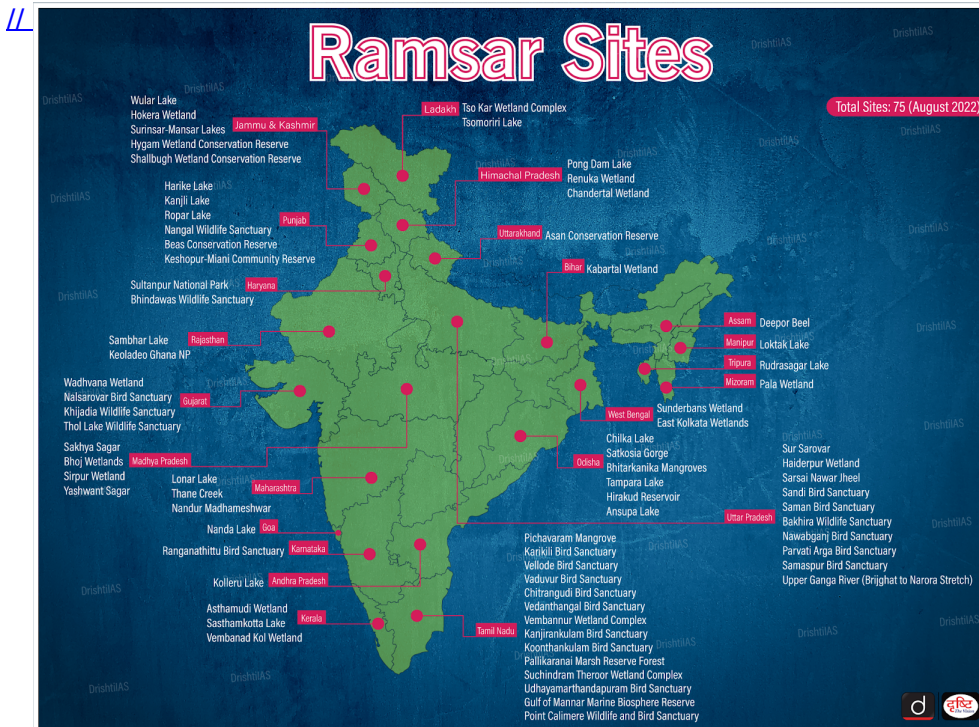




Rapid Fire Current Affairs

World Wetlands Day 2023



The State Govts and UT administrations across India celebrated **World Wetlands Day (WWD)** at all **75 Ramsar sites** on **02nd Feb 2023**.

The **2023 theme** for World Wetlands Day is **'Wetland Restoration'** highlighting the urgent need to prioritise wetland restoration.

The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the **'Save Wetlands Campaign'** structured on a **"whole of society" approach** for wetlands conservation.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated all over the world **to commemorate the signing of the Ramsar Convention** on Wetlands of International Importance (**1971**).

India has been a party to the Convention since 1982 and has so far declared 75 wetlands as Ramsar across 23 states/UTs. **India has the largest network of Ramsar Sites in Asia.**

Read More - [World Wetlands Day](#), [Ramsar Sites](#), [Ramsar Convention \(Infographics\)](#)

Sant Guru Ravidas Jayanti

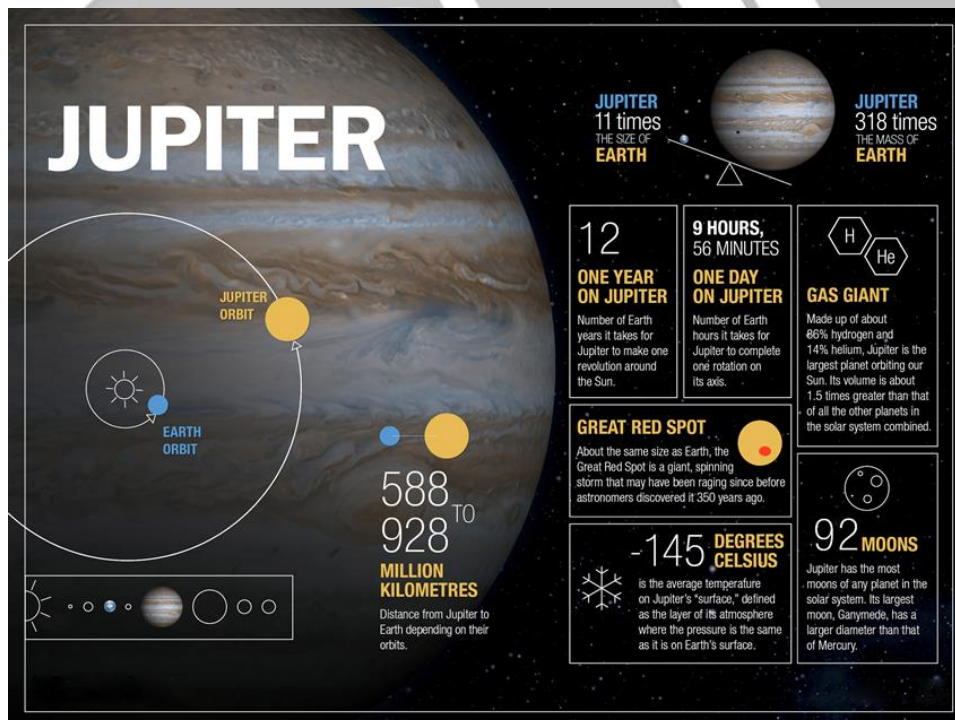


The birthday of Sant Guru Ravidas was observed on **05th Feb 2023**. Guru Ravidas Jayanti is **celebrated on Magh Purnima** (full moon day in the Magh month of the Hindu lunar calendar).

Guru Ravidas was a **15th century saint and reformer of the Bhakti movement** who gained prominence due to his **belief in one God** and his unbiased religious poems. He dedicated his whole life to the **abolition of the caste system** and openly despised the notion of a Brahminical society. Around 41 of his poems were included in '**Guru Granth Sahib**', the religious text of the Sikhs.

Read More - [Guru Ravidas Jayanti](#)

Jupiter Becomes the Planet with Most Moons



Astronomers recently discovered **12 new moons around Jupiter**, increasing the total **number of moons it has to 92 - the largest number** any planet on our solar system has (**Saturn has 83**

moons).

The moons were **discovered using telescopes in Hawaii and Chile** in 2021 and 2022 and have been added to a list kept by the [International Astronomical Union's Minor Planet Centre](#) (size of these moons ranges from 1-3 kms).

Upcoming missions to Jupiter include - (a) **ESA's spacecraft to Jupiter** to study the planet and some of its biggest, icy moons (in 2023), (b) [NASA's Europa Clipper](#) to explore Jupiter's moon Europa which could harbour an ocean beneath its frozen crust (in 2024). **NASA earlier launched [Mission Lucy](#)** to explore the [Jupiter Trojan Asteroids](#).

Apart from Jupiter and Saturn, **Uranus has 27** confirmed moons, **Neptune 14**, **Mars 2** and **Earth has 1 moon** while **Venus and Mercury have no moons**.

Read More - [Jupiter and Europa](#)

Medium Density Amorphous Ice



Scientists at University College London (UCL) have recently created a **new type of ice that matches the density and structure of water**. The ice is called medium-density amorphous ice.

The ice was created by **shaking regular ice in a small container** with centimetre-wide **stainless-steel balls at temperatures of -200°C** to produce the novel variant. The ice appeared as a white granular powder that stuck to the metal balls.

Normally, when water freezes, it crystallises and its molecules are arranged into the familiar **hexagonal, solid structure** - ice. **Ice is less dense than its liquid form** - an unusual property for a crystal.

Depending on conditions such as pressure and the speed of freezing, water can also solidify in many other

regular arrangements. **Amorphous ice, however, is different as it has no such order.** Hence, this study could probably **help in studying water's mysterious properties.**

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