




# Daily News Analysis - 9th December

Special class



**1<sup>st</sup> To 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**DECEMBER 2021**  
**The Hindu Analysis**  
**By- Sumit Konde**



**Sumit Konde** ✓

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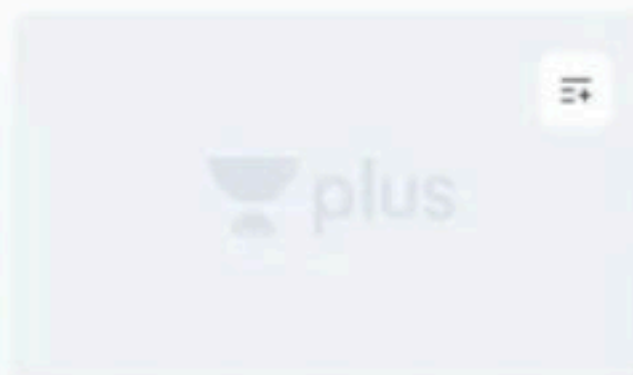
Lesson 10 - Oct 28, 2021 9:00 PM



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Studied at LLB from Bharti Vidyapeeth Pune

Got Eminence Award-2019 by Divya Marathi Newspaper for my work in competitive exam field.

Lives in Pune, Maharashtra, India

By Sumit konde



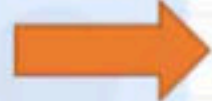
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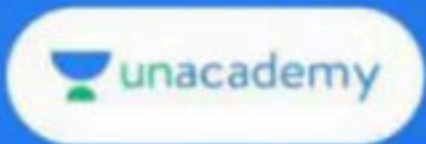
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Course Flow	Educators (Hindi)	Educators (Bilingual)
Ancient History	Vishal Mishra	Arti Chawri
World Physical Geography	Apoorva Rajput	Sumit Konde
Modern History	Rajneesh Raj	Abhishek Srivastava
Indian Polity	Abhay Singh	Mudit Gupta
Indian Economy	Anshuman Singh	Mrunal Patel
Medieval History	Ishrat Javed Farooqui	Anuj Garg
Indian Geography	Nabazish Khan	Sachin Arora
Art and Culture	Anurag Saunakiya	Arti Chawri
Environment & Ecology	Anshuman Singh	Sumit Konde
Science & Technology	Sharad Tripathi	Prakash Kumar
World Human & Economic Geography	Sumit Kumar Rathi	Sudarshan Gurjar
International Relations	Rajnish	Pavneet Singh
Post Independence	Ishrat Javed Farooqui	Mahipal Rathore
World History	Ishrat Javed Farooqui	Arti Chawri
Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude	Abhay Kumar	Awdhesh Singh
Governance (includes schemes and policies)	Ankit Kumar	Sidharth Arora
Indian Society and Social Issues	Ankit Kumar	Ayush Sanghi
Internal Security	Ankit Kumar	Sumit Konde
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# India Young Water Professional Programme

➤ Recently, the first edition of the **India Young Water Professional Programme (IYWPP)** was launched.

## India Young Water Professional Programme Launched

Posted On: 29 NOV 2021 5:59PM by PIB Delhi

The first edition of the India Young Water Professional Programme was launched virtually today in the presence of Mr. Manpreet Vohra, Indian High Commissioner to Australia, Barry O' Farrell, Australian

## □ India Young Water Professional Programme (IYWPP):-

- This program has been taken up under the National Hydrology Project and supported by the Australian Water Partnership.
- About 70% of the program is focused on project-based learning through Situation Understanding and Improvement Projects (Engaged Training and Learning Model).
- The Program focuses on gender equality and diversity because sustainable water management can only benefit from the views and skills of all members of society.



- ❑ It is **outcome-driven and the participants** will be having certain tools and techniques by the time they are finished with the Programme.
- ❑ Based on the success of this edition, a second phase of YWP will be planned in the **later half of the year 2022.**

### ❖ **Objectives and Need**

- ✓ Both India and Australia have got common water challenges and issues and there is a lot to **learn from each other.**
- ✓ Water is a key priority area of **collaboration between India and Australia** and both countries are **working actively on this front.**
- ✓ It will help in breaking the **silos of surface water vs groundwater** and participants will learn to take a comprehensive view of water resources management.

# Suspension of MPs

➤ In the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has sought the approval of the House for suspending 12 Rajya Sabha MPs for the remainder of the session.

➤ Why has the minister asked for suspension of MPs:-

➤ The reason for their suspension was “their unprecedented acts of misconduct, contemptuous, unruly and violent behaviour and intentional attacks on security personnel” on the last day of the Monsoon Session.

➤ MPs are required to adhere to certain rules of parliamentary etiquette.

Suspension of MPs: Previous occasions when parliamentarians faced action for 'unruly' behaviour

TIMESOFINDIA.COM / Updated: Nov 30, 2021, 20:24 IST



## ❑ What is the procedure for suspension of MPs:-

- The **presiding officer of each House can direct an MP** to withdraw from the legislative chamber for grossly disorderly conduct. The MP then has to remain absent from the proceedings of the House for the remainder of the day.
- The presiding officers can also “name” an MP for “persistently and wilfully obstructing the business” of the House. In such a case, usually, the Parliamentary **Affairs Minister moves a motion for suspending the offending MP** from the service of the House. The suspension can last until the end of the session.
- In 2001, the Lok Sabha rule was amended to give the Speaker one additional power. A new rule, 374A, **empowers the Speaker to automatically suspend an MP** for a maximum of five days for disrupting the business of the House.
- **In 2015, Speaker Sumitra Mahajan** used this rule for suspending 25 Congress MPs.

# Ujjwala Scheme

- ❑ **The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** saw a spurt in new distribution just before the 2019 general election as per RTI (Right To Information) plea.
- ❑ **The target under the scheme was to release 8 crore LPG connections** to the deprived household by 2020. This was achieved in August 2019, seven months ahead of the March 2020 deadline.
- ❑ In August 2021, the Prime Minister launched the second phase of **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) or Ujjwala 2.0 Scheme.**

## Ujjwala scheme implementation spiked in election years: RTI

A closer look at the yearwise break of the distribution of LPG under the scheme suggests maximum dispensation during the period just before the 2019 general election.

Written by [Nishant Shekhar](#) | New Delhi |  
Updated: November 30, 2021 8:27:16 pm



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## □ PMUY-I:

- Launched in May 2016 to **provide LPG (liquefied petroleum gas)** connections to poor households.

## □ PMUY-II:

- It is aimed to provide maximum benefit to the migrants who live in other states and **find it difficult to submit address proof.**
- **Now they will only have** to give “Self Declaration” to avail the benefit.



## **Objectives:**

- Empowering women and **protecting their health.**
- **Reducing the number of deaths in India** due to unclean cooking fuel.
- Preventing young children from a significant number of **acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution by burning fossil fuel.**

## **Features:**

- The scheme provides a financial support of **Rs 1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL households.**
- **Along with a deposit-free LPG connection, Ujjwala 2.0** will provide the first refill and a hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries.

## ❑ Target:

- Under Ujjwala 1.0, the target was to provide LPG connections to 50 million women from the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, by **March 2020. However, in August 2018, women from seven other categories were brought under the purview of the scheme:**
- **SC/ST, those under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)**, beneficiaries of the Antyoday Anna Yojana (AAY), Forest Dwellers, most backward classes, tea gardens and Islands.
- Under Ujjwala 2.0, an additional 10 million LPG connections will be **provided to the beneficiaries.**
- **Government has also fixed a target of providing** piped gas to 21 lakh homes in 50 districts.

## ❑ Nodal Ministry:

- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (**MoPNG**).

## ❑ Achievements:

- In the first phase of the PMUY, 8 crore poor families, including from the **Dalit and tribal communities, were given free cooking gas connections.**
- **The LPG infrastructure has expanded manifold in the country.** In the last six years, more than 11,000 new LPG distribution centres have opened across the country.

# Natural Farming

- Recently, NITI Aayog has conducted a national workshop on Natural Farming.
- There are many working models of natural farming all over the world, the Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is the most popular model in India.
- This comprehensive, natural, and spiritual farming system was developed by Padma Shri Subhash Palekar.

NITI Aayog organises knowledge sharing workshop on Natural Farming

Also launches an exclusive website on natural farming

Posted On: 30 NOV 2021 8:03PM by PIB Delhi

- It can be defined as a “chemical- free farming and livestock based ”. Soundly grounded in agro-ecology, it is a diversified farming system that integrates crops, trees and livestock, allowing the optimum use of functional biodiversity.
- It holds the promise of enhancing farmers’ income while delivering many other benefits, such as restoration of soil fertility and environmental health, and mitigating and/or reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- This farming approach was introduced by Masanobu Fukuoka, a Japanese farmer and philosopher, in his 1975 book The One-Straw Revolution.
- It builds on natural or ecological processes that exist in or around farms. Internationally, Natural Farming is considered a form of regenerative agriculture—a prominent strategy to save the planet.



#### Beejamrit

The process includes treatment of seed using cow dung, urine and lime based formulations.

#### Whapasa

The process involves activating earthworms in the soil in order to create water vapor condensation.

### COMPONENTS OF NATURAL FARMING



#### Jivamrit

The process enhances the fertility of soil using cow urine, dung, flour of pulses and jaggery concoction.

#### Mulching

The process involves creating micro climate using different mulches with trees, crop biomass to conserve soil moisture.

#### Plant Protection

The process involves spraying of biological concoctions which prevents pest, disease and weed problems and protects the plant and improves their soil fertility.

# Stubble Burning & PM 2.5

- The average contribution of stubble burning to Delhi's PM2.5 level in November was 14.6%, according to data from the government-run monitoring agency SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research).
- PM 2.5 refers to the ambient airborne particles of size 2.5 micrometres that are emitted from various sources and are linked to negative health effects such as cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness and premature mortality.

By-Sumit Konde

DELHI

Share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 count 14.6% in November



Nikhil M Babu

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 01, 2021 02:10 IST  
UPDATED: DECEMBER 01, 2021 02:14 IST

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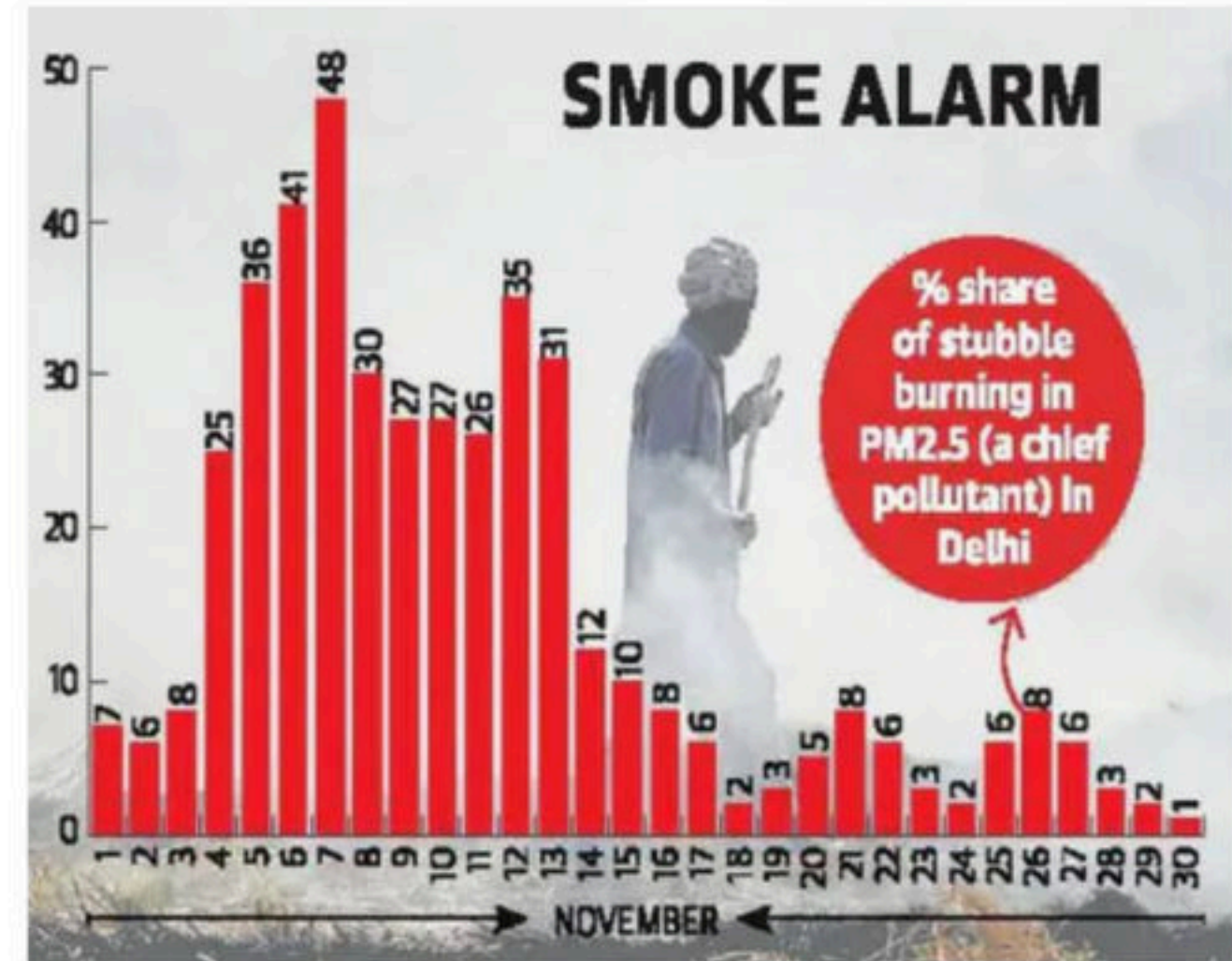
PRINT



Being a seasonal activity, its annual contribution to pollution far lesser

## ❑ Major Points:-

- The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to the daily levels of PM2.5 – a chief pollutant – in Delhi was as high as 48% on November 7 and averaged 33.5% during the week after Deepavali (November 5-11).
- This is the same period when air pollution spiked in the Capital, National Capital Region and several other north Indian States.
- The highest contribution of stubble burning to PM2.5 in Delhi for a day was 58% in 2018, 43% in 2019, and 46% in 2020, said Gufran Beig, founder project director of SAFAR.



## ❑ What is Stubble Burning:-

- Stubble burning is the practice of intentionally setting fire to the straw stubble that remains after grains, such as rice and wheat, have been harvested.
- Origin: The origin of stubble burning can be traced to the advent of the Green Revolution and mechanised harvesting, which utilised the combined harvesting technique.
- The Green Revolution increased greatly rice and wheat production, which simultaneously increased stubble post-harvest.
- The technique was widespread until the 1990s when governments increasingly restricted its use.
- Stubble burning in northern India has long been a major cause of air pollution, but efforts to stop it fail every year.
- Every year, when winter sets in, Delhi's air pollution peaks with the air quality index (AQI) often plunging to the 'severe' and 'hazardous' categories.
- A recent study cited a direct link between 30 per cent of the total Covid deaths in the world and air pollution.

# Kyhytysuka Sachicarum

- A team of international researchers from Canada, Colombia, and Germany has discovered a new extinct marine reptile.
- A new 130-million-year-old marine reptile fossil sheds light on the evolution of hypercarnivory of these last-surviving ichthyosaurs.

## Explained: What is Kyhytysuka sachicarum?

An international team of researchers has discovered a new marine reptile. The specimen, a metre-long skull, has been named Kyhytysuka sachicarum.

By: Expressa News Service | New Delhi |  
December 1, 2021 9:26:10 am



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## □ Kyhytysuka sachicarum

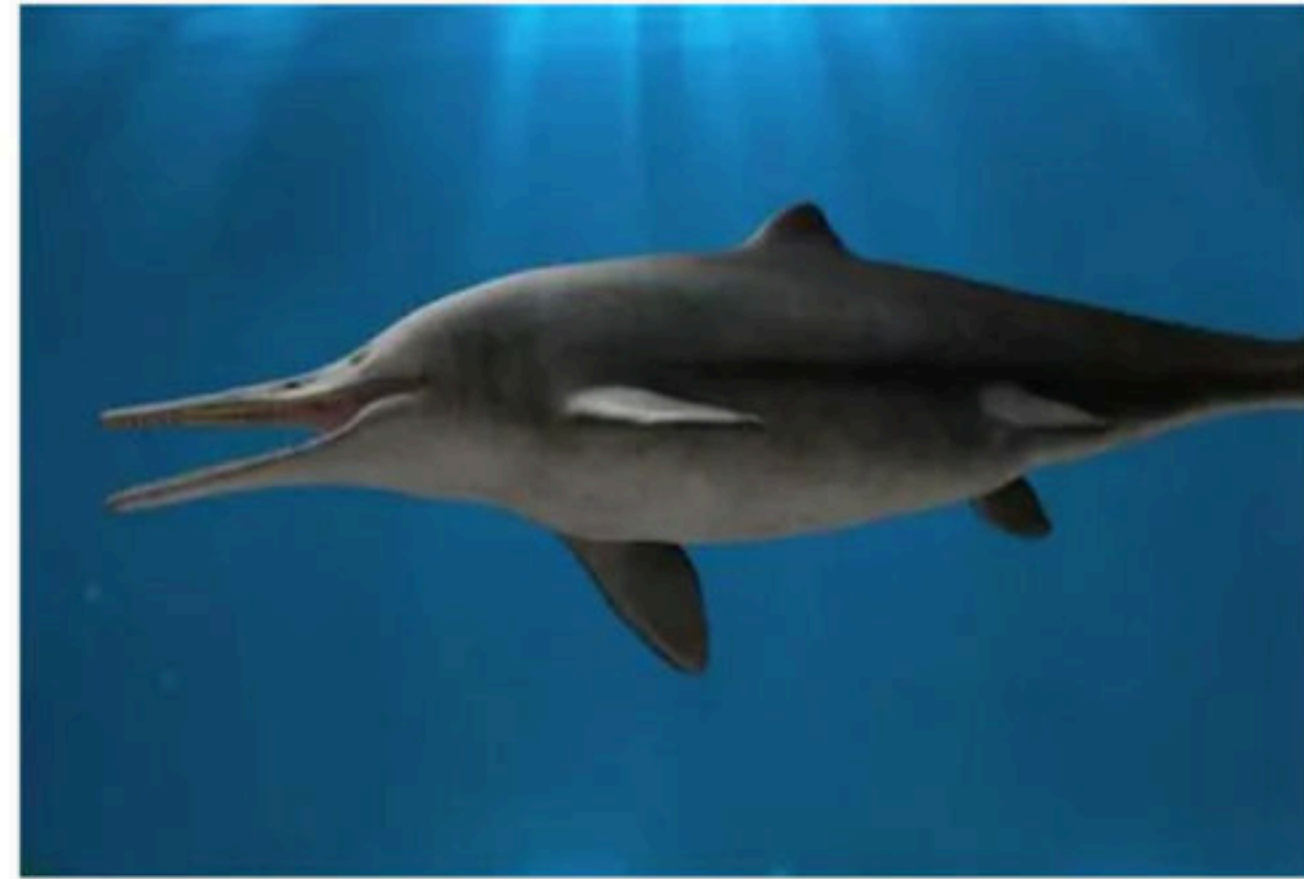
- The specimen, a stunningly preserved **metre-long skull**, is one of the last **surviving ichthyosaurs** – ancient animals that look **eerily like living swordfish**.

## □ Unique dentition :

- It evolved a **unique dentition** that allowed it to **eat large prey**.
- Whereas other ichthyosaurs **had small, equally sized teeth** for feeding on small prey.

## □ Naming :

- They decided to name it **Kyhytysuka** which translates to ‘the one that **cuts with something sharp**’ in an **indigenous language** from the **region in central Colombia** where the fossil was found, to honour the **ancient Muisca culture that existed there for millennia**.



## □ Comparison :

- ✓ Researchers compared this animal to **other Jurassic and Cretaceous ichthyosaurs** and were able to **define a new type of ichthyosaurs.**

## □ Time Period

- ✓ This species comes from an important transitional time **during the Early Cretaceous period.**
- ✓ At this time, the Earth was coming out of a **relatively cool period**, had **rising sea levels**, and the **supercontinent Pangea** was **splitting into northern and southern landmasses.**
- ✓ There was also a global extinction event at the end of **the Jurassic that changed marine and terrestrial ecosystems.**

# 5G technology

## □ According to the recently released 'Ericsson Mobility Report':

- Fifth generation telecom services are likely to account for **39% of mobile subscriptions or about 500 million subscriptions in India** at the end of 2027.
- The total number of smartphone subscriptions is expected to be 810 million at the end of 2021 and is projected to **grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 7%, exceeding 1.2 billion by 2027.**
- **4G subscriptions are expected to reduce from 68% of mobile** subscriptions in 2021 to 55% in 2027 as subscribers migrate to 5G.

INDUSTRY

## 'India 5G subscriptions to reach 500 mn by 2027'



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 21:45 IST

UPDATED: NOVEMBER 30, 2021 21:45 IST

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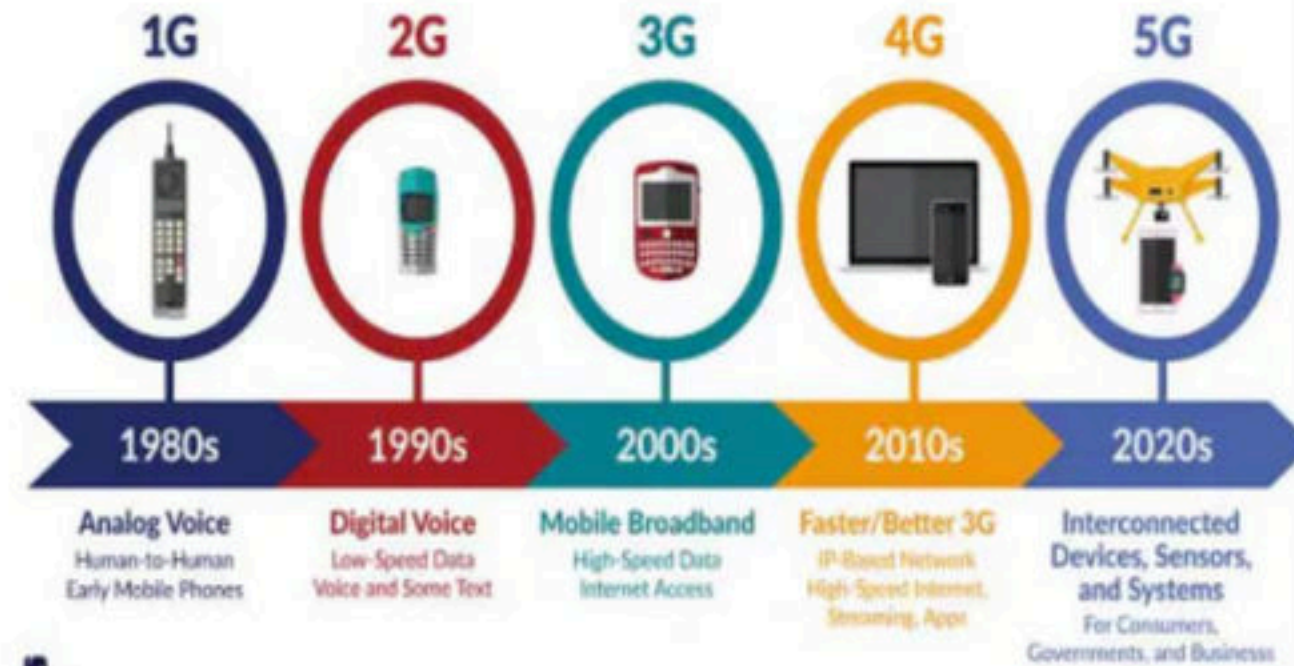
'4G to stay dominant but witness drop'

## What is 5G:-

- 5G is the next generation of mobile broadband that will eventually replace, or at least augment 4G LTE connection.

## Features and benefits of the 5G technology:

- Operate in the millimeter wave spectrum (30-300 GHz) which have the advantage of sending large amounts of data at very high speeds.
- Operate in 3 bands, namely low, mid and high frequency spectrum.
- Reduced latency will support new applications that leverage the power of 5G, the Internet of Things (IoT), and artificial intelligence.
- Increased capacity on 5G networks can minimize the impact of load spikes, like those that take place during sporting events and news events.



# Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0:

- **Two rounds of Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0** of 15 days' duration were conducted recently, to reach out to the pregnant women and children who missed vaccination under routine **immunisation programmes in 250 districts across 29 states/UTs.**
- **During Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0** around 9.5 lakh children and 2.2 lakh pregnant women were vaccinated.
- Various States and UTs have started implementation of **the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0.**

## Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 Campaign

Posted On: 30 NOV 2021 6:08PM by PIB Delhi

Two rounds of Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0 of 15 days' duration were conducted in February 2021 & March 2021 to reach out to the pregnant women and children who missed vaccination under routine immunisation programme in 250 districts across 29 states/UTs. During Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0 around 9.5 lakh children and 2.2 lakh pregnant women were vaccinated.

## **□ About IMI 3.0:**

- It is a campaign aimed to reach those children and pregnant women who have been missed out or been left out of the **Routine Immunisation Programme.**
- **This is aimed to accelerate the full immunisation** of children and pregnant women through a mission mode intervention.
- The first phase has been rolled out from **22nd Feb. for 15 days,**
- **It is being conducted in pre-identified 250 districts**/urban areas across 29 States/UTs in the country.
- Beneficiaries from migration areas and hard to reach areas **will be targeted as they may have missed their vaccine doses during the pandemic.**

## What is the Mission Indradhanush:

- 'Mission Indradhanush' was launched by the Government of India in December 2014.
- It was aimed to strengthen and re-energize the programme and achieve full immunization coverage for all children and pregnant women.
- The ultimate goal of Mission Indradhanush is to ensure full immunization with all available vaccines for children up to two years of age and pregnant women.

By-Sumit Konde



The banner features the Government of India logo and 'myGov' logo at the top left. The title 'MISSION INDRADHANUSH' is in large yellow letters, with 'ENSURING FULL IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE TO CHILDREN' below it. On the right, there is a cartoon baby with a rainbow above it and the text 'Be Wise! Get your child fully immunized'. A central list of achievements is shown with colored squares: blue for 528 districts, green for 2.47 crore children and 67 lakh pregnant women, orange for intensified drives starting Oct 7, 2017, and a darker orange for 118 districts, 17 urban areas, and 52 districts in the North East. At the bottom, there is a photo of four children holding signs with Hindi words for 'Vaccines', 'Children', 'Pregnant Women', and 'Immunization', and a portrait of Narendra Modi on the right. The footer includes 'MyGovIndia', 'www.transformingindia.mygov.in', and 'Date : 2nd Aug, 2017'.

myGov  
मेरी सरकार

# MISSION INDRADHANUSH

ENSURING FULL IMMUNIZATION  
COVERAGE TO CHILDREN

Be Wise!  
Get your child  
fully immunized

- Four phases of Mission Indradhanush completed in **528 districts**
- More than **2.47 crore children** and around **67 lakh pregnant women** vaccinated
- Intensified **Mission Indradhanush** drives starting from 7th October 2017
- **118 districts, 17 urban areas and 52 districts** of North East states to be targeted under these drives

MyGovIndia | www.transformingindia.mygov.in | Date : 2nd Aug, 2017

# Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

- IHS Markit India Manufacturing **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** rose from **55.9 in October** to **57.6 in November**.
- The Indian manufacturing sector continued to **expand strongly** in November, as an **accelerated rise in sales supported the fastest upturn in production for nine months**.
- This signalled the **strongest improvement in the health** of the sector for ten months

## India manufacturing PMI expands sharply in November

This signalled the strongest improvement in the health of the sector for ten months, as the headline figure was well above its long-run average of 53.6. Inflation pressures, however, are being seen as a key risk going ahead.

Written by [Sunny Verma](#) | New Delhi |  
Updated: December 2, 2021 12:26:32 am



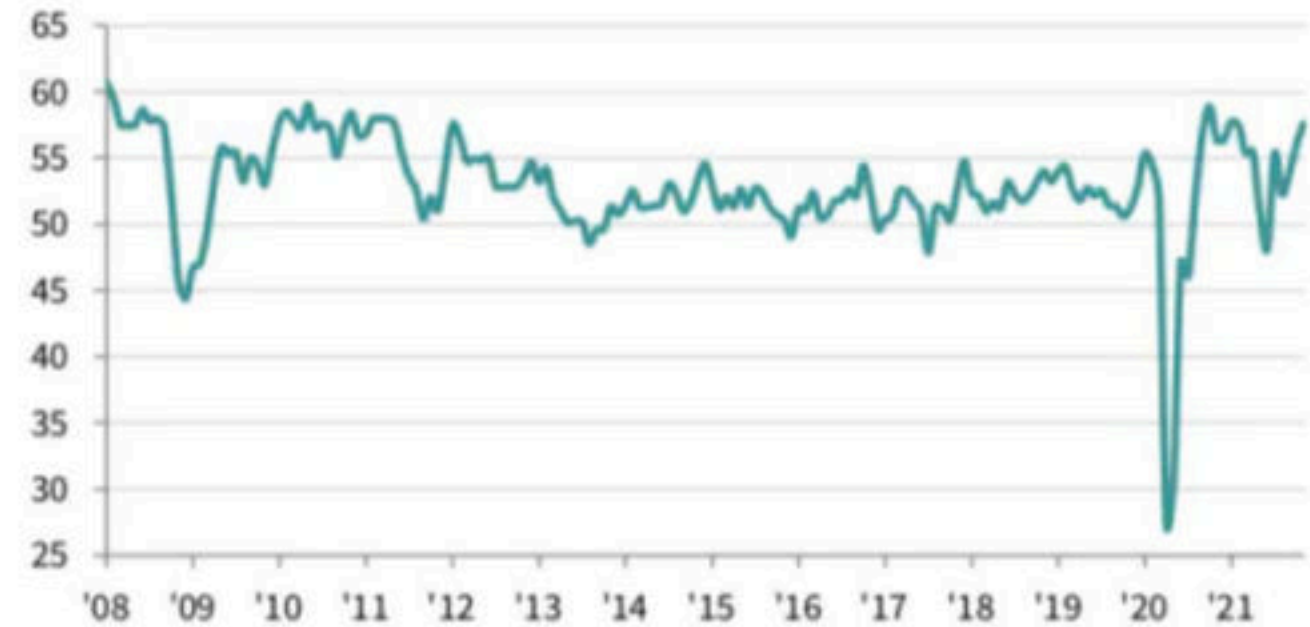
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## Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

- It is an index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing and service sectors.
- It is an economic indicator, which is derived after monthly surveys of different companies.
- There are two types of PMI — Manufacturing PMI and Services PMI.
- A combined index is also made using both manufacturing PMI and services PMI.

India Manufacturing PMI

sa, >50 = improvement since previous month



Source: IHS Markit.

## ❑ Methodology :

- ✓ The PMI is compiled by IHS Markit from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around **400 manufacturers, based on company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP.**
- ✓ Survey responses are collected in the second half of each month and indicate the direction of change compared to the previous month.
- ✓ **IHS Markit is a London based** global leader in information, analytics and solutions for the major industries and markets that drive economies worldwide.

## ❑ Calculation of PMI:

- ✓ It is indicated by a number from 0 to 100.
- ✓ A print above **50 means expansion** while a score **below 50 denotes contraction.**
- ✓ A reading at **50 indicates no change.**
- ✓ If the previous month PMI is higher than the current month PMI, it represents that the economy is contracting.

## □ Purpose:

- To provide **information about current and future business conditions** to company decision-makers, analysts, and investors.
- The index helps in determining whether the market conditions, as seen by **purchasing managers, is expanding, contracting or staying the same**



3rd DECEMBER  
2021  
The Hindu Analysis

By-Sumit Konde

# Global Gateway Plan: EU

➤ Recently, the European Commission has announced a plan, called Global Gateway, to mobilise EURO 300 billion by 2027 in public and private infrastructure investment around the world.

➤ Although the plan doesn't mention China, it is seen as a response to China's Belt and Road strategy.

INTERNATIONAL

EU plans €300 billion infrastructure fund to counter China's BRI



AFP



Agence France-Presse

BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 01, 2021 22:12 IST  
UPDATED: DECEMBER 01, 2021 22:43 IST

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It aims at mobilising public and private investment by 2027

## □ About Global Gateway Plan:

- **Developmental Dimensions:** With Global Gateway, the EU, in a Team Europe approach, will offer its partners a response to the urgent needs:
- **To develop sustainable and high** quality digital, climate and energy and transport infrastructures.
- Strengthen health, education **and research systems across the world.**
- **Funding:** To finance the project, the EU will use its European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus.

By: Sumit Konde

## EU plans global strategy to rival China

The European Union has announced a massive global investment plan that is widely seen as a rival to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

European Commission President *Ursula von der Leyen* unveiled EU's "Global Gateway" scheme to invest €300bn (\$340bn) worldwide by 2027 in infrastructure, digital and climate projects

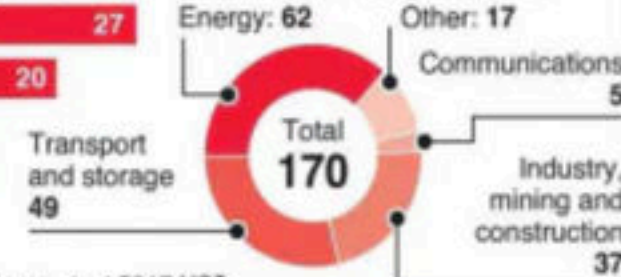
CHINA'S BRI INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, 2013-21



Top recipients of BRI projects (\$bn)



BRI projects by sector (\$bn)



Note: BRI financial values are in constant 2017 US\$

Sources: AidData, Reuters

Picture: Getty Images

© GRAPHIC NEWS

- Under this, **40 billion euros are made available** in guarantee capacity, and will offer grants of up to 18 billion euros from external assistance programs.
- The plan will need funding from international **institutions and from the private sector if it is to get anywhere near its target.**
- **The financing will be done under fair and favorable** terms in order to limit the risk of debt distress.
- **Offshoot of B3W Project:** The EU strategy is an offshoot of the Build Back Better World (B3W) Initiative.
- B3W is an international **infrastructure investment initiative announced by the Group of Seven (G-7) richest democracies** in June 2021.

## □ About China's Belt And Road Initiative:

- **About:** The BRI project was **launched in 2013**, it broadly aims to facilitate cross-border transportation of goods, access to energy, creating demand for existing excess capacity in Chinese industries.
- Officially, it aims to **develop land and sea infrastructure to better connect China to Asia, Europe and Africa** for trade and development, and it has found many partners around the world.
- China had an overall exposure of investment of around **USD 750 billion between 2013 to mid-2020.**
- China argues that it respects its **partners' sovereignty while providing loans that benefit joint projects,** while critics say Beijing's contractual terms ignore abuses of **human, labour and environmental rights.**

# Consent of States for CBI Investigations

➤ Recently, a Supreme Court bench has referred a case, in which the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) had filed an affidavit on the withdrawal of 'general consent' to the CBI by several States, for consideration of the Chief Justice of India.

By-Sumit Konde

NATIONAL

## Examining the federal nature of the Central Bureau of Investigation



Abhilash M.R.

DECEMBER 02, 2021 10:57 IST  
UPDATED: DECEMBER 02, 2021 10:57 IST

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How does withdrawal of general consent by States impact CBI? What has the Supreme Court observed and what lies ahead?

## **□ Background:**

- **Withdrawal of Consent:** Eight States have withdrawn consent to the CBI for launching investigations in their territory.
- **Eight States — West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram** have withdrawn consent to the CBI for launching investigations in their territory.
- **Argument of CBI:** According to the CBI, such widespread withdrawal of consent is rendering it redundant with regard to investigation of corruption charges against Central employees and undertakings working within the territorial jurisdiction of various States.
- **While the States' responses were primarily an** act of politico-legal ring-fencing against the politics of the Central Government employing its agencies, the withdrawal of general consent by a number of States has left the CBI handicapped.

## ❑ About the Consent Given by State Government:

- **Legal and Constitutional Basis:** According to Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946 under which the CBI functions, the State's consent is required to **extend CBI investigation beyond Union Territories.**
- **The legal foundation of the CBI has** been construed to be based on Entry 80 of the Union List which provides for the extension of powers of the police force belonging to one State to any area in another State but not without its permission.
- **"Police" is Entry 2 in the State List** under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

## ❑ Types of Consent:

➤ There are two types of consent for a probe by the CBI.

❑ General Consent: When a state gives a general consent (Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act) to the CBI for probing a case, the agency is not required to seek fresh permission every time it enters that state in connection with investigation or for every case.

➤ A general consent is given to facilitate that seamless investigation in a case of corruption or violence.

❑ Specific Consent: When a general consent is withdrawn, CBI needs to seek case-wise consent for investigation from the concerned state government.

➤ If specific consent is not granted, the CBI officials will not have the power of police personnel when they enter that state.

➤ This hurdle impedes seamless investigation by the CBI.

## ❑ Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):-

- The CBI was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Now, the CBI comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- The CBI is the main investigating agency of the Central Government.
- It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.
- It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigations on behalf of Interpol Member countries.



# India joins G20's Troika

- Recently, India joined the G20 'Troika' and with this India has started the procedure for taking over the G20 presidency next year.

By-Sumit Konde

NATIONAL

## India joins G20's Troika with Indonesia and Italy



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 02, 2021 01:41 IST  
UPDATED: DECEMBER 02, 2021 01:41 IST

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It is set to take over presidency in 2022

## **□ About 'Troika':**

- It refers to the top grouping within the G20 that consists of the current, previous and the incoming presidencies — **Indonesia, Italy and India.**
- **As a Troika member, India will work** closely with Indonesia and Italy to ensure consistency and continuity of the G20's agenda.
- India will assume the G20 presidency on 1st December 2022 **from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in India in 2023.**
- **Italy hosted the G20 summit during October 30-31, 2021** where India had raised the issue of Afghanistan's future following the takeover by the Taliban.
- Indonesia took over the G20 presidency from 1st December, 2021 and in the coming months, **Indonesia will hold rounds of discussion at various levels among the members of the G20 before convening the G20 Leaders' Summit scheduled for October 30-31, 2022.**
- **Next year's summit will be organised** along the overall theme of "Recover Together, Recover Stronger".

## □ G20:

- It is an informal group of **19 countries and the European Union (EU), with** representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- It does not have a **permanent secretariat or Headquarters.**
- **The membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies,** representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.

## □ Members:

- **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the EU.**



# Paika Rebellion

- Union Culture Minister recently made the following recommendation regarding the Paika Rebellion:
- **“The 1817 Paika rebellion of Odisha** could not be called the first war of Independence, but considering it as the beginning of a popular uprising against the British, **it would be included as a case study in the Class 8 National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) history textbook.”**

By-Sumit Konde

## Paika rebellion to be in history textbooks

It was one of the beginnings of popular uprisings against the British: Minister

03/12/2021

Special Correspondent NEW DELHI

The 1817 Paika rebellion of Odisha could not be called the first war of Independence, but considering it as a beginning of a popular uprising against the British, it would be included as a case study in the Class 8 National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) history textbook, the Union Culture Minister said on Thursday.



## ❑ Who are Paikas:-

➤ Recruited since the 16th century by kings in Odisha from a variety of social groups to render martial services in return for rent-free land (nish-kar jagirs) and titles.

➤ They were the traditional land-owning militia of Odisha and served as warriors.



## □ How did the rebellion begin:-

- When armies of the **East India Company overran most of Odisha in 1803**, the Raja of Khurda lost his primacy and the power and prestige of the Paikas went on a decline. So, they rebelled back.
- The British were not comfortable with these aggressive, warlike new subjects and set up a commission under **Walter Ewer to look into the issue.**
- **The commission recommended that the hereditary** rent-free lands granted to the Paikas be taken over by the British administration and this recommendation was zealously adhered to. They revolted against the British.
- **Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Mohapatra Bharamarbar Rai**, the highest-ranking military general of King Khorda Mukund Dev II, led the Paikas to join the uprising.
- However, the rebellion also **had several other underlying causes – like the rise in the price of salt, abolition of the cowrie currency** for payment of taxes and an overtly extortionist land revenue policy.



# Smart Cities Mission (SCM)

## Smart Cities Mission (SCM):

- The deadline for completing projects under **the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) has been** extended for all 100 participating cities to June 2023 due to the delays caused by COVID-19 and based on a **NITI Aayog recommendation in August.**



NATIONAL

## Smart Cities get June 2023 deadline



Damini Nath

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 02, 2021 20:39 IST

UPDATED: DECEMBER 03, 2021 00:05 IST

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Due to delays caused by COVID-19 and based on NITI Aayog recommendation in August

## ❑ Smart Cities mission:

- GoI launched the smart cities mission in 2015.
- The cities were given five years to complete the projects under the mission, with the first set of Smart Cities expected to complete in 2021.
- The objective is to integrate city functions, utilize scarce resources more efficiently, and improve the quality of life of citizens.
- It is an innovative initiative under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.



**❖ Smart city is envisaged to have four pillars:**

1. Social Infrastructure.
2. Physical Infrastructure.
3. Institutional Infrastructure (including Governance).
4. Economic Infrastructure.

# hypersonic weapons

➤ US has said that China's pursuit of hypersonic weapons "**increases tensions in the region**" and **vowed the U.S. would maintain** its capability to deter potential threats posed by China.

## **What's the issue:-**

- China's growing military muscle and its drive to end American predominance in **Asia has triggered unease in Washington.**
- **China's efforts to accelerate its military capabilities** were highlighted by its July test of a hypersonic weapon capable of partially orbiting the Earth before reentering the **atmosphere and gliding on a maneuverable path to its target.**

INTERNATIONAL

## U.S. slams China 'drive' for hypersonic weapons



AP

SEOUL, DECEMBER 02, 2021 22:30 IST  
UPDATED: DECEMBER 03, 2021 00:01 IST

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Washington vows to confront Beijing's potential military threats in Asia

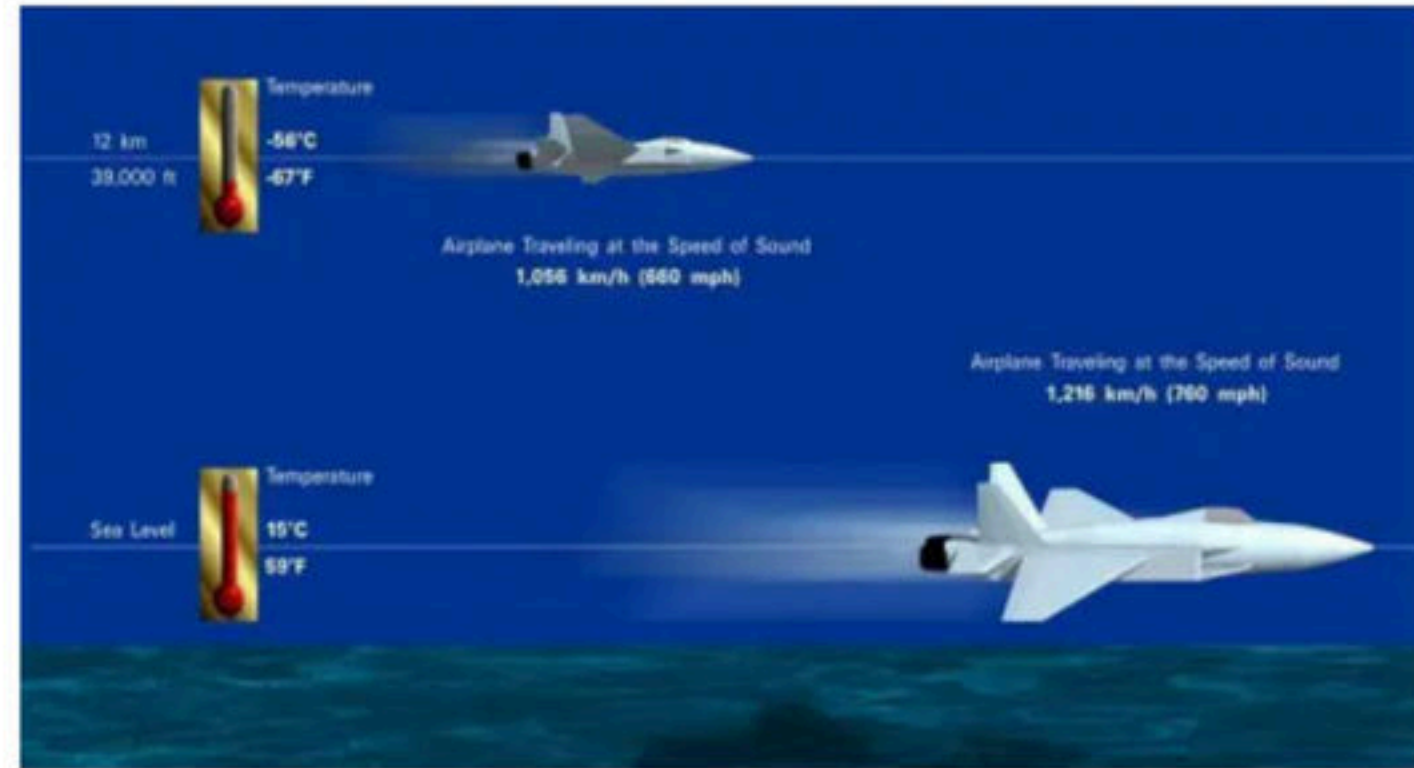
## ❑ What are hypersonic speeds:-

- Hypersonic speeds are 5 or more times the speed of sound.

## ❑ Concerns and implications for India and the world:

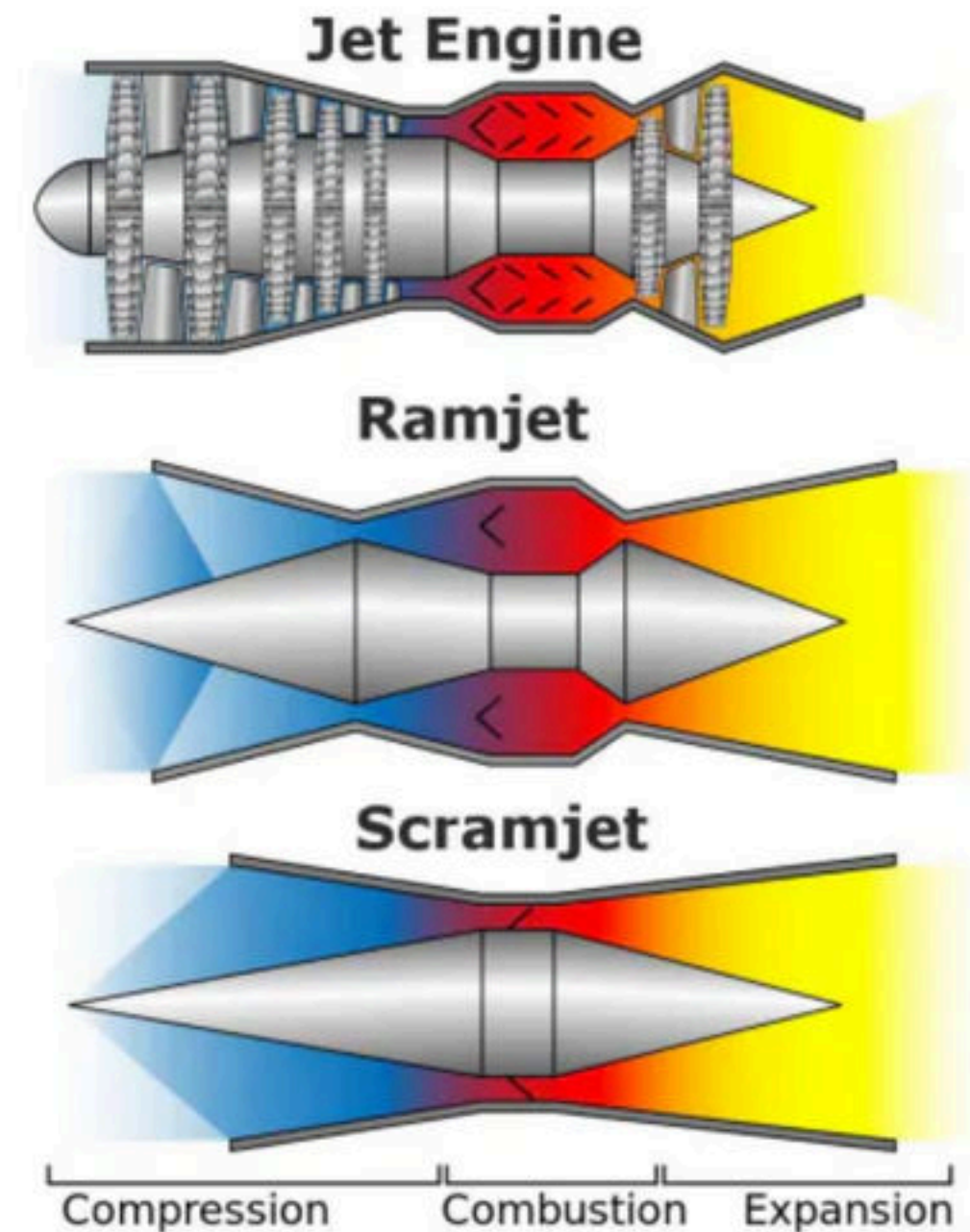
- The weapon could, in theory, fly over the South Pole. That would pose a big challenge for the US military because its missile defence systems are focused on the northern polar route.
- India is especially concerned with the latest developments considering relations with China in the recent past.
- Such capabilities highlight the threat for our space assets along with the surface assets.

By Sumit Konde



## ❑ What is scramjet technology:-

- Scramjets are a category of engines designed to handle airflows of speeds in multiples of the speed of sound.
- In an air-breathing scramjet engine, air from the atmosphere is rammed into the engine's combustion chamber at a supersonic speed of more than Mach two.
- In the chamber, the air mixes with the fuel to ignite a supersonic combustion but the cruiser's flight will be at a hypersonic speed of Mach six to seven. So it is called supersonic combustion ramjet or Scramjet.



# Facial recognition technology

- After a delay of three years, **come March 2022, passengers will be able to** use a face scan as their boarding pass at four airports in the country.
- **Airports at Varanasi, Pune, Kolkata and Vijaywada will be the** first to roll-out the facial recognition technology-based biometric boarding system, and the service will go live from **March 2022.**
- **Thereafter, the technology will be scaled** up in a phased manner across various airports in the country.

AVIATION SECTOR | NATIONAL

## Facial recognition at airports from 2022



Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 02, 2021 21:30 IST

UPDATED: DECEMBER 03, 2021 07:16 IST

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Four centres to get facility in March.

## **❑ Implementation:**

- The Airports Authority of India has **engaged NEC Corporation Private Limited for implementing the technology as part of the DigiYatra policy**, which seeks to promote paperless air travel and a seamless journey from entering an airport till boarding a plane.
- The policy was unveiled in October 2018, and as **per the original plan, the roll-out of the facial recognition technology was scheduled for April 2019.**

## **❑ What is facial recognition:-**

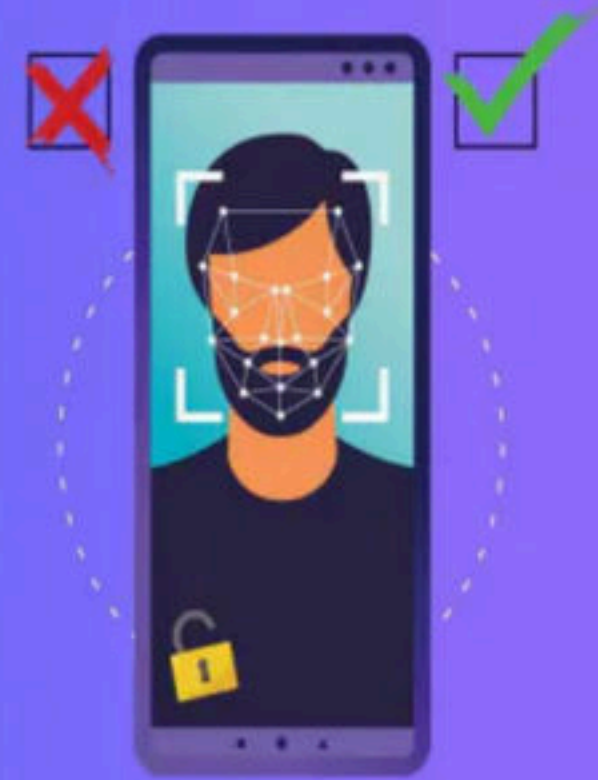
- Facial recognition is a biometric technology **that uses distinctive features on the face to identify and distinguish an individual.**
- **AFRS works by maintaining a large database with photos and videos** of peoples' faces. Then, a new image of an unidentified person — often taken from CCTV footage — is compared to the existing database to find a match and identify the person.
- The artificial intelligence technology used **for pattern-finding and matching is called “neural networks”.**

## ❑ Benefits of facial recognition:

- Improves outcomes in the area of Criminal identification and verification.
- Easy identification amongst crowds.
- Boosts the police department's crime investigation capabilities.
- Helps civilian verification when needed. No one will be able to get away with a fake ID.

## What is Facial Recognition?

iDenfy | make anyone recognizable



# Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT City)

- Once barren land along the Sabarmati river, **GIFT City is now emerging as the country's first greenfield integrated city.**

OTHER STATES

GIFT city emerging India's first greenfield smart city



Mahesh Langa

AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 01, 2021 04:32 IST

UPDATED: DECEMBER 01, 2021 01:34 IST

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It's operational with more than 200 entities which have set up their offices

## □ GIFT City:-

- The Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT City) is India's first and only International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) where banks, **stock exchanges and financial services firms have set up their global operations.**
- **Area: As per the plans, 886 acres will** be provided to develop nearly 62 million square feet built-up area constituting 67% commercial, 22% residential and 11% social space.
- **Multi Service SEZ: The entire city project** has been divided into a multi-service Special Economic Zone (SEZ) spread over 261 acres and exclusive domestic tariff area (DTA) spread over 625 acres.
- **Tax Exemptions: The Centre has announced a range of tax exemptions for entities** to start their international operations from the GIFT City. As a result, both the BSE and the NSE have set up their international stock exchanges, **17 banks including 12 domestic banks and five international banks issued licence** to operate, 100 plus broking services, depository clearing operations and over 19 companies have begun operations for non-life reinsurance business.



- **Other Benefits:** The Centre's IFSC-related relief measures include tax holiday for capital gains **for aircraft leasing companies, tax exemption for aircraft lease rentals paid to foreign lessors**, tax incentive for re-locating foreign funds in IFSC and exemption to investment divisions of foreign banks.
- **Dispute Resolution:** Since it's a hub of international financial services, the Singapore Arbitration Centre has also been set up for dispute resolution while the **International Bullion Exchange will likely become functional soon.**
- **Purpose:** The idea behind the IFSC is to bring back the financial services and transactions which are carried **out in offshore financial centres by Indian corporate entities and overseas branches** and subsidiaries of financial institutions to India by offering world class infrastructure and globally benchmarked regulatory environment.

## ❑ GIFT City: Benefits:-

- Central Government's proactive support to develop the country as a hub of international financial services, **the GIFT City has emerged as the preferred location for national and multinational firms.**
- **Tax exemptions also make** it lucrative for investment.
- Job creation will occur in huge numbers. A study carried out in 2007 by M/s Mckinsey & Co had **predicted that the GIFT City project will generate 10 lakh direct jobs by the year 2020.**
- **Infrastructure plays a pivotal role in supporting** the business environment and quality of life in GIFT City. A judicious combination with the latest technology and global best practices in infrastructure service **delivery are in place. All of these come together to provide an international standard of working and living.**



4th DECEMBER  
2021  
The Hindu Analysis

By-Sumit Konde

# Cyclone Jawad

➤ A deep depression in the Bay of Bengal has intensified into cyclonic storm Jawad and is likely to make landfall near Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

❑ The name was given by:-

➤ Saudi Arabia has given the cyclone its name 'Jawad'. The meaning 'Jawad' is liberal or merciful.

➤ The carries significance as this cyclonic storm will not be as severe as the previous ones.

NATIONAL

Cyclone Jawad to bring heavy rain to Odisha, Bengal and A.P.



Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 03, 2021 13:54 IST

UPDATED: DECEMBER 04, 2021 00:38 IST

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People are being evacuated to shelters: officials

*PH-1 Jawad*

## ❑ How are cyclones formed:-

- Cyclones are formed over the oceanic water in the tropical region.
- In this region, the sunlight is highest which results in warming of land and water surface. Due to warming of the surface, the warm moist air over the ocean rises upwards following which cool air rushes in to fill the void, they too get warm and rise — the cycle continues.

### India Meteorological Department Tropical Cyclone Intensity Scale

Category	Sustained winds (3-min average)
Super Cyclonic Storm	>120 kt >222 km/h
Very Severe Cyclonic Storm	64–119 kt 118–221 km/h
Severe Cyclonic Storm	48–63 kt 88–117 km/h
Cyclonic Storm	34–47 kt 62–87 km/h
Deep Depression	28–33 kt 52–61 km/h
Depression	≤27 kt ≤51 km/h

## ❑ But what creates the spin:-

- Wind always blows from **high pressure to low pressure areas**. High pressure areas are created in the cold region while low is created in the warm regions. **Polar regions are high pressure areas** as the amount of sunlight here is less than the tropical region. So, wind blows from polar regions to tropical regions.
- Then comes **the Earth's movement**, which is west to east. The Earth's rotation on its axis causes deflection of the wind (in the tropical region as the speed of spinning of Earth is higher **compared to polar sides due to its spherical shape — blowing from both the polar regions**). Wind coming from the Arctic is deflected to the right while Antarctic wind deflects to the left side.
- So, wind is already blowing in a direction. **But when it reaches the warmer place, cool air starts getting attracted to the centre to fill the gap**. So while moving to the centre, cool air keeps getting deflected resulting in circulation of wind movement — this process continues until the cyclone hits the land.

# Why has the Northeast monsoon remained subdued this year

- Faced with the fourth consecutive year of flooding and landslips since 2018, two months of the northeast monsoon alone has caused massive losses in terms of damage to life, property, and crops.
- The overall estimated damage caused by the rain in October and November alone has been pegged at ₹11,916.3 crore and as per the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms, ₹1,281.92 crore.

KARNATAKA

## Loss from northeast monsoon pegged at ₹11,916.3 crore



K.C. Deepika

BENGALURU, DECEMBER 04, 2021 02:11 IST  
UPDATED: DECEMBER 04, 2021 07:55 IST

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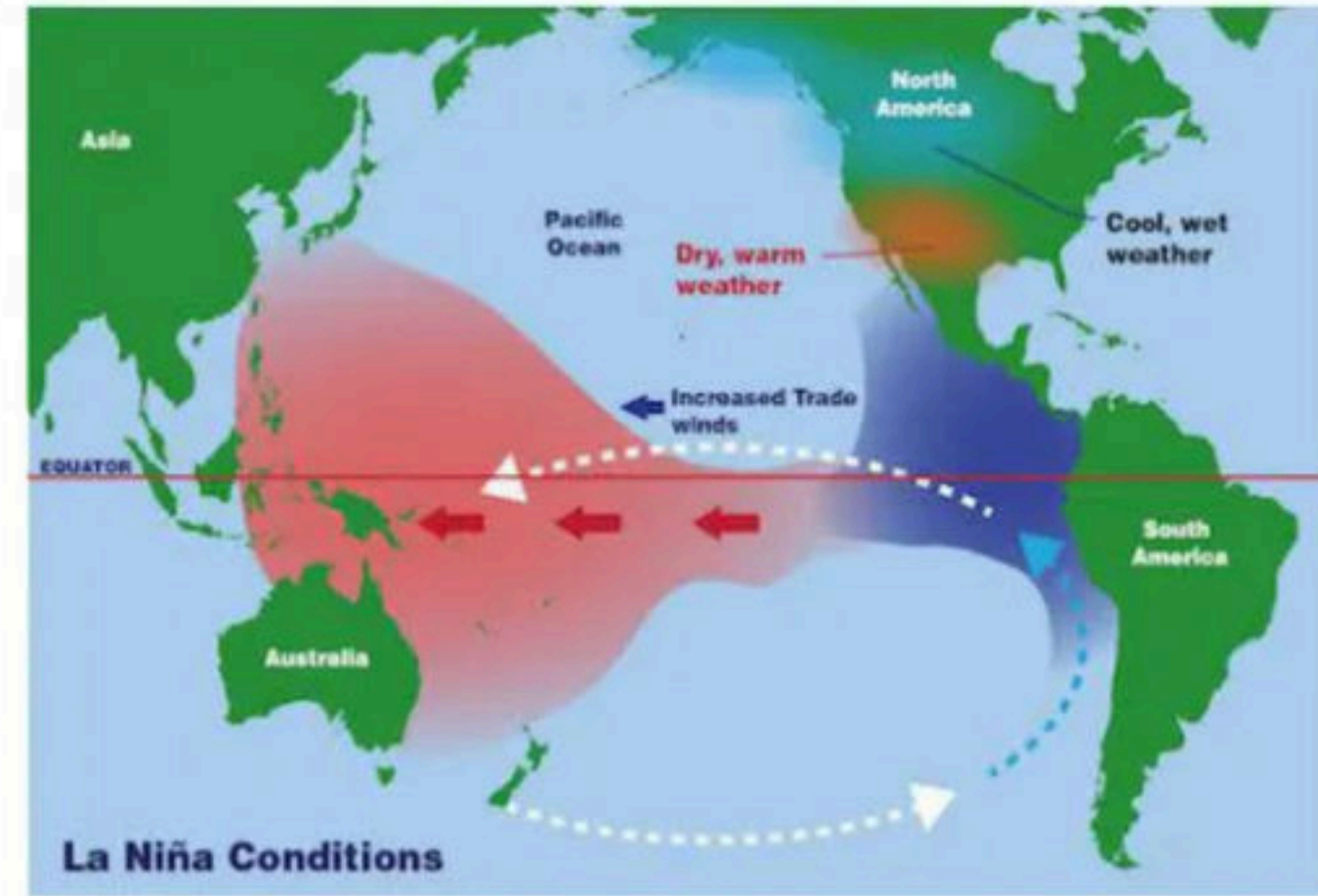
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State saw fourth consecutive year of flooding and landslips since 2018

## ❑ What is the Northeast monsoon:-

- Occurs during October to December, and is a small-scale monsoon compared to South- West Monsoon.
- It is confined to the Southern peninsula.
- The rainfall associated with the Northeast monsoon is important for Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Yanam, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, north interior Karnataka, Mahe and Lakshadweep.
- Some South Asian countries such as Maldives, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, too, record rainfall during October to December.



## □ How is La Niña linked with the Northeast monsoon:-

- While La Niña conditions enhance the rainfall associated with the Southwest monsoon, it has a negative impact on rainfall associated with the Northeast monsoon.
- During La Niña years, the synoptic systems — low pressure or cyclones — formed in the Bay of Bengal remain significantly to the north of their normal position.
- Besides, instead of moving westwards, these systems recurve. As they lie to the north of their normal position, not much rainfall occurs over southern regions like Tamil Nadu.

# Poshan Tracker

➤ The Ministry of Women and Child Development has spent over **₹1,000 crore on its Poshan or Nutrition Tracker**, which records real-time data on malnourished and 'severe acute malnourished' children in each anganwadi. But four years since its launch, the Government is yet to make the data public.

## ➤ Concerns:

➤ Government officials have cited privacy concerns as a reason for keeping the **data under lock and key but experts say it can easily be anonymised** as is the case with data for several other government schemes.

NATIONAL

## Analysis | ₹1,000 crore spent on Poshan Tracker, but where is the data?



Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 03, 2021 17:02 IST

UPDATED: DECEMBER 04, 2021 09:34 IST

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**Nutrition indicators recorded in real-time are not in the public domain**

## ❑ About the Poshan Tracker:

- The Poshan Tracker, known as the ICDS-CAS (Integrated Child Development Services-Common Application Software) in its earlier avatar, was set up with the aim of tracking and improving various services delivered at anganwadis and to ensure nutritional management of beneficiaries.
- This real-time monitoring system is one of the key pillars of Poshan Abhiyan or Nutrition Mission approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2017 with a financial outlay of ₹9,000 crore for three years.

## ❑ About Poshan Abhiyaan:

- The programme seeks to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- Launched in 2018 with specific targets to be achieved by 2022.



W&ID

2022

## It aims to reduce:

- Stunting and wasting by 2% a year (total 6% until 2022) among children.
- Anaemia by 3% a year (total 9%) among children, adolescent girls and pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.

## Background:

- More than a third of the children under five face stunting and wasting and 40% aged between one and four are anaemic.
- Over 50% of pregnant and other women were found to be anaemic, said the National Family Health Survey 4 released in 2016.

1-4  
40%  
NFIHS 2021

# Perform, Achieve and Trade Scheme

- A recent report released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) mentions that **the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme** introduced in 2008 is not effective.
- The PAT scheme was introduced to improve energy efficiency in Indian **industries and consequently reduce greenhouse gas.**
- **The report attributed the** inefficiency of the scheme to non-transparency, unfastened targets and neglected deadlines.

POLLUTION

## **PAT: Centre's decarbonisation scheme not effective enough, says new CSE report**

There has been very feeble reduction of CO2 emissions in the thermal sector under this scheme during the last ten years, finds CSE report



NEXT NEWS >

By Sowmiya Kannappan  
Published Thursday 02 December 2021

- It is a market-based mechanism to further accelerate as well as incentivize energy efficiency in the large **energy-intensive industries**.
- **The Energy Savings Certificates (ESCCerts)** were introduced in India in 2011 under the PAT by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the National Mission of Energy Efficiency.
- NMEEE is one of the eight national missions under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** launched by the Government of India in the year 2008.

### **Energy Savings Certificates (ESCCerts):**

- This market-based mechanism is facilitated through the trading of Energy Savings Certificates (ESCCerts) which are **issued to those plants who have overachieved their targets**.
- **The underachievers are entitled to purchase ESCCerts** through two power exchanges - Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) and Power Exchange India Limited (PXIL).
- Industries that take part in this scheme are **referred to as designated shoppers (DC)**.

➤ **Sectors Covered:**

➤ PAT covered about **13 energy-intensive sectors: Thermal power plants (TPP), cement, aluminium, iron and steel**, pulp and paper, fertiliser, chlor-alkali, petroleum refineries, petrochemicals, distribution companies, railways, textile and commercial buildings (hotels and airports).

➤ **Other initiatives to Promote Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency:**

- ✓ Standards and Labeling
- ✓ Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC)
- ✓ Demand Side Management
- ✓ SAATHEE Portal

# Worldwide Cost of Living Report

- Recently, the Worldwide Cost of Living report has been released highlighting that **Tel Aviv (Israel's capital)** is the world's most expensive city to live in. .
- The report is compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). It compares the cost of living indices in different cities.

## Tel Aviv ranked world's priciest city for the first time

The Israeli city has overtaken Paris, which is now tied with Singapore as the second most expensive. Soaring inflation has pushed up living costs globally.

By: Deutsche Welle |  
December 1, 2021 5:56:03 pm



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CLIC

- **Most Expensive City**: The Israeli city of Tel Aviv topped the rankings for the first time, overtaking last year's leader Paris, which is now at second place along with Singapore.
- **Paris and Singapore came joint second**, followed by Zurich and Hong Kong. New York was in sixth, with Geneva in seventh.
- **Report Methodology**: The index is benchmarked against prices in New York City, hence cities with currencies that are stronger against the US dollar are likely to appear higher in the rankings.
- **Scope of the Result**: The 2021 Worldwide Cost of Living index tracks the cost of living across 173 global cities and compares the price of more than 200 everyday products and services.
- **Impact of Covid-19: Supply-chain** blockages and changing consumer demand have pushed up the cost of living in many of the biggest cities. Moreover, inflation is the fastest recorded over the past five years.
- **Indian Scenario**: In India, Ahmedabad, Gujarat has been listed in the top ten cheapest cities of the survey.
- Among the cheapest cities, **Damascus (capital of Syria) is at the top. It is followed by Tripoli (Libya,) Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Tunis (Tunisia) and Almaty (Kazakhstan') in the ranking of cheapest cities.**

## □ Economist Intelligence Unit

(EIU):-

- The Economist Intelligence Unit is the research and **analysis division of The Economist Group**, which is the sister company to The Economist newspaper.
- The EIU also releases the **Democracy Index, which provides a snapshot** of the state of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and two territories.
- India ranks at **53rd position in EIU's Democracy Index.**



**The Economist  
Intelligence Unit**

# Four Pronged Strategy on Srilanka Crisis

- Recently, India and Sri Lanka agreed to a four-pronged approach to discuss initiatives on food and energy security to help mitigate Sri Lanka's economic crisis.
- Earlier this year, Sri Lanka declared an economic emergency amid rising food prices, a depreciating currency, and rapidly depleting forex reserves.

INDIA-SRI LANKA NATIONAL

## Four-pronged plan on Sri Lanka crisis



Suhasini Haidar



Meera Srinivasan

NEW DELHI/COLOMBO , DECEMBER 03, 2021 02:20 IST

UPDATED: DECEMBER 03, 2021 08:24 IST

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## ❑ Four-Pillar Initiative Comprises:

- **Lines of credit:** Lines of credit for food, medicines and fuel purchases granted by India.
- Lines of credit is a credit facility extended by a bank or any **other financial institution to a government, business** or an individual customer, that enables the customer to draw the maximum loan amount.
- **Currency Swap:** A currency swap agreement to deal with Sri Lanka's balance of payment issues.
- **The word swap means exchange.** A currency swap between the two countries is an agreement or contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions.



- **Modernisation Project**: An early modernisation project of the Trinco oil farms that India has been pursuing for several years.
- **The Trincomalee Harbour**, one of the deepest natural harbours in the world, was developed by the British during World War II.
- **In particular, the projects** to develop oil infrastructure in Trincomalee have been hanging fire since 2017.
- **Indian Investments**: A Sri Lankan commitment to facilitate Indian investments in various sectors.

# Private members' Bills

➤ As many as **153 private members' Bills** were **introduced in the Lok Sabha on Friday**, including one that seeks protection from lynching and another wants compulsory teaching of the Bhagavad Gita in educational institutions.

## **Who is a Private Member:-**

➤ Any MP who is not a **Minister** is referred to as **a private member**.

➤ **The purpose of private member's bill** is to draw the government's attention to what individual MPs see as issues and gaps in the existing legal framework, which require legislative intervention.



By-Sumit Konde

NATIONAL

## 153 private members' Bills introduced in Lok Sabha



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 04, 2021 05:59 IST

UPDATED: DECEMBER 04, 2021 00:10 IST

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They include protection from lynching, compulsory teaching of Bhagavad Gita

### ❑ Admissibility of a private member's Bill:

- The admissibility is decided by the Chairman for Rajya Sabha and Speaker in the case of Lok Sabha.
- Its rejection by the House has no implication on the parliamentary confidence in the government or its resignation.

### ❑ The procedure is roughly the same for both Houses:

- The Member must give at least a month's notice before the Bill can be listed for introduction.
- The House secretariat examines it for compliance with constitutional provisions and rules on legislation before listing.

## UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation

- The **UNESCO** has conferred two awards for **conservation efforts** at **Nizamuddin Basti in the capital** for its “outstanding **achievement in placing heritage** at the heart of the **sustainable development agenda**.”
- The project has won the prestigious **Award of Excellence**, and another award in the **Special Recognition for Sustainable Development** category.

### **Started in 2007: Nizamuddin Basti conservation project gets two UNESCO Awards**

● Nine projects from six countries — Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, and Thailand — have been honoured by a jury of heritage experts.

Written by [Divya A](#) | New Delhi |  
Updated: December 3, 2021 5:15:31 pm



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- The Nizamuddin Area comprises the **World Heritage Site of Humayun's Tomb**, the centuries-old settlement of **Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti** and **Sunder Nursery**, in addition to the **16th Century Batashewala Tomb-Garden Complex**, the tomb of 16th Century courtier poet **Khan I Khanan 'Rahim'**, and the Mughal-period caravanserai of **Azimganj Serai**.

## ➤ About the award

- The award has recognised the **efforts of private individuals and organisations** in restoring, conserving, and transforming structures and buildings of distinct heritage value in the region since 2000.
- It **encourages other property owners** to undertake conservation projects within their communities, either independently or through public-private partnerships.
- It is supported by the newly established partnership **between UNESCO and the Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation (NTFCF)**.
- NTFCF is supporting five Awards cycles from 2021 to 2025, along with a series of specially tailored capacity-building activities amplifying the impact of the Awards programme, especially for youth.
- In 2020, UNESCO introduced the **Special Recognition for Sustainable Development and an updated set of Awards criteria** to highlight the contribution of cultural heritage to sustainable development within the broader framework of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

## ❑ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- **UNESCO was formed in 1945**, is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) based in Paris.
- It works for **achieving peace and security** by promoting international collaboration through educational, scientific, and cultural reforms in order to increase universal respect for justice, the rule of law, and human rights along with fundamental freedom proclaimed in the United Nations Charter.
- It has **195 member states** and ten associate members. India is a founding member of the Organisation.



# Bhopal Gas Tragedy 1984

➤ Recently, the nation paid tributes to the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy, termed as the world's worst industrial disaster, on its 37th anniversary

By-Sumit Konde

HEALTH

## 37 years of Bhopal gas tragedy: High Covid-19 fatality rate shows health impact of victims wasn't 'temporary'

Age-old questions resurface along with new ones in a novel campaign for justice



By Preetha Banerjee

Published: Thursday 02 December 2021

NEXT

## □ About the Tragedy

- In the early hours of December 3, 1984, **methylisocyanate (MIC) gas leaked** from a plant operated by Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).
- The gas drifted over the **densely populated neighbourhoods** around the plant, **killing thousands of people immediately** and creating a panic as tens of thousands of others attempted to flee Bhopal.
- The final death toll was estimated to be between **15,000 and 20,000**.
- Some half a million **survivors suffered respiratory problems, eye irritation or blindness,** muscular dystrophy **and other maladies** resulting from exposure to the toxic gas.
- The study found out that babies born to women exposed to gas were significantly more likely to have **“congenital malformations”** than those born to women unexposed to gas.

➤ **What is Methyl Isocyanate (MIC):-**

- Methyl isocyanate is a **colourless highly flammable** liquid that **evaporates quickly** when exposed to the air. It has a **sharp, strong odour**.
- It is used in the **production of pesticides, polyurethane foam, and plastics**.
- MIC is safe when **maintained properly**. The chemical is **highly reactive** to heat. When exposed to water, the compounds in **MIC react with each other causing a heat reaction**.
- Chemical **reaction's impact on health**
  - **Immediate health effects** include ulcers, photophobia, respiratory issues, anorexia, persistent abdominal pain, genetic issue, neuroses, impaired audio and visual memory, impaired reasoning ability, and a lot more.
  - **Long-term health effects** include chronic conjunctivitis, decreased lung function, increased pregnancy loss, increased infant mortality, increased chromosomal abnormalities, impaired associate learning and more.





6th DECEMBER  
2021  
The Hindu Analysis

By-Sumit Konde

# ARCs for Agriculture Sector

- To improve recovery of bad loans in the agriculture sector, leading banks have made a **pitch for setting up an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)** specifically to deal with collections and recovery of farm loans.
- With a government-backed ARC having been recently set up to deal with bank **NPA's to the industry, this idea has acceptability among banks.**
- **Some member banks of the Indian Banks' Association suggested** the need for the Central government to bring legislation on agriculture land somewhat like the **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002.**

## Ahead of polls, new idea on the table: bad bank for farm loans

● At present, there is neither a unified mechanism to tackle NPAs in the farm sector nor a single law that deals with enforcement of mortgages created on agricultural land.

Written by [Sunny Verma](#) | New Delhi |  
Updated: December 8, 2021 11:12:05 am



ADVERTISEMENT

## □ About the Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC):

- **Objective:** It is a specialized financial institution that buys the Non Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions so that they can clean up their balance sheets.
- **This helps banks to concentrate in** normal banking activities. Banks, rather than going after the defaulters by wasting their time and effort, can sell the bad assets to the ARCs at a mutually agreed value.
- **Legal Basis:** The SARFAESI Act, 2002 provides the legal basis for the setting up of ARCs in India.
- The Act helps reconstruction of bad assets without the intervention of courts. Since then, a large number **of ARCs were formed and were registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** which has got the power to regulate the ARCs.
- **Funding: To meet its funding** requirements, an ARC can issue bonds, debentures and security receipts.

## ❑ National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL):

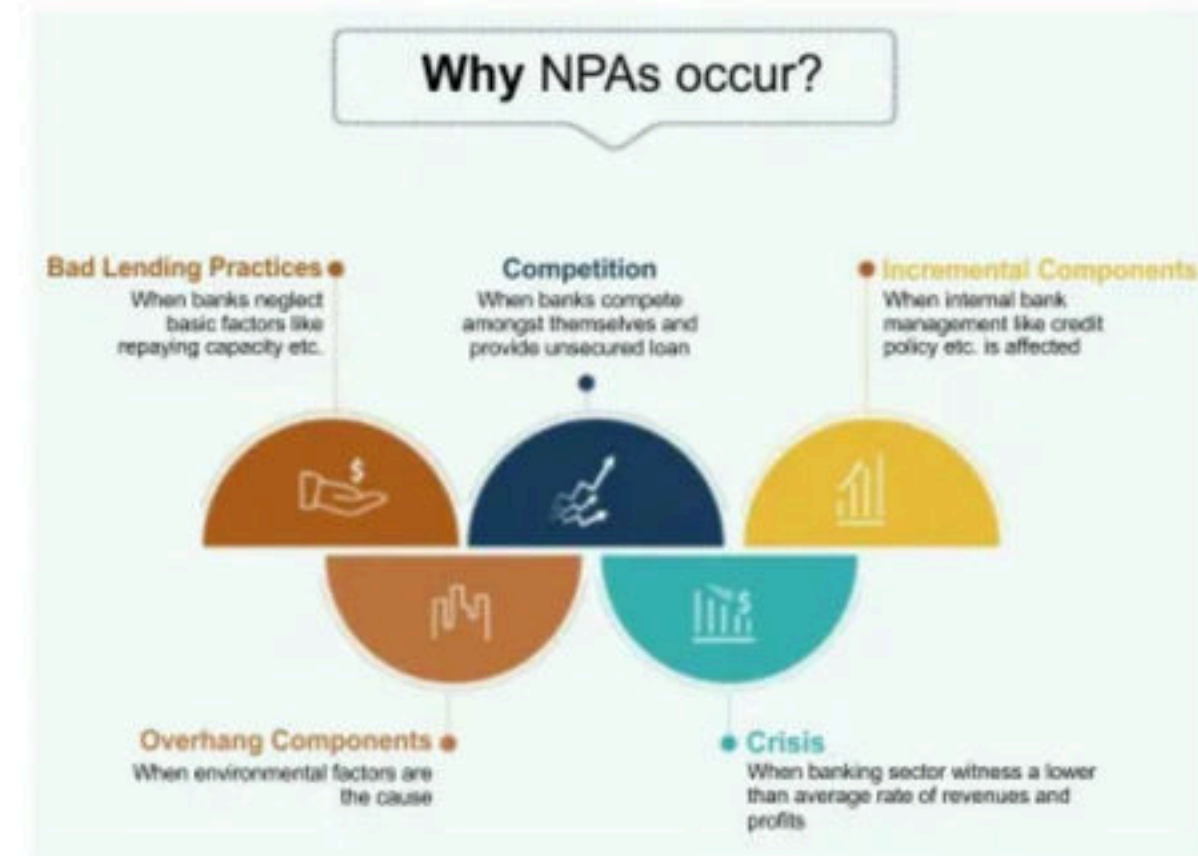
- In the Budget 2021-22, ARC has been proposed to be set up by state-owned and private sector banks, and there will be no equity contribution from the government.
- The ARC, which will have an Asset Management Company (AMC) to manage and sell bad assets, will look to resolve stressed assets of Rs. 2-2.5 lakh crore that remain unresolved in around 70 large accounts.
- This is being considered as the government's version of a bad bank.

## ❑ Need of ARC for Farm Loans:

- NPAs of Banks: As per the latest Financial Stability Report, June 2021, banks' gross NPA ratio for the agriculture sector was at 9.8%, whereas for industry and services it was at 11.3% and 7.5%, respectively, At March-end 2021.

## ➤ Outstanding Loans:

- As per data from the 'Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households and Land Holdings of Households in Rural India, 2019, even as the percentage of agricultural households indebted has come down from 52% in 2013 to 50.2% in 2019, **the average debt has jumped by more than 57% from Rs 47,000 in 2013 Rs 74,121 in 2019.**
- **The survey data shows that 69.6 % of the** outstanding loans by agricultural households were taken from institutional sources such as banks, cooperative societies, and other government agencies.
- The survey is conducted by the **National Statistical Office's (NSO).**
- **Farm Loan Waivers:** The announcement of farm loan waivers by states around elections leads to "deteriorating credit culture".
- Since 2014, at least 11 states have announced farm loan waivers. **These include Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.**
- **The Uttar Pradesh government will provide** additional incentives such as subsidized interest rates on farm loans, promotion of farm-based industries as well as development of farm infrastructure **under the Centre's Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.**
- **The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund aims to provide** medium-long term debt financing facilities for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets.



# What's in ART, Surrogacy Bills

## ART, Surrogacy:-

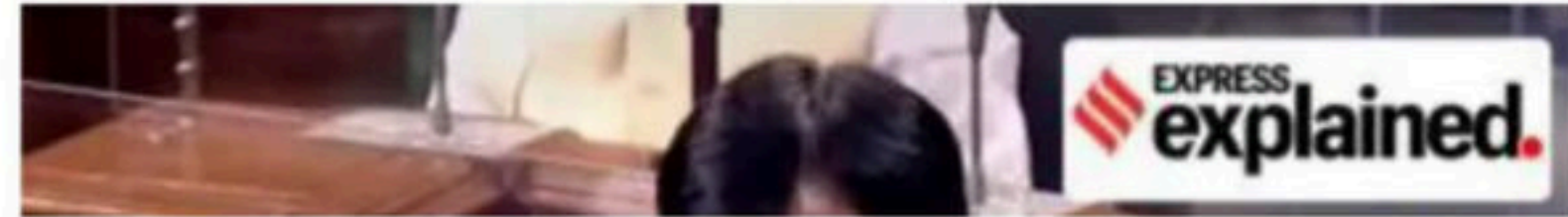
- Lok Sabha recently passed the Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation Bill, 2020, which makes provisions for the safe and ethical practice of assisted reproductive technology (ART) services in the country.

### Explained: What's in ART, Surrogacy Bills

● Lok Sabha has passed the Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation Bill, after the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill two years earlier. What is the difference, and how does the new Bill propose to regulate ART?

Written By [Naveen Shrivastava](#) | New Delhi |

Updated: December 2, 2021 7:07:24 pm



## ➤ Overview and key features of the Bill:

- It would lead to the creation of a national board to lay down and implement a code of conduct for **people working at IVF clinics.**
- **Determines the minimum standards** of physical infrastructure, laboratory, diagnostic equipment and expert manpower to be employed by ART clinics and banks.
- The bill intends to make genetic testing of the **embryo mandatory before implantation for the benefit of the child born through ART.**
- **It also seeks to streamline the cryo-preservation** processes for sperm, oocytes and embryos.
- It also proposes to constitute a national registry and **registration authority to maintain a central database and assist the national board in its functioning.**
- **The bill proposes stringent punishment for those “practising sex selection,** sale of human embryos or gametes and running agencies/rackets/organisations for such unlawful practices.

## ❑ Need for a legislation in this regard:

- The need to regulate the ART services is to protect the affected women and children from exploitation. Registration with the ICMR is a voluntary exercise at the moment because of which many clinics don't take the trouble and prefer opacity while offering infertility treatment.

## ❑ Significance:

- The major benefit of the act would be regulation of the assisted reproductive technology services in the country. Consequently, infertile couples will be more ensured and confident of the ethical practices in ART clinics.

## ❑ What is ART? Why it is in demand?

- Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART), as commonly understood, comprises procedures such as in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), intra-uterine insemination (IUI), oocyte and sperm donation, cryopreservation and includes surrogacy as well.
- Social stigma of being childless and lengthy adoption processes have increased the demand for ART in India. It is thus not surprising that the ART industry is expected to grow by a compounded annual growth rate of 10%.

## Regulating ART

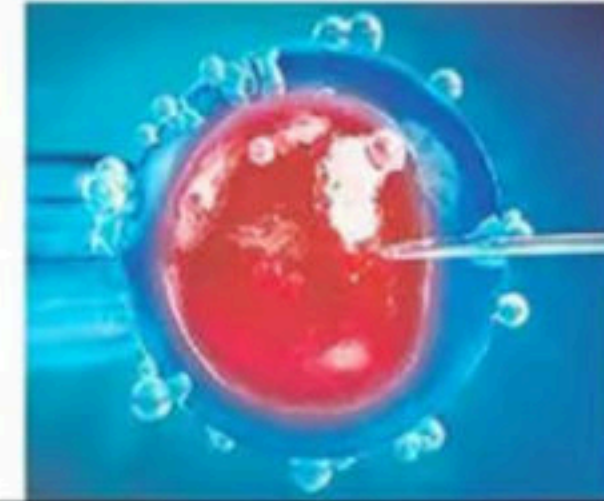


Illustration of in vitro fertilisation

- The Bill establishes the National Board, the State Boards, and the National Registry to

regulate and supervise Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics. It establishes ART banks to promote ethical practices

- It proposes stringent punishment for those who attempt to control the offspring's sex, sell embryos or gametes
- As of Feb. 20, there are 517 ART clinics under the National Registry of ART clinics and banks in India, according to the ICMR

# Uttarakhand's Char Dham Act

➤ Uttarakhand government has announced the withdrawal of the **Char Dham Devasthanam Management Act**. The decision will lead to the abolition of Uttarakhand Char Dham Devasthanam Management Board, which has been facing protests from priests and other stakeholders of four shrines and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP).

## **Environmental Concerns About the Project:**

- The project may destroy about 690 hectares of forests with 55,000 **trees and evacuate an estimated 20 million cubic metres of soil.**
- **Ruthless harvesting or uprooting of vegetation** in the widening of roads can prove to be perilous for the biodiversity and regional ecology.

## **Explained: What's in Uttarakhand's Char Dham Act, and why it is being withdrawn**

The Uttarakhand government in December 2019 had tabled the Uttarakhand Char Dham Shrine Management Bill, 2019. The bill brought the Char Dham of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri and 49 other temples under the purview of a proposed shrine board.

Written by **Lalmani Verma** | Lucknow |  
Updated: December 2, 2021 2:36:54 pm

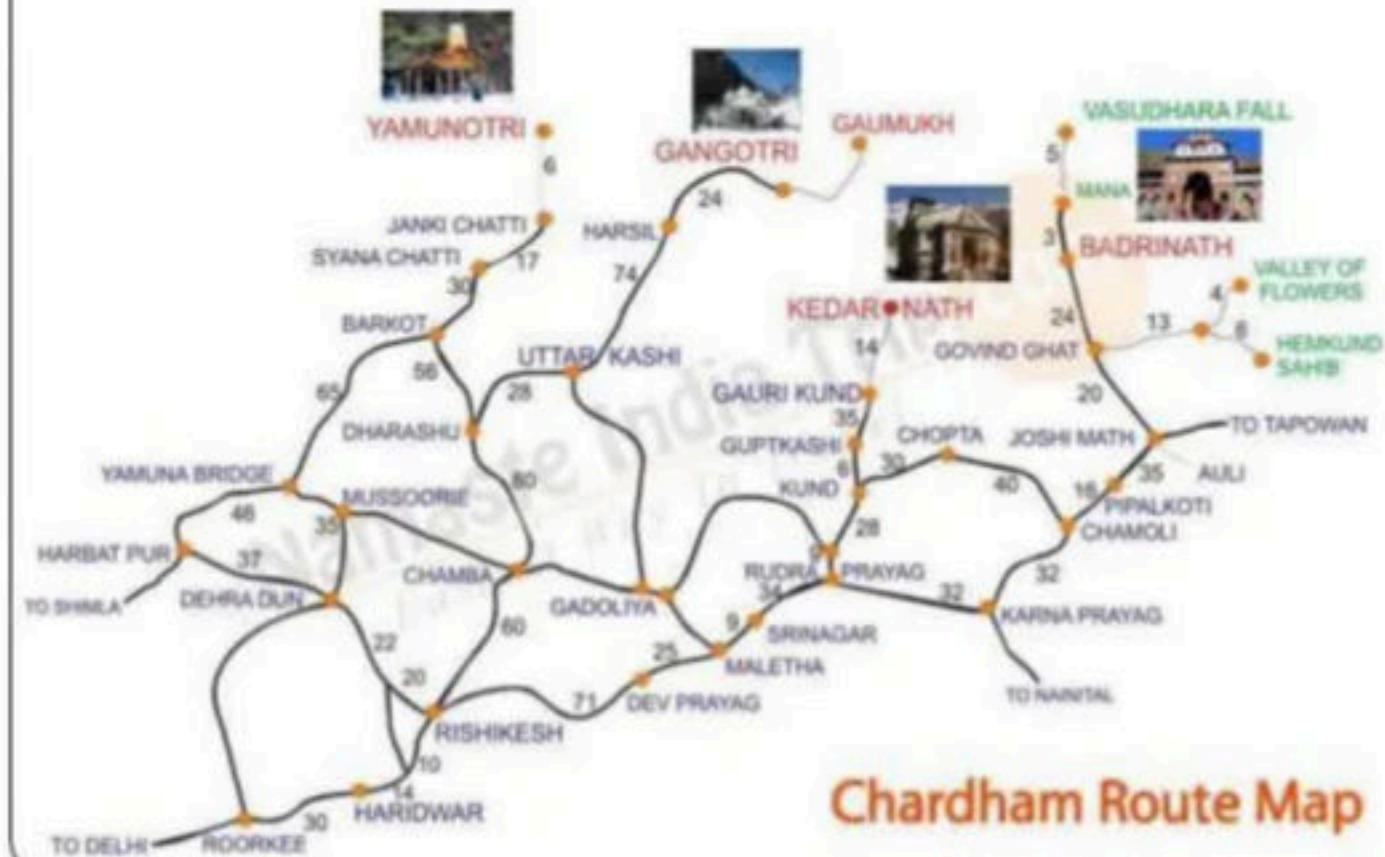


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## ❑ What is Chardham Project:-

- The project comprises improvement as well as the development of 889 km length of national highways.
- The project will connect Badrinath Dham, Kedarnath Dham, Gangotri, Yamunotri, and part of the route leading to Kailash Mansarovar yatra.

## Chardham Route Map



# Species In News: Lesser Florican

➤ Recently, Lesser florican has been tracked for the first time from Rajasthan to Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district.

OTHER STATES

Longest in-country migration route of lesser florican from Rajasthan tracked



Mohammed Iqbal

AJMER, DECEMBER 04, 2021 01:23 IST  
UPDATED: DECEMBER 04, 2021 01:23 IST

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Endangered bird's mystery may be resolved with tagging of transmitters

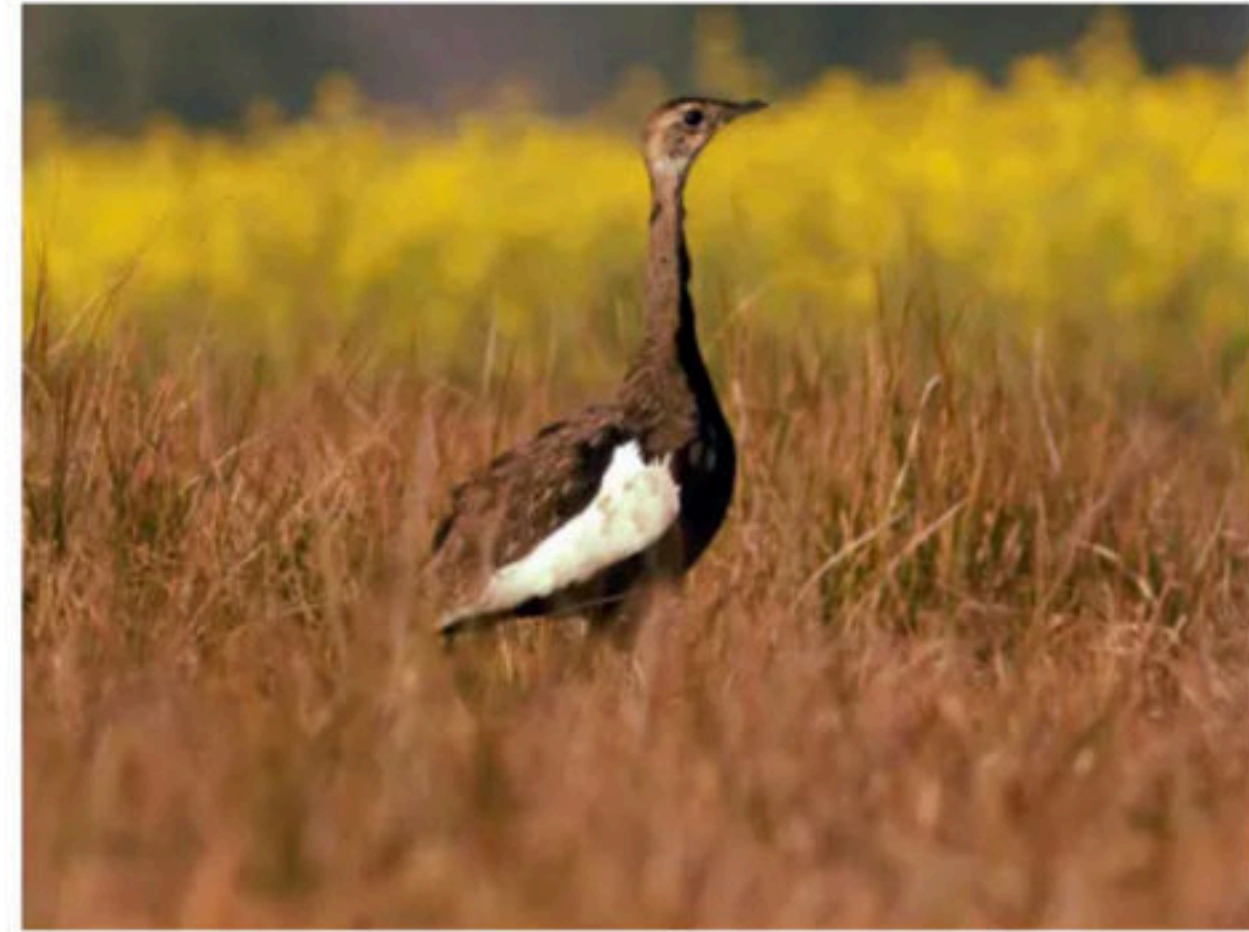
## ❑ Lesser florican

- Lesser florican, taxonomically **classified as Sypheotides indicus.**
- **It is one of three bustard species** endemic to India, the others being the Bengal florican and the Great Indian Bustard.
- It is a small and slender **bird species found in tall grasslands.**
- **Habitat: It is observed in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat** and some other regions during the monsoon season.
- **Conservation Status:** It is declared endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and also features in Appendix 2 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- It is also protected under **Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife Act.**



## ➤ About Bengal Florican

- **Scientific Name:** Houbaropsis bengalensis
- **Habitat:** The species is found in very small numbers only in India and Cambodia.
- About a hundred of them are present in **Nepal and the species is extinct in Bangladesh.**
- **It has a very small, rapidly** declining population largely as a result of the widespread loss of its grassland habitat.
- **Conservation Status:** IUCN status: Critically Endangered.
  - Listed under Schedule **I of the Wildlife Protection Act of India, 1972**
  - **Inclusion of the species in Appendix I of CMS** will aid in transboundary conservation efforts facilitated by International conservation bodies and existing international laws and agreements.



## ❑ About Great Indian Bustard

- **Scientific Name:** *Ardeotis nigriceps*.
- It is a large bird with brown-and-white feathers with black crowns and wing markings. It is one of the heaviest birds in the world.
- **Habitat and Distribution:** The species occurs in the Indian Subcontinent, with former strongholds in the Thar desert in the northwest and the Deccan tableland of the Peninsula.
  - It has been extirpated from 90 per cent of its former range and is now principally confined to Rajasthan.
  - **Rajasthan is now home to the single largest viable population of the species.**
    - **It is the state bird of Rajasthan.**
- **Protection Status**
  - IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
  - CITES Appendix I
  - India Wildlife Protection Act: Schedule



# Zographetus Dzonguensis

➤ A butterfly species new to science have been found at Dzongu in Sikkim.

SCIENCE

New species found in Sikkim's Dzongu, the 'land of butterflies'



Shubashree Desikan

CHENNAI, DECEMBER 04, 2021 04:37 IST

UPDATED: DECEMBER 04, 2021 07:57 IST

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PRINT



The closest relatives of the Chocolate-bordered Flitter are in southeastern China

- The new species of butterfly is named the **Chocolate-bordered Flitter**.
- It carries the scientific name **Zographetus dzonguensis**, after Dzongu in North Sikkim, the place where it was discovered.
- It has a chocolate **coloured border** around both the wings
- Its closest relatives are **Zographetus Pangi in Guangdong**, and *Zographetus hainanensis* in Hainan, both in southeastern China, close to Hong Kong.
- The physical appearance of the species differ slightly and the **internal structures of the males also differ slightly**.



### **❑ Other Important Key Facts**

- A Himalayan butterfly named **Golden Birdwing is India's largest, a record an unknown specimen had held for 88 years.**
- **The smallest is the Quaker (Neopithecops zalmora)** with a wingspan of 18 mm and forewing length of 8 mm.

### **❑ Other State Butterflies:**

- ✓ Maharashtra was the first in the country to announce its state butterfly (Blue Mormon).
- ✓ Uttarakhand has Common Peacock.
- ✓ Karnataka has the Southern Birdwing.
- ✓ Kerala has Malabar banded peacock or buddha butterfly.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has declared the Tamil Yeoman Butterfly species (endemic to the Western Ghats) as the state butterfly.

# Nagaland's Hornbill Festival

➤ Hornbill Festival 2021  
of Nagaland kicked off recently, after a gap of one year following the outbreak of COVID-19.

**Nagaland's Hornbill Festival begins, over 12,000 visitors on day 1 of event**

The festival, which is taking place after a year's gap due to Covid-19 pandemic, began with Governor Jagdish Mukhi striking the traditional gong of the Nagas.



## □ Hornbill Festival

- **About:**
  - This festival usually takes place between the **1st and the 10th of December** every year in Kohima.
  - The festival gets its name from the Indian Hornbill.
  - The Hornbill is a **common bird among the folklores and tribes of Nagaland** and can be commonly seen prancing around in the forests of Nagaland.
- **Location:**
  - Hornbill Festival is held at **Naga Heritage Village, Kisama** which is about 12 km from Kohima.
- **Festival of all festivals:**
  - This is a very **popular festival of Nagaland**. Often cited as “festival of all festivals”.
- **Aim:**
  - The aim of the festival is to **revive and protect the rich culture of Nagaland** and display its extravaganza and traditions.



## ❑ Significance

- Promoting tourism: Hornbill Festival provides a platform to various tribes from the state to showcase their culture and it is also an avenue for promoting tourism and allied economic activities.
- Unity: It unites all the people of Nagaland as well as the rest of the country and celebrates the different tribes of Nagaland.
- Culture: The festival offers a clearer glimpse into understanding the Naga culture better.
- Agriculture: More than 60% of the population of Nagaland depends on agriculture and therefore most of their festivals revolve around agriculture.
- They consider their festivals sacred and so participation in these festivals is compulsory.

## □ Great hornbill

- It is also known as the concave-casqued hornbill, great Indian hornbill or great pied hornbill is one of the larger members of the hornbill family.
- It is found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
- Its impressive size and colour have made it important in many tribal cultures and rituals.
- The great hornbill is **long-lived**, living for nearly 50 years in captivity.
- It is predominantly frugivorous, but is an opportunist and will prey on small mammals, reptiles and birds.
- IUCN status: **Vulnerable.**



# Project Re-Hab

NE

➤ Buoyed by the success of its innovative **Project RE-HAB (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees)** in Karnataka, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has now replicated the project in Assam.

➤ Surrounded by **dense forests, a large part of Assam is infested by** elephants with 332 human deaths reported between 2014 and 2019 due to elephant attacks.

Assam: 'Bee fences' to keep jumbos away in Goalpara villages

TNN / Updated: Dec 5, 2020, 09:59 IST



Bee

elephant



## ❑ What is Project Re-Hab:-

- ✓ Project RE-HAB (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees) ✓
- ✓ Objective: To prevent elephant attacks in human habitations using honeybees
- ✓ It entails installing bee boxes along the periphery of the forest and the villages.
- ✓ Under Project RE-HAB, "Bee-fences" are created by setting up bee boxes in the passage ways of elephants to block their entrance to human territories.
- ✓ The boxes are connected with a string so that when elephants attempt to pass through, a tug or pull causes the bees to swarm the elephant herds and dissuade them from progressing further.

Kuruk:

- It is a cost-effective way of reducing human-wild conflicts without causing any harm to the animals.
- It is scientifically recorded that elephants are annoyed by the honey bees.
- It is believed that elephants' fear of the bees will prevent them from transgressing into human landscape.
- Project Re-HAB is a sub-mission of the KVIC's National Honey Mission.
- Project RE-HAB was launched at 11 locations in Kodagu district of Karnataka on 15th March 2021. In just 6 months, this project has reduced elephant attacks by over 70%.

By Sumit Konde

## Project RE-HAB (Reducing Elephant- Human Attacks using Bees)



70% ↓ ↓

# Culture Mapping of 80 Villages

➤ Culture mapping of 80 villages associated with noted personalities in history, in particular the freedom movement, unique crafts and festivals has been started as a pilot project by Union Culture Ministry.

NATIONAL

## Culture mapping of 80 villages kicks off



Damini Nath

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 04, 2021 20:59 IST  
UPDATED: DECEMBER 05, 2021 10:27 IST

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Project to be completed this financial year: IGNCAs official

- From **Sempore in Kashmir to Kanjirapally in Kerala**, villages with a connection to the freedom movement as well as those with their own art practices have been selected for the project, being **conducted by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**.
- The project would lead to a **“national register and interactive database of artists** and art practices from the villages of India”. Each artist would be given a unique ID and an e-commerce platform set up.
- The work under the mission involves coordinating the data collection through ground and **field surveys conducted on the basis of detailed formats and questionnaires, mobile application**, interactive web-portal and an over-the-top (OTT) platform to showcase ethnographic documentaries/ cultural events/ festival/ melas etc. of villages.

## ❑ Some of the villages on the list:-

- From Ladakh, the pilot project included Choglamsar and Wanla villages, known for wood carving.
- Sempore or Pandrenthan in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir that is associated with 14th Century mystic Lal Ded or Lalleshwari.
- Khatkar Kalan village in Punjab, which has a memorial of Bhagat Singh.
- Reni village of Uttarakhand, where the Chipko movement started.
- Kathputli Colony in Delhi, known for the “migrant kathputli artists”, are also on the list.
- Two villages in Tamil Nadu — Ettayapuram (the birthplace of poet Subramania Bharathi) and Thiruchigadi (a village of “women potters”) — are also on the list.



7th DECEMBER  
2021  
The Hindu Analysis

By-Sumit Konde

# India- Russia Annual Summit:

- 21st annual India-Russia summit was held recently. It was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- Alongside, the inaugural 2+2 ministerial meeting was also held.
- The meeting saw the signing of 28 agreements across sectors from defence to energy to space exploration, science and technology, heavy engineering, to trade and investment.



Classmate Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin in New Delhi on Monday. V.V. KRISHNAN

07/12/2021

Dinakar Perit Kallol Bhattacharjee NEW DELHI

The world has undergone several geopolitical changes, but the India-Russia friendship remained unchanged, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on 21st annual India-Russia summit with President Vladimir Putin.

## □ Key takeaways:

- Russia's President Vladimir Putin extended an invitation to PM Modi to visit Russia for the **22nd India-Russia Annual Summit in 2022.**
- **The two leaders expressed satisfaction** at the sustained progress in the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership' between both countries despite the challenges posed by the Covid.
- The role of connectivity through the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and **the proposed Chennai-Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor** **figured in the discussions.**
- **The two leaders looked forward to greater** inter-regional cooperation between various regions of Russia, in particular with the Russian Far East, with India's states.
- They agreed that both countries share common perspectives and concerns on Afghanistan and appreciated the **bilateral roadmap charted out at the NSA level for consultation and cooperation on Afghanistan.**



Pacific

## □ The 2+2 dialogue:

- It is held between the foreign and defence ministers of two countries and is generally seen to be aimed at creating a mechanism under which the bilateral relationship takes a decisive strategic turn with greater integration of defence, security and intelligence apparatus.



# CAMPA Funds

➤ The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) has so far disbursed ₹48,606 crore to 32 States.

➤ Chhattisgarh and Odisha have had the maximum amount transferred to them, or close to ₹5,700 crore each followed by Jharkhand and Maharashtra at around ₹3,000 crore.

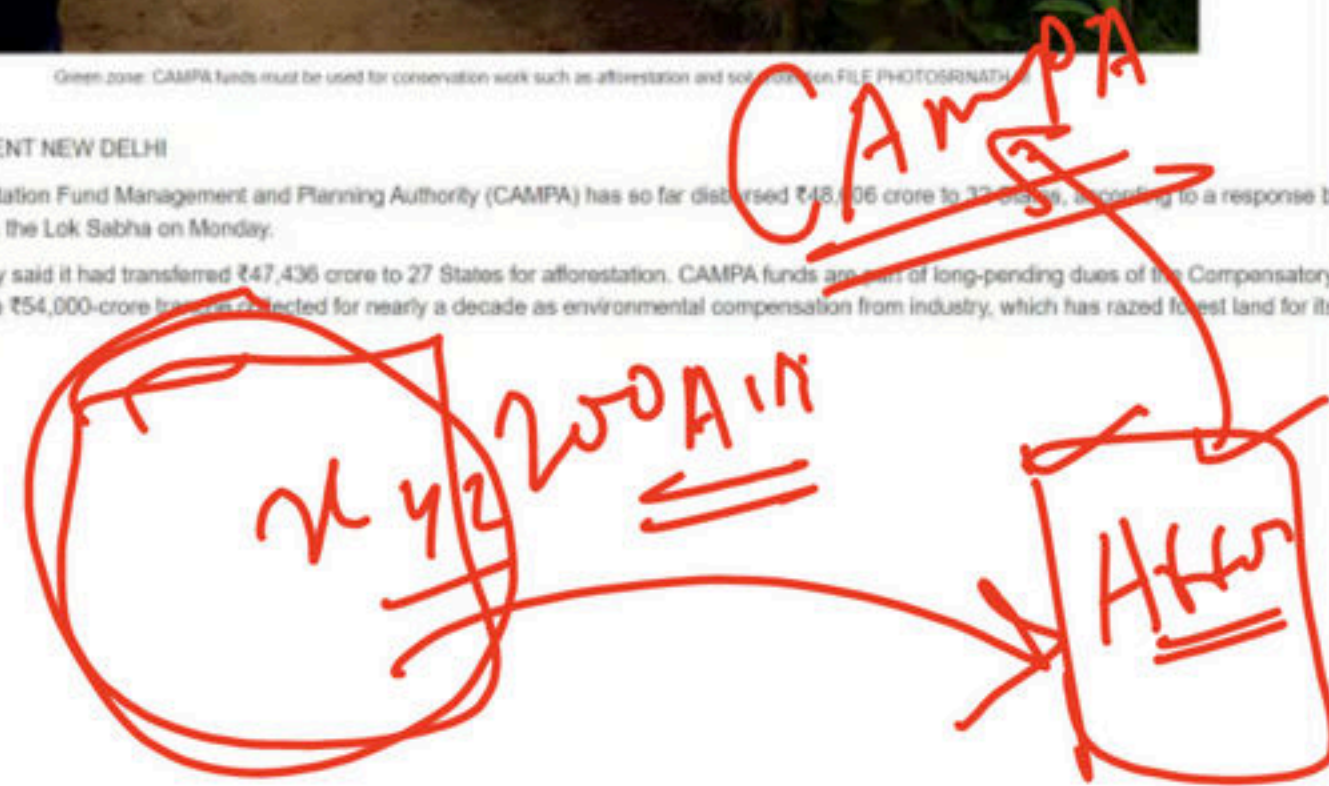


Green zone: CAMPA funds must be used for conservation work such as afforestation and soil conservation. FILE PHOTO/IRNATH

07/12/2021  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) has so far disbursed ₹48,606 crore to 32 States, according to a response by the Environment Ministry in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

In August 2019, the Ministry said it had transferred ₹47,436 crore to 27 States for afforestation. CAMPA funds are part of long-pending dues of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF), a ₹54,000-crore loan collected for nearly a decade as environmental compensation from industry, which has razed forest land for its business plans.



## ❑ What are CAMPA funds:-

- CAMPA funds are part of long-pending dues of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF), a ₹54,000-crore tranche collected for nearly a decade as environmental compensation from industry, which has razed forest land for its business plans.

## ❑ About CAMPA:

- The CAF Act 2016, which came into being more than a decade since it was devised, established an independent authority — the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority — to execute the fund.
- However, it was not until last August that the rules governing the management of the fund were finalised.

## What is Compensatory Afforestation:-

- Compensatory afforestation means that every time forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes such as mining or industry, the user agency pays for planting forests over an equal area of non-forest land, or when such land is not available, twice the area of degraded forest land.

ISFR  
2018

## Fund sharing:

- As per the rules, 90% of the CAF money is to be given to the states while 10% is to be retained by the Centre.

Env / Eco

- The funds can be used for treatment of catchment areas, assisted natural generation, forest management, wildlife protection and management, relocation of villages from protected areas, managing human-wildlife conflicts, training and awareness generation, supply of wood saving devices and allied activities.

Born  
Challenges  
26/14

CAMPDA

INPL →  
RIAPCC → 8  
GIM

# Exercise Ekuverin

- Recently, the 11th Edition of Joint **Military Exercise EKUVERIN** between India & Maldives has been started at Kadhdhoo Island, Maldives.
- Earlier, the 15th edition of the **biennial trilateral Coast Guard Exercise 'Dosti'** involving India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka was held in the Maldives.

By-Sumit Konde

Ministry of Defence

INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT LEAVES FOR 11TH EDITION OF JOINT INDO-MALDIVES TRAINING EXERCISE 'EX EKUVERIN'

Posted On: 06 DEC 2021 9:14AM by PIB Delhi

*I-SL-mal* → *once in a 2 yrs*  
*Biannual - Twice in a yr.*

- India and Maldives have been conducting Exercise Ekuverin meaning 'Friends' in the Maldivian language since 2009.
- The 14 days Joint Exercise is held alternatively in India and Maldives.
- It focuses on enhancing interoperability between the two forces for carrying out counter insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in a semi-urban environment under the United Nations mandate.
- This year's exercise will also include cultural and sports activities to enhance defence cooperation and bilateral relations. The exercise will go a long way in strengthening India's relations with Maldives amidst emerging security dynamics in the Indian Ocean Region.



# Mount Semeru

- Recently, Indonesia's Mount Semeru spewed more ash, forcing rescuers to suspend the search for survivors as aerial images.
- The last time it erupted was in December 2020, forcing thousands of residents to take shelter.

Mount Semeru volcano: search for survivors suspended amid fresh eruption in Indonesia

Search to resume when 'a bit safer', rescuer says, while some residents reported to have returned home after weekend eruption to check belongings



## ➤ About Mount Semeru

- The **3,676-meter (12,060-feet)** mountain in Lumajang district is the highest **volcano on Indonesia's** **most** densely populated island of Java.
- Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 270 million people, is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity because it sits along the **Pacific "Ring of Fire,"** a **horseshoe-shaped series of fault lines.**



## ➤ About Pacific Rim's "Ring of Fire" region

- Pacific Rim's "Ring of Fire" region is also called the **Circum-Pacific Belt**, it is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
- It traces boundaries between several tectonic plates—including the **Pacific, Cocos, Indian-Australian, Nazca, North American, and Philippine Plates**.
- It is **home to about 75 per cent of the world's volcanoes** and about 90 per cent of its earthquakes.
- In the realm of Ring of Fire, the tectonic plates overlap at **convergent boundaries** which results in **subduction zones**.
- Here, the plate which is below at the **convergent boundary** is **pushed down, or subducted, by the plate above**.
- **As the rock is subducted, it melts and becomes magma**. The abundance of magma so near to Earth's surface gives rise to conditions ripe for volcanic activity.



# ‘Assam Rifles’ Dual Control Structure

➤ Killing of over a dozen civilians in Mon district of Nagaland saw angry crowds vandalise camps of Assam Rifles in the district.

## ❖ Background

- Issue over the control: Both MHA and MoD have wanted full control of the force for a long time.
- Proposal: It was in 2013 that MHA first made a proposal to take operational control of the Assam Rifles and merge it with the BSF.
- The current plan is to merge Assam Rifles with the ITBP.
- The Indian Army: has actually been pushing for not only total control of Assam Rifles but also operational control over ITBP, which guards the Sino-Indian border and is currently engaged in a standoff with the Chinese PLA in eastern Ladakh.

By-Sumit Konde

## Explained: Assam Rifles’ dual control structure, and its role

Assam Rifles is the only paramilitary force with a dual control structure. While the administrative control of the force is with the MHA, its operational control is with the Indian Army, which is under the Ministry of Defence.

Written by [Deeptiman Tiwary](#), Edited by Explained Desk | New Delhi |  
Updated: December 7, 2021 7:58:28 am



ADVERTISEMENT

## ❑ Assam Rifles

- **Central armed police forces:** Assam Rifles is one of the six central armed police forces (CAPFs) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **The other forces being the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF),** the Border Security Force (BSF), the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the Sashastra Seema BAL (SSB).
- **Role:** It is tasked with the maintenance of law and order in the North East along with the Indian Army and also guards the Indo-Myanmar border in the region.
- **It has a sanctioned strength:** of over 63,000 personnel and has 46 battalions apart from administrative and training staff.



## ➤ What makes it unique?

- **Dual control structure**: It is the only paramilitary force with a dual control structure.
  - ✓ While the administrative control of the force is with the MHA, its operational control is with the Indian Army, which is under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**.
  - ✓ **This means that salaries and infrastructure for** the force is provided by the MHA, but the deployment, posting, transfer and deputation of the personnel is decided by the Army.
  - ✓ However, being a **Central Armed Police force under MHA**, its recruitment, perks, promotion of its personnel and retirement policies are governed according to the rules framed by the MHA for CAPFs.
  
- ✓ **Ranks**: All its senior ranks, from DG to IG and sector headquarters are manned by officers from the Army.
  - The force is commanded by Lieutenant General from the Indian Army.
  
- **On the lines of the Indian Army**: The force is the only central paramilitary force (CPMF) in the real sense as its operational duties and regimentation are on the lines of the Indian Army.

## Issues

- **Two sets of demands**: This has created two sets of demands from both within the Assam Rifles and by MoD and MHA for singular control over the force by one ministry.
- **Perks and benefits**: A large section within the force wants to be under the administrative control of the MoD, as that would mean better perks and retirement benefits which are far higher compared to CAPFs under MHA.
- **Retirement**: However, Army personnel also retire early, at 35, while the retirement age in CAPF is 60 years.
- **Promotions**: CAPF officers have recently been granted non-functional financial upgradation (NFFU) to at least financially address the issue of stagnation in their careers due to a lack of avenues for promotion.
- But Army personnel also get one rank one pension which is not available to CAPFs.
- **National security**: Army has argued that giving the control of the force to MHA or merging it with any other CAPF will confuse the force and jeopardise national security.

# Demand for 'Greater Tipraland'

- Recently, the demand has grown louder to carve out a separate state of 'Greater Tipraland' for the indigenous communities in Tripura Article 2 and 3 of the Constitution.

## Explained: What is 'Greater Tipraland' and why are tribal outfits in Tripura pushing for it

The demand has grown louder to carve out a separate state of 'Greater Tipraland' for the indigenous communities in Tripura under Article 2 and 3 of the Constitution.

Written by [Souvik Roy Barman](#) . Edited by Explained Desk | New Delhi |  
Updated: December 3, 2021 4:51:55 pm



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## ❑ Demand for 'Greater Tipraland'

- The new demand seeks to include every **tribal person living in an indigenous area or village outside the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC)** under the proposed model.
- However, the idea doesn't restrict to simply the Tripura tribal council areas but seeks to include **'Tiprasa' of Tripuris spread across different states of India like Assam, Mizoram etc.** as well, even those living in **Bandarban, Chittagong, Khagrachari and other bordering areas of neighbouring Bangladesh.**
- It also proposes **dedicated bodies to secure the rights** of the Tripuris and other aboriginal communities living outside Tripura.



## **□ Historical Background of Demand:**

- Tripura was a kingdom ruled by the Manikya dynasty from the late 13th century until the signing of the Instrument of Accession with the **Indian government on October 15, 1949.**
- **The demand mainly stems from the anxiety of** the indigenous communities in connection with the change in the demographics of the state, which has reduced them to a minority.
- It happened due to the displacement of Bengalis **from erstwhile East Pakistan between 1947 and 1971.**
- **From 63.77 per cent in 1881, the population of the tribals** in Tripura was down to 31.80 per cent by 2011.
- In the intervening decades, ethnic conflict and **insurgency gripped the state, which shares a nearly 860-km long boundary with Bangladesh.**
- **The call of Greater Tipraland' rose due to unfulfilled** demands of revising NRC in Tripura and opposition to CAA in the past.
- **Immediate cause:**
- The churn in the state's politics with the rise of **TIPRA Motha and the Assembly polls due in early 2023 are the two major reasons behind the development.**

## Major Reasons for Rise in demand for Separate state

- **Economic backwardness of sub-regions** within large states has also emerged as an important ground on which demands for **smaller states are being made**
- **Linguistic and cultural reasons**, which were the primary basis for creating new states in the country, **have now become secondary in most of these cases.**

## Initiatives to Address the Issue

- The Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) was formed under the **sixth schedule of the Constitution in 1985** to ensure development and secure the rights and cultural heritage of the **tribal communities.**
- The TTAADC, which has **legislative and executive powers**, covers nearly two-thirds of the state's geographical area.
- **The council comprises 30 members** of which 28 are elected while two are nominated by the Governor.
- Also, out of the 60 Assembly seats in the state, 20 are reserved for Scheduled Tribes.

# The changing AI landscape

## Artificial Intelligence:

- Artificial intelligence (AI) is intelligence demonstrated by machines, as opposed to natural intelligence displayed by animals including humans. It involves the building of smart machines capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence.

By-Sumit Konde

CACHE TECHNOLOGY

## The changing AI landscape



John Xavier

DECEMBER 07, 2021 03:08 IST

UPDATED: DECEMBER 06, 2021 22:47 IST

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The question of whether machines can think is centuries old. Alan Turing reframed it, and broke down intelligence into specialised tasks with his famous 'imitation game' experiment. Now, Google's DeepMind is pushing the frontiers on what machines can do

## ❑ Evolution of AI machines:

- In 1997, Deep Blue, IBM's chess-playing supercomputer, defeated the reigning world champion Garry Kasparov in a six-match game in New York City. Deep Blue used brute force search, an algorithmic method of examining all possible options before making the move. This method helps machines find answers to a finite set of solutions.
- In 2016, DeepMind's AlphaGo programme defeated Lee Sedol in a five-match game. AlphaGo used the concept of neural network to train itself.
- It combined smart algorithm and brute-force computing. To learn the game and improve its odds, the programme played against itself over a million times – – an exercise referred to as reinforcement learning. The AlphaGo programme had a mechanism for closed-loop feedback in decision-making.
- In November 2020, DeepMind's AlphaFold2, predicted the 3D structure of proteins (protein folding) which is an important problem in biology.

# Judicial infrastructure, a neglected case

➤ Recently, the Chief Justice of India proposed creation of a National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India (NJIAI) as a central agency to take control of infrastructure development of subordinate courts in the country.

By-Sumit Konde

DELHI

## Judicial infrastructure, a neglected case



Soibam Rocky Singh

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 06, 2021 01:52 IST  
UPDATED: DECEMBER 06, 2021 01:52 IST

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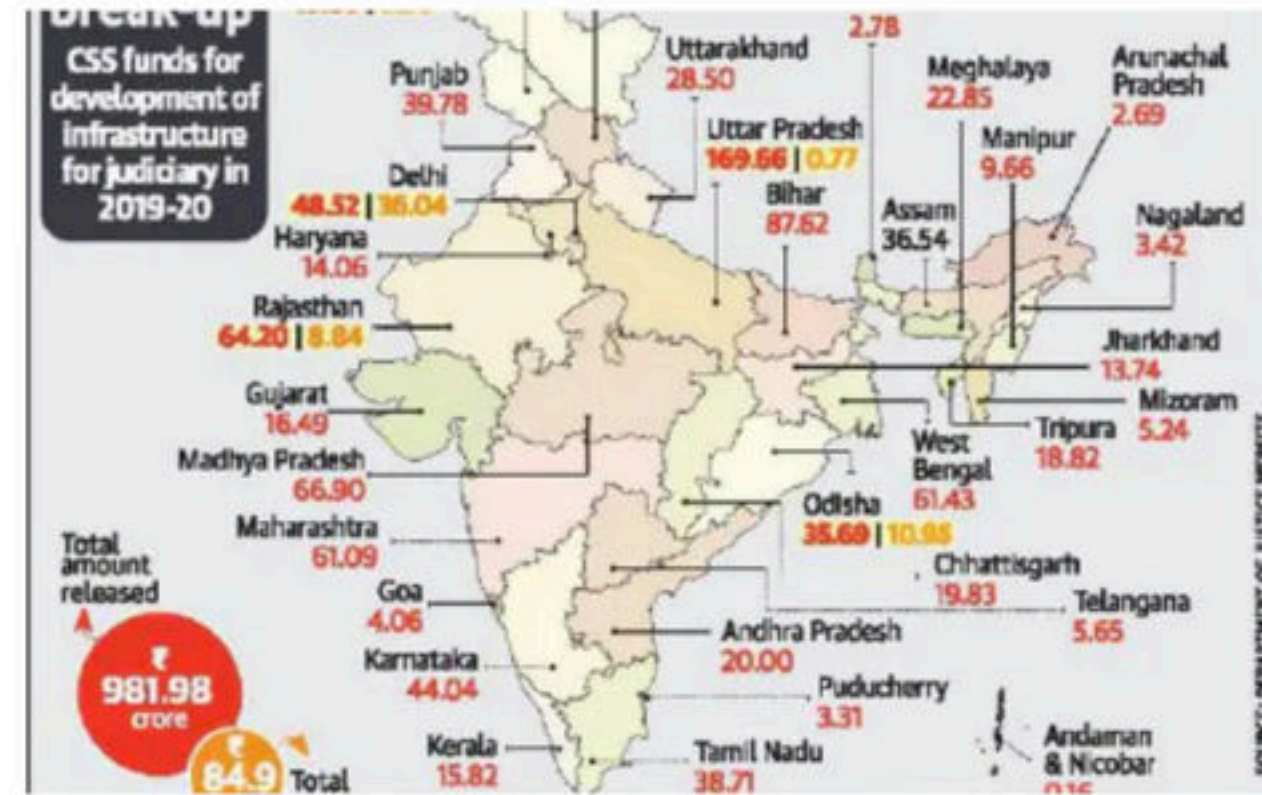
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Chief Justice Ramana suggests one central agency, with a degree of autonomy, for overseeing infrastructure development of subordinate courts in India

## ❑ Background:

- Poor state of Infrastructure in the judiciary:
- The Indian judiciary's infrastructure has not kept pace with the sheer number of litigations instituted every year.
- There is shortage of court halls and also shortage of basic facilities in the court halls. Thus courts in India are having to operate from dilapidated structures making it difficult for them to effectively perform their functions.



### ❑ Poor implementation of schemes targeted at developing judiciary infrastructure:

- There is gross underutilisation of funds sanctioned under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) to the States and Union Territories for development of infrastructure in the courts. As a result of this underutilization, a large proportion of the allocated funds get lapsed every year.
- The improvement and maintenance of judicial infrastructure is still being carried out in an ad-hoc and unplanned manner. There is the lack of one particular coordinating agency.

### ❑ Recommendations for NJIAI:

- Rather than placing NJIAI under the Government, the creation of a special purpose vehicle, with a degree of authority and financial autonomy and having an appropriate statutory backing.
- The proposed NJIAI could work as a central agency with each State having its own State Judicial Infrastructure Authority, much like the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) model. But, unlike NALSA which is serviced by the Ministry of Law and Justice, the proposed NJIAI should be placed under the Supreme Court of India.
- The NJIAI should have a balanced representation from the judiciary and the executive.

# Bank for International Settlements:

- **BIS is an international financial organisation** owned by 62 member central banks, representing countries from around the world including India.
- It fosters international monetary and financial cooperation and serves as a **bank for central banks.**
- **It carries out its work through its meetings, programmes and through the Basel Process** – hosting international groups pursuing global financial stability and facilitating their interaction.
- Its headquarter is in **Basel, Switzerland.**
- **The BIS was established in 1930 by an** intergovernmental agreement between Germany, Belgium, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Japan, the United States, and Switzerland.

ECONOMY

## Omicron shows policymakers can't let guard down: BIS



REUTERS

LONDON, DECEMBER 07, 2021 02:45 IST  
UPDATED: DECEMBER 07, 2021 01:24 IST

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Bank for International Settlements sees variant impacting activity in Q1 of 2022

# Ways to Tackle Malnutrition

➤ The National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 shows negligible gains in nutritional outcomes in under five children which needs urgent focus.

By-Sumit Konde

OPINION

## The way to tackle malnutrition



K.R. Antony

DECEMBER 07, 2021 00:00 IST  
UPDATED: DECEMBER 07, 2021 03:44 IST

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It is high time that the process of monitoring nutrition got importance over survey outcomes



## ❑ What does the NFHS-5 say:-

- **Malnutrition**- There has been sluggish progress in reducing undernutrition, wasting and stunting.
- **Even now 35.5% of under-five** children are stunted, 19.3% are wasted and 32% are underweight.
- **There is also increase in the proportion** of overweight children, women and men with serious health consequences in the form of non-communicable diseases.
- **Anaemia**- The incidence of anaemia has increased from 58.6 to 67% in under-5 children, from 53.1 to 57% in women and from 22.7 to 25% in men.
- **Anaemia is characterised** as a serious public health concern by WHO and has to be focussed as it is as worsening as the COVID-19 effect.
- **Breastfeeding**- Though institutional delivery has gone up, early initiation of breastfeeding is static.

## How to tackle malnutrition:-

- **Data-** There is a need to monitor data and process indicators for programmatic evaluation and correction.
- **Data generated quickly** can lead to mid-course corrections and data-driven planning and strategies can lead to good governance with accountability.
- **Exclusive breastfeeding-** Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives must continue to monitor exclusive breastfeeding till the infant is six months old.
- **They must record the timely initiation** of complementary feeding with soft gruel as this is the critical period of growth that cannot be compromised.

## A systems approach to nutrition



- **Rations**- It must be ensured that there is take-home ration for under-three children through the regular supply of supplementary nutrition from the Integrated Child Development Services.
- There is a need to know the **regularity and quantity of dry rations** supplied to anganwadis and schools, preparation of menu and procuring locally available vegetables for dietary diversification.
- **Dietary supplement in the family**- What goes into the family pot depends on what parents can earn and their purchasing capacity.
- **As the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau** was shut down some years ago, there is no data on what families can cook and their affordability.
- **It is important to monitor the MGNREG Scheme wages** earned in areas where droughts frequently occur, where there is mass migration and where there is prevalence of high malnutrition.
- **Monitoring PDS**- PDS is a hunger-mitigation mechanism that does not enable nutrition security.
- The wheat and rice procured through the **Food Corporation of India fill the stomach and hunger is averted but not malnutrition.**



8th DECEMBER  
2021  
The Hindu Analysis  
By-Sumit Konde

# Reports of Global Arms Trade: SIPRI

- According to a report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which tracks global arms trade, three Indian companies are among the world's top 100 for combined arms sales in 2020.
- The three Indian companies are Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Indian Ordnance Factories, and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- The three were ranked among the top 100 in arms sales in 2019 as well.

## Three Indian companies among top 100 in arms sales globally

The three companies are: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Indian Ordnance Factories, and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

Written by Krishna Kaushik | New Delhi |  
Updated: December 7, 2021 7:45:51 am



HAL  
I OF  
BEL

## □ Top Countries:

- ✓ The USA has the highest number of companies in the top 100 worldwide.. Together, their arms sales amounted to USD 285 billion, an increase of 1.9 % compared with 2019.
- ✓ China was second at 13 %, followed by the UK at 7.1 %.
- ✓ Russia and France were fourth and fifth with 5 % and 4.7 % respectively of the combined arms sales for the top 100 companies.

## **□ Indian Companies:**

- ✓ **Indian Ordnance Factories are at the 60<sup>th</sup> spot**, with USD 1.9 billion in sales, up 0.2 % from the previous year.
- ✓ **HAL is at number 42** with USD 2.97 billion, up 1.5 % from 2019 sales.
- ✓ **BEL is ranked 66**, with USD 1.63 billion in arms sales, up 4 % compared to 2019.
- ✓ **India's share of arms sales globally in 2020 was 1.2 %.** Their aggregated arms sales of USD 6.5 billion were 1.7 % higher in 2020 than in 2019" and accounted for 1.2 % of the top 100 total.

## ❑ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

- The SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
- Established in 1966 at Stockholm, ✓ SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to polycymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.



**STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL  
PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

# Significance of Raigad fort:

- President Ram Nath Kovind recently visited Raigad Fort and paid tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Source: / Explained / Explained: The significance of Raigad Fort in Maratha history

## **Explained: The significance of Raigad fort in Maratha history**

Chhatrapati Shivaji is the most revered icon in Maharashtra and there is a constant attempt by political parties of all hues to appropriate his legacy. Due to the significance of Raigad in his life, many political leaders make it a point to visit the fort.

Written By [Jeevan Shukla](#), Edited By Explained Desk (Mumbai)  
Updated December 7, 2021 11:26:47 am

## Kingdoms and dynasties associated with the fort

- The fort, which was earlier called Rairi <sup>Rairi</sup> was the seat of the Maratha clan Shirke in the 12th century.
- The fort changed hands a number of times from the dynasty of Bahaminis to the Nizamshahis and then the Adilshahis.
- In 1656, Chhatrapati Shivaji captured it from the More's of Javli who were under the suzerainty of the Adilshahi Sultanate.
- In 1662, Shivaji formally changed the fort's name to Raigad and added a number of structures to it. By 1664, the fort had emerged as the seat of Shivaji's government.
- The fort not only helped Shivaji challenge the supremacy of the Adilshahi dynasty but also opened up the routes towards Konkan for the extension of his power.

## ❑ Why is it significant:-

- The fort was known to early Europeans as the Gibraltar of the East. Its decisive feature is a mile and a half flat top which has adequate room for buildings. In its prime, the fort had 300 stone houses and a garrison of 2,000 men.

## ❑ Importance of Raigad Fort in Maharashtra's polity:

- Chhatrapati Shivaji is the tallest and the most revered icon in Maharashtra and there is a constant attempt by political parties of all hues to appropriate his legacy.
- Due to the significance of Raigad in his life, many political leaders make it a point to visit the fort.



Gibraltar of the East ~ Raigad

# What is NASA's new communications system LCRD

- NASA has launched its new Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD).
- It is the agency's first-ever laser communications system.
- The LCRD will help the agency test optical communication in space.

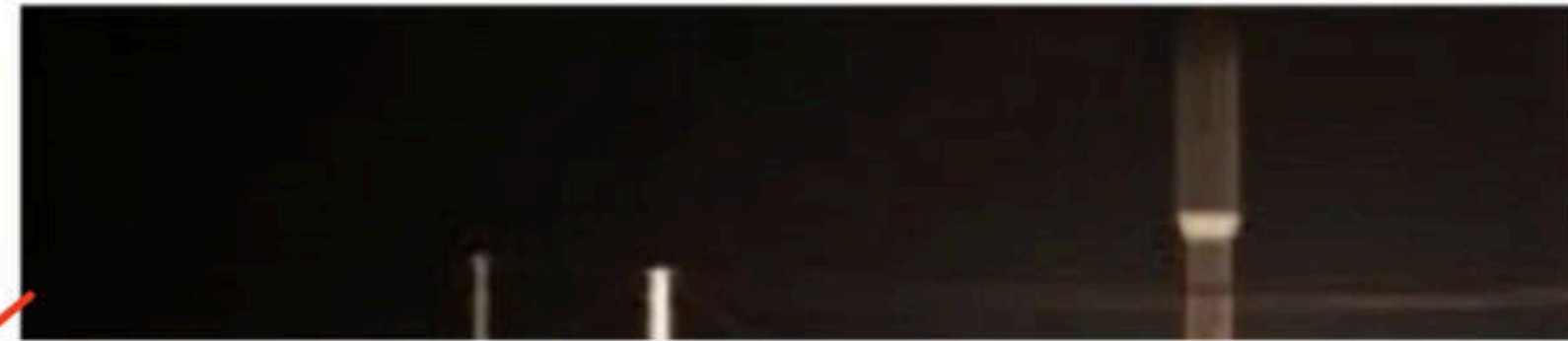
[Home](#) / [Explained](#) / Explained: What is NASA's new communications system LCRD; its importance

## Explained: What is NASA's new communications system LCRD; its importance

Optical communications systems are smaller in size, weight, and require less power compared with radio instruments.

By: [Express Explained](#) | New Delhi |

Updated: December 7, 2021 9:04:23 pm



## □ About LCRD:

- LCRD is a technology demonstration that will pave the way for future optical communications missions.
- The LCRD payload is hosted onboard the US Department of Defense's Space Test Program Satellite 6 (STPSat-6).
- It will be in a geosynchronous orbit, over 35,000km above Earth.

## □ Advantages of optical communications systems:

- Optical communications systems are smaller in size, weight, and require less power compared with radio instruments.
- A smaller size means more room for science instruments.
- Less weight means a less expensive launch.
- Less power means less drain on the spacecraft's batteries.
- With optical communications supplementing radio, missions will have unparalleled communications capabilities.

# Arms Race towards Hypersonic Weapons

- Recent developments have put the spotlight on hypersonic weapons development, especially the advancements made by China and Russia.

By-Sumit Konde

TECHNOLOGY

Explained | The arms race towards hypersonic weapons



Dinakar Peri

DECEMBER 07, 2021 03:38 IST

UPDATED: DECEMBER 08, 2021 10:26 IST

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How are hypersonic weapons different from traditional weaponry? Where does India stand vis-a-vis the technology?

## □ What are the recent developments:-

- 
- ✓ **China**: It tested a **nuclear-capable hypersonic missile** in August 2021 that circled the globe before **speeding towards its target, demonstrating an advanced space** capability that **caught U.S. intelligence by surprise**.
- ✓ However, China has denied that it was **nuclear-capable**.
- ✓ **Russia**: In early October 2021, **Russia** had successfully test-launched a **Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile** from a **Severodvinsk submarine** deployed in the **Barents Sea** which hit a target 350 km away.
- ✓ **USA**: While the U.S. has active hypersonic development programmes, it was lagging behind China and Russia because “most **U.S. hypersonic weapons**, in contrast to those in **Russia and China**, are not **being designed for use with a nuclear warhead**.”

- **The U.S. is now looking** to accelerate its own programmes, though it is unlikely to field an operational system before 2023.
- **Other countries:** Australia, India, France, Germany, and Japan—are also developing **hypersonic weapons technology**.
- **India:** It is also working on **hypersonic technologies**.
  - ✓ India operates approximately **12 hypersonic wind tunnels** and is **capable of testing speeds of up to Mach 13**.
  - ✓ India is also developing an indigenous, dual-capable hypersonic cruise missile as part of its **Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV)** program and successfully tested a Mach 6 scramjet in June **2019** and **September 2020**.
  - ✓ This test was carried out by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and demonstrated the scramjet engine technology, a major breakthrough.
  - ✓ In a scramjet engine, air goes inside the engine at supersonic speed and comes out at hypersonic speeds.

## ❑ About Hypersonic Weapons

- They are manoeuvrable weapons that can fly at speeds in excess of **Mach 5, five times the speed of sound.**
- They are capable both of manoeuvring and of flying faster than 5,000 km per hour, which would enable such missiles to penetrate most missile defences and to further compress the timelines for a response by a nation under attack.
- Most hypersonic vehicles primarily use scramjet technology.

## ❑ Types:

- There are two classes of hypersonic weapons:-
- Hypersonic glide vehicles (HGV) and hypersonic cruise missiles (HCM).
- HGVs are launched from a rocket before gliding to a target while HCMs are powered by high-speed, air-breathing engines, or scramjets, after acquiring their target.



# Highly Invasive Snail Species Reported in Kerala

➤ A tiny snail with a striking, pellucid golden-yellow shell found in the Edappally canal in Kochi has been flagged as an invasive species that could play havoc with native ecosystems.

By-Sumit Konde

KERALA

## Highly invasive snail species reported in Kerala



Tiki Rajwi

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DECEMBER 06, 2021 18:58 IST

UPDATED: DECEMBER 06, 2021 18:58 IST

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This is the first time that this snail has been reported in the State



- **Kerala**: This is the first time that this snail has been reported in Kerala.
- **Features of the newly discovered species**: What makes its discovery worrying is that it plays host to worms that can cause food-borne diseases and skin itches in humans.
- **Moreover, its rapid growth rate**, air-breathing capability, and tolerance to pollution make the *Physella acuta* a potential competitor to native fauna.
- **Using a scoop net**: The team recovered 23 live specimens from the Eroor part of the Edappally canal during the biodiversity impact assessment carried out for the Integrated Urban Regeneration and Water Transport System (IURWTS) in Kochi.
- The specimens were found clinging to ***Ceratophyllum demersum***, an **invasive freshwater plant**, and other gastropod species such as *Indoplanorbis exustus* and *Racesina luteola*.
- ***Ceratophyllum demersum*** is used as a **decorative plant in aquariums**.



## ❑ Physella acuta

- Native to North America: First described by J.P.R. Draparnaud in 1805, *Physella acuta* is considered native to North America but is now found in all continents except Antarctica.
- The snail was first reported in India in the early 1990s.
- It is believed to have reached Kerala through the aquarium trade, a major vector for invasive species.
- Edappally canal: the snail had made its home in a highly polluted reach plagued by high sedimentation, untreated sewage, commercial effluents, construction wastes and a thick growth of invasive aquatic weeds.
- Characteristics: Small in size, the snail can grow to 16 mm in height and 9 mm in width. The dead, vacant shell is brownish-yellow while that of the live individuals are translucent golden-yellow with a mottled appearance.

(ITES)

## Issues

- **Threat to global biodiversity**: The study also draws attention to the threat posed by invasive species to global biodiversity; how their ability to quickly dominate new environments endangers native species, even causing serious economic loss.
- **Dominating a region**: They disrupt by dominating a region and disrupting the natural equilibrium.
- **An alteration in the genetic pool**: is a major threat by the invasive species.

## ❑ What are Invasive species

- Invasive species or invasive exotics are the non-native or **non-indigenous plants and animals** **that** affect the habitats and bioregions they invade economically, environmentally and ecologically.



# North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS)

- Till end-October 2021, a total of 391 new industrial units with a proposed total investment of Rs.2,631.19 crore have been granted registration under North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS).

Ministry of Development of North-East Region

Make-In-North-East Initiative

Posted On: 06 DEC 2021 3:43PM by PIB Delhi

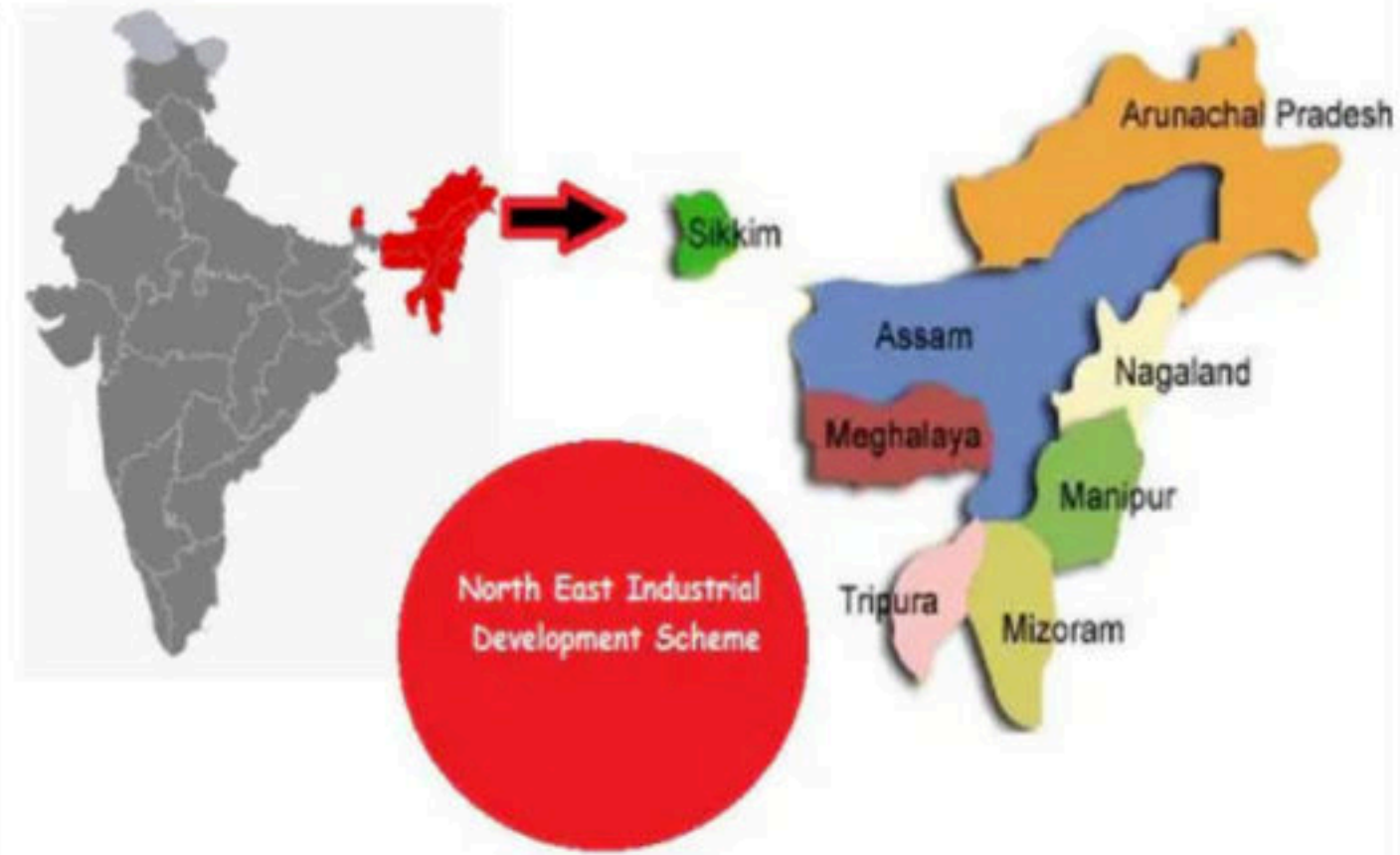
Under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, a dedicated Northeast Desk has been set up within Invest India, which supports the North East States

## ❑ About North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS)

- It has come into force with effect from 01.04.2017 for a **period of five years.**
- It covers eligible industrial units in the manufacturing and service sectors of **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim** to promote industrialization and boost employment and income generation.

## ❑ Various benefits provided under the scheme include:

- **Central Capital Investment Incentive** (30% of the investment in plant & machinery with an upper limit of Rs. 5 crores).
- **Central Interest Incentive** (3% interest on working capital for 5 years)
- **Central Comprehensive Insurance Incentive** (Reimbursement of 100% insurance premium for 5 years).



## Income Tax Reimbursement of centre's share for 5 years

- GST reimbursement of Central Govt. share of CGST & IGST for 5 years
- Employment Incentive under which additional 3.67% of the employer's contribution to EPF in addition to Govt. bearing 8.33% Employee Pension Scheme (EPS) contribution of the employer in PMRPY
- Transport incentive on finished goods movement by Railways(20% cost of the transportation), by Inland Waterways Authority (20% of the cost of transportation) & by air (33% of cost transportation of air freight) from the station/port/airport nearest to unit to the station/port/airport nearest to the destination point.

# Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana

- More than 1.2 crores benefited under Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana.

Ministry of Labour & Employment

More than 1.2 crore benefited under Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana

Posted On: 06 DEC 2021 7:56PM by PIB Delhi

## ❑ The Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY)

- The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- It has been designed to incentivise employers for the generation of new employment.
- Under the scheme, the Government of India is paying the Employer's contribution i.e. 12% for a period of three years to the new employees earning wages less than or equal to Rs. 15,000/- through EPFO.

By Sumit Konde



The banner features a collage of people at the top. Below it, the text reads 'Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana' in green, followed by 'APPLY ONLINE' in a green box. To the right is the Indian national emblem and the text 'प्रधानमंत्री रोज़गार प्रोत्साहन योजना Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana'. A central image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is shown with the text 'Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana' and 'ENSURING FINANCIAL SECURITY TO WORKERS EARNING LOWER WAGES'. Below this, a diagram shows 'Beneficiaries' branching into 'Employees Around 98.38 Lakh' and 'Establishments Over 1.21 Lakh'. At the bottom, it says 'Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana Online Application' with a 'POLICE results' logo and the website 'www.pmrpy.gov.in'.

➤ The beneficiaries **registered up to 31st March 2019** will continue to receive the benefit for 3 years from the date of registration under the scheme i.e. up to 31st March 2022.

### **□ Benefits:**

- The employer is **incentivised for increasing the employment base of workers in the establishment.**
- **A large number of workers will** find jobs in such establishments.
- A direct benefit is that these workers will have access to social security benefits of the organized sector
- It **brings informal workers to the formal workforce.**

## □ Features:

- Assured **Pension of Rs. 3000/-** month after attaining the age of 60 years. After the death of a subscriber, the spouse will get 50% of the pension as a family pension.
- Matching Contribution by **the Government of India.**
- **In case of permanent disability**, subscribers can continue or exit with the contributed amount.
- After the death of the subscriber and **his or her spouse, the corpus shall be credited back to the fund.**
- **In case the contribution has not been made** continuously, the subscriber is allowed to regularise it after payment of outstanding dues, penalty charges, if any, decided by the government.

# PANEX-21

➤ A Curtain Raiser Event for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise, PANEX-21, for the member nations of BIMSTEC countries, was held in New Delhi recently.

➤ The exercise is planned to be conducted from 20-22 December 2021 at Pune.

➤ It will witness participation from subject matter experts and delegates from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

## Pune to host multi-agency exercise for BIMSTEC nations from December 20 to 22

The exercise will witness participation from subject matter experts and delegates from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

By: Express News Service | Pune |  
Updated: December 8, 2021 6:51:30 am



ADVERTISEMENT

➤ The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

➤ It is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the areas of the Bay of Bengal.

➤ This organization came into being in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.

➤ Member States: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.

9:00pm ✓



Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical & Economic Cooperation



Bangladesh



Sri Lanka



India



Nepal



Bhutan



Thailand



Myanmar

BIM

5:30 pm