

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List

❖ Context

- Recently, **Baguette** — the staple French bread — was inscribed into the **UN's list of intangible cultural heritage (ICH)**.

Baguette

- The baguette is a **long and thin loaf made of flour, water, salt and yeast**, and is consumed as a staple in France.
- Some believe that it was **invented by August Zang**.
 - He was a baker and an entrepreneur from Vienna in 1839.
 - He introduced the world to the taste of crusty bread with softer insides, using a steam oven.
 - It gained its official name in 1920.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

- **According to an official document by UNESCO-**
 - 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' includes "oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts."
- It ascribes importance to "**the wealth of knowledge and skills that is transmitted through it from one generation to the next**," which necessitates their preservation.
- The **General Conference of UNESCO in 2003** adopted the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).
- UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity was **established in the year 2008**.

Criteria for the Selection

- There are **three criteria for an intangible cultural heritage** to be inscribed in the United Nations list.
- The entity must
 - (1) be **recognized by communities**, groups and, in some cases, individuals as part of their cultural heritage.
 - (2) be **transmitted from generation to generation** and be constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history.
 - (3) **provide them with a sense of identity and continuity**, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.

India's Intangible Cultural Symbols on the UNESCO List

- This year, India nominated **Garba** for inscription on UNESCO's ICH list.
 - It is a **traditional dance form** that originated in the state of Gujarat.
- The elements which have been on the representative list of intangible cultural heritage-
 - Kolkata's **Durga Puja (2021)**, **Kumbh Mela (2017)**, **Navroz (2016)**, **Yoga (2016)**.
 - Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil-making among coppersmiths of Punjab (2014).
 - Sankirtana, a ritual musical performance of Manipur (2013), and the Buddhist chanting of Ladakh (2012).
 - Before 2011, the list included Chhau dance, Kalbelia folk songs and dance of Rajasthan, and Mudi yettu, a dance drama from Kerala (2010).
 - Ramman, a religious festival and theatre performance of Garhwal in the Himalayas (2009), and Kutiyattam or Sanskrit theatre, and Vedic chanting (2008).
 - Ramlila, a traditional performance of Ramayana, was also included in 2008.

Entity which manages nominations to the UNESCO list in India

- Several autonomous bodies within the **Ministry of Culture** actively function towards promoting and preserving intangible cultural heritage within the country.
- **Sangeet Natak Akademi** is the nodal organisation which looks after this function, and files nominations of intangible cultural entities from India, for evaluation by the international body.

G20 and UNSC (United Nations Security Council)

❖ Context

- December of 2022 began with India assuming the **presidency of two global bodies — G20 on the first day of the month and UNSC on the second**.

United Nation Security Council

- The UNSC is **one of the six principal organs** of the United Nations (UN).

G20

• About

- The G20 is a **strategic multilateral platform** connecting the world's major developed and emerging economies.



- It is charged with ensuring international peace and security established by UN charter in 1945.
- Recommend the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly, and approve any changes to the UN Charter.
- **Headquarter- New York**
- **Members-**
 - **15 members:** The five permanent members and **ten non-permanent members** elected for **two-year terms**.
 - The United States, the Russian Federation, France, China and the United Kingdom are its members with veto power.
 - India, for the **8th time**, has entered the UNSC as a non-permanent member last year (2021) and will stay on the council for two years i.e 2021-22.
 - Each year, the **General Assembly elects five non-permanent members** (out of ten in total) for a two-year term. The ten non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis.
 - The council's **presidency is a capacity that rotates every month** among its 15 members.

- The G20 holds a strategic role in **securing future global economic growth and prosperity**.
- It **started in 1999** as a meeting for the finance minister and central bank governors.



- Together, the G20 members represent more than **80 percent of world GDP, 75 percent of international trade and 60 percent of the world population**.
- **Meetings**
 - The G20 has evolved into a **yearly summit involving the Head of State and Government**.
 - The group has **no permanent staff of its own**, so every year in December, a G20 country from a rotating region takes on the presidency.
- **Functions**
 - It works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development.

News in Between the Lines

Global Wage Report 2022-2023





❖ **Context**

- Recently, **International Labour Organization (ILO)** released the Global Wage 2022-2023 Report.


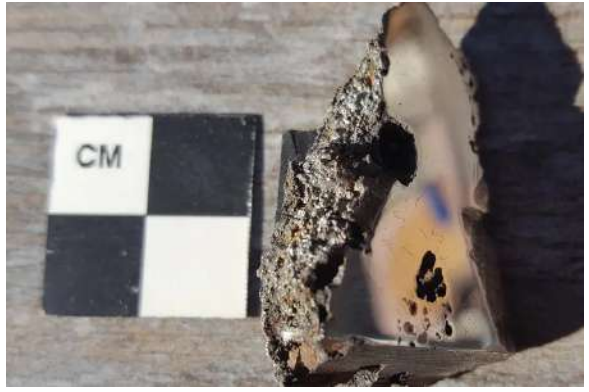
❖ **Key highlights**

- **The total wage bill** - the sum of all wages received by wage employees during any time - **declined** during 2020 mostly as a result of **employment losses**, while in 2021, and particularly in 2022, due to inflation.
- In the majority of countries for which there is already **data on minimum wages**, these have declined in real terms during 2020-2022, highlighting the need to adjust them for inflation and to face the cost-of-living crisis.
- **Employment losses from 2020 to 2022 were greater among women** (also considering that they are overrepresented in low-paid jobs) and in the **informal economy**.
- Changes in **wage inequality** between 2019 and 2022 show mixed results, increasing in some and declining in other countries.
- The **gender pay gap** remains high across countries and regions. As reported in the previous Global Wage Report, women are paid, on average, 20 per cent less than men, and this seems to persist.
- **About The Report**



| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This report is one of its flagship reports on wage trends and policies at national and global levels. ■ It looks at the global economy and labour market context and the impact that the pandemic has had on wages. |
| <p>Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities 2022</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently, The Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities 2022 released by the World Health Organization (WHO). ➤ It was released ahead of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3). ❖ Key Highlights of the Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An estimated 1.3 billion people (16%) of the global population, experience a significant disability. ➤ Many people with disabilities run the risk of premature death, which cannot be attributed to underlying health conditions but to preventable, unfair and unjust circumstances, due to systemic and pervasive health disparities. ➤ They are at a two-fold risk of contracting chronic illnesses like asthma, depression, diabetes, obesity, dental disorders and stroke. ➤ It identified several factors that contribute to differences in health outcomes. These include- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Healthcare providers' hostile attitudes. ■ Formats of health information being incomprehensible. ■ Physical barriers, lack of transportation or financial constraints making healthcare facilities inaccessible. ➤ Addressing these factors can be difficult as an estimated 80 per cent of PwDs live in low and middle-income countries where there are limited resources and facilities. |
| <p>PM Daksh Program</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently, Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment informed that about 5 lakh people got benefits under PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi). ❖ PM Daksh Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ About <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It is a National Action Plan for skilling of marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs, Sanitation workers including waste pickers. ■ It was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E), Government of India in 2020-21. ➤ Objective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To improve all-round competency & adeptness of 2.7 lakh persons, over the next 5 years, beginning with nearly 0.5 lakh youth in the first year i.e. 2021-22, from the following sections of the target group- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Artisans – may be able to improve their revenue generation capacities within their practicing vocations, ● Women - may be able to enter into self-employment thereby financially empowering themselves without neglecting their domestic activities. |



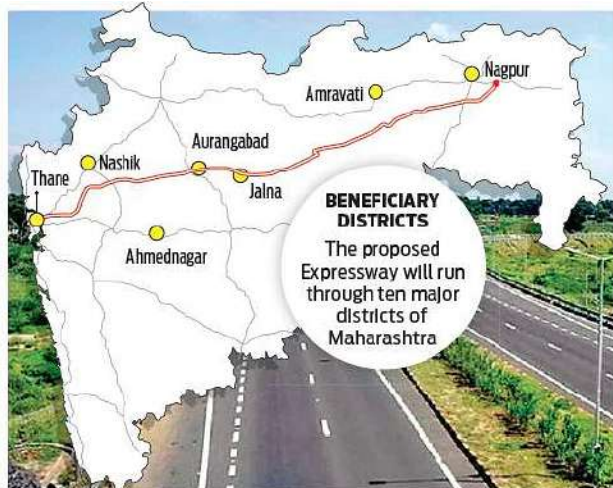
| | |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth from the target groups - may acquire long-term training and specialization in employable vocations giving them better standing in the job market. <p>➤ Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Scheduled Castes Persons- No annual income limit ■ Other Backward Classes (OBCs)- Annual Family Income below Rs. 3.00 lakh ■ Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) having Annual Family Income below Rs.1.00 lakh ■ De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribe (DNT) - No annual income limit. ■ SafaiKaramcharis - No annual income limit. |
| <p>Composite Licence</p>  | <p>❖ Context</p> <p>➤ The Department of Financial Services (DFS) has issued a memorandum seeking comments from various stakeholders regarding a comprehensive amendment of the legislative framework governing the insurance sector.</p> <p>❖ Key highlights</p> <p>➤ The laws governing the insurance sector are Insurance Act 1938 and IRDA Act 1999.</p> <p>➤ The Department of Financial Services (DFS) has proposed facilitating the entry of more players, reduction in the capital requirement and issue of composite licences.</p> <p>➤ Composite licence is a common licence to operate in both the life and general insurance markets.</p> <p>➤ This means a life insurer can enter the non-life segment like motor or health business, and vice versa, which is banned as of now.</p> |
| <p>Elaliite and Elkinstantonite</p>  | <p>❖ Context</p> <p>➤ Recently, Scientists have discovered at least two new minerals inside one of the largest meteorites ever found.</p> <p>❖ Key highlights</p> <p>➤ The two new minerals were discovered in a meteorite found in El Ali, Somalia.</p> <p>➤ This huge rock weighs as much as 17 tons, placing it in the top 10 largest meteorites on Earth.</p> <p>➤ The first mineral was named elaliite, after the town near where the meteorite was found.</p> <p>➤ The second was dubbed elkinstantonite, after Lindy Elkins-Tanton, the principal investigator of NASA's Psyche mission.</p> <p>➤ Both minerals are made up of iron, polonium and oxygen.</p> <p>➤ Significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Elaliite and Elkinstantonite could help point to new geological and chemical processes, and may eventually unlock new material applications. |
| | <p>❖ Context</p> <p>➤ Recently, The Ministry of Railways said that 84% of work on the much-awaited India's first vertical lift sea bridge - New Pamban bridge has been completed.</p> <p>❖ Key highlights</p> |

Pamban Bridge



- This 2.05 km Pamban railway bridge will **connect Rameswaram island to the mainland in Tamil Nadu.**
- This state-of-the-art bridge will be the country's first vertical lift railway sea bridge and is expected to be completed by March 2023.
- The sea bridge is being executed by **Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)** at a cost of ₹535 crores.
- The bridge will allow the Indian Railways to operate **trains at a higher speed.**
- It will also increase traffic between the mainland of India and Rameswaram island.
- The **existing Pamban Rail Bridge**, which connects Rameswaram to mainland India, is **105 years old.**
- The original bridge was built in 1914 to connect Mandapam to the Rameswaram island situated in the Gulf of Mannar.
- It was the only link connecting the two locations until a new road bridge was built parallel to the sea link in 1988.

Samruddhi Corridor



❖ Context

- The much-awaited **Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway** - the country's **longest Greenfield road project** - will be inaugurated by Prime Minister of India on December 11.

❖ Key highlights

- It is formally known as **The Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg.**
- This new Expressway **connects Mumbai to Nagpur.**
- The Expressway passes through ten districts Nagpur, Wardha, Amravati, Washim, Buldhana, Aurangabad, Jalna, Ahmednagar, Nashik and Thane.
- This will connect another fourteen districts Chandrapur, Bhandara, Gondia, Gadchiroli, Yavatmal, Akola, Hingoli, Parbhani, Nanded, Beed, Dhule, Jalgaon, Palghar and Raigad.
 - In this manner, **a total of twenty-four districts in Maharashtra will be connected via this Expressway.**
- It will connect several industrial areas, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC), and the dry ports of Wardha and Jalna.
- It will have direct connectivity with the country's largest container port **JNPT**. This will enhance EXIM trade in the state.
- **It passes through three wildlife sanctuaries-**
 - 6 km through the Katepurna wildlife sanctuary in Akola.
 - 15 km via the Karanja-Sohol Black Buck sanctuary in Washim.
 - 975 km through the Tansa wildlife sanctuary in Thane.
- This is the second Expressway in the state after the Mumbai-Pune Expressway or E-Way, formally known as Yashwantrao Chavan Expressway.

