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## Prelim Bits 31-10-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Jehovah's Witnesses

*The recent low intensity blast at a convention centre in Kalamassery area of Kochi in Kerala that targeted a congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses was an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explosion.*

- **Jehovah's Witnesses** - They are a Christian sect who does not believe in the Holy Trinity.

*Holy Trinity is the doctrine that God exists in three equal persons of the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit.*

- **Origins** - Bible Student movement of 1870s in USA.
- **Governance body** - Watch Tower Bible in New York and Tract Society of Pennsylvania.
- **Belief** - They worship Jehovah and considered Jehovah as the God of Abraham, Moses, and Jesus and their belief is based only on the text of the Bible.
- They don't celebrate Christmas or Easter, because they believe such festivals to be inspired by Pagan traditions.

*Paganism consists of various groups practicing nature-based polytheistic religions, loosely based on the religions of the ancient world*

*Wiccans, Druids, Shamans, Sacred Ecologists, Odinists and Heathens all make up parts of the Pagan community.*

- **Controversy** - They refuse to vote, run for public office, serve in any armed forces, salute the flag, stand for the National Anthem, or recite the pledge of allegiance.
- **In India** - They have been present in India since 1905 and have a legally permitted office in Bombay.

*In **Bijoe Emmanuel vs State of Kerala, 1986**, the Supreme Court granted protection to 3 children belonging to the Jehovah sect, who did not join in the singing of the National Anthem at their school and cited that forcing them to sing*

*violates their fundamental right to religion under Article 25 of the Constitution.*

**Article 25** of the Indian Constitution guarantees the freedom of conscience, the freedom to profess, practice, and propagate religion to all citizens which are subject to public order, health, and morality.

## References

[The Indian Express | Jehovah's Witnesses](#)

## Legality of possessing wildlife articles

*Big Boss Kannada* contestant has been recently arrested for allegedly wearing a tiger claw pendant.

- Under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, killing wild animals and selling or possessing animal articles such as their claws, skin or horns is a criminal offence.

*Animal articles or animal trophy refers to any artefact which is made with a part or a whole of a wild animal listed under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.*

- **Ownership certificate** - It provides custodianship of animal artefact and neither grants absolute ownership nor gives the right to gift, buy or sell a wildlife article.
- Ownership certificate will be issued by the ***Chief Wildlife Wardens*** of each state.
- The transportation of the possessed material from one location to another requires permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- Legal possession of an animal article is allowed only in the following ways that too with a mandatory ownership certificate:
  - A person holding custody before the enactment of the 1972 law
  - If article is declared during the moratorium given by various State Governments
  - If a person inherited the article from a blood relative or spouse.
- **Inheritance rights** - A husband who has an article and an ownership certificate cannot gift it to his wife while he is alive, but she can inherit it after his death.

**Taxidermy** is the art of preserving an animal's body by mounting or stuffing, for the purpose of display or study.

## References

[The Hindu | Possession of wildlife articles](#)

## Tamil Lambadi Embroidery

*Porgai Artisan Association Society of Tamil Nadu has been manufacturing traditional embroidered clothes to ensure awareness and continuity about the art form.*

- The word 'Porgai' in Lambadi dialect means 'pride'.
- **Lambadi Tribe** - A nomadic tribe where men do agricultural trade and pastoralism and women largely does embroidery work.
- They moved to the southern part of India from Gujarat and Rajasthan over a period of time.

*The **migration of Lambadi's** gained pace around the 17th century, during the reign of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb who was assisted by the Lambadis for the transportation of goods to the southern part of India.*

- Criminal Act of 1871 halted free movement and thus many Lambadi's settled in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.

***Sittilingi Valley**, a remote village in Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu is the 2<sup>nd</sup> southernmost settlement of Lambadis in India.*

- **Petia** - It is a traditional 5 piece embroidery dress of Lambadi people which is now made from Mushru silk of Kutch.
- **Embroidery designs** - They are all geometrical patterns with squares, rectangles, and circles and are done on cotton and silk fabrics, using colourful cotton threads.
- They have also been influenced by the local forests, birds, fruits and flowers.
- **Uniqueness** - These are different from the Banjaras of Andhra Pradesh or the Lambadis of Karnataka.
- It does not have any distinct motifs but has varied stitch forms and distinct layouts and patterns.



***Lambadi or Banjara embroidery from Karnataka** were listed under UNESCO's list of exclusive and iconic heritage textile crafts of India.*

## References

[The Hindu| Tamil Lambadi Embroidery](#)

## Working of Photocopying

*Xerography revolutionised the way we copy, print, and distribute textual material.*

- **Photocopying** - It is a set of techniques to duplicate some content using light but the contemporary colloquial use of photocopy refers exclusively to xerography.
- **Xerography** - A type of photocopying method that doesn't involve messy liquid chemicals and the word 'xero' means 'dry' in Greek.

*In 1946, New York-based Haloid Photographic Company purchased a licence from Battelle (which borrowed the technique from Chester F. Carlson) and build the Xerox machine in 1948.*

- **Working principles** - Electricity (flow of electrons) and photo conductivity (conduction of electricity when illuminated with light).

## Working Mechanism

- **Paper-to-be-copied (TBC)** - It is illuminated with a bright light where the darker parts of the paper (printed portion) don't reflect the light whereas the unmarked parts do.
- This reflected light is carried by lenses and mirrors to fall on the photoconductive surface.
- **Photoconductive surface** - It is a negatively charged surface which allows electrons to flow to the ground through it when illuminated.
- Those parts that remain negatively charged after illumination correspond to parts of the TBC where something was printed.
- **Toner** - A dry mixture of positively charged colouring substance which is then applied to the photoconductive surface.
- Being positively charged, toner will settle where negative charge persists on the surface by the law of attraction of opposite charges.
- The surface then transfers the pattern of toner on it to a sheet of paper.
- **Copy paper** - It has a stronger negative charge that causes the toner to jump on it and then the toner is heated which melts and fuses with the paper.
- This is the paper that rolls out of the photocopying machine, the whole process having been completed in a few seconds.

*In practice, the photocopier machine uses a rotating drum instead of a flat surface, and the paper TBC is illuminated by a flashing or stroboscopic light or a moving scanner.*

## References

[The Hindu| Working of Photocopier Machine](#)

### Plastic Pellets

*Recently, Plastic pellets were washing up on the beaches of Mumbai and Palghar in Maharashtra due to pellet spills by a transport agency that was carrying plastic pellets.*

- **Plastic Pellets** - They are microplastics (nurdles) ranging between 1 millimetre (mm) to 5 mm.
- It is manufactured by petrochemical companies, as a raw material for the plastic industry to manufacture varied products.
- **Pellet spills** - It is leakage of plastic pellets from various sources including production facilities, transportation, storage, and recycling activities.
- It can be categorised as chronic (smaller scale but are continuous) and acute spills (higher scale but once in a while).

### Mapping the Global Plastic Pellet Supply Chain, 2023

- It is a report by Fidra, a Scottish non-profit which found that
  - More than 50% of the incidents reported were acute in nature.
  - More than 80% of the spills were caused as a result of leakage from the plastic industry or the transportation partner.
  - Less than 3% of the spills were due to recyclers.

*The 3 major exporters of plastic pellets as of 2021 are USA, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea while **India is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest importer** of primary plastics (in the form of pellets) with a trade value of roughly \$8 billion with its major imports from West Asian countries.*

Shipping routes and location of plastic pellet spills between 2012 and 2023



Source: Mapping the Global Plastic Pellet Supply Chain, 2023, Fidra. Redesigned by DTE-CSE

According to the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report**, more than 13,000 chemicals were used by the plastic industry, of which more than 24% can affect human health but only 1% were regulated by multilateral agreements like the Stockholm Convention, Minamata Convention, and Montreal Protocol.

## References

[Down To Earth| Plastic Pellets](#)

### Other Important News

#### Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC), 2023

- The 4th edition of GMC, 2023, a biennial event, was conducted recently by the Indian Navy to effectively tackle common maritime challenges in Indian Ocean Region.
- **Theme** - Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean Region: Converting Common Maritime Priorities into Collaborative Mitigating Frameworks.
- **Participating countries** - Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Global Conference on Cooperation in Enforcement Matters (GCCEM)

- 1<sup>st</sup> GCCEM, hosted by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) under Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) was held recently in New Delhi.
- **Theme** - It takes a Network to fight a Network.
- **Aim** - To facilitate sharing of insights, best practices and to serve as a catalyst for enhancing collaboration with Indian Customs' partner Administrations and for building new partnerships.



### Operation Sesha

- The 4<sup>th</sup> phase of "Operation Sesha" was launched by Union Finance Minister recently.
- **Agency** - Indian Customs in collaboration with Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs) Asia-Pacific and RILO Middle-East.
- **Aim** - To curb the ***illegal trade of Timber*** including Red Sanders.

### Operation Blue Star

- Operation Blue Star was a military operation carried out by the Indian Army in 1984.
- The operation's goal was to remove Sikh militants from the Golden Temple, the holy site of Sikhism, in Amritsar, Punjab.
- Operation Blue Star was divided into 2 parts - Operation Metal (limited to Golden Temple) and Operation Woodrose (launched throughout Punjab).

### Kambala

- The longest 'kare' (slush track) kambala (buffalo race) is going to be take place in Bengaluru.
- Every year, starting from November till March, the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi in Karnataka, and Kasargod in Kerala share a common celebration called Kambala.
- Kambala is a festival dedicated to an incarnation of Hindu God Shiva-Lord Kadri Manjunatha and an ***annual buffalo race***, Kambala is associated with this festival.

### National Unity Day

- Prime Minister paid tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Statue of Unity in Gujarat on the birth anniversary of India's first Home Minister on October, 31.
- The birth anniversary of Patel, is celebrated as ***National Unity Day***.
- Statue of Unity was inaugurated on 2018, is the world's tallest statue with a height of 182 metres.

### Paintbrush swift butterfly (Baoris farri)

- The paintbrush swift butterfly, rare species in the western Himalayas has been photographed for the first time in Himachal Pradesh recently.
- **Family** - Hesperidae. **Habitat** - Northeast, central and south India, and rare in Uttarakhand.
- **Status** - Legally protected in India under ***Schedule IV*** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- **Threats** - Habitat loss and scarcity of larval host plants.

### PBKnot or PB Rope L

- PBKnot and PB Rope L are ***pheromone-based*** mating disruption technologies.
- They release sex pheromones that prevent male moths from finding and mating with female moths.
- It reduces the number of eggs laid, which reduces the population of the Pink Boll Worm.
- Pink Boll Worm is a worm that damages parts of the developing cotton fruit by laying eggs on it.



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