

➤ Resolution is adopted at the 55th Session of the **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**.

➤ **Resolution calls on states:**

To combat discrimination, violence and harmful practices against persons with **innate variations in sex characteristics** and Address their root causes as well as help **intersex** people 'realize the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health'.

➤ **Intersex** people are born with **sex characteristics** (such as sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, hormonal patterns and/or chromosomal patterns) that do not fit **typical binary notions of male or female bodies**.

They may have any gender identity or sexual orientation.

Experts estimate that up to 1.7 % of the population are born with intersex traits.

Intersex people are **different from transgenders**.

◆ Transgenders are born with a body that has unambiguous sexual characteristics (either male or female) but they don't match the person's gender identity.

➤ **Key issues with Intersex People:** They are subjected to human rights violations because of their physical characteristics.

Society has created harmful stereotypes and pathologization (treating intersex persons as necessarily ill or disordered) towards them.

They face issues like Infanticide, forced and coercive medical interventions, discrimination in different sphere, legal recognition, etc.

About UNHRC

Genesis: Established in 2006 by the General Assembly. UNHRC replaced the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

About: It is the main **intergovernmental body** within the United Nations for Strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights.

Key Mandate: Reviews the human rights records of all UN Member States via the **Universal Periodic Review**, Authorizes **commissions of inquiry** and fact-finding missions on war crimes and crimes against humanity etc.

Membership: 47 Member States

➤ IMD predicted that **above normal heatwave days** are likely to occur over most parts of **south peninsula, central India, east India** and **plains of northwest India** during April to June hot weather season.

➤ **Heatwave** is a condition of air temperature which becomes fatal to the human body when exposed.

IMD declares a **heatwave** when the temperature of a place crosses **40 degrees Celsius (°C)** in the **plains**, **37°C** in the **coastal areas** and **30°C in the hills**. Further, it uses following criterion-

Based on departure from Normal Temperature

◆ **Heat Wave:** Between 4.5°C to 6.4°C from normal

◆ **Severe Heat Wave:** >6.4°C

Based on departure from Actual Maximum Temperature (for plains only)

◆ **Heat Wave:** ≥ 45°C

◆ **Severe Heat Wave:** ≥ 47°C

➤ **Favorable conditions:**

⊕ Transportation / Prevalence of **hot dry air over a region**.

⊕ Absence of **moisture** in the upper atmosphere.

⊕ Sky should be **cloudless** (allows maximum insulation over the region).

⊕ Large amplitude **anti-cyclonic flow** over the area.

➤ **Impacts of Heatwaves:** Health hazards such as **heat stroke**; increase strain on water and energy sources, Food insecurity (as it can cause wilting, stunting or early ripening of crops), etc.

Key Initiatives

IMD issues **colour code impact based heat warning** jointly with **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**.

It includes **Green** (No action), **Yellow Alert** (Be updated), **Orange Alert** (Be prepared) and **Red Alert** (Take Action).

NDMA's 'Guidelines for Preparation of Action Plan – Prevention and Management of Heat-Wave.

Preparation of Heat Wave Action Plans by states

National Action Plan on Heat Related Illnesses for effective preparedness of health facilities to address heat impact and management of cases.

policy measures

➤ The measures include:

Development	Description
Trading of Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At present, foreign portfolio investors are permitted to invest in SGrBs under different routes for investment by FPIs in government securities. ➤ SGrBs are bonds issued by governments to fund environmentally sustainable projects.
RBI Retail Direct Scheme - Introduction of Mobile App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ RBI Retail Direct Scheme, launched in 2021, gives access to individual investors to maintain gilt accounts with RBI and invest in government securities.
Dealing in Rupee Interest Rate Derivative products – Small Finance Banks (SFBs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Currently, SFBs are permitted to use only Interest Rate Futures (IRFs) for proprietary hedging. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ IRF contract allows the buyer and seller to lock in the price of interest-bearing asset for a future date. ➤ Interest Rate Derivative is a financial derivative contract whose value is derived from one or more interest rates, prices of interest rate instruments, or interest rate indices.
Enabling UPI for Cash Deposit Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Facility of cash deposit is presently available only through use of debit cards. ➤ Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India to facilitate inter-bank transactions.
Distribution of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) through Non-bank Payment System Operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presently, CBDC pilot project is going on for Retail and Wholesale segments. ➤ CBDC is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ CBDC is referred as ₹ (digital Rupee).

India has highest failed dope tests: World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

- As per WADA report, India has recorded the **highest percentage of failed dope tests** among countries with >2000 or more tests.
- **Doping is use of substances or physiological mediators** which are not normally present in body to enhance athletes' performance during competition.
- **Reasons for doping:** Publicity in sports, recovery from injury, advancements in technology, winning at all cost mindset, lack of knowledge about chemicals etc.
- **Methods used:** Manipulation of Blood & blood components, Chemical & Physical manipulation, Gene doping.
- **Impact of doping on Sport Ethics** (code of conduct for promoting and ensuring healthy sporting practices)
 - ⊕ **Undermines fair play** and compromises **spirit of sport** and contradicts pursuit of excellence. Goes
 - ⊕ **against the values of**
 - ◆ **Perseverance** as it does away with consistency to work towards a goal.
 - ◆ **Courage** which showcases one's willingness to shoulder burdens and take risks.
 - ⊕ **Hampers moral values of sports** and changes the nature of sport as an educative and health promoting activity.
 - ⊕ **Rewards the wrong doers** who participate in doping.
- **Way Forward:** Effective anti-doping programmes, Anti-Doping helpline for athletes, regular information on Prohibited Substances.

Anti-doping Agencies

World Anti-Doping Agency: Established in 1999 as **international independent agency** to lead towards doping-free sport.

Its aim is to develop, harmonize and coordinate **anti-doping rules and policies** across all sports and countries and monitor compliance with **World Anti-Doping Program**.

National Anti-Doping Agency: Established in 2005, it is autonomous organization and conducts Anti-Doping awareness programmes in association with **Sports Authority of India and National Sports Federations**.

210 artificial reefs

- Artificial reefs will be deployed in the **Arabian Sea**, near Worli Koliwada.
- **About Artificial reefs**
 - ⊕ These are **engineering technology interventions**, are used to **rehabilitate** and/ or **improve natural habitats**.
 - ◆ These are placed on the seabed with a fixed **scientific design** and functions as a **self-sustaining production system**.
 - They mimic characteristics of a **natural reef**.
 - ◆ **Natural reef** is a **ridge of material** at or near the surface of the ocean, made of **rocks** or the **skeletons** of **small animals** called **corals**.
 - Materials used:** Rocks, cinder blocks, wood, old tires, limestone, steel, and concrete.
- **Benefits of Artificial reefs**
 - Marine Habitat Restoration and Biodiversity Enhancement:** Providing firm substrates for Corals, algae, plankton etc.
 - ◆ It also acts as a **carbon sink** and also helps in nutrient recycling, maintenance of water quality and waste management.
 - Development of Fisheries:** Provide nursery grounds for fish resulting in increase in catch rates saving fuel and energy costs.
 - ◆ Also, enhance recreational fisheries such as snorkelling.
 - Other:** Reduces wave damage on coasts and restricts bottom trawling, promotes eco-tourism etc.

Key Initiative

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

Department of Fisheries promotes artificial reef units for coastal states as a sub-activity under "Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages" of the scheme.

It is implemented with support from **Fishery Survey of India** and **ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute**.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

- "Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2024" was released by UNESCAP.
 - The Survey, **published annually since 1947**, is flagship publication of UNESCAP.
- **About UNESCAP:**
 - ⊕ **Headquarters:** Bangkok, Thailand.
 - ⊕ **Genesis:** Established in 1947 as Economic Commission for Asia and Far East (ECAFE) and in 1976, it became ESCAP.
 - ⊕ **Function:** It provides a **forum for all governments of region to review and discuss economic and social issues** and to strengthen regional cooperation.
 - ⊕ **Members:** 53 members and 9 associate members (**India** is a member).

the need to adapt to the changing character of war

- **Changing nature of warfare**
 - ⊕ Traditionally, warfare was defined by **direct, kinetic military engagements**.
 - ⊕ However, 21st century marked emergence of more complex and subtle form of conflict known as **5th Generation War (5GW)**.
- 5GW** is conducted primarily through various non-kinetics forms of warfare. **It includes:-**
 - Cyber Warfare:** Involves actions to attack and attempt to damage another nation's computers or information networks through **computer viruses** or denial-of-service attacks.
 - Psychological Operations:** Involves planned use of **propaganda** etc. to influence opinions, emotions, and behavior of opposition groups.
 - Hybrid Warfare:** It refers to a military strategy that **blends conventional warfare** with other influencing methods, such as fake news, diplomacy, etc.
 - Other emerging challenges of warfare:** Impact of Disruptive technologies like Artificial Intelligence, drones, nuclear, space war, etc.

Indian Initiative taken in tackling

Strategic Forces Command (SFC): To control, manage and administer nuclear forces.

DRDO Young Scientists' Laboratories: To provide solutions in advanced technology areas of warfare.

Defence Cyber Agency to protect Defence Forces Information and Communication Technology assets.

Defence Space Agency to integrate **space** assets from **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force**.

Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)

Finance Ministry has appointed new presiding officer of SAT.

About SAT

It is **statutory body** under **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, 1992**.

- ⊕ **Function:** To hear and dispose of appeals against orders passed by
 - ◆ **SEBI,**
 - ◆ **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority,**
 - ◆ **Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India.**
- ⊕ **Bench:** Mumbai.
- ⊕ **Composition:** Consists of a Presiding Officer and such number of Judicial Members and Technical Members as Central Government may determine.



Phanigiri (Telangana)

- Department of Archaeology and Museums have unearthed a coin hoard at **Phanigiri site** in Suryapet district (Telangana) belonging to **Ikshvaku period**
 - About Phanigiri**
 - Phanigiri means **hillock of snake hood**.
 - It is **Buddhist site** located ~110 kms from Hyderabad.
 - Excavations here have unearthed:** Mahastupa, Chaitya Grihas, viharas, and life-size Stucco of Bodhisattva, **Brahmi** label inscriptions of Satavahana and Ikshvaku times, (2nd – 3rd Century A.D.) etc.
- The thorana's panel shows that both **Mahayana and Hinayana sects** co-existed here.

Project Akashteer

- As per reports, the Indian Army has started the induction of **Automated Air Defence Control & Reporting System 'Project Akashteer'** to bolster its air defence capabilities.
- Project Akashteer**
 - It is **indigenously** developed and has **state-of-the-art capability**.
 - It will enable monitoring of **low level airspace** over the battle areas of Indian Army and effectively control the Ground Based Air Defence Weapon Systems.
 - It will empower the **Air Defence units of the Indian Army** to effectively operate in an integrated manner.
 - It has been developed by the **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.

Erez Crossing

- Israel has approved the reopening of the **Erez crossing** to allow the flow of more humanitarian aid into Gaza.
 - Also approved use of Ashdod Port for Aid.
- About Erez Crossing**
 - Also known as **Beit Hanoun**.
 - It is a border crossing between **Israel** and the **northern Gaza Strip**.
 - It is the only border crossing that allows people in Gaza to travel to the occupied West Bank without passing through Egypt or Jordan.
- Other Key Crossings:** Rafah crossing (between Egypt and Gaza), Karem Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) crossing, etc.

Laxman Nayak (1899-1943)

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs highlighted contributions of freedom fighter **Laxman Nayak**. **About**
- Laxman Nayak Bhumia**
 - He was a tribal leader of Bhumia community from **Odisha**.
 - He was famous as the Gandhi of Malkangiri region because he believed and followed Gandhian principles of **truth, non-violence and peaceful non-cooperation**.
- Contributions**
 - Participated in **individual Satyagraha** in 1940.
 - During Quit India Movement (1942), he asked his fellow tribesmen to respond to the call of 'Do or die' by Gandhiji.
 - He strengthened the **principle of Swaraj** by advocating the use of **Charkha** through door-to-door campaigns.
- Values:** Courage, leadership etc.



Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP)

- The port handled record cargo of 66.4 million Metric Tonnes (MMT) in 2023-24.
 - About SMP**
 - Earlier called Kolkata Port Trust, it is **oldest operating port** (since 1870) in India.
 - It is governed under **Major Port Trusts Act, 1963**.
 - Ministry:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- SMP has **two Dock complexes:** Kolkata Dock System and Haldia Dock Complex.
- It is **only riverine Major Port** in India.

Gulf of Khambhat

Indian Coast Guard evacuated crew from a fishing boat in the **Gulf of Khambhat**.

About Gulf of Khambhat:

Also known as the **Gulf of Cambay**.

It is a funnel-shaped indentation of the **Arabian Sea** that separates the large Saurashtra Peninsula and the mainland of Gujarat.

Narmada, Tapi, Mahi, and Sabarmati Rivers drains in it, carrying heavy loads of suspended sediment.

Famous Harappan port town at **Lothal** was situated at the head of the Gulf of Khambhat.

Purple Jelly fish

Recently, a bloom of venomous purple jellyfish has been reported across **Visakhapatnam coast**.

Temperature variations of seawater might be the major inducing factor which could result in jellyfish blooms.

About Purple Jellyfish (Pelagia noctiluca)

It is found worldwide in **tropical and warm-temperature** seas. These are **bioluminescent**, i.e., they have the ability to produce light in the dark.

Its sting can cause different type of illnesses such as **diarrhoea, extreme pain, vomiting and anaphylactic shock** (a severe allergic reaction that can develop quickly and be life-threatening).