

### INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF DEAF PEOPLE 2022: 19 TO 25 SEPTEMBER 2022

Every year, the full week ending on the last Sunday of September is observed as the **International Week of the Deaf (IWD)**. In 2022, IWD is being observed from September 19 to 25 September 2022. The theme of the 2022 International Week of Deaf People is “**Building Inclusive Communities for All**”. It is an initiative of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and was first launched in 1958 in Rome, Italy to commemorate the month when the first World Congress of the WFD was held.

#### Daily themes:

- Monday 19 September 2022: Sign Languages in Education
- Tuesday 20 September 2022: Sustainable economic opportunities for deaf people
- Wednesday 21 September 2022: Health for All
- Thursday 22 September 2022: Safeguarding deaf people in times of crisis
- Friday 23 September 2022: Sign Languages Unite Us!
- Saturday 24 September 2022: Intersectional Deaf Communities
- Sunday 25 September 2022: Deaf Leadership for Tomorrow



#### International Week of the Deaf: History

On 19 December 2017, the UN General Assembly declared 23 September as the International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL). The resolution was proposed through the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN, following an original request by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD). There were 97 UN Member States including Canada voted for the adoption of the resolution as co-sponsors. The choice of 23 September commemorates the date the WFD was established in 1951. The objective of the IDSL is to raise awareness on sign languages and strengthen their status of sign languages.

The IDSL takes place on the last full week of September as part of the International Week of the Deaf (IWDeaf), which was recognized and celebrated by the WFD in 1958. The IWDeaf is celebrated through various activities by respective Deaf communities in Canada and around the world. These activities call for the participation and involvement of various stakeholders including families, peers, governmental bodies, professional sign language interpreters, and Disabled Person Organizations (DPOs).

### ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS BECOME INDIA'S FIRST SWACHH SUJAL PRADESH

Union Jal Shakti Minister, **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** declared **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** as India's first **Swachh Sujal Pradesh**. With this accomplishment, all villages on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have received the Har Ghar Jal certification and have been verified as ODF plus open defecation free. Safe and secure drinking water supply and its management is a crucial aspect of the Sujal and Swachh.

### There are namely three important components of Sujal and Swachh state:

- (i) safe and secure drinking water supply and management;
- (ii) ODF Plus: ODF Sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) and
- (iii) cross-cutting interventions like convergence, IEC, action planning, etc



### Key points:

- On A&N Island, there are 62,000 rural households spread across 266 villages in 9 blocks across three districts. The UT has given piped water supply to all 368 schools, 558 Anganwadi centres, and 292 public institution centres.
- Andaman and Nicobar Island which is remotely located from the mainland has become a source of inspiration for the rest of the states and Union Territories of India.
- On World Water Day, 22 March 2021, Andaman and Nicobar Islands were declared to have achieved **100% coverage of rural households** with tap water connection. It became the third State/UT in the country to achieve 100% coverage of rural households with tap water supply after Goa and Telangana.
- Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT) Lieutenant Governor: Admiral D K Joshi.

## VARANASI NOMINATED AS FIRST-EVER SCO TOURISM AND CULTURAL CAPITAL FOR 2022-2023

**Varanasi city** has been nominated as the **first cultural and tourism capital** during 2022-2023 at the 22nd meeting of the **SCO council in Samarkand**. The 22nd meeting of the SCO council in Samarkand was also attended by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization 2022 was the first in-person meeting of the regional group after the Covid-19 pandemic which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### Key Points related to Varanasi

- Varanasi will get a boost in tourism and cultural and humanitarian exchanges between India and SCO member countries after it is nominated as the **first SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital**.
- It will emphasize **India's ancient civilizational** links with member states of SCO.
- Various events will also be organized under the framework of a **major cultural outreach program** in Varanasi during 2032-2023.
- During the culture several guests will be invited to participate from the **SCO Member State**.

### About Varanasi

**Varanasi** is also known as Banaras or Kashi. It is one of the oldest cities in the world. The city is known for **Hindu mythology and history**. The city is linked with spiritualism, yoga, Hindu mythology, culture, and the Sanskrit language.

## HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS ALTERING INDIAN MONSOON

- According to Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), extreme events of floods and droughts in 2022 have strongly depicted how global warming has been impacting Indian monsoon.
- **Key changes in monsoon trends**
- Increase in fluctuations in monsoon, resulting in both long dry periods and short spells of heavy rains.
- A shift in track of monsoon systems, like low pressure and depression travelling south of their position. As a result of this shift, States such as Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and parts of Maharashtra have been recording excess rainfall this season.
- West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar did not receive normal rain.
- Monsoon rainfall became less frequent but more intense in India during latter half of 20th century.
- **Consequences of altering monsoon**
- Uneven distribution of rains along with increasing temperatures and humidity giving rise to pest attacks and diseases. Changes in track of monsoon systems impact quantity as well as quality of Kharif crops, particularly rice. Melting of glaciers in Himalayan region. Increase in extreme weather events over entire South Asia (recent flash floods/floods in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and drought in China).