertical devolution.
- ❖ The allocation of resources across states, also known as horizontal devolution, is determined by several factors, including population, income, area, forest and ecosystem, taxes, and steps taken by each state to control its budgetary deficit.

About Sixteenth Finance Commission:-

- ❖ Chairman :- Arvind Panagariy
- ❖ Secretary:- Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey

Economic

Moody's keeps India's 2024 growth unchanged at 6.8%



About News:-

- ❖ The global rating agency Moody's has said that it has maintained India's 6.8% GDP growth estimate for 2024. The Indian economy was predicted to rise by 6.5% by 2025.
- ❖ India's GDP was revised from 6.1% to 6.8% in Moody's "Global Macro Outlook 2024" report, which was published in March 2024.

Key Points:-

- ❖ According to Moody's, India's inflation will drop from 5.7% in 2023 to 5.2% in 2024 and 4.8% in 2025.
- ❖ Growing demand both domestically and internationally accelerates GDP growth in Emerging Markets (EMs), according to Moody's Rating.
- ❖ To reflect the faster-than-expected growth in some of the top EM economies in the first half of 2024, it has changed its aggregate EM prediction to 3.9% for 2024 and 2025.
- ❖ India's GDP grew by 8.2% over the entire FY24, according to data issued by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme

Implementation (MOSPI) in May 2024. This rise was further boosted by a 7.8% quarter growth from January to March 2024.

- ❖ Retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased to 4.75% in May 2024 and 4.83% in April 2024, according to the MoSPI.

Appointment

Gautam Gambhir appointed India men's cricket head coach



About News:-

- ❖ Gautam Gambhir, the former opener for India, has been named the new Head Coach of the India Cricket Team (Senior Men) and will hold the position till the end of 2027, according to a statement made by Jay Shah, Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- ❖ The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), which is made up of Ashok Malhotra, Jatin Paranjpe, and Sulakshana Naik, recommended his appointment.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Beginning on July 27, 2024, he will be in charge of Team India's next series against Sri Lanka, which consists of three Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) and three One Day Internationals (ODIs).
- ❖ Rahul Dravid, whose mandate concluded following the 2024 International Cricket Council (ICC) T20 World Cup, is replaced by Gautam.
- ❖ his outstanding efforts to the Indian squad, which included standout performances in the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup and the 2007 ICC World T20.

- ❖ The Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) won their third Indian Premier League (IPL) championship in 2024 thanks in part to Gambhir's coaching.
- ❖ Along with Mohammad Yousuf, Don Bradman, and Jacques Kallis, he is the only other Indian player to hit hundreds in five straight Test matches.

Science & Technology

Türkiye Launches First Home-Made Communications Satellite



About News:-

- ❖ TÜRKSAT-6A, the first communication satellite developed in Turkey, was launched into orbit by Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) on a Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station (CCSFS), in the United States of America (USA), by ASELSAN, a company of the Turkish Armed Forces Foundation (TAFF).
- ❖ ASELSAN engineers created the Ku-Band and X-Band communication payloads that are installed aboard the TÜRKSAT-6A satellite.
- ❖ With this launch, Turkey is now among the 11 nations in the world with the ability to produce its communication satellites.
- ❖ The biggest defense electronics manufacturer in Turkey is called ASELSAN.

Objective:-

The objective of the TÜRKSAT 6A project is to create the infrastructure required and a satellite platform appropriate for geostationary orbit satellites within the nation.

History :-

- ❖ Turksat 2A was launched in 2001, Turksat 3A in 2008, Turksat 4B in 2014, Turksat 5A in 2021, and Turksat 5B in 2022. Turksat 1C, the replacement for the initial communications satellite Turksat 1B, was launched in 1995.
- ❖ On December 15, 2014, the Turksat 6A project was formally introduced. It has been in the works for around ten years.
- ❖ The satellite's construction was finished by Turkish defense companies Aselsan, C2TECH, and Turkish Aerospace Industries in collaboration with the Turkish Space Agency, Turksat, and TUBITAK.

Important Information:-

- ❖ The 4.25-ton (4250 kg) satellite will operate at an orbital position of 42 degrees East for 15 years during its operational life.
- ❖ The Space Systems Integration and Testing (USET) Center hosted the integration and testing of the TÜRKSAT 6A satellite.
- ❖ ASELSAN designed the satellite's payloads, which have a combined mass of 300 kg and a power consumption of 5 kW.
- ❖ After a month of orbital testing, the satellite is scheduled to arrive at its operational orbit, which is 35,786 kilometers (km) above Earth's surface.

Services for Communication :-

- ❖ Communication services will be available to Turkey, Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia via the TÜRKSAT-6A satellite.
- ❖ With the addition of South Asian nations like India, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia to its coverage region, Turksat will serve a population that will increase from 3.5 billion to over 5 billion.

About Turkey :-

- ❖ **Capital :-** Ankara
- ❖ **Currency :-** Turkish lira
- ❖ **President :-** Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

Sport

Badminton: India's Tasnim Mir & Tharun Mannepli Clinch Singles Titles At Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024

About News:-

- ❖ The Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024 (3rd Edition) took place in Saint-Denis, the capital of the French overseas département of Réunion in the Western Indian Ocean and region of France, from July 3-7, 2024. Indian badminton players Tasnim Mir and Tharun Mannepli emerged victorious in the women's and men's singles categories.
- ❖ Japan's Yudai Okimoto was defeated by Tharun Mannepli in the Men's Singles Title match.
- ❖ Tasnim Mir emerged victorious in the Women's Singles Title match, triumphing over fellow Indian Rakshitha Sree in the championship match.



About Tasnim Mir:-

- ❖ With this victory, Gujarati Tasnim Mir won her third International Challenge title.
- ❖ In 2022, she won the India Chattisgarh International and the Iran Fajr International.
- ❖ After winning three junior international events, she also made history by being the first Indian to rank #1 in the world in the under-19 girls' singles category of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) junior rankings in 2022.
- ❖ At now, she is ranked 63rd in the world in the Women's Singles category.

About Tharun Mannepli :-

- ❖ In 2024, Telangana native Tharun Mannepli won his second international championship.
- ❖ In April 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan, he emerged victorious in the Kazakhstan International Challenge.
- ❖ At the moment, he is ranked 99th in the world in the men's singles category.

Miscellaneous

Second BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat To Begin In New Delhi



About News:-

- ❖ External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will host his counterparts for the 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat in New Delhi on 11-12 July 2024.
- ❖ The Retreat will present an opportunity for the Foreign Ministers of the BIMSTEC countries to discuss, in an informal setting, avenues to broaden and deepen cooperation across various sectors including in the fields of security, connectivity, trade and investment, people-to-people contacts etc, in the Bay of Bengal region and littoral.
- ❖ The first edition of the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 17 July 2023.
- ❖ The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), brings together seven countries of South and South East Asia for multifaceted cooperation.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

- ❖ **Establishment:-** 6 June 1997
- ❖ **Secretariat:-** Dhaka, Bangladesh
- ❖ **Member:-** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand

Vietnam tops the list of most affordable countries for ex-pats, and India ranks 6th



About News:-

- ❖ Vietnam topped the list of most affordable nations for immigrants or expatriates for a fourth consecutive term, according to the Expat Insider 2024 Survey, which was conducted by InterNations in the Personal Finance Index category. Of the respondents, 86% thought the cost of living in the nation was reasonable, 65% were happy with their financial circumstances, and 68% thought their household income was sufficient for survival.
- ❖ On the list of the ten most affordable nations for immigrants, India came in at number six.
- ❖ Latin American nation Colombia rose in the rankings from seventh place (2023) to second place (2024), with Indonesia and Panama following in third and fourth places, respectively.

About Expat Insider 2024 Survey:-

- ❖ More than 12,000 foreign nationals from 174 different countries were included in the poll.
- ❖ A nation needs to receive at least 50 responses to be included in the list. Only 53 locations met the required 50 responses this year.
- ❖ It has assessed these 53 locations according to important criteria like employment stability, income levels, housing accessibility, digital connectivity, and quality of life.
- ❖ According to the report, expats in nations like Panama (15% versus 12% worldwide), the Philippines (5%) and Thailand (4%), among others, are motivated by money.

Top 10 wallet-friendly destinations for ex-pats:

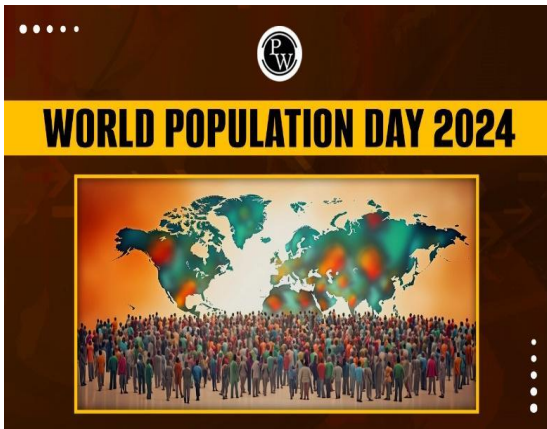
1. Vietnam
2. Colombia
3. Indonesia
4. Panama
5. Philippines
6. India
7. Mexico
8. Thailand
9. Brazil
10. China

About InterNations:-

- ❖ Established- 2007
- ❖ Headquarters- Munich, Germany
- ❖ Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Philipp von Plato

Important Day

World Population Day - 11th July



About Day:-

World Population Day is observed annually on July 11. This annual celebration highlights the issues of global population growth and emphasizes the need to create a more sustainable and friendly world for future generations. The United Nations (UN) also noted that 2024 marks a significant milestone, as the world's population officially reached 8 billion people. This article provides a comprehensive overview of World Population Day 2024, its history, significance, and the critical issues it addresses. World Population Day is essential to reflect on the challenges and opportunities presented by our growing global population.

"Leave No One Behind, Count Everyone," the theme for World Population Day 2024

World Population Day 2024

World Population Day 2024, observed on July 11, is a crucial occasion dedicated to raising awareness about global population issues. Established by the United Nations in 1989, this day underscores the challenges posed by overpopulation, such as resource depletion, environmental impact, and social inequalities. It highlights the importance of family planning, gender equality, and maternal health, urging global leaders and communities to address these pressing concerns. As we mark this day, it's essential to reflect on the implications of a growing population and work towards sustainable solutions for the future.

History of World Population Day

While you might be aware that there are over seven billion people on Earth, have you ever wondered what that truly means? It all began with Five Billion Day in 1987, marking the date when the world's population reached an estimated five billion people on July 11. This significant milestone inspired the establishment of World Population Day.

Establishment of World Population Day

World Population Day was officially created in 1989 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The heightened public interest in celebrating Five Billion Days led to the selection of July 11 as World Population Day, made official by the United Nations General Assembly with resolution 45/216 in December 1990.

Importance of World Population Day 2024

World Population Day 2024 highlights the ongoing challenges posed by a growing global population. Overpopulation is a pressing issue, especially with world resources being depleted at an unsustainable rate. This day emphasizes the importance of raising awareness about the impact of overpopulation on development, nature, and society. It also brings attention to health issues faced by women during pregnancy and childbirth, underlining the need for family planning, gender equality, and maternal health.

Global Population Challenges

As the world's population continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, we are faced with a multitude of global challenges that impact every aspect of life on Earth. Overpopulation strains our natural resources, exacerbates environmental degradation, and intensifies social and economic inequalities. From the increasing demand for food, water, and energy to the pressures on health care, education, and housing, the implications of a burgeoning population are profound and far-reaching. Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort from governments, organizations, and individuals worldwide to promote sustainable development, equitable

resource distribution, and the protection of human rights.

Impact on Resources

The increasing population exacerbates societal issues, including heinous crimes related to gender inequality and human rights violations, particularly in developing countries. As the population grows, problems such as human trafficking and child labor become more prevalent, stressing the need for improved leadership and citizen care.

Health and Gender Equality

In 2024, the world population is growing at a rate of around 0.91% per year, an increase from 0.88% in 2023 but a decrease from 1.06% in 2019. The annual population increase is currently estimated at approximately 73 million people.

Population Growth Trends

Population growth trends have evolved significantly over the decades. The global population, which doubled from 3 billion in 1959 to 6 billion in 1999, is now increasing at a slower rate compared to the peak growth period of the late 1960s when the annual growth rate was around 2%. In 2024, the growth rate stands at approximately 0.91% per year, adding around 73 million people annually. Although the growth rate has nearly halved since its peak, the world population is still projected to reach 9 billion by 2037 and 10 billion by 2057. These trends indicate a shift towards slower, yet steady population growth, emphasizing the need for sustainable development and resource management to accommodate the increasing number of people.

This article provides a comprehensive overview of World Population Day 2024, its history, significance, and the critical issues it addresses. As we observe this important day, it is essential to reflect on the challenges and opportunities presented by our growing global population.

