

Rapid Fire Current Affairs

International Day of the Girl 2023

Recently, a 21 year old woman from Chennai got the chance to **live a day in the shoes of a diplomat** after winning a competition held by the British High Commission to commemorate the <u>International Day</u> of the Girl 2023.

- International Day of the Girl Child, observed annually on 11th October was first celebrated in 2012.
- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, proposed an action plan to advance the rights of girls.
- In 2011, the <u>United Nations General Assembly</u> adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare 11th October as the International Day of the Girl Child.
 - The day aims to focus on the importance of girls' education, their rights, and promoting gender equality.
 - It urges the global community to move beyond reaffirming commitments and invest boldly in the action needed to make changes that could empower girls.
- Theme of International Day of the Girl 2023: "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Wellbeing."

Read more: International Girl Child Day

Tele MANAS Seva

On World Mental Health Day, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare highlighted the success of <u>Tele</u> <u>Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele MANAS) Seva.</u>

- Tele-MANAS Seva is a mental health counseling service launched on <u>World Mental Health Day</u> 2022.
- The aim of Tele-MANAS is to provide universal access to equitable, accessible, affordable and quality mental health care through 24X7 tele-mental health services as a digital component of the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) across all Indian States and UTs with assured linkages.
- The Tele MANAS helpline offers toll-free access with audio calling and an auto-call back system. Trained counselors provide care, referring to specialists when needed, including audio and video options.
 - For urgent in-person care, referrals to health centers are arranged via <u>eSanjeevani</u>, from Health and Wellness Centers to tertiary care centers.
- Tele-MANAS has counseled more than 3,50,000 people till 11th October 2023 and more than 1,000 calls are being received on this helpline every day.

Read more: <u>World Mental Health Day 2022, National Telemedicine Service of India:</u> <u>eSanjeevani</u>

The Optical Phenomenon of Rainbows

Rainbows, a meteorological marvel gracing the sky with their radiant hues post-rainfall, owe their

existence to the **intricacies of light** <u>refraction</u> and reflection. After a substantial downpour, these optical phenomena can extend across the horizon, appearing as though **they touch the Earth's** surface.

- The underlying cause can be attributed to the bending and separation of sunlight's rays as they interact with raindrops.
 - Each raindrop essentially acts as a **miniature prism,** refracting and dispersing light into its constituent colors.
 - The angles at which these colors reach an observer's eye remain constant.
- The rainbow's location in the sky is determined by the sun's height.
 - **Raindrops,** oriented opposite to the sun at specific angles, can create a full circle, but from ground level, we see an arc due to the horizon.
 - But, under special conditions like a setting sun, observers from high vantage points, such as mountain tops or hot-air balloons, can experience the full circular display of this optical marvel.

Read more: Rainbows

National Waterways 44(Ichamati River)

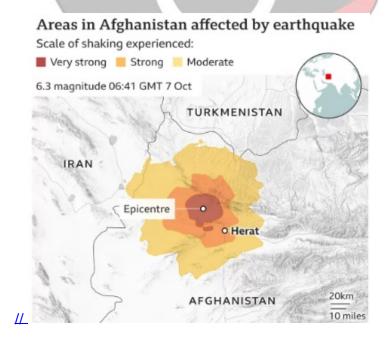
The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways** has initiated a significant **dredging project on** <u>National Waterways</u> 44, which includes the **Ichamati River in West Bengal.** This project aims to **increase the navigational depth of the Ichamati River,** ultimately boosting its capacity to manage tidal influences.

- The Ichamati River, serving as a **boundary between India and Bangladesh**, flows through both countries and has three distinct sections. Additionally, in the North 24-Parganas district in West Bengal, **it forms an** <u>oxbow lake</u> complex.
 - However, the river faces challenges such as silt accumulation leading to reduced flow in dry seasons and flooding during the rainy season.
- National Waterways like Ichamati are essential for transportation, with India boasting 111 such inland waterways spanning a total of 14,500 kilometers.

 The <u>Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)</u> oversees their development and regulation, facilitating the movement of around 55 million tonnes of cargo annually through Inland Water Transport (IWT).

Read more: Inland Waterways Authority of India

Earthquake Strikes Northwestern Afghanistan



Recently, an **<u>earthquake</u>** with a magnitude of **6.3 hit northwestern Afghanistan**, causing widespread devastation.

- This devastating earthquake has left residents in a state of desperation, struggling to recover and rebuild their lives in the face of ongoing adversity.
- An earthquake is a sudden and violent shaking of the ground. These movements can result in the release of energy in the form of <u>seismic waves</u>, which propagate through the Earth, causing the ground to shake.
 - The point on the Earth's surface directly above where the earthquake originates is called the **epicenter**, and the location within the Earth where the earthquake's energy is released is known as the **hypocenter or focus**.

the Vision

Read more: Earthquake

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