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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 29-06-2024

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Dodol

Syllabus: GS-1; Art and Culture

Context

- *Dodol, with its rich, caramelly sweetness, may not be as well-known outside Goa as its multi-layered distant cousin Bebinca, but that may just change with the state government's application to get the dessert a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.*



More to know

- *Dodol is a sweet, toffee-like confection that originated in **Indonesia** and is commonly found in **Southeast Asia** and the Indian subcontinent.*
- *It's made with coconut milk, jaggery, and rice flour, and has a firm, jelly-like texture and a dark brownish color.*
- *Dodol is considered a classic Goan dessert and is sometimes called a cousin of Bebinca, the "Queen of Goan desserts".*
- *It's known for its smoothness and distinctive flavor, and can be served as a dessert for any occasion or celebration.*

Leader of Opposition

Syllabus: GS-2; Parliament

Context

- *Rae Bareli MP Rahul Gandhi is **Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha**, a position that lay vacant for 10 years because no party had numbers equalling a tenth of the strength of the House, which has been by practice a requirement to lay claim to the post.*

Who can serve as Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha?

- *The position of **Leader of Opposition** was officially described in **The Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977**.*
- *The **Leader of the Opposition** is a significant political role in many parliamentary systems.*
- *They are typically the leader of the largest political party not in government, representing the main opposition to the ruling party or coalition.*

What position does the Leader of Opposition have in the House?

- *The responsibilities of the **Leader of the Opposition** include:*
 - **Leading the Opposition:** They lead and coordinate the activities of their party or coalition in opposition to the government.
 - **Representing the Opposition:** They serve as the primary spokesperson for the opposition parties, both inside and outside of the parliament.
 - **Critiquing Government Policies:** They scrutinize and critique government policies, actions, and legislation, offering alternative perspectives and proposing amendments.
 - **Formulating Alternative Policies:** They develop and present alternative policies and programs to those of the government, outlining their party's vision for the country.
 - **Participating in Debates:** They participate in parliamentary debates, question sessions, and other legislative processes to hold the government accountable.

What practical role and responsibility does the Leader of Opposition have?

- *Most importantly, the **Leader of Opposition** is the **opposition's representative in the high-powered committees** headed by the Prime Minister for appointment to key posts such as the Director of CBI, the Central Vigilance Commissioner and Chief Information Commissioner, the Chairperson and Members of the National Human Rights Commission, and the Lokpal.*

ULLAS - New India Literacy Programme (NILP)

Syllabus: GS-2: Social Sector – Education and Literacy.

Context:

- *Ladakh Achieves Full Functional Literacy*
- *Ladakh has been declared fully functionally literate.*
- *Achieved this milestone under the ULLAS – New India Literacy Programme (NILP).*
- *Literacy rate in Ladakh is now over 97%.*

ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Programme):

- *A centrally sponsored scheme running from 2022 to 2027.*
- *Aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.*
- *Aims to enhance literacy and provide comprehensive education to all citizens.*

The scheme includes five main components:

- **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy:** Focuses on basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills.
- **Critical Life Skills:** Includes essential skills for daily life such as:
 - **Financial literacy:** Understanding money management and budgeting.
 - **Digital literacy:** Using digital devices and the internet.
 - **Legal literacy:** Awareness of legal rights and responsibilities.
- **Healthcare and awareness:** Knowledge about health and hygiene.
- **Childcare and education:** Effective parenting and educational practices.
- **Family welfare:** Maintaining a healthy and supportive family environment.

Basic Education:

- *Provides education equivalent to formal school levels:*
 - *Preparatory stage: Equivalent to classes 3-5.*
 - *Middle stage: Equivalent to classes 6-8.*
 - *Secondary stage: Equivalent to classes 9-12.*

Vocational Skills:

- *Focuses on skill development for neo-literates.*
- *Aims to help them obtain local employment and enhance their livelihoods.*

Continuing Education:

- *Offers adult education courses covering:*
 - *Arts, sciences, and technology.*

- *Culture, sports, and recreation.*
- *Other topics of interest or practical use to local learners.*

China's Sample Return Lunar Mission

Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology – Space Mission.

Context:

- *China's Chang'e-6 lunar module successfully returned to Earth on June 25th 2024.*

More about mission:

- *It collected the first-ever samples from the far side of the moon.*
- *The module landed in Inner Mongolia, China, using a parachute.*
- *The mission is a significant achievement for China's space program.*
- **China aims to send astronauts to the moon by 2030 and build a research base there.**
- **The Chang'e-6 mission** brought back up to 2 kilograms of moon dust and rocks.
- *These samples will be analyzed by Chinese researchers and shared with international scientists.*
- *The samples were collected from the South Pole-Aitken basin on the moon's far side.*
- *The mission involved complex technical steps, including using a drill and robotic arm.*
- *Images of the lunar lander with the Chinese flag went viral in China.*
- **The mission's return followed an incident with debris from a separate Chinese rocket.**
- *The far side of the moon has fascinated scientists since the Soviet Union's Luna 3 spacecraft took the first images in 1959.*
- *Unlike the near side, the far side is covered in craters and lacks large, dark plains of cooled lava.*
- **The Chang'e-4 mission in 2019 was the first to land on the far side of the moon.**
- *Scientists hope the samples from Chang'e-6 will provide valuable information about the moon and our solar system.*
- *The moon's surface is a "frozen record" of early solar system history because it lacks plate tectonics.*
- *Studying the moon can help us understand Earth's early history and aid future space exploration.*

- **Chang'e-6 samples may help develop technologies** to use moon resources for future exploration.
- **Lunar soil could be used for 3-D printing bricks** for moon bases and extracting gases like Helium-3, oxygen, and hydrogen.
- **Chang'e-6 is the sixth of eight planned missions** in China's Chang'e series.
- **The mission is important for China's goal of putting astronauts on the moon.**
- **The mission's process is similar to what is needed for human moon landings and Mars sample returns.**
- **The US aims to launch its crewed Artemis mission to the moon by 2026.**
- **The moon's south pole is a key target due to potential water resources** that could be used for rocket fuel.
- **China plans to launch Chang'e-7 to the lunar south pole in 2026 and Chang'e-8 in 2028** to test lunar resource utilization.

International Hydrographic Organisation

Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology – Organisations.

Context:

- **World Hydrography Day:** Celebrated on 21 June annually by the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) to raise awareness about hydrography.

More about World Hydrography Day:

- **2024 Theme:** "Hydrographic Information - Enhancing Safety, Efficiency and Sustainability in Marine Activities", focusing on advancements like e-navigation and autonomous shipping.

Indian Naval Hydrographic Department (INHD):

- **Nodal agency under the Indian Navy for hydrographic surveys and nautical charting in India.**
- **Published over 650 navigation charts** for national and international waters.
- **Distributed 6.5 Lakh Electronic Navigational charts** last year, generating revenue for the exchequer.
- **India WINS:** Web portal providing near-real-time safety navigation information, launched in Dec 2022 with over 3.5 million views.

National Institute of Hydrography (NIH):

- **Located in Goa, accredited by IHO for training in hydrography.**

- *Trained over 800 participants from 41 countries.*
- **SAGAR Initiative:** *Indian Navy survey ships conducted joint operations with foreign nations, producing 96 charts covering 89000 sq. km in the last five years.*
- **Workshops and Meetings:** *Conducted workshops and Hydrographic Survey Committee meetings, focusing on enhancing safety and efficiency in marine activities.*

What is Hydrography?

- *Hydrography is the scientific study and mapping of the physical features of oceans, seas, coastal areas, lakes, and rivers.*
- *It involves measuring and describing aspects such as water depths, tides, currents, shoreline characteristics, and seabed topography to produce accurate charts and maps for navigation and resource management purposes.*