

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 24-06-2024

### Dodol

*The Goa government has formally applied for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Dodol.*

- **About-** It is a pudding-like, classic Goan sweet that is often called a cousin of Bebinca, the ***Queen of Goan desserts.***
- **History-** The scholars believe a traditional version of the sweet is served at royal banquets in the ***Medang Kingdom of Indonesia*** between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- In Goa, it is believed that the sweet was introduced during Portuguese rule in the coastal state during the *17th century.*
- The dish is dark brownish in colour often served during Christmas celebrations.
- **Ingredients-** Rice flour, coconut milk, and black palm jaggery.
- **Distribution-** Dodol and its variations are also popular in southern India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, and parts of Southeast Asia.



### Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- GI tag is a form of certification that recognizes unique products based on their origin.
- It is defined under Article-23 and 24 of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- GI tagged products can be ***natural or man-made.***
- The raw materials for such products do not necessarily have to come from that region, unless it is an agricultural tag.
- The essential difference between GI and other intellectual properties (IP) is that, GI is a collective Intellectual Property Right.
- India is a ***member of WTO*** and enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 that came into force from 2003.

## Reference

[The Indian Express | Dodol](#)

## World Investment Report, 2024

- The Report focuses on trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide, at the regional and country levels and emerging measures to improve its contribution to development.
- **Released by** - United Nations Trade & Development (UNCTAD).

## Key findings of the report

- Global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) fell by 2% in 2023.
- FDI flows to developing countries dropped 7%.
- Overall, FDI to developing countries fell by 7% in 2023 to \$867 billion, but the decrease varied significantly across regions.
  - FDI inflows to Africa declined by 3%.
  - Flows to developing countries in Asia fell by 8%, with China, the world's 2<sup>nd</sup>-largest FDI recipient experiencing a rare decline.
  - FDI flows to Latin America and the Caribbean decreased by 1% to \$193 billion.
- FDI flows to structurally weak and vulnerable economies increased.
- International project finance deals, critical for infrastructure investment led to a 26% fall due to tight financing conditions.
- Investment in sectors linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) fell by more than 10%.
- Reforming older IIAs remains slow, with about half of global FDI still governed by non-reformed treaties, increasing the risk of investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) cases.
- Only 16% of global FDI stock is covered by new-generation IIAs.

## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- It is an intergovernmental organization and United Nations' leading institution dealing with trade and development.
- **Aim** - To promote integration of developing countries into the global economy and their inclusive and sustainable development through trade and investments.
- **Headquarters** - Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Established by** - It is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly on December 30, 1964.
- UNCTAD membership consists of **195** states.

## Reference

[UNCTAD | World Investment Report, 2024](#)

## Lunar Gateway Programme

*India and the US have finalized the Strategic Framework for exploring the opportunities to participate in the Lunar Gateway Programme.*

- The Lunar Gateway Programme is an international collaborative project aimed at establishing a space station in orbit around the Moon.
- The Lunar Gateway Programme is part of ***NASA's Artemis program***, designed to support long-term human exploration of the Moon and beyond.

*Artemis programme is to return humans to the moon by 2025, with the ultimate goal of expanding space exploration to Mars and beyond.*

- **Launch** - No earlier than 2025.
- **Polar orbit** - Near-rectilinear halo orbit.
- **Objectives**- To facilitate regular missions to the lunar surface and serve as a base for astronauts.
- **Agencies** - The Lunar Gateway is a collaborative effort spearheaded by NASA, includes several international partners:
  - European Space Agency (ESA)
  - Canadian Space Agency (CSA)
  - Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
  - Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), UAE
- The Gateway Station is similar to the International Space Station currently in low Earth orbit, but the Gateway will orbit the Moon.
- Incidentally, the Gateway will be the ***1<sup>st</sup> space station ever to exist outside of low Earth orbit*** or LEO.

## Reference

[The Indian Express | Lunar Gateway Programme](#)

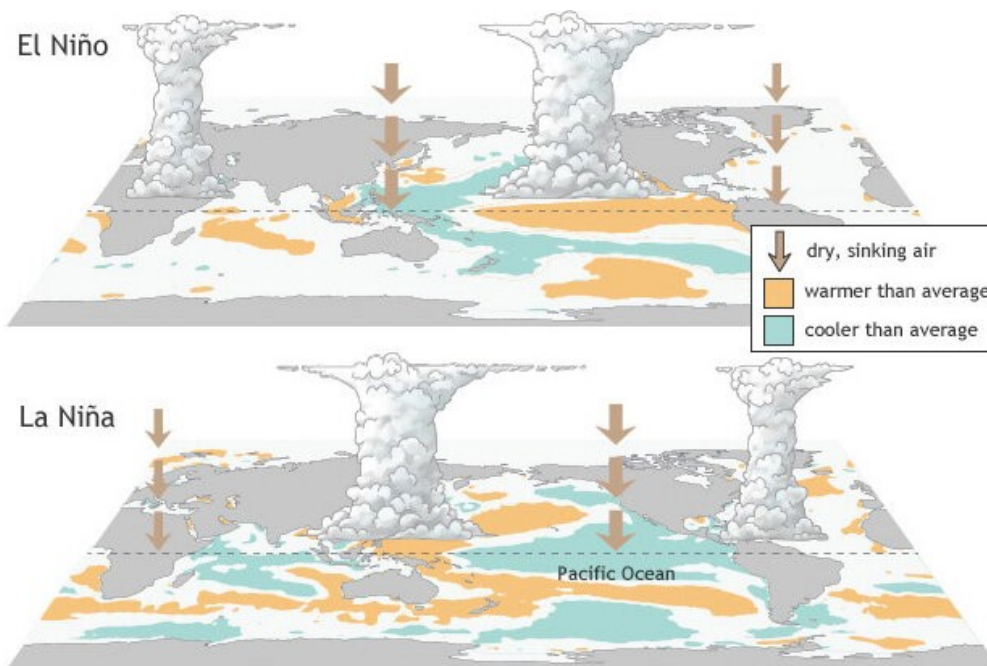
## Bayesian Convolutional Neural Network (BCNN)

*Recently, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has created a Bayesian Convolutional Neural Network (BCNN).*

- **About**- The BCNN is new product integrates cutting-edge technology to enhance forecasts associated with ENSO phases.
- It is to forecast ***El Nino and La Nina conditions*** up to 15 months ahead.
- The model is particularly adept at predicting El Nino or La Nina events due to its ability to account for the slow oceanic variations and their atmospheric coupling.
- It computes the ***Nino 3.4 Index*** by averaging sea surface temperature anomalies across the central equatorial Pacific, enhancing ENSO phase prediction accuracy.

## ENSO, El Nino and La Nina

- **ENSO**- ENSO, short for El Niño-Southern Oscillation, affects global weather by changing sea temperatures in the *tropical Pacific Ocean and altering atmospheric circulation*.
- It can alter the global atmospheric circulation, which, in turn, influences weather across the world.
- ENSO occurs in irregular cycles of *2-7 years and has three different phases — warm (El Niño), cool (La Niña), and neutral*.
- **El Nino**-Warmer than average sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific.
- **La Nina**- Cooler than average sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific.
- **Neutral**-Conditions when sea surface temperatures are close to average.



### Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)

- It is an autonomous organization established in 1999.
- **Location** - Hyderabad.
- **Nodal agency**- Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- It is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization, New Delhi.
- **Objective**- Its primary mandate is to provide ocean information and advisory services to various stakeholders including government agencies, research institutions, industry, and the public.
- It is being the central repository for marine data in the country, receives large oceanographic data in real time, from a variety of in-situ and remote sensing observing systems.

### Reference

[The Indian Express | BCNN](#)

## Pushpak

Recently, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final test success of the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Landing Experiment (LEX) or Pushpak is conducted.

- **About-** Pushpak designed to carry payloads into ***low earth orbits*** and return to earth for reuse.
- **Agency-** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- It is to undertake more difficult manoeuvres with dispersions, correct both cross-range and downrange.
- It demonstrated the ***autonomous landing capability*** of reusable launch vehicle (RLV) from off-nominal initial conditions at release from helicopter.
- Pushpak landed at a velocity exceeding ***320 kmph***, due to its low lift-to-drag ratio aerodynamic configuration.
- Pushpak autonomously maintained a stable and precise ground roll along the runway using its rudder and nose wheel steering system during the ground roll phase.

## References

1. [The Hindu | Reusable Launch Vehicle](#)
2. [ISRO| RLV-TD](#)

