

## Prelim Bits 30-03-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Zero Waste Day

*March 30, 2023 will mark the first-ever Zero Waste Day.*

- On 14 December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly's 77<sup>th</sup> session adopted a resolution to proclaim **30 March** as International Day of Zero Waste.
- UNGA proclaimed to observe Zero Waste day annually.
- The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) jointly facilitate the observance of International Day of Zero Waste.
- Zero Waste Day aims to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns and encourage the global community to shift towards circularity.
- **'Swachhotsav - 2023'** was organised by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs as part of India's celebration of the International Day of Zero Waste 2023.

*According to the UN data, an estimated 2.24 billion tons of municipal solid waste is generated annually, of which only 55% is managed in controlled facilities.*

### References

1. [PIB - Swachhotsav 2023 - International Day of Zero Waste](#)
2. [News on Air - UN to observe first International Day of Zero Waste](#)
3. [United Nations - International Day of Zero Waste](#)

### Tibetan Buddhism

*The Dalai Lama has named a US-born Mongolian boy as the 10<sup>th</sup> Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa, the head of the Janang tradition of Tibetan Buddhism.*

*The 9<sup>th</sup> Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa died in 2012 at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Since then, there had been a wait for his reincarnation.*

- Buddhism, originated in India, became the predominant religion in Tibet by the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD.
- It evolved from the Mahayana and Vajrayana traditions of Buddhism, incorporating many tantric and shamanic practices of both post-Gupta period Buddhism in India.
- Tibetan Buddhism also incorporates from the Bon religion which was spread across Tibet before Buddhism's arrival.
- Tibetan Buddhism has 4 major schools:
  1. [Nyingma](#) (8<sup>th</sup> century)

2. Kagyu (11<sup>th</sup> century)
  3. Sakya (1073)
  4. Gelug (1409)
- The Janang school (12<sup>th</sup> century) is one of the smaller schools that grew as an offshoot of the Sakya school.
  - **Gelug School** - Since 1640, the Gelug School has been the predominant school of Tibetan Buddhism.
  - The Dalai Lama belongs to Gelug School.
  - **Reincarnation** - The Dalai Lama is the foremost spiritual and temporal authority of Tibet.
  - The 5<sup>th</sup> grand lama of the school, Ngawang Lobsang Gyatso, was first conferred the title of *Dalai Lama* ('Dalai' means 'ocean' in Mongol).
  - To consolidate his rule, he instituted the tradition of succession through reincarnation in the Gelug School.
  - He himself claimed to be the reincarnation of Avalokiteshvara, one of the most important Bodhisattvas in Mahayana traditions.
  - According to Tibetan Buddhist tradition, the spirit of a deceased lama is reborn in a child.
  - Several procedures are followed to recognise **Tulkus** (recognised reincarnations).
  - Over the past 70 years of Chinese occupation, he has been living in exile in Dharamshala, India.

## References

1. [IE - The question of the Dalai Lama's succession](#)

## Vembanad and Ashtamudi Lakes

*The National Green Tribunal has slapped a penalty of Rs 10 crore on the Kerala government for failing to protect the Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes.*

### Vembanad Lake

- Vembanad Lake is also known as Punnamada Lake, Kochi Lake, Vembanad Kayal and Vembanad Kol.
- It is one of the largest lakes in Kerala and the longest lake in the country.
- It is the second largest wetland system in India after the Sunderbans in West Bengal.



- **Rivers** - The lake has its source in 4 rivers, Meenachil, Achankoil, Pampa and Manimala.
- **Significance** - Kuttanad situated on the banks of Vembanad Lake is well known for its below sea level farming.
- The Nehru Trophy Boat Race (Vallam Kali) is a Snake Boat Race hosted in the lake every year in the month of August.
- **Conservation**
  - Ramsar Site under Ramsar Convention (1971)
  - The **Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary** is located on the east coast of the lake.

### Ashtamudi Lake

- Ashtamudi Lake or Ashtamudi Kayal in the Kollam District is called the gateway to the backwaters of Kerala.
- **River** - Kallada River is the major source of water for Ashtamudi Lake.
- Ashtamudi means '**eight braids**' in Malayalam, which indicates the palm-shaped topography of the lake with multiple branches.



- **Significance** - It possesses a unique wetland ecosystem and the Ashtamudi estuary is famous for its diverse biodiversity and ecological peculiarities.
- The lake is well known for its houseboat and backwater resorts.
- **Conservation** - Ramsar Site under Ramsar Convention (1971)

## References

1. [Down To Earth - Vembanad and Ashtamudi Wetlands](#)

## New India Literacy Programme

*New India Literacy Programme launched to cover a target of 5.00 crore non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.*

- The scheme aims to cover a target of 5.00 crore non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.
- The Scheme has 5 components:
  1. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
  2. Critical Life Skills
  3. Vocational Skills Development
  4. Basic Education
  5. Continuing Education
- The scheme is based on technology and implemented predominantly through online mode.
- **Time Frame** - Implementation during 5 years from the FYs 2022-23 to 2026-27 with financial outlay of Rs.1037.90 crore.
- **Funding** - Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- **Ministry** - Ministry of Education
- **Beneficiary** - All the non-literate above 15 years of age can avail the benefits of the scheme.

## References

1. [PIB - New India Literacy Programme](#)

## Corporate Debt Market Development Fund

SEBI has introduced the 'Corporate Debt Market Development Fund' to prevent recurrences of events such as the one with Franklin Templeton MF.

- The 'Corporate Debt Market Development Fund' (CDMDF) is a backstop facility for specified debt funds during market dislocations.
- The fund is intended to provide liquidity support in the event of a financial crisis along the lines of what took place in 2008.
- **Aim** - To instil confidence amongst the participants in the corporate bond market and to generally enhance secondary market liquidity.

*A back stop is the act of providing last-resort support or security in a securities offering for the unsubscribed portion of shares.*

- **Funding** - The proposed CDMDF will have an initial corpus of Rs 3,000 crore contributed by mutual funds.
- The government has approved a 10-time leverage of the fund (Additional corpus), thus CDMDF may raise funds up to Rs 30,000 crore.
- Contributions to the fund can be done by the specified debt-oriented mutual fund schemes and asset management companies of mutual funds.
- **Guarantee** - The fund is guaranteed by National Credit Guarantee Trust Company (NCGTC).
- **Management** - The backstop facility will be managed by SBI Mutual Fund.
- **Access** - Specified mutual fund schemes will have access to the fund for selling securities during market dislocation.
- This access is proportional to the contribution made to the fund at a mutual fund level.

## References

1. [FE - SEBI to set up Corporate debt market development fund](#)
2. [BL - SEBI approves setting up backstop fund for debt mutual funds](#)