

27-02-2023

Dickinsonia Fossil

Why in Newspapers?

Information regarding the **Dickinsonia fossil** that scientists claimed to have excavated in **India's Bhimbetka Rock Shelter in the year 2021** has turned out to be **false**.

Quick Issue?

- On closer examination of the site, the researchers found that the Dickinsonia fossil was actually beeswax spread on a rock.



Historical Background?

- Dickinsonia is a **genus of extinct, soft-bodied, marine animals** that lived during the Ediacaran period, **approximately 550 to 560 million years ago**.
- These creatures were among the **earliest complex organisms** found on earth before the **Cambrian period** of life existence for about **30 million years**.
- Oval or leaf-shaped structures are characteristic of Dickinsonia fossils, **they can range in size from less than an inch to more than four feet long**.
- These creatures had **flat bodies and no hard parts**, such as shells or bones, which means **they do not fossilize easily and are often preserved as impressions in rocks**.
- The nature of Dickinsonia and its relationship with other organisms is still a matter of controversy among scientists.
- Some studies suggest they may be related to **jellyfish** or other cnidarians, while others claim they belonged to a separate '**extinct phylum**' of organisms that are not closely related to any modern organisms.
- Despite their precarious nature, **Dickinsonia fossils are important for understanding the early development of complex animal life on Earth**.

Other Key Facts?

Paintings of Bhimbetka Rock Shelter

- Some rock shelters at Bhimbetka have prehistoric cave paintings and the oldest are about 10,000 years old (8,000 BC), corresponding to the Indian Mesolithic.
- These paintings are made of red and white color on the walls of most of the caves.
- This form of rock art covered many subjects and depicted scenes like singing, dancing, hunting and other common activities of the people living here.
- The oldest cave paintings of Bhimbetka are believed to be around 12,000 years old.

- It has provided **important evidence about the evolution of body structure** and ecological interactions during the Late Ediacaran period.
- The **Bhimbetka Rock Shelters** is an archaeological site in central India that spans the prehistoric Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods as well as the historic period.
- It shows the **beginning of human life in India** and the evidence of stone age of Acheulean period.
- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site consisting of seven hills and 10 kms**. There are more than **750 rock shelters spread over**.
- Discovery of Bhimbetka Rock Shelter **V.S. Wakankar in the year 1957**.
- It is **located in Raisen district** between **Hoshangabad and Bhopal** in Madhya Pradesh.
- It is **situated at the foothills of Vindhya Mountains**, about **40 km south-east of Bhopal**.

Russian attack on Ukraine

Why in Newspapers?

On 24 February 2023, **1 year of Russia Ukraine war was completed**. Thousands of people have lost their lives due to this war in the last 1 years.

Quick Issue?

- Russian President Putin still considers Ukraine a part of Russia. **Putin's intention is to bring Russia back to the form it was in before 1991**, that is, before the disintegration of the Soviet Union. That's why Putin is continuously attacking Ukraine even today.
- The immediate reason for this attack, which started in 2022, was **to stop NATO membership by Ukraine**. Russian President Vladimir Putin believes that America wants to increase its interference in the region by including Ukraine in NATO.



Historical Background?

- According to a data released by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), over 71,000 civilian deaths have been confirmed in Ukraine during the past year.
- Defense Chief of Norway, General Erik Christophersen has informed that about 1 lakh 80 thousand soldiers of Russia have been killed in the war. At the same time, about 1 lakh soldiers of Ukraine have been killed. On the other hand, according to a report of America and western countries, more than 2 lakh soldiers of Russia have been killed.
- About 32 lakh crore rupees (\$ 4 trillion) of the world has been wasted due to this war. Ukraine is the country that has suffered the most economic loss. This war has completely

destroyed Ukraine. The Kiev School of Economics estimates that from 24 February 2022 to December 2022, \$138 billion of Ukraine's infrastructure has been destroyed in Russian attacks.

- In addition, eight million people have left Ukraine in one year because of the war. They are living life as refugees in European countries.
- 2.8 million people have left Ukraine and gone to Russia. At the same time, more than 1.5 million people have taken refuge in Poland and more than 1.1 million in Germany.
- Due to this war of two countries, the world has been deeply affected, the global economy has been badly affected.
- The IMF last year estimated the global GDP growth to be 3.2 per cent in 2023, which has now been reduced to 2.9 per cent. It is estimated to be 3.4 per cent in 2024.
- According to the estimate released by OECD in November 2022, the global inflation rate in 2022 could be more than 9 percent. By the end of 2023, it is estimated to reduce to 6.6 percent and by 2024 to 5.1 percent.
- Ukraine and Russia are leading countries in food as well as energy production, so the war has affected their supply chain all over the world.
- Energy security has also been affected in India due to this war. With Russia importing cheap oil to India, it has become India's largest oil importing country.



रूस-यूक्रेन विवाद को 10 पॉइंट्स में समझिए

■ यूक्रेन 1917 तक रूसी साम्राज्य का हिस्सा था, 1918 में की थी आजादी की घोषणा।

■ 1921 में लेनिन की सेना से हारा यूक्रेन, 1922 में सोवियत संघ का हिस्सा बना।

■ यूक्रेन में सोवियत संघ का हुआ विरोध, 1954 में उसने क्रीमिया को यूक्रेन को दिया।

■ 1991 में सोवियत संघ का विघटन हुआ, यूक्रेन ने की आजादी की घोषणा।

■ 2010 में रूसी समर्थित विक्टर यानुकोविच यूक्रेन के राष्ट्रपति बने।

■ रूस से करीबी और यूरोप से दूरी की वजह से विक्टर का विरोध, 2014 में पद छोड़ा।

■ 2014 में रूस ने यूक्रेन के क्रीमिया पर कब्जा किया, लोहांस्क और दोनेस्क में भी हुआ विद्रोह।

■ पिछले 8 सालों से यूक्रेनी सैनिकों और रूसी अलगाववादियों के बीच संघर्ष जारी, 14000 की मौत।

■ दिसंबर 2021 में यूक्रेन ने की NATO में शामिल होने की घोषणा, रूस ने जताया कड़ा विरोध।

Ajaypal Singh Banga

Why in Newspapers?

US President Joe Biden on Thursday, 23 February, **nominated former Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga to head the World Bank.** Earlier, **David Malpass** was heading the World Bank.

Quick Issue?

- According to tradition, the head of the World Bank is chosen by America only, in such a situation, it is considered almost certain that Ajay Banga will become the President of the World Bank.



Historical Background?

- Banga's full name is **Ajaypal Singh Banga**. Banga, 64, was born in a **Saini Sikh family in Pune, Maharashtra**. His father was a **retired lieutenant-general of the Indian Army**. His family is originally from Jalandhar.
- He is a **graduate in Economics from St. Stephen's College** and an **MBA from IIM Ahmedabad**.
- He was awarded the **Padma Shri in the year 2016** by the Government of India.
- Ajay was the **Vice Chairman of General Atlantic**, one of the world's largest private equity firms. Prior to this, he was the **executive chairman and CEO of credit card major Mastercard**.
- The **World Bank was established in 1944** to help rebuild Europe and Japan after World War II.
- Its official name was **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**.
- By 2022, the World Bank is headed by a President, **25 Executive Directors** and **29 Vice Presidents**. IBRD and IDA each have 189 and 174 members respectively.

 <p>अजयपाल सिंह खंभा सीईओ, मास्टरकार्ड</p> <p>1960 में पुणे के घाट सड़की में जन्मे अजयपाल सिंह खंभा मास्टरकार्ड के प्रेसीडेंट और सीईओ हैं। मास्टरकार्ड अमेरिकन मल्टीनेशनल फाइनेंसियल सर्विसेज कंपनी है। वर्ष 2016 में अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा ने अजयपाल को टैक्स पॉलिसी और ग्लोबलाइजेशन के लिए राष्ट्रपति की सलाहकार समिती का सदस्य बनाया। भारत सरकार भी उन्हें वर्ष 2016 में नवनिर्दिष्ट सम्मान पद्मश्री से सम्मानित कर चुकी है।</p> <p><i>Ajaypal Singh</i></p>	<p>देश के कई स्थानों पर रह चुके हैं</p>  <p>अजयपाल के पिताजी आर्मी में अफसर रहे। इसी वजह से उनकी स्कूलिंग सिकंदराबाद, जालंधर, दिल्ली, हैदराबाद और शिमला जैसे स्थानों से हुई। उन्होंने दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी के सेंट स्टीफन कॉलेज से इकोनॉमिक्स में बैचलर ऑफ आर्ट (ऑनर्स) की डिग्री प्राप्त की। उन्होंने इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट, अहमदाबाद से एमबीए किया है। वह यूएस-इंडिया बिजनेस काउंसिल के चेयरमैन हैं।</p>	<p>कई कंपनियों में काम कर चुके हैं</p>  <p>अजयपाल ने अपने कैरियर की शुरुआत वर्ष 1981 में नेस्ते इंडिया से मैनेजमेंट ट्रेनी के रूप में की और अपने कैरियर के अगले 13 साल यहां सेल्स, मार्केटिंग और जनरल मैनेजमेंट के विभिन्न काम किए। बाद में उन्होंने पेसाको के रेस्टोरेंट डिविजन को ज्वाइन किया। इसके बाद उन्होंने वर्ष 1996 में भारत में हेड ऑफ मार्केटिंग के रूप में सिटी ग्रुप ज्वाइन किया।</p>	<p>एम्प्लॉइज की बात ध्यान से सुनते हैं</p>  <p>अजयपाल विदेशी विषयों पर कॉन्फ्रेंसेज में अपनी बात रखते हैं। वह सामाजिक विकास के मुद्दों को महत्वपूर्ण मानते हैं। वह कहते हैं कि मैं अपनी कंपनी में एम्प्लॉइज को अपनी बात कहने का पूरा मौका देता हूँ। इससे एम्प्लॉइज अपना तनाव दूर कर पाते हैं। वह कहते हैं कि मैं किसी भी बात के हर पहलू को समझने के बाद ही प्रतिक्रिया देता हूँ।</p>
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Other Key Facts?

- Special functions of the World Bank -
 1. To eliminate extreme poverty:
 2. By reducing the share of the global population living in extreme poverty to 3 percent.
 3. To promote shared prosperity:
 4. By increasing the income of the poorest 40 percent of people in each country.

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme

Why in Newspapers?

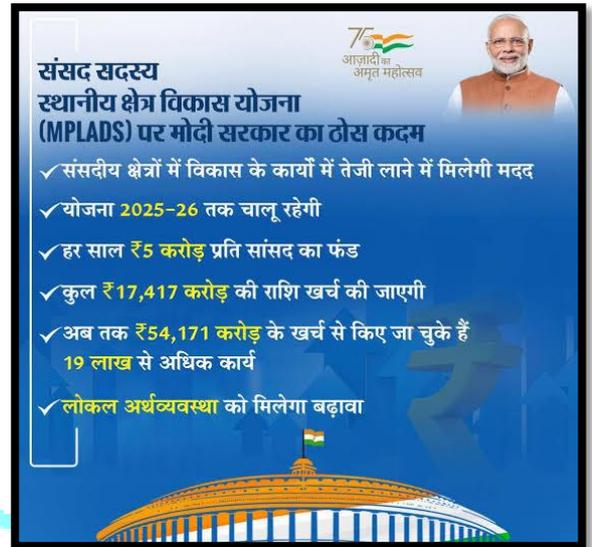
Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), **Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation** released the Revised Guidelines on **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Schemes (MPLADS) - 2023 on 22 February 2023.**

Quick Issue?

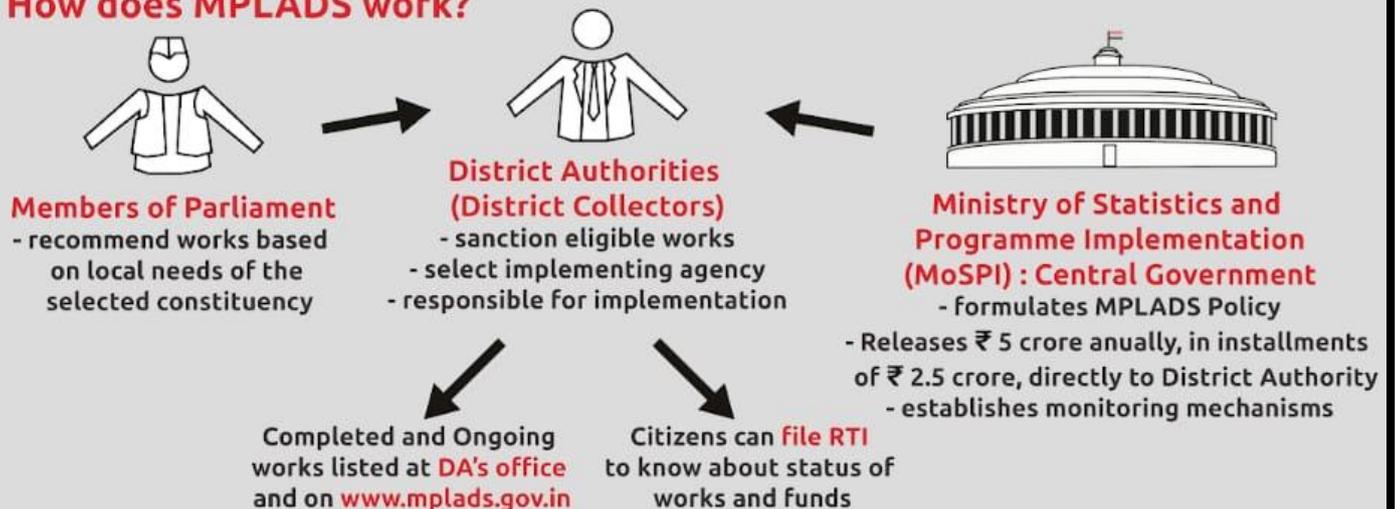
- These Revised Guidelines - 2023 and the web portal will come into operation from 01-04-2023.

Historical Background?

- MPLADS is a plan scheme fully funded by the Government of India which was launched in December, 1993.
- Annual MPLADS fund eligibility per MP constituency Rs. 5 crores.
- The objective of the MPLAD scheme is to enable the Hon'ble Members of Parliament (MPs) to recommend works of a developmental nature with emphasis on creation of durable community assets, based on locally felt needs.
- The revised guidelines aim to broaden the scope of the scheme so that the Hon'ble MPs are able to recommend developmental works as per the changing needs of the society, as well as lay emphasis on improving the functioning, implementation and monitoring of the MPLAD scheme.
- Under the revised guidelines, the entire process of fund flow will be driven through the web portal, which will facilitate greater transparency and accountability in the real-time monitoring system and better efficiency and effectiveness of the MPLAD scheme.
- Funds are released directly to the district authorities in the form of grants-in-aid. Also the funds released under the scheme have not lapsed.
- Liability of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward to subsequent years subject to eligibility of the scheme.



How does MPLADS work?





- Parliamentarians have a recommendatory role under this scheme.
- The **District Authority is empowered to check eligibility of works**, sanction funds and select implementing agencies, prioritize works, monitor overall execution and monitor the scheme at the ground level.
- **At least 10% of the projects under implementation in the district are to be inspected by the District Authority every year.**
- Lok Sabha members can recommend works in their respective constituencies.
- **Elected members of Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere** in the state from which they are elected.
- Nominated members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can select works for implementation anywhere in the country.

News Fatafat (Headlines)

Shinku La Tunnel

- The Center has approved the construction of the **4.1 km long Shinku-La tunnel** on the **Nimu-Padam-Darcha road link**.
- The Shinku-La Pass connects the **Lahaul Valley of Himachal Pradesh and the Zaskar Valley of Ladakh**.
 - It will be constructed by the **Border Roads Organization (BRO)** under its ambitious project '**Project Yojak**'.
 - ✚ The aim of this project is to **build more and more tunnels like Atal tunnel** and such roads which maintain connectivity
 - This tunnel will provide **all-weather road connectivity to Ladakh**. This will be the **shortest route from other parts of the country to the border areas of Ladakh**.
 - Through this tunnel, **security forces can move more quickly in this area**.

Solar Radiation Management (SRM) Technologies

- SRM technologies aim to **keep the Earth cool by artificially reflecting most of the Sun's energy into space**.
 - **There are different methods of SRM: management** on the ground, in the atmosphere, or in space.
- Some SRM techniques include **Stratospheric Aerosol Injection, Marine Cloud Brightening, Cirrus Cloud Thinning** etc.
- Recently, **researchers have raised the possibility that dust particles can be launched from the Moon to the Lagrange point to achieve SRM objectives**.
 - **Lunar dust absorbs or radiates solar radiation**. So keeping the Moon's dust in a **stable orbit would block the Sun's light**. As a result of this, **there will be a cooling effect on the earth**.



Climate Performance Index (CPI)

- The **Observer Research Foundation** has released a CPI. Its objective is to **evaluate the performance of G20 countries in climate change mitigation**.
- India ranks **first among all G20 members in terms of overall climate performance** in this index.
 - The following factors are responsible behind this rank of India:
 - ✚ **India's per capita contribution to emissions is very low;**
 - ✚ **It has historically had a very limited share of emissions compared to the needs of its population.**
- **Note:** This is **different from the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)** published by **German Watch, New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network**

Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Center (JCBC), Pinjore

- JCBC proposes to release **Oriental White-backed vultures into the wild in 2023-24**.
- JCBC is a **joint project of Haryana Forest Department and Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)**.
- It was **formed in 2001** by the **Government of the United Kingdom** along with the **Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species Fund**. Its **purpose was to investigate the dramatic decline in the number of vultures of the Gyps species**.
- It includes **three critically endangered species of Gyps vultures**. These species are **Oriental white-backed, long-billed vulture and slender-billed vulture**.

World Government Summit 2023

- The **World Government Summit 2023** has been **organized in Dubai, United Arab Emirates**. The theme of the summit was **"Shaping Future Governments"**.
 - It is a **global platform**. It is **organized every year in Dubai**.
 - The **platform brings together leadership from government, business, technology and civil society**.
 - Together they discuss the problems facing humanity. At the same time, **governments around the world strive to shape the future**.

Armor - 2023

- **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center (14C)** have jointly launched **Kavach - 2023**.
- **Kavach - 2023** is a **national level hackathon**. It aims to identify innovative ideas and technological solutions to meet the **challenges of cyber security and cybercrime** in the 21st century.
 - It will be **conducted in two phases**. Youth from educational institutions and **registered start-ups have participated in it**.

- The winning team will be awarded Rs 20 lakh as prize money.

Jal Jan Abhiyan (JJA)

- PM virtually inaugurated **Jal Jan Abhiyan in Rajasthan**.
- JJA will be operated jointly by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Brahma Kumaris organization**.
 - It is a **positive initiative towards water conservation** to save human and humanity.
 - This campaign is based on the **idea that the goal of water conservation** can be achieved only by creating collective consciousness among the people towards water conservation.

Similar Bird Sanctuary

- There has been a **decline in the number of migratory birds** in the **same bird sanctuary**.
- It is a **Ramsar site**. It is located in **Mainpuri district of Uttar Pradesh**.
- It is a **seasonal Gokhur lake in the Gangetic floodplain**. The lake is **highly dependent on the southwest monsoon**.
- This sanctuary is **regularly providing shelter to more than 50,000 water birds**. It is **also important as a winter resting place for many migratory birds**.
- Many vulnerable species are also found here including **Sarus crane (Grus antigone)** and **Greater spotted eagle (Aquila clanga)**.

Digital Services Act (DSA)

- Individual tech giants have published their **Active Users reports** in compliance with the **European Commission's DSA**. This report is published monthly.
- The DSA regulates the manner in which **moderators moderate content**. In this way DSA ensures transparency.
- It **facilitates the process by which platforms are notified** and then action is taken on **illegal content**.
- **Better protection of consumers is ensured through DSA**. Also, it establishes a **solid transparency and a clear accountability framework**. DSA promotes innovation, growth and competitiveness.

Vinyl Chloride

- A train carrying toxic chemicals including **vinyl chloride** has crashed in **Ohio, USA**. This has **raised health and environmental concerns**.
- Vinyl chloride is a **carcinogenic gas**. It is mostly used to make **polyvinyl chloride (PVC)**. It increases the risk of liver and oral cancer.
- The **combustion of vinyl chloride** releases **phosgene and hydrogen chloride (HCL) gas** in the air.



- Phosgene is a **highly toxic and colourless gas**. Its **odor is strong**, which can cause **vomiting and difficulty in breathing**. This gas was used as a **chemical weapon in World War I**.
- HCL is a gas with a **strong smell**. It **causes irritation to the skin, eyes, nose and throat**.

Marburg virus disease (MVD)

- Equatorial Guinea has confirmed its **first case of MVD**.
- Marburg virus is part of the family **Filovirus**. Ebola virus is **also included in this total**. However, despite being different viruses, the symptoms of the disease caused by both are clinically similar.
 - MVD **does not spread through the air**.
 - MVD can spread through **human-to-human transmission**.
 - There are currently **no approved vaccines** or drugs for the treatment of Marburg. However, the **rehydration treatment method** can increase the chances of survival from its infection by reducing its symptoms.
 - The first cases of MVD were detected in **1967 in Marburg and Frankfurt (Germany) and Belgrade (Serbia)**.

