



# YOJNA IAS

## WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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**8/05/2022 TO 14/05/2022**

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## MAY 2022



### Venus Mission



#### Venus Mission – Today Current Affairs

- Recently the new chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has announced that the Venus mission will be launched by December 2024.
- The objective of this mission is to study the sulfuric acid clouds present in the atmosphere of Venus, which are toxic and corrosive in nature.
- Earlier, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced two new robotic missions to Venus (DaVinci Plus and Veritas).

## Today Current Affairs

### Major Objectives of the Mission:

- To investigate surface process and shallow sub-surface stratigraphy.
- No prior observations of the subsurface of Venus have been made so far.
- Stratigraphy is a branch of geology that studies the formation of layers and layers of rocks.
- To study the composition, composition and dynamics of the atmosphere.
- To investigate the interaction of the solar wind with the Venusian ionosphere.

### Importance of Mission : The Hindu Analysis

- The mission will help to know how Earth-like planets move and what conditions exist on Earth-sized exoplanets (planets orbiting a star other than our Sun).
- It will help in modeling the Earth's climate and act as a warning about how dramatically a planet's climate can change.

### Mission Challenges : The Hindu Analysis

- Venus presents different challenges than Mars, given its dense atmosphere and surface activity, which makes it a complex planet.
- To understand deeply the instruments need to be carried deep through the atmosphere.
- Among the instruments the space agency plans to use on the spacecraft is a high resolution Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) that will probe the surface of Venus despite the clouds (which reduce visibility) around the planet.
- It refers to a technique for producing high-resolution images. Because of the accuracy the radar can penetrate clouds and darkness, which means it can collect data day and night in any weather.

### Prior Missions : The Hindu Analysis

#### America:

- Mariner series 1962–1974, Pioneer Venus 1 in 1978 and Pioneer Venus 2, Magellan in 1989.

#### Russia:

- Venera series of spacecraft 1967–1983, Vegas 1 and 2 in 1985.

#### Japan:

- Akatsuki in the year 2015.

## Europe:

- Venus Express in the year 2005.

## Venus Planet : The Hindu Analysis

- It is named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty. It is the second largest planet in terms of distance from the Sun and the sixth largest in mass and size.
- It is the second-brightest natural object in the night sky after the Moon, which is probably why it was the first planet known for its motion in the sky in the second millennium BC.
- Unlike the other planets in our solar system, Venus and Uranus rotate on their axis clockwise.
- It is the hottest planet in the solar system due to its high concentration of carbon dioxide which produces an intense greenhouse effect. Today Current Affairs
- A day on Venus is longer than a year on Earth. Venus takes longer to rotate on its axis than it does to complete one orbit around the Sun.
- That is, the longest rotation of any planet in the Solar System with one rotation in 243 Earth days.
- Only 224.7 Earth days to complete one orbit around the Sun. The Hindu Analysis
- Venus has been called Earth's twin sister because of its similarity in mass, size and density and its relative locations in the Solar System.
- No planet gets closer to Earth than Venus; at its closest level, it is the nearest largest body to Earth other than the Moon.
- The atmospheric pressure of Venus is 90 times greater than that of Earth.

Swadeep Kumar

# Coir industry



## Coir industry – Today Current Affairs

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises inaugurated the ‘Enterprise India National Coir Conclave 2022’ in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- The event is being organized as a coordinated effort between the State and Central Governments to promote the production of coir and coir products and identify new areas of their application.
- ‘Run for Coir’ is also being organized on 6th May, 2022 to promote the use of coir as a naturally degradable, eco-friendly product. Over a thousand people are expected to participate in the race including dignitaries, college students and the general public.

## Today Current Affairs

### Coir:

- It is a substance abundantly produced by the ‘coconut palm’ found in nature as a byproduct of coconut.
- It is a naturally occurring fibrous material found on the outside of the coconut shell that is processed for use naturally.
- Coir has been used for centuries by sailors for tying goods in the form of rope and for ship cables.
- Today coir is used for an assortment of products, from rugs and doormats to plant pots and hanging basket liners, horticultural materials used in agriculture, and mesh sheets used to control soil erosion. Coir is also used in some potting mix products.

## Status of Coir Industry in India : The Hindu Analysis

- The Coir Board was established by the Government of India under the Coir Industries

Act, 1953 for the overall sustainable development of the coir industry in the country.

- The functions of the Board are to undertake, assist and encourage scientific, technical and economic research, modernization, quality improvement, human resource development, market promotion and welfare of all those engaged in this industry. The Hindu Analysis
- The mandates under the Coir Industries Act are implemented by the Coir Board through various schemes/programmes, including research and development activities, training programmes, providing financial assistance for setting up coir units, developing domestic and export markets.

### **Importance:**

#### **Employment : The Hindu Analysis**

- Coir industry provides employment to more than 7 lakh people in rural areas of coconut producing states.
- Interestingly, 80% of these artisans are women, but its production so far is confined to the southern coconut producing states/UTs of the country.

#### **Export : The Hindu Analysis**

- Exports of coir and coir products from India during the year 2020-21 registered an all-time high of Rs 3778.98 crore with an increase of over Rs 1021 crore over the previous year.

#### **Domestic consumption : The Hindu Analysis**

- More than 50% of the world's annual production of coir fiber is consumed mainly in India.
- Increasing awareness towards eco-friendly products has increased the demand for coir and coir products in domestic and foreign markets.

#### **Environmentally friendly : The Hindu Analysis**

- Coir products are eco-friendly in nature and have been certified with “Eco Mark” by the Ministry of Forest and Environment, India.
- Coir products save the environment and help reduce global warming.
- New end use applications of coir such as use of coir geotextiles to prevent soil erosion, conversion of coir pith into a valuable bio-fertilizer and soil conditioner and coir garden products have gained popularity in India and abroad.

**Swadeep Kumar**

# Assam Cattle Protection (Amendment) Act, 2021



## Assam Cattle Protection (Amendment) Act, 2021 – Today Current Affairs

- A recent cow protection law (Assam Cattle Protection (Amendment) Act, 2021) which was enacted by Assam a year ago has created an acute beef crisis in Meghalaya.
- It is important to note that the north-eastern states like Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland do not have any such law governing the slaughter of cattle.

## Today Current Affairs

### Salient features

- This act prohibits the slaughter of cows.
- It allows the slaughter of other cattle (bulls, bulls and buffaloes) if the cattle are more than 14 years of age or have become permanently disabled due to injury or deformity.
- The Hindu Analysis
- It also prohibits inter-state and inter-state transport of cattle and sale of beef, except in permitted places.
- The concerned authority can inspect and confiscate cattle and vehicles used for offenses under the Act.
- On conviction, the seized cattle and vehicles will be handed over to the state government.

### Major challenges : The Hindu Analysis

- The Act unreasonably limits the transport of cattle in the North-Eastern region of India due to restrictions on transport through Assam.
- The Act prohibits animal transport from Assam to states where animal slaughter is not regulated.

- It may be difficult for the accused to pay the cost of maintenance of the confiscated cattle during the trial.
- The ban on the places where beef can be sold may actually be similar and much broader than the ban on the sale of beef across the state.

### **Why ban on cow slaughter? Today Current Affairs**

- The Directive Principles of State Policy under the Constitution (Article 48) provide that the State shall endeavor to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines, shall take steps to improve the breeds and the slaughter of cows, calves and other milch animals. Will ban and prepare animal draft.
- In this sequence, more than 20 states have passed laws limiting the slaughter of cattle (cows, bulls and bullocks) and buffaloes to different levels.

### **Judiciary's opinion : The Hindu Analysis**

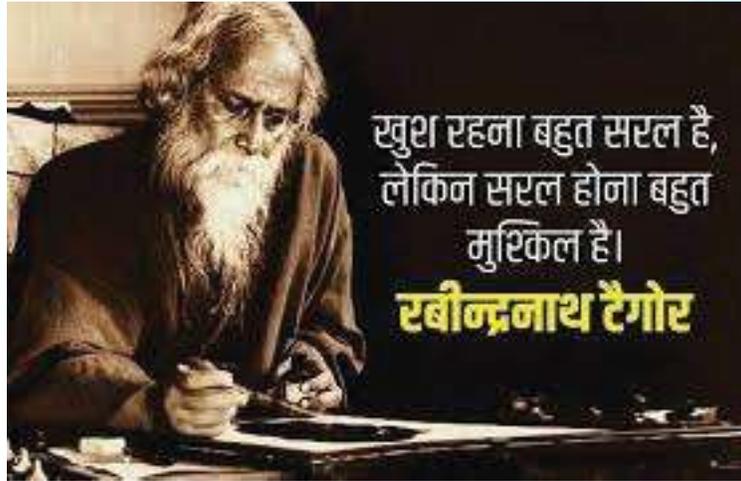
- The extent of prohibition under these state laws over time has been guided by Supreme Court decisions.
- Earlier laws of states like Madhya Pradesh (1949), Bihar (1955) and Uttar Pradesh (1955) had completely banned the slaughter of cattle.
- Examining these three laws in the year 1958, the Supreme Court held that the complete ban on the slaughter of cattle violates the fundamental right of the butcher to practice his trade or profession.
- It was recognized that while a complete ban on the slaughter of cows was constitutionally valid, the ban on the slaughter of bulls, bullocks and buffaloes could be limited only to a certain extent, or based on their usefulness (milk, for breeding). The Hindu Analysis
- In 1994, Gujarat passed an amended law to ban the slaughter of bulls and bullocks of all ages.
- In 2005, a seven-judge Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court upheld the complete ban on the slaughter of bulls and bullocks under the Gujarat Amendment Act, contrary to the earlier judgments of the courts.
- In recent years, states such as Chhattisgarh (2004), Madhya Pradesh (2004), Maharashtra (2015), Haryana (2015) and Karnataka (2021) have also banned the slaughter of bulls and bullocks of all ages.

### **Initiatives for Cow Protection : The Hindu Analysis**

- Rashtriya Gokul Mission
- Gokul Gram
- Animal lifesaving
- National Bovine Productivity Mission

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# Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti



## Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti – Today Current Affairs

- Prime Minister paid tributes to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on his birth anniversary on May 9, 2022.
- According to the Bengali calendar, Tagore Jayanti is celebrated on the 25th day of the month of Boishakh.

## Today Current Affairs

### Introduction:

- He was born on May 7, 1861 in Calcutta.
- He is also known as 'Gurudev', 'Kabiguru' and 'Biswakabi'.
- WB Yeats was called by Rabindranath Tagore Yeats (W.B Yeats) as an outstanding and creative artist of modern India. He was a Bengali poet, novelist and painter who introduced Indian culture to the West in a very impressive manner. The Hindu Analysis
- He was an extraordinary and famous litterateur who significantly influenced literature and music.
- He was a good friend of Mahatma Gandhi and it is believed that he gave Mahatma Gandhi the title of 'Mahatma'. Today Current Affairs
- He always emphasized that unity in diversity is the only possible way of national integration of India.
- In the year 1929 and in the year 1937, he gave a speech in the World Parliament for Religions.
- He died on 7 August 1941 in Calcutta.

### **Contribution : The Hindu Analysis**

- He is believed to have composed more than 2000 songs and his songs and music are called 'Rabindra Sangeet'.
- He is considered responsible for the modernization of Bengali prose and poetry.
- His notable works include Gitanjali, Ghare-Bair, Gora, Mansi, Balka, Sonar Tori etc. He is also remembered for his song 'Ekla Chalo Re'.
- He published his first poems under the name 'Bhanusimha' at the age of 16. The Hindu Analysis
- He not only composed the national anthems for India and Bangladesh but also inspired a Sri Lankan student to pen and compose the national anthem of Sri Lanka.
- Apart from his literary achievements, he was also a philosopher and educationist who founded the Visva-Bharati University in the year 1921 which challenged traditional education.

### **Prize : The Hindu Analysis**

- Rabindranath Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in the year 1913 for his poetic composition Gitanjali.
- He was the first non-European to win this award.
- In the year 1915, he was awarded the title of Knighthood by the British King George V. He renounced the title of knighthood after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in the year 1919.

### **Quote by him : The Hindu Analysis**

- "You cannot cross the sea just by standing and looking at the sea."
- "Do not limit a child to his education, because he was born at some other time."
- "I have become my version of an optimist. If I can't make it through one door, I'll go through another—or I'll build a door. No matter how bleak the present may be, something great will come."
- "Facts are many, but truth is one."

**Swadeep Kumar**

# Cyclone Asani



## Cyclone Asani – Today Current Affairs

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted Cyclone Asani to intensify into a ‘severe cyclone’ over southeast Bay of Bengal areas.
- Cyclone Asani has been named by Sri Lanka. It means ‘anger’ in Sinhala.
- Cyclones to hit India in 2020-21 were: Taukate, Yas, Nisarga, Amphan.

## Today Current Affairs

### Occurrence of cyclone in India:

- India has a biennial cyclone season which is from March to May and October to December but on rare occasions cyclones occur in the months of June and September as well.
- Cyclone Gulab became the third cyclone of the 21st century to reach the East Coast in September, after Tropical Cyclone ‘DAYE’ in 2018 and Cyclone ‘Pyaar’ of 2005. The Hindu Analysis
- Generally, tropical cyclones develop during the pre-monsoon (April to June) and post-monsoon (October to December) periods in the north Indian Ocean region (Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea).
- The months of May-June and October-November are known to generate severe severe cyclones that affect the Indian coast.

### Classification : The Hindu Analysis

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) classifies cyclones on the basis of their maximum sustained surface wind speed (MSW).
- Cyclones are classified as Severe (MSW of 48-63 nautical miles), Very Severe (MSW of 64-89 nautical miles), Very Severe (MSW of 90-119 NM) and Super Cyclonic Storms

(MSW of 120 nautical miles). One knot is 1.8 km equals per hour.

### **Tropical cyclone : The Hindu Analysis**

- A tropical cyclone is a strong circular storm that originates in warm tropical oceans and is characterized by low atmospheric pressure, high winds and heavy rain.
- Typical characteristics of tropical cyclones are an area of clear skies, warm temperatures and low atmospheric pressure in the eye or center of a cyclone. The Hindu Analysis
- Such storms are called hurricanes in the North Atlantic and East Pacific, and typhoons in Southeast Asia and China. They are called Tropical Cyclones in the southwest Pacific and Indian Ocean region and Willy-Willies in northwestern Australia.
- The movement of these storms or cyclones is counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere, that is, counter-clockwise and in the Southern Hemisphere, clockwise.

### **The following are favorable conditions for the formation and intensification of tropical storms:**

- A large sea surface with temperatures exceeding 27 °C.
- Presence of the Coriolis force.
- Small variation in vertical/wind speed.
- Pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level cyclone circulation.
- Divergence above sea level system

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# Monkey pox



## Monkey pox – Today Current Affairs

- Recently health officials in the United Kingdom have confirmed a case of 'monkeypox', a rare viral infection similar to smallpox, in a person who had recently traveled to Nigeria.
- Monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (virus transmitted from animals to humans) with symptoms similar to those seen in the past in patients with smallpox, although it is less clinically severe.
- It has emerged as the most important orthopoxvirus with the eradication of smallpox in the year 1980 and later the end of smallpox vaccination.
- The 'Genus Orthopoxvirus' has four species that infect humans: Variola (smallpox), monkeypox, vaccinia (Buffalo pox) and cow pox.

## Today Current Affairs

### Monkeypox:

- It is a viral zoonotic disease (a disease transmitted from animals to humans) and is recognized as a disease similar to smallpox in monkeys, hence the name monkeypox. It is an endemic disease of Nigeria.
- Animals identified as sources of monkeypox virus include monkeys and apes, a variety of rodents (including rats, squirrels and prairie dogs) and rabbits.
- The disease is caused by the monkeypox virus, which is a member of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the Poxviridae family.

### **Background : The Hindu Analysis**

- Infection of monkeypox was first discovered in 1958 after two outbreaks of smallpox-like disease in the colonies of monkeys kept for research, which was named 'monkeypox'.

### **Symptom : The Hindu Analysis**

- A chickenpox-like rash develops in infected people, but the fever, malaise, and headache caused by monkeypox are usually more severe than those caused by chickenpox.
- Monkeypox can be distinguished from chickenpox in the early stages of the disease because it has an enlarged lymph gland.

### **Transmission : The Hindu Analysis**

- Monkeypox virus is mostly transmitted between people from wild animals such as rodents and primates, but human-to-human transmission also occurs.

### **Human to Human Transmission : The Hindu Analysis**

- The first case of human transmission was reported in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) during a vigorous effort to eradicate smallpox.
- Human-to-human transmission can be caused by infected respiratory tract secretions, skin wounds of an infected person, or fluids secreted from the patient or wound, and by close contact with contaminated objects.

### **Healing Period : The Hindu Analysis**

- Healing Period : The Hindu Analysis.

### **Death rate : The Hindu Analysis**

- It spreads rapidly and can cause the death of one in ten people if infected. Most deaths occur in the younger age group.

### **The treatment : The Hindu Analysis**

- The clinical presentation of monkeypox is similar to that of an orthopoxvirus infection related to smallpox, which was declared worldwide in 1980.
- The vaccinia vaccine used during the smallpox eradication program is also a protective treatment against monkeypox.
- A new third generation vaccinia vaccine has now been approved for the prevention of smallpox and monkeypox, and antiviral agents are also being developed.

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# PMJJBY, PMSBY & APY Scheme

The infographic compares three government insurance schemes:

- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):** Annual premium of ₹330 for a sum insured of ₹2 lakh. It covers death and disability due to natural causes.
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):** Annual premium of ₹12 for a sum insured of ₹2 lakh. It covers death and disability due to accidents.
- Atal Pension Yojana (APY):** A pension scheme for old age, with a minimum investment of ₹500 per month and a maximum of ₹1,500. It offers a pension of ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 per month at retirement.

## PMJJBY, PMSBY & APY Scheme – Today Current Affairs

- In order to financially secure the people of the unorganized section of the country, the government started two insurance schemes – PMJJBY and PMSBY and to meet the needs of old age, the government started APY.
- These schemes were inaugurated in May 2015 by the Prime Minister in Kolkata city of West Bengal.

## Today Current Affairs

### Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana:

#### Plan:

- It is a one year accident insurance plan which is renewed every year and provides insurance coverage for death or disability due to accident.

#### Qualification : The Hindu Analysis

- This scheme is for those people in the age group of 18 to 70 years, who have an account with any bank from which premium is charged through auto debit facility.

#### Benefit : The Hindu Analysis

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, an accidental insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh is provided at an annual premium of Rs 12 and the sum insured is paid in case of accidental death.

#### Achievements : The Hindu Analysis

- At present more than 28.37 crore enrollments have been done under this scheme and a total amount of 1,930 crore has been paid for 97,227 claims.

## **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana:**

### **Plan : The Hindu Analysis**

- It is a one year life insurance plan which is renewed every year and provides insurance coverage against death due to any reason.

### **Qualification : The Hindu Analysis**

- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana is available to those people in the age group of 18 to 50 years who have a bank account from which premium can be collected through auto debit facility.

### **Benefit : The Hindu Analysis**

- Under this scheme, on paying premium of Rs 330 per annum (less than Re 1 per day), life insurance of Rs 2 lakh is available. In this plan, along with accident, the sum insured is also available on normal death.

### **Achievements : The Hindu Analysis**

- The cumulative enrollment under this scheme is more than 12.76 crores and an amount of Rs 11,522 crores has been paid for 5,76,121 claims.

## **Atal Pension Yojana:**

### **Background : The Hindu Analysis**

- The scheme was launched in May 2015 with the aim of creating a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor, the underprivileged and workers in the unorganized sector.
- It is an initiative of the government to provide financial security to the people of the unorganized sector and to cover the future needs.

### **Administered : The Hindu Analysis**

- The scheme is administered by 'Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority' through NPS.

### **Eligibility : The Hindu Analysis**

- Any citizen of India aged between 18-40 years can join this scheme. In this plan, the contribution amount of the late joiner is high and the contribution amount of the early joiner is less.

### **Benefit : The Hindu Analysis**

- It provides a minimum guaranteed pension of Rs.1000 to Rs.5000 to the subscribers on

attaining the age of 60 years as per their contribution.

### **Contribution by Central Government : The Hindu Analysis**

- The minimum pension shall be guaranteed by the Government, i.e. if the accumulated fund based on contribution earns less than the estimated return on investment and is insufficient to provide minimum guaranteed pension, the Central Government shall fund such inadequacy.
- Alternatively, if the return on investment is high, the subscribers will get enhanced pension benefits.

### **Payment Frequency : The Hindu Analysis**

- Subscribers can contribute to Atal Pension Yojana on monthly/quarterly/half yearly basis.

### **Achievement : The Hindu Analysis**

- So far more than 4 crore persons have subscribed to this scheme.

### **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA):**

- It is a statutory authority established by an Act of Parliament to regulate, promote and ensure the orderly development of the National Pension System (NPS).
- It works under the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

### **Importance of Schemes : The Hindu Analysis**

- These three social security schemes are dedicated for the welfare of the citizens which provide protection to human life from unforeseen risks/losses and financial uncertainties.
- PMJJBY and PMSBY provide people with access to low cost life/accident insurance cover, while APY provides an opportunity to get regular pension in old age by boosting existing savings.
- The number of people benefited and enrolled in these schemes for the last seven years is a proof of its success.
- These low cost insurance plans and guaranteed pension plans ensure that the financial security which was earlier available to a select few, now reaches the last man in the society.

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## MPLAD Scheme



### MPLAD Scheme – Today Current Affairs

- Recently, the Ministry of Finance has amended the rules of the MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), where the interest received will be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Till now the interest received on this fund was added to the MPLADS account and could be used for development projects.

### Today Current Affairs

#### Consolidated Fund of India:

- According to Article 266(1) of the Constitution, all revenues received by the government, such as customs duty, excise duty, income tax, estate duty, other taxes and duties and money received from the collection of loans given by the government, all of them are deposited in the Consolidated Fund.
- Similarly all loans taken by the government through public notification, treasury bills (internal debt) and foreign governments and international institutions (external debt) are deposited in this fund.
- All Government expenditure is met from this fund (except for extraordinary items which relate to Public Account Fund or Public Fund) and no amount can be withdrawn from the Fund without the authorization of Parliament.

#### MPLAD Scheme : The Hindu Analysis

- MPLAD is a central sector scheme which was announced in December 1993.

#### Objective : The Hindu Analysis

- Enabling MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on creation

of durable community assets, mainly in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads etc. in their constituencies. The Hindu Analysis

- Since June 2016, MPLAD funds have been used in the implementation of schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, water conservation through rainwater harvesting and Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana etc.

### **Execution : The Hindu Analysis**

- The process of MPLADS begins with members of parliament recommending works to the nodal district authority.
- The concerned Nodal District is responsible for implementing the works recommended by the Members of Parliament and details of the works executed and the amount spent under the scheme.

### **Working Method : The Hindu Analysis**

- Under MPLADS, an amount of Rs 5 crore is disbursed to the Members of Parliament (MPs) in two installments of Rs 2.5 crore every year. The amount allocated under MPLADS is non-lapsable.
- Lok Sabha MPs are recommended to spend this amount in District Authority Projects in their Lok Sabha constituencies, while this amount is used by Rajya Sabha Parliaments in the territory from which they are elected.
- Nominated members of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend business anywhere in the country.

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# Gopal Krishna Gokhale



## Gopal Krishna Gokhale – Today Current Affairs

- Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his birth anniversary.
- Gopal Krishna Gokhale was a great social reformer and educationist who provided exemplary leadership to the freedom movement of India.

## Today Current Affairs

### Gopal Krishna Gokhale:

#### Birth:

- He was born on May 9, 1866 in Kotluk village in present-day Maharashtra (then part of Bombay Presidency).

#### Thinking : The Hindu Analysis

- Gokhale worked towards social empowerment, expansion of education and Indian freedom struggle for three decades and rejected the use of reactionary or revolutionary methods.

#### Role in Colonial Legislatures : The Hindu Analysis

- Between 1899 and 1902 he was a member of the Bombay Legislative Council and from 1902 to 1915 he served in the Imperial Legislative Council.
- While serving in the Imperial Legislative Council, Gokhale was instrumental in formulating the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909.

### **Role in Indian National Congress : The Hindu Analysis**

- He was associated with the Moderate Party of the Indian National Congress (INC) (joined in the year 1889).
- He became the President of INC in 1905 Banaras session.
- This was the time when wide differences arose between the 'Normal Dal' and the 'Garam Dal' led by Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and others. In the Surat session of 1907, these two factions separated.
- Despite ideological differences, in the year 1907, he campaigned for the release of Lala Lajpat Rai, who was imprisoned by the British in Mandalay jail in Myanmar.

### **Related Societies and other functions : The Hindu Analysis**

- For the expansion of Indian education, in the year 1905, he established the Servants of India Society.
- He was also associated with 'Sarvajanic Sabha Patrika' started by Mahadev Govind Ranade.
- In the year 1908, Gokhale established the Ranade Institute of Economics.
- He started the English weekly newspaper 'The Hitavad'.

### **As Gandhi's Guru : The Hindu Analysis**

- As a liberal nationalist, Mahatma Gandhi considered him a political mentor.
- Mahatma Gandhi wrote a book 'Dharmatma Gokhale' in Gujarati language dedicated to Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

In this article we mention all information about Gopal Krishna Gokhale Today Current Affairs.

Swadeep Kumar

# AIM-prime playbook



## AIM-prime playbook – Today Current Affairs

- Recently M-Prime (Program for Researchers in Innovation, Market Readiness and Entrepreneurship-AIM-Prime) playbook has been launched by NITI Aayog.
- The AIM-PRIME Playbook aims to market early stage science-based, intensive technology ideas through training and guidance over a 12-month period using a blended learning curriculum.

## Today Current Affairs

### About Atal Innovation Mission:

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a major initiative taken by the Government of India to promote the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

### Objective : The Hindu Analysis

- Developing new programs and policies to promote innovation in various sectors of the economy, providing forums and collaboration opportunities for various stakeholders, creating awareness and creating an umbrella structure to oversee the innovation ecosystem of the country

### Major Initiatives : The Hindu Analysis

- Atal Tinkering Labs: Developing a problem solving mindset in Indian schools.
- Atal Incubation Centre: Promote startups globally and add a new dimension to the incubator model.
- Atal New India Challenge: To promote product innovations and tailor them to the needs of different sectors/ministries. The Hindu Analysis
- Mentor India Campaign: It is a national mentor network launched in collaboration with

public sector, corporates and institutions to support all the initiatives of the mission.

- Atal Community Innovation Centre: To encourage community centric innovation and ideas in unserved areas of the country including Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- Atal Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE): To encourage innovation and research in micro, small and medium enterprises.

### **AIM-Prime:**

#### **Objective : The Hindu Analysis**

- Promoting science based deep technology ideas in the market through training and guidance over a period of 12 months.
- Deep technology is based on tangible engineering innovation or scientific advances and discoveries. Deep tech is often distinguished by its profound enabling power, the variation it can create, and its ability to catalyze change.

#### **Target Area : The Hindu Analysis**

- Science-based, knowledge-intensive, deep technology entrepreneurship.

#### **Launching and Implementing Agency : The Hindu Analysis**

- AIM has collaborated with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to launch this nationwide program, which will be implemented by the Venture Centre, a non-profit technology business incubator supported by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Chemical Laboratory (NCL). Organized by CSIR-NCL).

#### **Beneficiary : The Hindu Analysis**

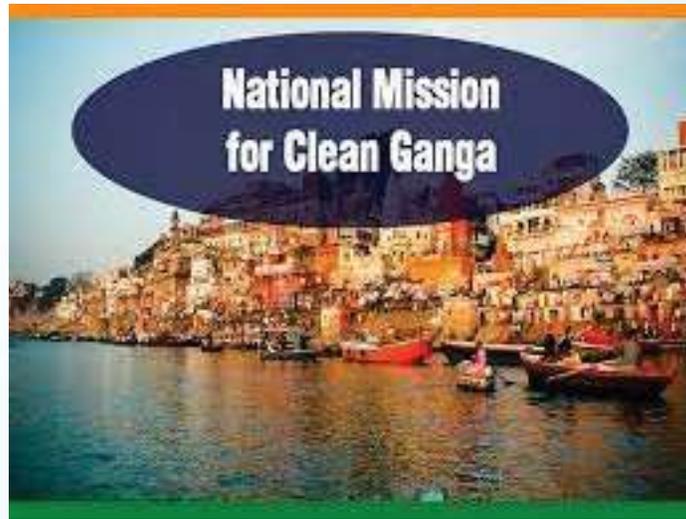
- Technology developers (early-stage deep tech startups and scientists/engineers/practitioners) with strong science-based deep tech business ideas.
- Chief Executive Officer and Senior Incubation Manager of AIM funded Atal Incubation Centers supporting deep tech entrepreneurs.

#### **Importance : The Hindu Analysis**

- Candidates selected for the program will have access to learning through an extensive lecture series, live team projects, exercises and project-specific mentoring.
- They will also have a deep tech startup playbook, curated video library and plenty of peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

Swadeep Kumar

# National Mission for Clean Ganga



## Today Current Affairs

- Sixth edition of monthly 'University Webinar' series on 'Igniting Young Minds, Rejuvenating Rivers' under National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
- The theme of this webinar was 'Waste Water Management'.

## National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) – Today Current Affairs

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga is implemented by the National Council for Rejuvenation, Conservation and Management of River Ganga which is also known as 'National Ganga Council'.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) acts as the implementing arm of the National Ganga Council, which was registered as a society on August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

## Objective : The Hindu Analysis

- Mission includes retrofitting and promotion of existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and taking immediate short-term steps to prevent pollution at riverfront exit points to check sewage flows.
- Maintaining continuity of water flow without changes in natural weather changes.
- Enhance and maintain surface runoff and groundwater.
- To restore and maintain the natural flora of the area.
- To preserve and revive the aquatic biodiversity of the Ganges river basin as well as the coastal biodiversity.

- To allow public participation in the process of river conservation, rejuvenation and management.

### **Related Initiatives : The Hindu Analysis**

- **Namami Gange Programme:** The Namami Gange Program is an integrated conservation mission approved by the Central Government in June 2014 as a 'Flagship Programme' to fulfill the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of the National River Ganga.
- **Ganga Action Plan:** This was the first river action plan which was brought out by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1985. Its objective was to improve water quality through water logging, diversion and domestic sewage treatment, and to prevent toxic and industrial chemical wastes (from identified polluting units) from entering the river. The Hindu Analysis
- The National River Conservation Plan is an extension of the Ganga Action Plan. Its objective is to clean the river Ganga under Phase-2 of the Ganga Action Plan.
- **National River Ganga Basin Authority (NRGBA):** It was constituted by the Government of India in the year 2009 under Section-3 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- River Ganga was declared as the 'National River' of India in 2008.
- **Clean Ganga Fund:** It was formed in the year 2014 to clean the Ganga, set up waste treatment plants and conserve the biological diversity of the river. The Hindu Analysis
- **Bhuvan-Ganga Web App:** It ensures public participation in monitoring the pollution in river Ganga.
- **Ban on waste disposal:** In the year 2017, the National Green Tribunal banned the disposal of any kind of waste in the river Ganga.

### **Ganga River System : The Hindu Analysis**

- It originates from Gangotri Glacier near Gomukh (3,900 m) in Uttarakhand where it is known as Bhagirathi.
- Bhagirathi meets Alaknanda at Devprayag; thereafter it is known as Ganga.
- The Ganges enters Haridwar in the northern plains.
- The Ganges flows through Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The Hindu Analysis
- Yamuna and Son are the main tributaries of the right bank and the important tributaries of the left bank are Ramganga, Gomti, Ghaghara, Gandak, Kosi and Mahananda.
- Yamuna is the westernmost and longest tributary of Ganga and its source is Yamunotri Glacier.
- The Ganges drains into the Bay of Bengal near Sagar Island.

## Way ahead : The Hindu Analysis

- Monetization of sludge and treated water is one of the focus areas of the Namami Gange program under 'Arth Ganga', which means 'Bridge of Economics' or connecting people to the Ganges through a bridge of economy.
- Awareness generation and community-led efforts are needed in this work. Apart from the cultural and spiritual importance of the river Ganga, we should also pay attention to the economic benefits of the river.
- For a program like Namami Gange, it is necessary to bring social and practical change in the young generation and this can be brought only through proper dialogue.
- Targeted dissemination of information should be done to bring about the desired change. There is a need to make the generation aware about cleanliness and everything else will be fine automatically.

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## Shaurya Chakra: Gallantry Award



## Shaurya Chakra: Gallantry Award – Today Current Affairs

- Recently, the President honored 13 soldiers of the Indian Army with the country's third highest gallantry award, the Shaurya Chakra, at the Defense Decoration Ceremony (Phase-1), out of which 6 have been awarded posthumously.
- Along with this, the President also presented Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal for exceptional service.

## Today Current Affairs

### Gallantry Awards in India:

- After independence, the first three gallantry awards namely Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra were started by the Government of India on 26 January 1950, which were considered effective from 15 August 1947.
- After this the other three gallantry awards namely Ashoka Chakra Category-I, Ashoka Chakra Category-II and Ashoka Chakra Category-III were introduced by the Government of India on January 04, 1952, which were deemed to be effective from August 15, 1947.
- These awards were renamed as Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra respectively in January 1967.
- The order of priority of these awards is – Param Vir Chakra, Ashok Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Vir Chakra and Shaurya Chakra.

### Eligibility for Awards : The Hindu Analysis

- All officers of all ranks of the Army, Navy and Air Force or any Reserve Force, Territorial Army and any other armed force legally constituted are eligible for these awards.
- Matrons, nurses, employees of nursing services and other employees attached to hospitals and nursing services and civilians (both male and female) other than the above personnel who are under the orders, directions or supervision of any of the above forces, on regular or temporary basis are eligible for this award.

### Highest Wartime Gallantry Award : The Hindu Analysis

#### Param Vir Chakra:

- It is India's highest military decoration, given for displaying acts of unparalleled courage and exceptional valor during war (whether on land, at sea or in the air).

#### Mahavir Chakra:

- It is the second highest gallantry award given for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy on land, at sea or in the air.

#### Vir Chakra:

- It is the third highest wartime gallantry award in the country after Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra.

## Highest Peacetime Gallantry Award : The Hindu Analysis

### Ashoka Chakra:

- It is the highest military award given for gallantry, courageous action or sacrifice during peacetime.
- It is awarded in peace time for conspicuous bravery or any other act of courage or gallantry or self-sacrifice.

### Kirti Chakra:

- It is the second highest peacetime gallantry award and is given for courageous action or self-sacrifice in peace time.

### Shaurya Chakra:

- It is awarded to the personnel of the Armed Forces for exceptional gallantry.

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## National technology day



### National technology day – Today Current Affairs

- Prime Minister on National Technology Day (May 11) expressed “gratitude” to the scientists and their “efforts” whose efforts resulted in the ‘successful Pokhran test in the year 1998’.

## Today Current Affairs

### About National Technology Day:

- This day was first observed on May 11, 1999, its purpose is to commemorate the scientific and technological achievements of Indian scientists, engineers. The day was named by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- Every year the Technology Development Board of India (a statutory body under the Ministry of Science and Technology) celebrates this day by conferring national awards on individuals for their contribution to science and technology in India. The Hindu Analysis
- The focus of this year is 'Integrated Approach in Science & Technology for Sustainable Future'.

### Importance : The Hindu Analysis

- On this day, India successfully tested nuclear bombs in Pokhran on May 11, 1998.
- Nuclear missile was test fired at Indian Army's Pokhran test range in Rajasthan. This was the second test conducted after Operation Smiling Buddha of Pokhran-I in May 1974. The Hindu Analysis
- India successfully test-fired its Shakti-1 nuclear missile in an operation called Pokhran-II, known as Operation Shakti, which was led by the then President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
- On the same day India conducted successful test firing of Trishul missile (short range surface-to-air missile) and test-fired the first indigenous aircraft 'Hansa-3'.

YOJNA IAS

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# Collegium system

A JURY OF JUDGES		
<b>WHAT IS THE COLLEGIUM SYSTEM?</b>		<b>CRITICISMS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A forum which decides on appointments, transfers (A/Ts) of judges.</li><li>• Comprised of Chief Justice of India, 4 Supreme Court Judges</li><li>• President merely approves CJI's choice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Born from 'Three Judges Cases' which gave primacy to CJI's call on A/Ts</li><li>• Judiciary gets greater say than Executive on A/Ts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Administrative burden of checking professional background data</li><li>• Closed-door affair, lacks transparency</li><li>• Exclusivity sidelines talented junior judges, advocates</li></ul>
<b>SOME OF THE CHANGES SOUGHT:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CJI cannot make unilateral choice</li><li>• Consulted judges' views need to be in writing</li><li>• Non-compliance must make CJI choice non-binding</li><li>• Transfer of judges reviewable only in case of non-compliance</li></ul>		

## Collegium system – Today Current Affairs

- The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the appointment of five new Chief Justices in the High Courts.

## Collegium System and Its Development:

- It is a system of appointment and transfer of judges, which has evolved through decisions of the Supreme Court, not established by an Act of Parliament or a provision of the Constitution.

## Today Current Affairs

## Development of Collegium System:

### First Judge Case (1981):

- It stipulated that the “principle” of the suggestion of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) on judicial appointments and transfers can be rejected for “substantial reasons”.
- This decision has established the primacy of the executive over the judiciary in judicial appointments for the next 12 years.

### Second Judge Case (1993):

- The Supreme Court introduced the collegium system by clarifying that “consultation” actually means “consent”.
- In this case the Supreme Court further said that it would not be the personal opinion of the CJI, but an institutional opinion taken in consultation with the two senior most

judges of the Supreme Court.

### **Third Judge Case (1998):**

- Following a presidential reference issued by the President, the Supreme Court expanded the collegium as a five-member body consisting of the CJI and his four senior-most aides.

### **Head of Collegium System : The Hindu Analysis**

- The Supreme Court Collegium is presided over by the CJI and includes four other senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.
- The Collegium of a High Court is headed by its Chief Justice and four other senior-most judges of that Court.
- Names recommended for appointment by the High Court Collegium reach the Government only after the approval of the CJI and the Supreme Court Collegium.
- The judges of the higher judiciary are appointed through the collegium system and the role of the government in this process is only after the collegium is nominated.

### **Prescribed procedure for various judicial appointments : The Hindu Analysis**

#### **Chief Justice of India (CJI):**

- The CJI and other judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President of India.
- The outgoing CJI recommends the name of his successor with reference to the next CJI.
- However, since the infringement controversy of the 1970s, it is practically followed by seniority.

#### **Supreme Court Judges:**

- The proposal for selection of names for other judges of the Supreme Court is initiated by the CJI.
- The CJI consults with the rest of the members of the Collegium as well as the senior-most Judge of the High Court to which the person recommended for the post of Judge belongs.
- Consultants are required to submit their opinion in writing as per the prescribed procedure and it should be made part of the file.
- After this the collegium sends its recommendation to the Union Law Minister, through which it is sent to the Prime Minister to advise the President.

#### **For the Chief Justice of the High Court:**

- The Chief Justice of the High Court is appointed on the basis that the person to be appointed as the Chief Justice shall not be from the State concerned but from any other State.
- Although the decision of selection is taken by the collegium.

- Judges of the High Court are recommended by a collegium consisting of the CJI and two senior-most judges.
- However, the proposal for this is moved by the outgoing Chief Justice of the concerned High Court after consultation with his two senior most colleagues.
- This recommendation is sent to the Chief Minister, who advises the Governor to send this proposal to the Union Law Minister.

### **Criticism of Collegium System : The Hindu Analysis**

- Lack of clarity and transparency.
- Possibility of discrepancies like nepotism.
- Engaging in public disputes.
- Many talented junior judges and advocates overlooked.

### **Efforts to improve the recruitment system : The Hindu Analysis**

- An attempt by the 'National Judicial Appointments Commission' (via the 99th Amendment Act, 2014) to replace it was rejected by the Court in 2015 on the grounds that it was a threat to the independence of the judiciary.

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## **Rakhigarhi**



- The recent excavations of the Rakhigarhi site of the Harappan Civilization by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have unearthed the structure of some houses, streets and drainage system.

- Thousands of pottery and seals have also been found in the excavation of ASI, besides copper and gold ornaments, terracotta toys.
- The purpose of this excavation is to locate the structural remains of Rakhigarhi and preserve them for future and make the archaeological site of Rakhigarhi accessible to tourists.
- Apart from this, DNA samples of two human skeletons found in the excavation have been collected and sent for scientific examination, on the basis of the test report of these DNA samples, about the genealogy and food habits of the people living in Rakhigarhi area thousands of years ago can be detected in.

### **Rakhigarhi:**

- Rakhigarhi is the largest Harappan site in the Indian subcontinent.
- Other major sites of the Indus Valley Civilization (Harappan Civilization) in the Indian subcontinent are Harappa, Mohenjodaro and Ganveriwala in Pakistan and Dholavira (Gujarat) in India.
- Rakhigarhi is being excavated to trace the beginning of this civilization and to study its gradual development from 6000 BC (Pre-Harappan phase) to 2500 BC.
- The excavation work of this site was done under the leadership of Amarendra Nath of ASI.
- Rakhigarhi is one of the five iconic sites announced by the Union Finance Minister during the budget speech in the year 2020.
- Other such sites are Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh, Sivasagar in Assam, Dholavira in Gujarat and Adichanallur in Tamil Nadu.

### **Key findings of the site:**

#### **COLONY:**

- Archaeological excavations show that the mature Harappan phase was represented by a planned city system with mud-brick as well as baked-brick houses with proper drainage.

#### **Seals and pots:**

- A cylindrical seal, with five Harappan character figures on one side and a gharial on the other, is an important discovery from this site.
- The ceramic industry was represented by red pottery, which included simple saucers, vases, perforated jars.

#### **Rituals and Cremations:**

- Archaeological excavations have also yielded evidence of mud-brick on the earthen floor and triangular and circular fire-altars with pits dug for animal sacrifice, indicating the

ritual system of the Harappans.

- The excavation has also yielded some tombs, which certainly belong to a later phase, probably the medieval period.
- The excavation found two female skeletons buried with pottery and ornaments such as jasper, agate beads and shell bangles.

### **Other archaeological remains:**

- Blades, terracotta and shell bangles, semi-precious stone beads, copper objects, animal figurines, toy cart frame and terracotta wheel, engraved steatite seal and ceiling.

### **Study of DNA samples:**

- In a study done on DNA (DeoxyriboNucleic Acid) of skeletons excavated from the graveyard of Harappan site 'Rakhigarhi' in Haryana, it was found that the people of Indus Valley Civilization have an independent lineage.
- This study rejects the earlier hypothesis that the lineage of the Harappans was related to the steppe pastoralists or ancient Iranian farmers.

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## **Asian Election Authority**



- India has been unanimously elected as the new President of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for the year 2022-2024 in the recently held meeting of the

Executive Board and General Assembly in Manila, Philippines.

- The newly added members to the Executive Board include Russia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Taiwan and the Philippines.

### **AAEA:**

- It was established in pursuance of a resolution passed by the participants of the Symposium on Asian Elections in the 21st Century, held in Manila, Philippines in the year 1998 from 26-29 January 1997.
- There are currently 20 members of the AAEA, the Asian election monitoring body.
- The Election Commission of India is the founder and member of the 'Election Monitoring Body' of AAEA and also served as Vice President on the Executive Board of AAEA during 2011-13 and President during 2014-16.
- The AAEA is also an associate member of the 118-member Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)

### **Objective of AAEA:**

- To provide a non-partisan forum in the Asian region for sharing of experience and best practices among election officials.
- To discuss and act on ways to promote open and transparent elections with a view to supporting good governance and democracy.

### **India's role in AAEA:**

- India has regularly organized several international training programs for member countries at the International Institute for Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM).
- Since 2019, IIDEM has been instrumental in training over 250 officers from AAEA member countries.
- ECI has also organized International Election Visitors Program (IEVP) for member countries and International Virtual Election Visitors Program (IEVP), which was organized during the assembly elections in the year 2022.

### **Election Commission of India:**

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a constitutional body envisaged to uphold the values of equality, fairness, freedom enshrined in the Constitution of India and the rule of law under superintendence, direction and control over electoral governance.
- Part XV of the Indian Constitution deals with elections and provides for the establishment of the ECI.
- Articles 324 to 329 of the Constitution deal with the powers, functions, tenure, eligibility

etc. of the Commission and its members.

- The members of the ECI are appointed by the President of India on the basis of the recommendations of the Prime Minister.
- However, Article 324(2) provides that Parliament is empowered to make laws regarding the appointment of Election Commissioners (ECs).

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