

### NATIONAL TURMERIC BOARD (NTB)

Recently, the Government of India notified the constitution of the National Turmeric Board.



#### About National Turmeric Board:

- It will focus on the **development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products** in the country.
- It will especially focus on **capacity building and skill development** of turmeric growers for harnessing greater benefits out of value addition.
- The Board will also promote **quality and food safety standards** and adherence to such standards.
- **Composition**
  - The Board shall have a **Chairperson**, who will be **appointed by the Central Government**.
  - It will have **members from the Ministry of AYUSH, Departments of Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Commerce & Industry of the Union Government**, senior State Government representatives from three states (on rotation basis).
  - Select national/state institutions involved in research, representatives of turmeric farmers and exporters.
  - It will have a **Secretary** to be appointed by **the Department of Commerce**.
- The **Ministry of Commerce** will be the **nodal department providing funds** and infrastructure for the NTB, which will look into increased demand, usage, production, research, market linkage, exports and so on.

#### Key facts about Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*)

- It is a **perennial herbaceous plant** belongs to the ginger family (*Zingiberaceae*).
- Climatic conditions required
  - **Soil and climate:** A friable **well drained red loamy soil** in wet or garden lands under tropical conditions is ideal.

- **Rain:** It can be grown in regions receiving an annual rainfall of 1500 mm.
- **Temperature:** range of 20 to 35 °C.
- India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world.
- The largest producing states of Turmeric are **Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu**

## WHO WAS CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ?

Maharashtra's Cultural Affairs Minister recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Victoria and Albert Museum in London to bring back Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's legendary wagh nakh (tiger claw) to the state.



### About Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj:

- He was the **founder of the Maratha Empire** in western India.
- He was **born on February 19, 1630**, to Shahaji Bhosle and Jijabai in the fort of Shivneri, **near the city of Junnar in the Pune district, Maharashtra.**
- With his valor and **great administrative skills**, Shivaji **carved out an enclave from the declining Adilshahi sultanate of Bijapur.** It eventually became the genesis of the Maratha Empire.
- After establishing his rule, Shivaji **implemented a competent and progressive administration** with the help of a **disciplined military** and a **well-established administrative set-up.**

He was known as the **Father of the Indian Navy.** Shivaji was the **first to realise the importance of having a naval force**, and therefore he strategically **established a navy and forts at the coastline** to defend the Konkan side of Maharashtra.

- He was **called the 'Mountain Rat'** and was widely **known for his guerrilla warfare** He was called so because of **his awareness of geography of his land and guerrilla tactics like raiding, ambushing**, and surprise attacks on his enemies.

- He was a **secular ruler** who was very accommodating of all religions. He had **numerous Muslim soldiers in his army**.
  - Shivaji was a **dependable supporter of women and their honour**. Anyone under his rule caught violating woman's rights was severely punished.
  - He had a **council of ministers (Asht Pradhan)** to advise him on the matters of the state, **but he was not bound by it**.
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## CHUNGHANG DAM

A major disaster took place in Sikkim recently, when the Chungthang Hydro-Dam was washed away by flooding of the Teesta River.



### About Chungthang Dam:

- Chungthang Dam, also known as the Chungthang Hydroelectric Project, is a **dam and hydroelectric power station located in Chungthang, a town in Sikkim**.
- It is an integral part of the **1200 MW mega Teesta Stage III Hydro Electric Project**, a major source of electricity for Sikkim and West Bengal.
- It is a **run-of-the-river hydroelectric project**, which was **commissioned in 2017**.
- The dam had a **gross height of 817 metres** and a **net head of 778 metres**, which was used for **power generation**.

### About Teesta Stage III Hydro Electric Project:

- It is a **1,200 MW hydro power project**.
- It is located on the **Teesta river/basin in Sikkim**.
- It is a **run-of-river project**.
- The project's construction **commenced in 2008** and subsequently **entered into commercial operation in 2017**.

### Key Facts about Teesta River:

- It is a **trans-Himalayan** river flowing through the Indian states of **Sikkim and West Bengal and, Rangpur in Bangladesh.**
- It is a **tributary of Brahmaputra River.**

**Origin:** It originates in the **Himalayas** and flows through the Indian States of **Sikkim and West Bengal** before entering Bangladesh, where it flows into the **Brahmaputra.**

- It has a total length of about **309 kilometers.**
- **Main Tributary: Rangeet River**

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## ICHAMATI RIVER

Recently, the Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways inaugurated the dredging work at National Waterways 44, Ichamati River in West Bengal .



### About Ichamati River:

- It is actually a **trans-boundary** river that flows through **India and Bangladesh.**
- It acts as a boundary between the two nations.
- It is now in **three parts**
  - The longer part flows from the **Mathabhanga River**, a distributary of the Padma, and after flowing for 208 km joins the **Kalindi River** near Hasnabad in North 24 Parganas and Debhata in Satkhira District.
- Ichhamati River and its tributaries **form a large oxbow lake complex** in North 24-Paraganas district near Bangaon.

### Key facts about National waterways in India

- To promote Inland Water Transport (IWT) in India, **111 waterways (including 5 existing and 106 new)** have been declared as National Waterways (NWs) under the National Waterways Act, 2016.

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) primarily undertakes projects for development and maintenance of IWT infrastructure on national waterways through grant received from Ministry of Shipping.
  - The head office of the authority is at **Noida**.
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## NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE 2023

### Why in news?

- The Nobel Prize for Literature 2023 has been awarded to Norwegian author Jon Olav Fosse.
- He was awarded the prize for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable.

### In Focus: Nobel Prize

- Nobel Prize is a prestigious prize awarded separately in six different fields “to those who, during the preceding year, have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind”.
- Originally, the prize was awarded in the fields of Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Peace.
- Later in 1968, a sixth prize was added in the field of economic sciences.
  - In 1968, Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's central bank) established the Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Sir Alfred Nobel, founder of the Nobel Prize.

### Background: Nobel Prize

- Alfred Nobel was a Swedish chemist, engineer, and industrialist most famously known for the invention of dynamite.
- In his will, he bequeathed all of his "remaining realisable assets" to be used to establish five prizes which became known as "Nobel Prizes."
- Nobel Prizes were first awarded in 1901.
- Nobel Prizes are not awarded posthumously. However, if a person is awarded a prize and dies before receiving it, the prize is presented.

### Who selects the Nobel Laureates?

- In his last will and testament, Alfred Nobel specifically designated the institutions responsible for the prizes he wished to be established:
  - The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for the Nobel Prize in Physics and Chemistry,
  - Karolinska Institutet for the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine,
  - Swedish Academy for the Nobel Prize in Literature, and
  - a committee of five persons to be elected by the Norwegian Parliament for the Nobel Peace Prize.
- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences was given the task to select the Laureates in Economic Sciences starting in 1969.

## Award Ceremony

- Except for the Peace Prize, the Nobel Prizes are presented in Stockholm, Sweden, at the annual Prize Award Ceremony on 10 December (the anniversary of Nobel's death).
- The Peace Prize is presented at the annual Prize Award Ceremony in Oslo, Norway, usually on 10 December.

## News Summary: Nobel Prize for Literature 2023

### Who is Jon Olav Fosse?

- **About**
  - Fosse writes in Norwegian Nynorsk, the least common of the two official versions of Norwegian.
  - Born in 1959, Fosse first started writing novels, switching to plays in his 30s.
  - He went on to become one of Norway's most-performed dramatists, and is in fact counted among the most performed of living European dramatists.
  - His work has been translated into more than 40 languages.
  - Fosse has written around 40 plays, apart from novels, short stories, children's books, poetry and essays.
- **Notable works**
  - His "A New Name: Septology VI-VII" was a finalist for the International Booker Prize last year.



- Other notable works by Fosse include I Am the Wind, Melancholy, Boathouse, and The Dead Dogs.
  - **Writing styles**
    - His writing style is characterised by simple, minimal, searing dialogue.
    - It is considered similar to Samuel Beckett and Harold Pinter, both of whom have won the Nobel earlier.
    - His themes explore:
      - the absurdity, the futility and yet the power of the human condition;
      - everyday confusions and irresolutions; and
      - the difficulty to form actual connections, despite — and sometimes because of — conversation.
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## HAKKI PIKKI TRIBE

Recently, 114 tribal people from the Hakki Pikki tribal community in Karnataka got title deeds to the land they had been cultivating for about a century.



### About Hakki Pikki Tribe:

- Hakki Pikkis (Hakki in Kannada means ‘bird’ and Pikki means ‘catchers’) are a **semi-nomadic tribe, traditionally of bird catchers and hunters.**
- It is one of the **major tribal communities in Karnataka.** They also reside in the **Western and Southern states** of India, mostly **near forest areas.**
- The community **migrated from Northern India, mainly Gujarat and Rajasthan,** and is now mainly concentrated in Shivamogga, Davanagere, and Mysuru district of Karnataka.
- They are **recognized as a Scheduled Tribe in India.**

### Occupation:

- After the implementation of stricter wildlife laws, the **tribe changed its occupation from hunting to selling spices, flowers, Ayurveda formulations, and herbal oils.**
  - They now **travel globally to sell these products, especially in the African continent,** where there is a demand for cheaper alternatives to Western medicine.
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- **Language:**
  - Despite being surrounded by Dravidian languages and living in southern India, the **community speaks an Indo-Aryan language.**
  - Their mother tongue was **designated as 'Vaagri' by scholars.**
  - **UNESCO has listed 'Vaagri' as one of the endangered languages.**

### **Rituals and customs:**

- The tribe **follows Hindu traditions** and celebrates Hindu festivals.
- The tribe **prefers cross-cousin marriages.** The society is **matriarchal**, where the **groom gives dowry to the bride's family.**
- The **eldest son in a family is not supposed to cut his hair** so that he can be identified easily.
- They are **non-vegetarians.**

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## YAK CHURPI

In a significant milestone for the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, the unique and culturally significant yak milk product, 'Yak Churpi,' has been granted the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tag.



### **About Yak churpi:**

- It is a dairy product made from the milk of the **indigenous Arunachali yak breed.**
- It is reared by **tribal yak pastoralists known as Brokpas** who migrate along with their yaks to higher reaches (at an altitude of 10,000 ft and higher) during summers and descent to mid-altitude mountainous regions during winters.
- These remarkable yaks are primarily found in the **West Kameng and Tawang districts** of the state.
- Churpi is a naturally fermented dairy product and **rich in protein content.**
- It is an **essential dietary staple** for tribal communities inhabiting the cold and mountainous regions of Arunachal Pradesh.





# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- It is often used as a vegetable substitute and is also incorporated into vegetable and meat curries and is commonly consumed with rice.
  - This GI tag is going to serve the cause of **yak conservation** and yak pastoralists' socio-economic upliftment.
  - Yaks are reared in high altitude areas in the Himalayan region but the Arunachali yaks are a unique breed in respect to their body shape, size, strain and weight.
  - Arunachali yaks are also the **only registered yak breed in India**
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