

WHAT IS WHITE CARD IN FOOTBALL MATCH?



The referees show red and yellow cards for foul play in Football. These cards have been in the game since the inception of the FIFA World Cup, that is, 1970. However, a white card was recently introduced. The Referee shall use the white card to recognize fair play. The first white card was used on January 21, 2023, in a match between Sporting Lisbon and Benfica (Football teams in Portuguese) in the city of Lisbon.

What is White Card?

The concept of the white card was started by Portugal. The country aims to increase the ethical value in sports by introducing the white card. As the card encourages fair and just play, players will be motivated to play ethically.

Yellow card in Football

The yellow card is a caution given to the players on the field. The referee notes the nature of foul, time, and other details in his handbook. It is called booking. Based on his notes, he issues a caution to the players using his yellow card.

Red Card in Football

When a Referee shows a red card, a player should leave the pitch. The referee shows a red card when the players break the rules.

What about India?

If a white card is to be introduced in India, then the All India Football Federation should recognize it. However, if the Indian team is playing at FIFA and FIFA agreed to a white card, then AIFF will also agree to it.



INDIA AND EGYPT DECLARE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The Egyptian President Sisi is the Chief Guest of the 2023 Republic Day celebrations of India. During his visit, he met PM Modi, and the leaders



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discussed on boosting the business ties between the countries. With the trade between the countries touching 12 billion USD in the last five years, the countries have now entered into Strategic Partnership. When two countries sign the strategic partnership agreement, they become close. They understand the nature of threats mutually and help each other in mitigating the threats.

What does External Affairs Ministry say about Strategic Partnership Agreement?

Mutual understanding and long-term confidence are what India looks for in strategic partnership agreements. Sometimes, India restricts this agreement to some sectors alone. For instance, India restricts political, trade, defense, science and technology, and culture in its strategic partnership agreement with Russia.

What does the Strategic Partnership Agreement between India and Egypt say?

With Egypt, India has signed the agreement on terrorism. The countries will work together in resolving cross-border terrorism

Also, the agreement will focus in areas such as cyber security, Information Technology, youth, culture, and broadcasting

Why is India interested in Egypt?

India sees Egypt as a Gateway to the European and African countries. Just like it sees the North Eastern States as a Gateway to South East Asia and East Asia. Also, Egypt plays a major role in the politics of Africa and the Arab world.

INDIA'S ESTIMATES OF MILLET PROCUREMENT

The Government of India is expecting the millet production to increase to forty to fifty lakh tonnes in the next few years. In 2023, the millet production in the country is around six to seven lakh tonnes. According to the Union Government, the increase in millet production is mainly because of nine states. They are MP, UP, Haryana, TN, Gujarat, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, and Maharashtra. These states launched separate missions to increase their millet production. They are also distributing cereals at subsidized rates.

Why the increase?

Lately, the Government of India has been taken several efforts to increase millet production in the country. Also, it is looking for ways to create international markets for Indian millet. To achieve this, India insisted United Nations declare 2023 as the International Year of Millets and the UN agreed. We are now celebrating 2023 as the International Year of Millets. More than 72 countries support it. The following programs were launched to boost millet production and exports in the country:

Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices: Launched by NITI Aayog and WFP in Africa and Asia

In 2018, millets were declared as “Nutri Cereals”

Millet Mission was launched under National Food Security Mission

Why the naming?

41% of the world’s millet grows in India. India is one of the largest millet producers in the world. There prevails a hitch in Indian millet production. Though we are one of the largest millet producers, our exports are just 1% of our production. To increase this, GoI is trying its best in every way. The naming of millets after the rivers is one such initiative.

COMPETITION (AMENDMENT) BILL



The Competition Act aims to promote healthy competition in India. The main intention of the act is to avoid monopoly. Take Facebook for instance. Some economists are of the opinion that Facebook exhibits a monopoly. Meaning, it wants to rule the world of digital messaging. To achieve this, Facebook bought almost every competitor that entered its way. FB achieved this through mergers or acquisitions. FB acquired Instagram and Whatsapp, major competitors. The competition act prevents such mergers and acquisitions. The act was legislated in 2002. In 2022, the Government of India proposed certain changes and additions to the act. The amendment is still pending and the GoI recently added some more changes along with those it intended to introduce in 2022.

What additions were made in 2023?

Bill to be discussed during Budget Session of 2023

Regulatory frameworks to be fine-tuned. To be brought in line with the digital world and the changes that occurred in the past two decades

The scope of the settlement and commitment scheme is to be expanded

What changes were introduced in 2022?

Deals with values more than Rs 2000 crores should be notified to CCI

Merger approval should be done within 150 working days. This was 210 working days before CCI should have at least one judicial officer as its member

REVAMPED MONUMENT MITRA SCHEME



The scheme will bring more than a thousand monuments under the private sector. The private sector will revamp the monuments. They will do this as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility. Revamping means improving a structure or changing its appearance. The scheme is to be implemented by the Ministry of Culture. A thousand monuments selected under the scheme are now under the maintenance of the Archaeological Survey of India.

Objective

Under the scheme, the Ministry of Culture will sign at least 500 agreements with private sectors before August 15, 2023. The ministry aims to accomplish half the goal before Azad Ka Amrit completes it in 2023.

What is the plan?

The monuments will be revamped in terms of amenities. The monuments will get sound and lighting systems. More shops will be opened. Steps to develop tourism will be implemented.

G20

The Ministry of Culture is working hard to replenish the historical places in the country. During the G20 summit, the ministry is to showcase a digital museum to the leaders attending the meet. The digital museum will exhibit different historical places in the country.

Tableau

Ministry of Culture tableau has been built on the theme “Shakti Rupen Sanshita”. That is, worshipping goddesses. This signifies the need for women’s empowerment in the country. A group of dancers will perform on the theme of Nari Shakti.

REPUBLIC DAY TABLEAU TO REFLECT NARI SHAKTI



India is to celebrate its 74th republic day this year. On this day, the Constitution Head, the President of India, Smt Draupadi Murmu will hoist the National Flag at Raj Path. During the event, different models and scenes from history are depicted. On this republic day, the tableau will reflect Nari Shakti, meaning women’s power. Seventeen states and union territories are to participate in the tableau. They will depict the scenes from Ramayana and Mahabharata. This is the first republic day celebration after the Rajpath was renamed the Kartavya Path.

How are the Tableaus selected?

The Defence Ministry set up a group and is solely responsible for the tableaus. The group comprises of eminent persons from music, painting, art, architecture, etc. The committee scrutinizes the tableaus based on different factors like theme, colors, simplicity, etc. A common man should understand the expressions of the tableau easily. The participants then create a 3D model for final approval.

Issues

The West Bengal Tableau was rejected. Bengal CM has written to Prime Minister Modi demanding the reasons for the rejection.

Requirements

The Defence Ministry provides a trailer and tractor. Rest expenses are borne by the state building the tableau.

Conditions

No two states should have similar tableaus as the aim is to promote “Unity in Diversity”

The tractor and trailer used should be covered in theme. The vehicle should have taken a transformation

Only eco-friendly products shall be used

Different states in the Tableau

UP: The state won the first prize in the past two years. This year the theme of its Tableau is Ayodhya Deepotsav

Tripura: Participation of women in sustainable living

BORDER SECURITY FORCE (BSF) STARTS 'OPS ALERT' EXERCISE



India is to celebrate its 74th republic day on January 26, 2023. Several anti-national elements try to cause trouble in the country during such nationwide celebrations. To put them under control and to increase security at the border, the BSF is conducting a seven-day long exercise called the “OPS ALERT”. During the exercise, the security personnel will hold drills in the India – Pakistan border that extends between Rann of Kutch and Sir Creek and also in the Barmer district of Rajasthan. The border is highly vulnerable in these regions.

About OPS ALERT exercise

The BSF will conduct reconciliation programs with the Indian residents in the border

Various verifications and validities will be held

Regions such as Harami Nala and Entire creek will be focused

Why Sir Creek?

Sir Creek is a disputed maritime boundary. The creek is a narrow waterway. It is a marshland along the shore.

Significance of Sir Creek

India and Pakistan fought over Sir Creek in 1965. The creek is one of the largest fishing grounds in the world. Also, there is a possible occurrence of oil and gas reserves in the region. It is home to migratory birds and flamingos with good tourism potential.

India follows the THALWEG principle in the dispute



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In the THALWEG principle, if there is a water body between two countries, then the center of the water body should be taken as the border. Thalweg principle is an International Maritime Law.

FAO: INDIA ELECTED THE VICE CHAIR



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

India - Vice Chair of ITWG

The Inter-Governmental Technical Working Group reviews the technical issues at the Food and Agriculture Organization and also advises the organizations on key decisions. India will hold the position of Vice Chairperson at the 12th session of the group. The ITWG is to meet at Rome in January 2023 and discuss animal genetic resources. USA is the Chair of the session. Along with India, other countries will also hold the Vice Chair position. They are Spain, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tonga, and Brazil. India will also hold the position of Rapporteur along with the Vice Chair post. Rapporteur means the reporting officer. Mr. Bhupendra Nath Tripathi is to represent India and hold these positions.

ITWG

The group will discuss Animal Genetic Resources. The discussions will be held based on the inputs from the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS). The DAD-IS has national data for all countries. It includes the breed types, adaptations, classification, cost-efficient methodologies adopted, technical support received, diversity, and many more. The ITWG will make decisions and provide recommendations after analyzing the reports submitted based on the information from DAD-IS. The action plan suggested will target the implementation of SDG 2.4 and SDG2.5

SDG 2.4: Sustainable Food Production

SDG 2.5: Maintain Genetic Diversity

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

NAGALAND ORANGE FESTIVAL





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Nagaland is celebrating the Orange Festival for two days. Nagaland Fruit Festival is being organized in the state to praise the hard work of orange growers. Fruit festivals are famous all over the world. The most popular fruit festivals in the world are the Pineapple Festival of Thailand, the Pumpkin Festival in Germany, the Mango Festival of India, the Cranberry festival in Canada, the Marino Grape Festival of Italy, the Orange Festival of Amsterdam, etc. International Fruit Day is celebrated on July 1.



Nagaland Orange Festival

Nagaland Fruit Festival

The festival is to be celebrated in Rusoma village near Kohima. The 2023 Nagaland Fruit festival is the third edition. The Nagaland Fruit festival was organized by the Rusoma Village council. Council joined hands with the horticultural department in conducting the festival.

Why Horticulture and not agriculture?

Cultivation of fruits, vegetables, ornamental plants, flowering plants, medicinal, and aromatic plants are grouped under horticulture. It is a subset of agriculture. So you can term orange cultivation under agriculture as well. But you cannot term paddy, wheat, and other crop cultivation under horticulture!

Significance

Orange earns four crores to five crores of revenue for the state. Currently, there are 78,000 Orange trees in Nagaland. The festival will set a good example for the rest of the Nagas. The Nagas in Nagaland and in other northeastern states are demanding separate land. Looking at the efforts put by the Indian Government through these festivals and learning about the economic development activities in the region, they will start putting their trust in the government. The festival will also aid in India's Look East Policy. India is to use the North Eastern states to increase its trade in East and South East Asia under this policy.

Other Fruit Festivals in India

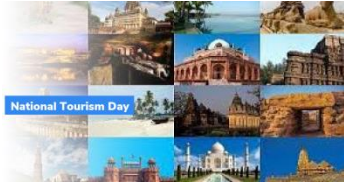
The Banana Festival	Kerala
Pineapple Festival	Manipur
Mango Festival	Delhi and different parts of India
Jack Fruit Festival	Kerala

International Orange Festival Nagpur

Konkan Fruit Festival Goa

Strawberries Fruit Festival Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra

NATIONAL TOURISM DAY: JANUARY 25



The Government of India is celebrating this year National Tourism Day at Pochampally of Telangana. In 2021, the United Nations World Tourism Organization selected the village as one of the Best

Tourism Villages in the world, and therefore, the Indian Government is launching its national-level celebrations of the day from this village. The village is famous for its IKAT saris. They are unique and hand woven. In 2021, India earned 9 billion USD of foreign exchange earnings from the tourism sector.

National Tourism Day

The first National Tourism Day was celebrated in 1948. In 1948, India formed its first tourism promotion committee called the Tourist Traffic Committee. In 1958, a separate department was created for tourism under transport. Today we have a separate minister for the tourism sector.

World Tourism Day

The United Nations and other international organizations celebrate World Tourism Day on September 27. UN celebrates the day to spread awareness of tourism. Also aims to create awareness about its role in social, financial, and political fields. World Agri tourism Day is celebrated on May 15 by the UN.

Recent Development

Recently India introduced E – tourist Visa. With this, citizens from 40 countries can apply for Visa to India online. They need not go to the Indian Embassy in their country to apply for the visa.

What are foreign exchange earnings?

These are earnings a country earns by selling its goods and services. Or the earnings earned by exchanging the currency. Let us understand this with an example. Assume American wishes to

come to India. He has his earnings in USD. He now has to get Indian Rupees to spend in India. Now the dollars he gives to India for exchange are referred to as Foreign Exchange Earnings.

AERO – INDIA 2023



The Defence Ministry has been organizing the Aero – India Show since 1996. Other organizations such as DRDO, the Indian Air Force, Civil Aviation, and the Department of Space join the ministry to organize the show. The show is one of the largest air shows in Asia. Service providers of Indian aerospace and other manufacturers exhibit their products. Buyers from different countries participate in the show. It is to be held at the Yelahanka Air Force Base near Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Theme

The Runway to a Billion Opportunities

About Aero India 2023

In 2023, big shots of the aviation sector will participate. This includes Boeing or the USA, Airbus of Europe, and other missile manufacturers from Europe.

The show is a biennial event. Means, it is held once in two years.

Significance

India aims to boost its defense exports using the show as an opportunity. The show will help the country expand its defense manufacturing units.

History

The first edition of the show was held in 1996.

Second edition 1998 Yelahanka Air Force Base.

Third edition 2001 Yelahanka Air Force Base.

Fourth edition 2003 Yelahanka Base

Fifth edition 2005 Yelahanka base

Sixth edition 2007 Yelahanka

Seventh edition 2009 Yelahanka

Eighth edition	2011	Yelahanka
Ninth edition	2013	Yelhanka
Tenth edition	2015	Yelahanka
Eleventh edition	2017	Yelahanka
Twelfth edition	2019	Yelahanka
13 th edition	2021	Yelahanka

DRACO: NUCLEAR FISSION POWERED SPACECRAFT OF NASA



DARPA of the USA is working on nuclear fission-powered spacecraft along with NASA called the DRACO. DARPA is Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency. And DARPA is the research and development wing of the US military. Just like the DRDO of India.

DARPA is to launch the DRACO Spacecraft. DRACO stands for Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations. DRACO is to run on nuclear fission reaction. This is considered a big leap in the space industry as no nuclear rockets have been launched till 2021. The USA began testing the technology in 1955. Due to a lack of funds, the project was stalled.

Nuclear Thermal Rocket

The rocket that uses a nuclear fission reactor to fly is called a nuclear thermal rocket. No country on earth has succeeded in this technology. China, Russia, and USA are space racing on the technology. India has not yet started working on the technology.

Significance

The nuclear thermal rocket is faster than the conventional rockets being used today. With the world expanding its space exploration, the need has come for faster space travel. Rockets take more time traveling to another planet. For instance, the JUICE spacecraft of Europe to be launched in 2023 will reach Jupiter in 2034. Almost, 11 years. More time is wasted on traveling. Nuclear fission-powered rockets will help scientists reduce traveling time greatly.
