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AFFAIRS BOOSTER FOR LAW EXAMS

# LawEx

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ISSUE - 38



## “APRAJITA” ANTI-RAPE BILL OF WEST BENGAL



A product by SmartKeeda



## About Magazine

“LawEx” is a carefully curated set of Current Events designed specifically for CLAT aspirants. To take you one step closer to realizing your dream, “LawEx” provides a fortnightly overview of the most significant current events related to politics, economics, science and technology, & sports with a wide range of infographics to ensure a smoother learning experience and enhanced retention of information.

## Editor's Note

In a move aimed at enhancing the safety of women and children, the West Bengal government has passed the ‘Aparajita Woman and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) Bill 2024.’ Namibia is planning to cull 723 wild animals, including dozens of elephants and hippopotamuses, to provide meat for its 1.4 million people who are reeling under the worst drought in a century. India achieved their most successful performance in Paralympic history. The Union Cabinet recently approved India’s first mission to Venus which the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) aims to launch in March 2028. The crew of the Polaris Dawn mission conducted the first-ever private spacewalk on September 12. To get more updated information, keep reading.

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## VAISHNAV BHATT

### Our Top Achiever

# AIR - 113th

## CLAT 2024

#### Q. Give us a brief intro about yourself, Vaishnav.

Ans. Hello, I'm Vaishnav and I secured AIR 113 in CLAT 2024. I completed my 10<sup>th</sup> standard in Delhi and have moved to Bangalore this year.

#### Q. When did you think about doing law?

Ans. I've had some very unpleasant experiences in life when I was staying in Delhi where my family and I had to suffer emotionally and financially and a major part of it was due to insufficient knowledge of the law and our rights. In this process I had to interact with some lawyers, and visit the court as well. These experiences made me want to pursue law as a profession as I found it interesting and also felt that having this knowledge would keep me safe and I would be able to help others as well who face similar situations due to insufficient knowledge.

#### Q. When did you seriously start preparing for CLAT?

Ans. I started my preparation in March 2023.

#### Q. What is the role of LawEx in your preparation?

Ans. LawEx helped me a lot with my preparation for CLAT. Their current affairs magazine and Maths YouTube videos are excellent and have been of great help. I also found their GK topic tests to be very useful.

#### Q. Do you think LawEx Lectures with sufficient reading and mock practice enough for CLAT?

Ans. I feel LawEx should increase the number of mock tests that they offer. Apart from this I think that they provide sufficient study material.

#### Q. What did you do for your subject-wise strategy?

Ans. My weak point was GK, so I gave it a bit more attention compared to the other subjects. For this I read The Hindu newspaper everyday for 1.5 hrs and focused on the editorial as that improved my vocabulary and helped improve my English as well. I allocated 4-5 hours for GK everyday. I gave 2 hours for legal reasoning. During this time I had not yet started giving mock tests. I watched LawEx's maths YouTube videos to improve my maths for around 30 minutes. A bulk of my preparation was focused on these 3 subjects. Apart from this I attempted around 60 mock tests, 20 of which were from LawEx and the rest I had to source from other test series.

#### Q. What was your highest and lowest score in mock tests?

Ans. My lowest score was 72 and my highest score was 96.25. On average my score was around 90 marks out of 120.

#### Q. How did you keep your confidence up when scoring low in mocks?

Ans. My performance in mocks was more or less pretty consistent throughout my preparation. So I did not face this issue.

#### Q. How to maintain mock scores?

Ans. In my opinion, analysing the mocks after attempting them is very important as it makes you understand what kind of mistakes you have made and helps you to improve upon them in the next mock. This will also make you understand your own weak points and which subject needs improvement. This will help you maintain and improve your score.

#### Q. How much GK is sufficient and how to revise it?

Ans. No amount of GK can be considered sufficient in my opinion. So I would suggest to find 2-3 sources which are of good quality like The Hindu newspaper and LawEx magazine which covers most of the topics which you need to know and for static GK you can purchase any book like A P Bharadwaj's Static GK book. I revised for GK by doing the topic tests multiple times.

#### Q. How many Mocks are sufficient for CLAT Preparation?

Ans. According to me at least 50 mock tests are required so that your speed along with accuracy improves and it doesn't make you feel anxious anymore as a calm mind will help you concentrate better and score more. Clat is a reading based exam and it can be quite draining especially in the last 30-35 minutes so practicing mocks is important here.

#### Q. What is your advice to CLAT Aspirants?

Ans. I would advise CLAT aspirants to give themselves at least one year for preparation and attempt 1-2 mock tests every week so that it doesn't drain you out. I made this mistake too by attempting around 60 mocks in 2 months. It is not feasible. CLAT is highly competitive and requires consistency and patience. As my English was at a decent level to begin with, I was somehow able to manage the stress. Also don't forget to take short breaks and have good sleep. Some books which I purchased for CLAT are A P Bharadwaj's Legal reasoning and A P Bharadwaj's static GK. Also practice 15-20 mocks on OMR printouts as well and try finishing your mocks in 115 minutes as this is the time you'll get in your actual examination. Best wishes to all of you.

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# **QUICK BOOSTERS**



## "APRAJITA" ANTI-RAPE BILL OF WEST BENGAL

### WHY IN NEWS?

- In a move aimed at enhancing the safety of women and children, the West Bengal government has passed the 'Aparajita Woman and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) Bill 2024.'
- The Bill comes into effect on September 5, 2024.
- This legislation was a direct response to the brutal rape and murder of a trainee doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, which has sparked nationwide protests and demands for stricter laws against sexual violence.

### Key Provisions

- The Bill proposes amendments to several national laws, including the recently passed Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012.
- The Bill proposes capital punishment for those convicted of rape if their actions result in the victim's death or leave her in a vegetative state.
- One of the most notable changes is the stipulation that investigations into rape cases must be concluded within 21 days of the initial report.
- This is a substantial reduction from the previous two-month deadline. Extensions are allowed, but only with written justification by a senior police officer.
- To ensure swift justice, the draft legislation mandates the establishment of special courts dedicated to handling cases of sexual violence.
- The Bill calls for the creation of a specialised task force named the 'Aparajita Task Force at the district level, headed by a deputy superintendent of police.
- This task force will focus on investigating cases of rape and other atrocities against women and children.
- The legislation proposes life imprisonment for repeat offenders, with the possibility of the death penalty if the circumstances warrant it.
- The Bill includes provisions to protect the identities of victims, ensuring their privacy and dignity during the legal process.
- It introduces penalties for police and health officials who fail to act promptly or tamper with evidence. This aims to hold authorities accountable for any negligence in the judicial process.
- The Bill imposes strict penalties for unauthorised publication of court proceedings related to sexual offences, with potential imprisonment of 3 to 5 years.

## WB legislation versus existing law

### Punishment for rape and murder

**WB Bill:** Death sentence if the victim dies or is left in a vegetative state

**Existing law:** Under BNS, if rape results in the victim's death or leaves her in a vegetative state, death penalty is only one of the punishments besides life term or minimum 20 years in jail

### Fast-track courts

**WB Bill:** Establishment of special courts for cases of sexual violence

**Existing law:** Under a centrally sponsored scheme, the department of justice provides funds to states for setting up fast track special courts for trial of cases relating to sexual offences

### Probe deadlines

**WB Bill:** Investigation must be concluded within 21 days of the initial report

**Existing law:** Under BNSS, investigation must be concluded within two months of the filing of FIR. For trial, it specifies framing of charge within 60 days from the first hearing and judgment within 30 days (maximum of 60 days) after arguments conclude

Junior doctors continue their protest in Kolkata.

SAMIR JANA/HT

### Disclosing victim's identity

**WB Bill:** Imprisonment of 3 to 5 years  
**Under BNS:** 2 years imprisonment and fine



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## NAMIBIA PLANS TO KILL WILD ANIMALS FOR MEAT

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Namibia is planning to cull 723 wild animals, including dozens of elephants and hippopotamuses, to provide meat for its 1.4 million people — nearly half the southern African nation's population — who are reeling under the worst drought in a century.

### Key Points

- A total 723 animals, including 30 hippopotamuses, 60 buffaloes, 50 impalas, 100 blue wildebeest, 300 zebras, 83 elephants, and 100 elands, a type of antelope, are on the kill list.
- More than 150 animals have been killed already, and the carcasses have yielded about 63 tonnes of meat.
- The government fears that the drought will force the animals to migrate in search of food and water, which could bring them into conflict with human populations.
- The country has a significant number of wild animals, including 24,000 elephants, one of the largest populations in the world.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism statement said it also hopes that culling of some animals would reduce the effect of the drought on wildlife.

### Drought in Namibia

- Namibia is located in drought-prone southern Africa, and frequently witnesses such events — it had declared national emergencies because of extreme droughts in 2013, 2016 and 2019.
- The drought began in Botswana in October 2023, spread and intensified across Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, and affects most of southern Africa today, according to a report by the European Commission.

- Namibia is acknowledged as the driest nation in sub-Saharan Africa. It ranks among the least densely populated countries globally.
- The Namib, the Kalahari, the Succulent Karoo, and the Nama Karoo deserts are located in Namibia.
- Zambezi, Okavango and Kunene are important rivers in Namibia.

- The situation is so bad mainly because of El Niño, a weather pattern associated with extreme heat and dry spells in many parts of the world and the ocean.
- An El Niño event returned after seven years in 2023, leading to above-average temperatures and minimal precipitation across the region.
- Severe soil moisture deficits and vegetation stress followed, resulting in drought.
- Also, numerous studies have found that with rising temperatures due to climate change, extreme weather events such as droughts and floods have become more frequent and intense.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- The Bihar government in September 2024 launched a drive to cull 'Ghodparas', popularly known as 'Nilgai' (blue bulls) and wild boars in five districts where these animals have been causing widespread damage to crops.

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## CONSTITUTION OF THE 23rd LAW COMMISSION

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Union government has notified the constitution of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Law Commission of India with effect from September 1.
  - The commission, which was notified on September 2, will have a three-year term from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2027.
  - The tenure of the previous Law Commission chaired by former Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi ended on August 31.

### What is the Law Commission?

- The Law Commission is a non-statutory commission (not created by a law of Parliament) formed by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice through a gazette notification to help the government review the functioning of laws, suggest repealing of obsolete legislation, and make recommendations on matters referred to it by the government.
- The commission is usually chaired by a retired judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court and has legal scholars as members.
  - Serving judges can also be appointed to the commission, according to the notification on the appointment of the new panel.
- The 22<sup>nd</sup> Law Commissions appointed since Independence have submitted a total of 289 reports to the government.
- The government is under no obligation to accept the reports; however, the commission's recommendations have over the decades led to the enactment of important legislation including the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC), and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act).
- The process of scrapping more than 1,500 obsolete central laws was taken up by the government after recommendations for their "immediate repeal" in reports submitted by the 20th Law Commission.

### Composition of the 23rd Law Commission

- The commission will have a full-time chairperson, four full-time members including a member-secretary, not more than five part-time members, and the secretaries of the Legal Affairs and Legislative departments as ex officio members.
- The chairperson and four full-time members can be serving SC or HC judges or "other category of persons", who can in theory be any expert chosen by the government.
  - The 22<sup>nd</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> commissions were headed by Justice Awasthi and former Supreme Court judge Justice BS Chauhan respectively.
- The chairperson and members of the 23rd Law Commission are yet to be named.
  - The decision will be taken by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister.
- A serving judge, if appointed to the commission, serves until retirement or expiry of the panel's term, whichever is earlier, and gets no additional remuneration apart from the usual judge's salary.

### Terms of Reference of the 23rd Law Commission

- Identify laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed.
- Develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for periodic reviews, including simplifying language and processes.
- Identify laws which are not in harmony with the economic needs of the times and require amendments.
- Examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and suggest reforms to align with the Directive Principles and Constitutional Preamble objectives.
- Examine laws affecting the poor and conduct post-enactment audits of socio-economic legislation.
- Examine the impact of globalisation on food security and unemployment.
- Recommend measures for the protection of the interests of the marginalised.
- Review and enhance the judicial administration to make it more responsive and efficient.
- Review existing laws to promote gender equality and suggest amendments.
- The goals include reducing delays, simplifying High Court rules, and establishing a case flow management framework.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

- The first Law Commission was constituted in 1834 as a result of the Charter Act of 1833.
- It was chaired by Lord Macaulay and advocated the codification of the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and a few other issues.
- The first four Law Commissions produced the Indian Code of Civil Procedure, the Indian Contract Act, the Indian Evidence Act, the Transfer of Property Act, and so on.
- After Independence, the first Law Commission was constituted in 1955, following the tradition of law commissioners bringing about legal improvements in the country.

# Evolution of the law

**Sedition is a cognisable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offence under Section 124A of Indian Penal Code**

## BEFORE INDEPENDENCE

**1870:** The section on sedition is introduced by the British to the IPC

The British rulers used the law to muzzle demands for freedom. For instance, Bal Gangadhar Tilak was the first person to be convicted of sedition in colonial India.

## AFTER INDEPENDENCE

**1948:** In discussions, Indian leaders agree to drop "sedition" from the Constitution

**1949:** "Sedition" is no longer part of the Indian Constitution adopted on November 26 this year. However, Section 124A remains in the IPC

**1951:** Nehru govt brings in first amendment under Article 19(1)(a), and puts in "reasonable restrictions" on the right to free speech

**1974:** Indira Gandhi govt makes Section 124A a cognisable offence that authorises police to make arrests without a warrant

## PRESENTLY

2019 data shows that sedition cases rose by 25% and arrests by 41% over the previous year. However, only 3% of cases led to convictions





## SWACHH VAYU SURVEKSHAN AWARD 2024

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and Chief Minister of Rajasthan presented the Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award 2024, on the occasion of the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies (Swachh Vayu Diwas) on 07 September 2024.

### Key Winners

- Swachh Vayu Survekshan Awards 2024 were presented to the best performing National Clean Air Campaign (NCAP) cities under three categories –
  - Category-1 (population over 10 Lakhs) to Surat, Jabalpur, and Agra;
  - Category-2 (population between 3 and 10 Lakhs) to Firozabad, Amravati, and Jhansi; and
  - Category-3 (population under 3 Lakhs) to Raebareli, Nalgonda, and Nalagarh.
- The Municipal Commissioners of the winning cities were awarded with cash prizes, trophies, and certificates.

### What is Swachh Vayu Survekshan?

- Swachh Vayu Survekshan, an initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched in 2019, is proposed to rank cities on the basis of air quality and also on the implementation of activities approved under the city action plan in 131 Non-attainment cities.
- Cities are declared non-attainment if, over a 5-year period, they consistently do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM10 or NO2.
- The MoEF&CC launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 as a national-level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country.
- Taking into account the available international experiences and national studies, the tentative national-level target under NCAP is a 20%–30% reduction of particulate matter concentration by 2024.
- The NCAP is implemented in 131 non-attainment cities in the country.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Every year, the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies is celebrated on 7th September to raise awareness and facilitate actions to improve air quality.
- On November 26, 2019, the Second Committee of the 74th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 7 September as the “International Day of Clean Air for blue skies”.
- The theme of the 2024 International Day of Clean Air for Blue is “Invest in Clean Air Now.”

**Swachh Vayu Survekshan Awards 2024**

Best performing NCAP cities were awarded under three categories

<p><b>Category-1</b></p> <p><b>Surat, Jabalpur, Agra</b></p> <p>Population over 10 Lakhs</p>	<p><b>Category-2</b></p> <p><b>Firozabad, Amravati, Jhansi</b></p> <p>Population Lakhs 3-10</p>	<p><b>Category-3</b></p> <p><b>Raebareli, Nalgonda, Nalagarh</b></p> <p>Population under 3 Lakhs</p>
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## PARIS PARALYMPICS GAMES 2024

### WHY IN NEWS?

- India achieved their most successful performance in Paralympic history at the Paris 2024 Games, securing a total of 29 medals - seven gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze.
- This achievement surpasses the 19-medal haul from Tokyo 2020, which included five golds.

### India's Performance

- The record 29 medals haul also meant that India crossed the 50-medal mark in their Paralympic history.
- India finished in 18th position.
- A record 84 para-athletes represented India at the Paris 2024 Paralympics, held from August 28 to September 8.
- India competed across 12 disciplines, three more than at Tokyo 2020. Indian para-athletes participated in three new sports at Paris 2024—para cycling, para rowing, and blind judo.
- Avani Lekhara became the first Indian woman to win back-to-back gold medals at the Paralympic Games, following her success in Tokyo 2020, defending her title in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 shooting event with a world record score.
- Debutant Sheetal Devi, at just 17 years, 7 months, and 23 days, became India's youngest Paralympic medallist, securing bronze in the mixed team event alongside Rakesh, while Dharambir became the oldest athlete to win gold at the age of 35 years, 7 months.
- The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games saw record participation from Indian women athletes, with 32 female athletes among the 84-member contingent.
  - Female athletes won a total of 10 medals—one gold, one silver, and eight bronze.
- Among them, seven were debutants, including Thulasimathi Murugesan, Sheetal Devi, and Manisha Ramadass.
- Javelin ace Sumit Antil too made history as the first Indian man to defend his title at the Paralympics, winning gold in the men's javelin throw F64 with a stunning throw of 70.59m—a new Paralympic record.
- With a bronze in the high jump T42 class, Mariyappan Thangavelu became the first Indian to win medals at three consecutive Paralympics. He won the gold medal at Rio 2016 and silver at Tokyo 2020.
- Preethi Pal secured her bronze in the women's 100m T35 race with a personal best time. It was India's first-ever medal in a track event at the Paralympics.
  - Her bronze in the 200m made her India's most successful athlete at the Games, as she was the only one to secure two medals.
- Tokyo 2020 bronze-winner Harvinder Singh became the first Indian Paralympian archer to clinch gold after beating Lukasz Ciszek of Poland in the Men's Individual Recurve Open competition.

- China topped the Paralympics medals table with 226 medals, including 94 golds.
- China has led the medal standings at every Paralympics since Athens 2004.
- Great Britain finished second in Paris with 124 medals, including 49 golds, followed by the United States, which claimed 105 medals, including 36 titles.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- India made its maiden appearance at the Paralympics in 1968 in Tel Aviv, Israel.
- India won a total of 12 medals from its Paralympic debut in 1968 (Tel Aviv, Israel) up to 2016, including four medals at the Rio Games in 2016.
- However, in the next two editions, Tokyo 2021 and Paris 2024, India's performance improved significantly, adding 48 medals and bringing the total to 60.
- On 19th June 2001, an agreement was signed between the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) for "one bid, one city".
- It means that cities looking to host the Olympic Games automatically have to include the Paralympics as part of their bid.

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## NATIONAL BLOCKCHAIN FRAMEWORK

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the National Blockchain Framework (NBF), Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack, National Blockchain Framework Lite (NBFLite), Praamaanik and National Blockchain Portal.

### Key Highlights

- MeitY, with the vision to create trusted digital platforms, initiated the **National Blockchain Framework (NBF)** for promoting research and application development; facilitating state-of-the-art, transparent, secure and trusted digital service delivery to citizens.
- Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack** is architected with distributed infrastructure, core framework functionality, smart contracts & API gateway and applications development offering Blockchain as a Service (BaaS).
  - The Technology Stack is hosted on geographically distributed infrastructure at NIC Data centers i.e. Bhubaneswar, Pune, Hyderabad.
- NBFLite**, a Blockchain sandbox platform, is developed especially for startups/academia for rapid prototyping of applications, carrying out research and capacity building.
  - These technologies have been developed by collaborating efforts of C-DAC, NIC, IDRBT Hyderabad, IIT Hyderabad, IIIT Hyderabad and SETS Chennai under the MeitY support.
- Praamaanik** is an innovative blockchain-enabled solution for verifying mobile app origin.
- National Blockchain Portal** was launched to facilitate access and integration with various blockchain resources.

### What is Blockchain-as-a-Service (BaaS)?

- Blockchain-as-a-service (BaaS) is the third-party creation and management of cloud-based networks for companies that build blockchain applications.
  - These third-party services are a relatively new development in the growing field of blockchain technology.
- BaaS functions like a sort of web host, running the back-end operation for a blockchain-based app or platform.
- BaaS may be the catalyst that leads to the widespread adoption of blockchain technology.

### Vishvasya BaaS Features



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Permissioned  
Blockchain  
Application  
Development &  
Deployment



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Security Audited  
Blockchain  
Containers for  
Production  
setup



Blockchain  
specific Security  
Audit Guidelines  
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Geographically  
Distributed  
Infrastructure  
across three  
Data Centres  
(Hyderabad,  
Pune and  
Bhubaneswar)



Framework  
Augmented with  
Documentation  
for easy  
onboarding of  
Stakeholders



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bundled &  
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prototyping,  
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## FIRST GLOBAL LEGALLY BINDING PACT ON USE OF AI

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The United States, European Union (EU), and the United Kingdom have taken a landmark step by signing the first legally binding international treaty on artificial intelligence (AI) during a Council of Europe conference held in Vilnius, Lithuania recently.

### Key Points

- Formally known as the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law has been signed by the European Union (EU), the UK, the US, Israel, Andorra, Georgia, Iceland, Norway, Moldova, and San Marino.
- Adopted by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on May 17, 2024, the treaty establishes a comprehensive legal framework covering the entire lifecycle of AI systems, from design and development to deployment and decommissioning.
- It addresses potential risks while promoting responsible innovation, using a technology-neutral approach designed to adapt as AI evolves.
- This convention stands as the first legally binding global framework for AI, harmonizing with Union law, including the EU AI Act, the world's first extensive AI regulation.
- The treaty aligns with the principles outlined in the EU AI Act and other EU regulations, incorporating fundamental elements such as:
  - A focus on human-centric AI, consistent with human rights, democracy, and the rule of law
  - A risk-based approach
  - Key principles for trustworthy AI (e.g. transparency, robustness, safety, data governance and protection)
  - Transparency for AI-generated content and in interactions with AI systems
  - Strengthened documentation, accountability and remedies
  - Support to safe innovation through regulatory sandboxes
  - Risk management obligations
  - Documentation obligations
  - Oversight mechanisms for supervision of AI activities
- The treaty will come into force three months after five signatories, including at least three Council of Europe member states, ratify it.
- Furthermore, the treaty parties must ensure legal remedies for victims of AI-related human rights violations and provide procedural safeguards, such as notifying individuals when they are interacting with AI systems.
- The treaty also requires parties to prevent AI from undermining democratic institutions and processes, including the separation of powers, judicial independence, and access to justice.
- While the convention does not apply to national security activities, it mandates that such activities comply with international law and democratic principles.
  - It also excludes national defence and research and development activities, except when AI testing could affect human rights, democracy, or the rule of law.
- The treaty comes at a time when sovereign governments and smaller multilateral groups have come up with a clutch of new regulations and agreements to oversee AI tools, including the G7 pact on AI (October 2023), Europe's AI Act, and Bletchley Declaration signed by 28 countries (November 2023).

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### Issues and Concerns

- Even though the treaty is being called “legally binding”, there are concerns that it does not contain provisions for punitive sanctions such as penalties or fines.
- Compliance is primarily ensured through “monitoring”, which is not much of a deterrent from an enforcement point of view.



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## UPROAR OVER PM'S VISIT TO CJI'S RESIDENCE

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud's residence for Ganesh Puja has stirred up a controversy about the "priorities and independence of the judiciary", while a few have argued that this sparks apprehensions about the judicial system itself, particularly in the context of the "Restatement of Values of Judicial Life" adopted by the Supreme Court in 1997.

### What is the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life?

- The 'Restatement of Values of Judicial Life', adopted by the Supreme Court on 7 May 1997, is a code of judicial ethics and serves as a guide for an independent and fair judiciary, paving the way for the impartial administration of justice.
- The code comprises 16 points-
  - Justice must not merely be done but it must also be seen to be done. The behaviour and conduct of members of the higher judiciary must reaffirm the people's faith in the impartiality of the judiciary.
- Accordingly, any act of a judge of the Supreme Court or a high court, whether in an official or personal capacity, which erodes the credibility of this perception, has to be avoided.
  - A judge should not contest the election to any office of a club, society or other association, except in a society or association connected with the law.
  - Close association with individual members of the bar, particularly those who practice in the same court, shall be eschewed.
  - A judge should not permit any member of his immediate family, such as spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law or daughter-in-law or any other close relative, if a member of the Bar, to appear before him or even be associated in any manner with a cause to be dealt with by him.
  - No member of his family, who is a member of the Bar, shall be permitted to use the residence in which the judge actually resides or other facilities for professional work.
  - A judge should practice a degree of aloofness consistent with the dignity of his office.
  - A judge shall not hear and decide a matter in which a member of his family, a close relation or a friend is concerned.
  - A judge shall not enter into public debate or express his views in public on political matters or on matters that are pending or are likely to arise for judicial determination.
  - A judge is expected to let his judgments speak for themselves. He shall not give interviews to the media.
  - A judge shall not accept gifts or hospitality except from his family, close relations and friends.
  - A judge shall not hear and decide a matter in which a company in which he holds shares is concerned unless he has disclosed his interest and no objection to his hearing and deciding the matter is raised.
  - A judge shall not speculate in shares, stocks or the like.
  - A judge should not engage directly or indirectly in trade or business, either by himself or in association with any other person.
- (Publication of a legal treatise or any activity in the nature of a hobby shall not be construed as trade or business).
  - A judge should not ask for, accept contributions or otherwise actively associate himself with the raising of any fund for any purpose.
  - A judge should not seek any financial benefit in the form of a perquisite or privilege attached to his office unless it is clearly available.
- Any doubt in this behalf must be got resolved and clarified through the Chief Justice.
  - Every judge must at all times be conscious that he is under the public gaze and there should be no act or omission by him which is unbecoming of the high office he occupies and the public esteem in which that office is held.





### Other Present Guidelines and Regulations

- The **Supreme Court Judges Rules, 1959**, governs the salaries, pensions, and post-retirement benefits of judges but is silent on matters of their conduct.
- Another set of advisory guidelines has been laid down and adopted internationally by the **Round Table Meeting of Chief Justices** held at the Peace Palace, The Hague, November 25-26, 2002, and is called the Bangalore Principle of Judicial Conduct.
- The Principles recognize six core values: independence, impartiality, integrity, propriety, equality, and competence and diligence, which define the expected conduct for judges to effectively practise each value.
- Another set of guidelines called **Restatement Of Values Of Judicial Life, adopted by a Full Court Meeting of the Supreme Court of India** on May 7, 1997, under clause 1 says: "The behaviour and conduct of members of the higher judiciary must reaffirm the people's faith in the impartiality of the judiciary."



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## ARMED FORCES ARE CONSIDERING SEVERAL CHANGES

### WHY IN NEWS?

- To do away with colonial vestiges in the Indian military and its traditions, the Armed Forces are considering several changes.

#### Key Proposed Changes

- As part of efforts to inculcate indigenous strategic thought in young military minds, texts written by ancient Indian strategists are being increasingly included in career courses instead of literature written by Western military thinkers and writers.
  - The Secunderabad-based College of Defence Management (CDM) is drafting a syllabus in consultation with the Indic Studies Department of Gujarat University, which will be made a mandatory part of mid-career courses to be attended by officers of the three services.
  - It could include land campaign studies of Indian forces like the INA, Marathas and Sikhs; maritime strategies of rulers like Raja Raja Chola I and his son Rajendra Chola, King Marthand Varma, Kunjali Marakkar IV, among others; and the governance model of ancient Indian emperor Chandragupta Maurya.
- The Armed Forces are in the process of identifying obsolete laws and rules that can be weeded out.
  - At present, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force have a different service Act governing each. Work is on to bring in a consolidated tri-services Act, which will reduce redundancies and promote smoother operations.
- The Army is discussing whether Scottish-origin pipe bands can be reduced to one at each regional command headquarters—from one in almost every unit—and be kept for purely ceremonial purposes.
- There may also be a study to assess if the Army's infantry regiments can be given a more pan-India character, like the artillery and armoured divisions, instead of the current system of a Jat regiment, Bihar regiment, etc.

#### What Changes have already been made by the Armed Forces?

- Several colonial-era military customs and practices have been done away with in the last few years, by changing several Army unit crests, the naval ensign, and giving out Indian names to military platforms and weapon systems.
- Most joint exercises with other nations as well as operations and seminar halls in military complexes are being given Indian names.
- More Indian tunes and instruments have been used in the Republic Day and the Beating Retreat ceremonies in the last few years.
- The Christian hymn Abide With Me was replaced by the patriotic Hindi song Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon after the Beating Retreat ceremony of 2022.
- Earlier this year, the Indian Navy permitted wearing the traditional kurta-pyjama attire into its naval messes.
- Professional military education institutes are conducting regular seminars by Indology authorities to propagate indigenous ethics, law and warcraft concepts.

#### Why the Changes?

- The idea is to “Indianise” the Indian military further, doing away with colonial influences.
- This process has been on since India gained freedom from British rule in 1947, but there was an upswing in the efforts after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while speaking at the Combined Commanders Conference in Gujarat's Kevadia in 2021, talked about increasing indigenisation in the national security system, including in the doctrines, procedures and customs of the Armed Forces.

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## NEOM PROJECT OF SAUDI ARABIA

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Wall Street Journal published a highly critical report on Neom, the ambitious Saudi megacity project championed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

#### Key Points

- As per the report of the Wall Street Journal, Saudi Arabia's Neom project contends with corruption, worker deaths, racism and misogyny.
- The BBC in 2020 reported that Saudi security forces were resorting to force to evict the Huwaitat tribe, the indigenous residents of the Tabuk region where Neom is being built.
- The United Nations (UN) in 2023 expressed alarm at the Saudi government's imminent execution of Huwaiti dissenters for protesting their forced evictions while being charged as terrorists.
- Bloomberg in April 2024 reported that the Neom project had been considerably scaled down.
  - While the goal was to accommodate 1.5 million of the 9 million residents in The Line by 2030, officials currently believe the mirrored city will only house a maximum of 300,000 residents.
- Additionally, only 1.4 kilometres of the project would be completed by 2030.
- This has raised concern about Neom's readiness to host the 2029 Asian Winter Games in Trojena.
- From the start, Mohammed bin Salman has delegated key elements of the project to executives who would get the job done by any means.
  - This often meant basic workplace ethics were given a pass and toxic behaviour was actively encouraged.
- A 2020 Neom press release announced its intent to create “cognitive cities,” which would rely on real-time information to anticipate and offer proactive insights to its residents.
- In effect, this would imply constant monitoring of internet use, and create a surveillance state, something that critics have raised fears of.

#### What is Neom?

- Neom was visualised as part of Saudi Arabia's ambitious Vision 2030 project, which sought to diversify the country's economy and thus reduce its dependence on oil.
- Spread over an area of 26,500 sq km, Neom is situated in Saudi Arabia's western Tabuk province.
- First announced by the Crown Prince in 2017, its name is a fusion of the Greek word “neo” meaning “new”, and the Arabic word “mustaqbal” meaning “future”.
- Initially pegged to be a \$500-billion project, the costs have swelled to \$1.5 trillion, according to a Bloomberg report from April 2024. It is set to be completed in 2039.
- Neom will comprise five regions, each home to a project ambitious in design, scale and imagination.
  1. **The Line** – Probably the best-known among all the Neom projects, the Line will be built as a 170-kilometre-long mirrored city line spanning 34 square kilometres across the desert.
    - The original plans for the city had “vertically layered” buildings 500 metres tall and 200 metres wide. Designed to be entirely walkable, the city will be powered by 95 per cent renewable energy.
  2. **Oxagon** – The Oxagon is an octagonal industrial city which will house an integrated industrial port and residential apartments. Oxagon too will be powered entirely by renewable energy.
  3. **Trojena** – Trojena is set to host the Asian Winter Games in 2029.
    - The region is home to Saudi Arabia's tallest mountains and will house a ski resort.
    - According to the Neom website, Trojena “experiences sub-zero winter temperatures and has a year-round moderate climate that is cooler on average than the rest of the region”.
  4. **Magna** – Magna is designed to be a luxury lifestyle coastal destination, located on the coast of the Gulf of Aqaba.
    - The region will house 12 premiere destinations spanning 120 kilometres, and will be home to a nature reserve which aims to be the “gold standard in sustainable tourism”.
  5. **Sindalah** – Sindalah is a luxury island in the Red Sea, which hopes to rival the likes of the Greek Isles, the Caribbean Sea and the Mediterranean coastline, all favoured by yacht and boat owners.





## INDIA'S FIRST MISSION TO VENUS IN 2028

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Union Cabinet recently approved India's first mission to Venus which the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) aims to launch in March 2028.
- This is India's second interplanetary mission after the Mars Orbiter Mission launched in 2013.

### Key Highlights

- The Venus mission is meant to study the planet from an orbit around it.
- The mission will carry scientific instruments from India and abroad to examine the surface and sub-surface of Venus, its atmosphere, its ionosphere, and its interaction with the Sun.
- It will follow a plan similar to India's other space exploration missions — the satellite will gain speed in Earth's orbit, will get sling-shot towards Venus, and then get captured in its orbit.
- Once the satellite exits the Earth orbit, it will take around 140 days to reach Venus.
- With Earth and Venus coming close to each other — offering the shortest path for a mission — only every 19 months, the timeline is of extreme importance.
- The mission was earlier planned for 2023 but as per the recent Cabinet, approvals will now take place in March 2028.
- The mission will also see India perform aero-braking for the first time.

### What is Aerobraking?

- Aerobraking is a way of slowing down a spacecraft by using the atmosphere or outer gas layers of a planet.
- Aerobraking is a spaceflight technique wherein an orbiting spacecraft brushes against the top of a planetary atmosphere.
- The friction of the atmosphere against the surface of the spacecraft slows down and lowers the craft's orbital altitude.
- The solar panels are used to provide the maximum drag in a symmetrical position that allows some control as the spacecraft passes through the atmosphere.
- Instead of using onboard jets and propellants to adjust a spacecraft's orbit, aerobraking uses the atmosphere as both a brake and a steering wheel.

### Why Venus?

- Venus is often called Earth's twin because it is similar in mass, density, and size. Therefore, studying Venus may offer scientists clues about the evolution of Earth.
- Notably, Venus is thought to have had water at some point in its history but has now become a dry and dusty planet.
- First, it has an extremely high surface temperature of around 462 degree Celsius, even hotter than Mercury — the planet that is closest to the Sun.
- Second, the atmospheric pressure on Venus is much higher than on Earth. It is almost similar to the pressure felt underneath the oceans on Earth.
- Third, 96.5% of the atmosphere of Venus is made up of carbon dioxide and there are sulphuric acid clouds on the planet.
- Fourth, Venus rotates very slowly on its axis as compared to Earth. One rotation of Venus lasts around 243 Earth days.

- There have been several missions to Venus in the past by the United States, the erstwhile USSR, Japan, and a collaborative mission of the European Space Agency (ESA) with Japan.
- The US has planned at least two more missions to Venus in the future — DaVinci in 2029 and Veritas in 2031 — and the ESA has planned the EnVision mission for 2030.

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## QUAD LEADERS' SUMMIT 2024

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Quad Summit in Wilmington, Delaware in the United States.
- It was the 4<sup>th</sup> in-person Quad Leaders' Summit.

### Key Outcomes

- “Quad Cancer Moonshot”, a groundbreaking partnership to save lives in the Indo-Pacific region, was announced for the treatment of cervical cancer.
  - Under this, India will provide \$7.5 million worth of HPV sampling kits, detection kits and cervical cancer vaccines to countries in the Indo-Pacific.
  - A commitment from the Serum Institute of India, in partnership with Gavi and the Quad, to support orders of up to 40 million Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine doses for the Indo-Pacific region.
- The First-ever “Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission” in 2025 to improve interoperability and advance maritime safety between our Coast Guards across the Indo-Pacific.
- The Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network pilot project, to pursue shared airlift capacity among our nations and leverage our collective logistics strengths, in order to support civilian response to natural disasters more rapidly and efficiently across the Indo-Pacific region.
- The “Quad Ports of the Future Partnership” will harness the Quad's collective expertise to support sustainable and resilient port infrastructure development across the Indo-Pacific.
  - Here, Quad partners will share practices to ensure that ports can maintain an acceptable level of service and infrastructure to ships, cargoes, and other customers in the face of disruptions (e.g. pandemics, natural disasters and cyber or terrorist attacks).
- A “Semiconductor Supply Chains Contingency Network Memorandum of Cooperation” that would leverage the complementary strength of the Quad partners to realize a diversified and competitive market and enhance Quad resilience in semiconductor supply chains.
- The Leaders also agreed to reform the UN Security Council and recognised the urgent need to make it more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable through expansion in permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of the UN Security Council.
- Leaders welcomed the “Quad Principles for Development and Deployment of Digital Public Infrastructure” for the region and beyond.
  - Through DPI, the Quad partners have agreed to provide equitable access and improve public service delivery at scale; governed by applicable legal frameworks that provide for a level playing field to drive development, inclusion, innovation, trust, and competition.
- Quad partners agreed to launch a “Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific” (MAITRI) to enable Indo-Pacific partners to maximise tools provided through Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) and other Quad initiatives.
  - MAITRI will enable regional partners to monitor and secure their waters, enforce their laws, and deter unlawful behaviour.
  - India will host the inaugural MAITRI workshop in 2025 (during India's Quad Presidency).
- Quad partners have committed over USD 140 million to undersea cable projects, aiming for primary telecommunication connectivity for all Pacific island countries by 2025.
  - For this, Australia launched the Cable Connectivity and Resilience Centre in July 2024.
- The Quad intends to support ongoing Open Radio Access Network (RAN) trials and the Asia Open RAN Academy in the Philippines.
  - In 2023, the Quad initiated its first Open RAN deployment in Palau, aiming to build a secure telecommunications ecosystem, with an investment of approximately USD 20 million.
- The United States will provide 3D-printed weather stations to help Pacific Island countries while Australia and Japan are enhancing regional disaster risk reduction efforts.
  - Japan is also enhancing cooperation with Pacific Island countries under its Pacific Climate Resilience Initiative.
- India announces a new initiative to award fifty Quad scholarships, worth USD 500,000, to students from the Indo-Pacific to pursue a 4-year undergraduate engineering program at a Government of India-funded technical institution.

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## What is Quad?

- Following the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004, India, Japan, Australia, and the US created an informal alliance to collaborate on disaster relief efforts.
- In 2007, then PM of Japan, Shinzo Abe, formalised the alliance, as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or the Quad.
  - The group met for the first time in 2007 on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- In 2012, the Japanese PM emphasised the idea of Asia's 'Democratic Security Diamond' comprising the US, Japan, India and Australia.
- It was in 2017 when the first official talks under the Quad took place in the Philippines.
- In 2020, the trilateral India-US-Japan Malabar naval exercises expanded to include Australia, marking the first official grouping of the Quad since its resurgence in 2017, and the first joint military exercises among the four countries in over a decade.
- In March 2021, the Quad leaders met virtually and later released a joint statement titled 'The Spirit of the Quad,' which outlined the group's approach and objectives.
- One of the primary objectives of the Quad is to work for a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.


## DID YOU KNOW?

- The Quad is not structured like a typical multilateral organisation and lacks a secretariat and any permanent decision-making body (like the EU or UN).
- Instead, it has focused on expanding existing agreements between member countries and highlighting their shared values.
- Unlike NATO, the Quad does not include provisions for collective defence, instead choosing to conduct joint military exercises as a show of unity and diplomatic cohesion.
- Quad members have also indicated a willingness to expand the partnership through a so-called Quad Plus that would include South Korea, New Zealand, and Vietnam, amongst others.



**Highlights of PM Shri Narendra Modi's remarks at the Quad Leaders' Summit:**

- We all support a rules-based international order, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and peaceful resolution of all issues
- Free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific is our shared priority and shared commitment
- Together we have taken many positive and inclusive initiatives in areas like Health Security, Critical and Emerging Technologies, Climate Change, Capacity Building
- Quad is here to stay, to assist, to partner and to complement
- India will host the Quad Leaders' Summit in 2025








## PORT BLAIR RENAMED AS SRI VIJAYA PURAM

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Port Blair, the capital city of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, has now been renamed as 'Sri Vijaya Puram'.

### Key Points

- The earlier name had a colonial legacy, Sri Vijaya Puram symbolises the victory achieved in our freedom struggle and the A&N Islands' unique role in the same.
- Some historical records suggest that the Andaman Islands were used as a strategic naval base by the 11th century Chola emperor, Rajendra I to carry out an attack on Srivijaya, which is in present day Indonesia.
- As per an inscription found at Thanjavur dated to 1050 CE, the Cholas referred to the island as Ma-Nakkavaram land (great open/ naked land), which possibly led to the modern name of Nicobar under the British.

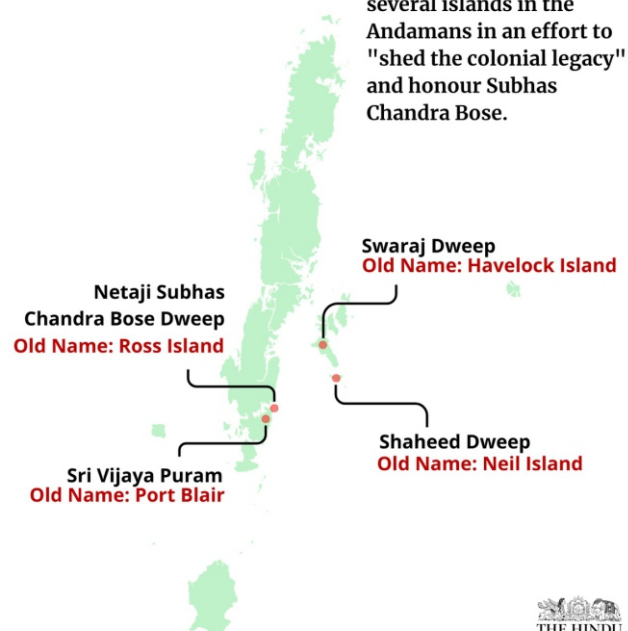
### About Port Blair

- The city of Port Blair is the entry point of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- It was named after Archibald Blair, a naval surveyor and lieutenant in the Bombay Marine. Blair was the first officer to carry out a thorough survey of the Andaman Islands.
- The Revolt of 1857 resulted in a large number of prisoners for the British, prompting the immediate renovation and resettlement of Port Blair as a penal colony.
- With the strengthening of the Indian Independence Movement in the late 19th century, a huge cellular jail was established here by 1906.
- Popularly known as Kaala Paani, it housed several freedom fighters, including Veer Damodar Savarkar.
- On 30th December 1943, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose hoisted the national flag for the first time on Indian soil, at Port Blair.

- Being a Union Territory, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands come under the direct administrative control of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The archipelago, located in the east of the Indian mainland geographically, floats in splendid isolation in the Bay of Bengal.
- The Andaman and Nicobars are separated by the Ten Degree Channel, which is 150 kilometres wide.
- The local people are the Great Andamanese, who collectively represent at least 10 distinct sub groups and languages; the Jarawa: the jungle (or Rutland Jarawa); the Onge; and the Sentinelese (the most isolated of all the groups).
- The indigenous people of the Nicobars (unrelated to the Andamanese) have a similarly isolated and lengthy association with the islands.
- There are two main groups: the Nicobarese, or Nicobari living throughout many of the islands; and the Shompen, restricted to the interior of Great Nicobar.

### Renaming Islands in Andaman

In recent years, the Narendra Modi government has renamed several islands in the Andamans in an effort to "shed the colonial legacy" and honour Subhas Chandra Bose.



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## GREAT STUPA OF SANCHI

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The significance of a 1:1 replica of the original East Gate of Sanchi's Great Stupa at the Humboldt Forum Museum in Berlin was highlighted by a visit from India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, emphasizing the ongoing cultural dialogue between India and Germany.

In December 2022, the Humboldt Forum Museum in Berlin, Germany, unveiled an intricately designed red sandstone gateway, a 1:1 replica of the original East Gate of Sanchi's Great Stupa standing at almost 10 metres high and 6 metres wide, weighing roughly 150 tonnes.

### About Great Stupa of Sanchi

- A stupa is a Buddhist commemorative monument usually containing sacred relics of the Buddha or other venerable saints.
- The archetypal stupa is a hemispherical structure, whose origins can be traced to pre-Buddhist burial mounds found in India.
- Commissioned in the third century BCE by Emperor Ashoka, it is the largest and oldest structure in a complex of Buddhist monuments comprising numerous other stupas, temples, and monasteries.
- The most recent construction in Sanchi can be dated to as late as the twelfth century CE.
- The Great Stupa is one of the oldest standing stone structures in India, believed to have been built over the Buddha's relics.
- Its construction was overseen by Ashoka's wife Devi, who hailed from the nearby trading town of Vidisha.
- The development of the Sanchi complex was supported by patronage from Vidisha's mercantile community.

### Gateways of the Great Stupa

- While the original stupa itself is a rather plain hemispherical structure crowned by a chhatra (parasol), what makes it instantly recognisable are the ornamental gateways or toranas that stand in front of it.
- The four toranas, oriented to the four cardinal directions, were constructed in the first century BCE, likely within a few decades of each other during the reign of the Satavahana dynasty.
- These gateways are made of two square pillars which support a superstructure comprising three curved architraves (or beams) with spirally-rolled ends.
- The pillars and the architraves are adorned with beautiful bas relief and sculptures depicting scenes from the Buddha's life, stories from the Jataka Tales, and other Buddhist iconography.

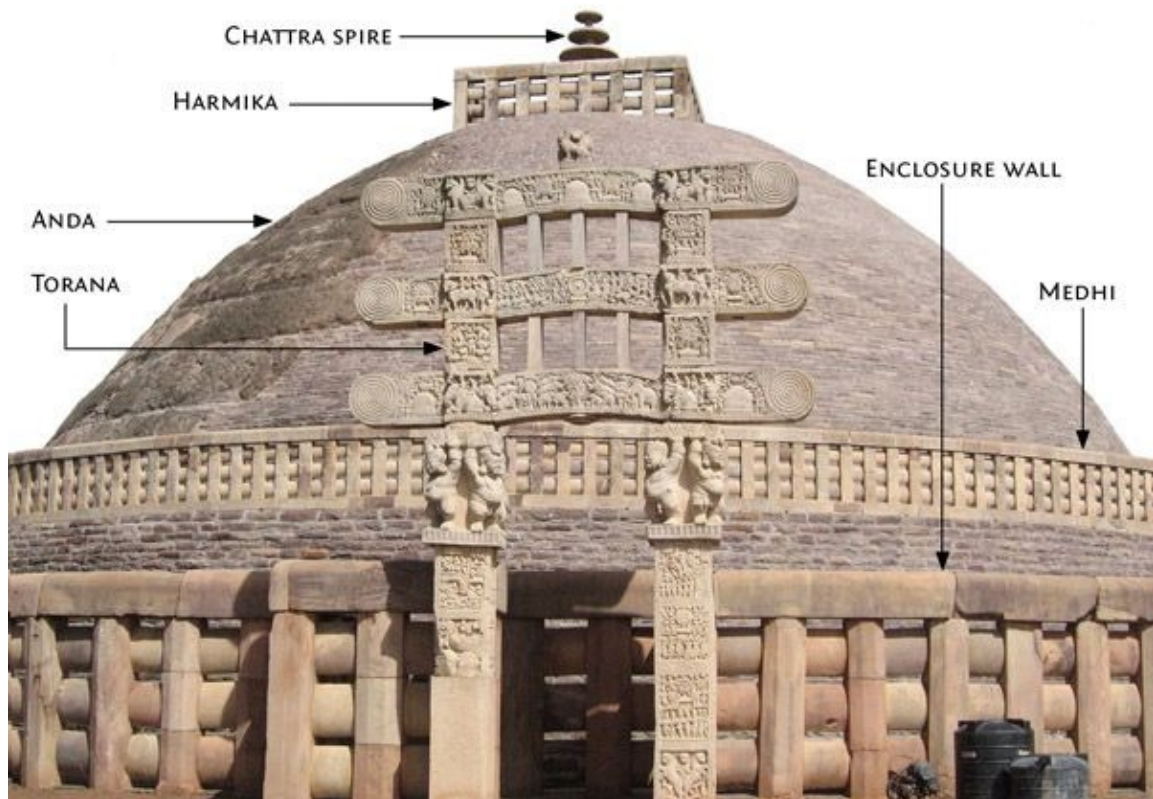
### The East Gate and Its Replica

- In Europe, the East Gate is the most famous of the Sanchi toranas.
- The Sanchi complex was in abject ruins when it was "discovered" by British officer Henry Taylor in 1818.
- Alexander Cunningham, who later founded the ASI, led the first formal survey and excavations at Sanchi in 1851.
- The site was restored to its present condition by ASI director-general John Marshall in the 1910s with funding from the begums of nearby Bhopal.
- Till restoration work began in the late nineteenth century, however, Sanchi was frequently ravaged by treasure hunters and amateur archaeologists, some of whom wanted to take its gates to Europe.
- They were unable to do so, and had to make do with plaster casts instead.
- The East Gate was cast in plaster by Lieutenant Henry Hardy Cole for the Victoria and Albert Museum in the late 1860s.
- Multiple copies of this cast were later made and displayed across Europe. The latest Berlin replica too traces its origin to this original cast.





- The upper architrave of the gate represents the seven Manushi Buddhas (previous Buddhas, with the historical Buddha being the latest incarnation).
- The middle architrave depicts the scene of the Great Departure when Prince Siddhartha leaves Kapilavastu to live as an ascetic in search of enlightenment.
- The lower architrave depicts Emperor Ashoka visiting the Bodhi tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment.
- Other decorative elements include the shalabhanjika (a fertility emblem represented by a yakshi grasping the branch of a tree), elephants, winged lions, and peacocks.



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## POLARIS DAWN MISSION

### WHY IN NEWS?

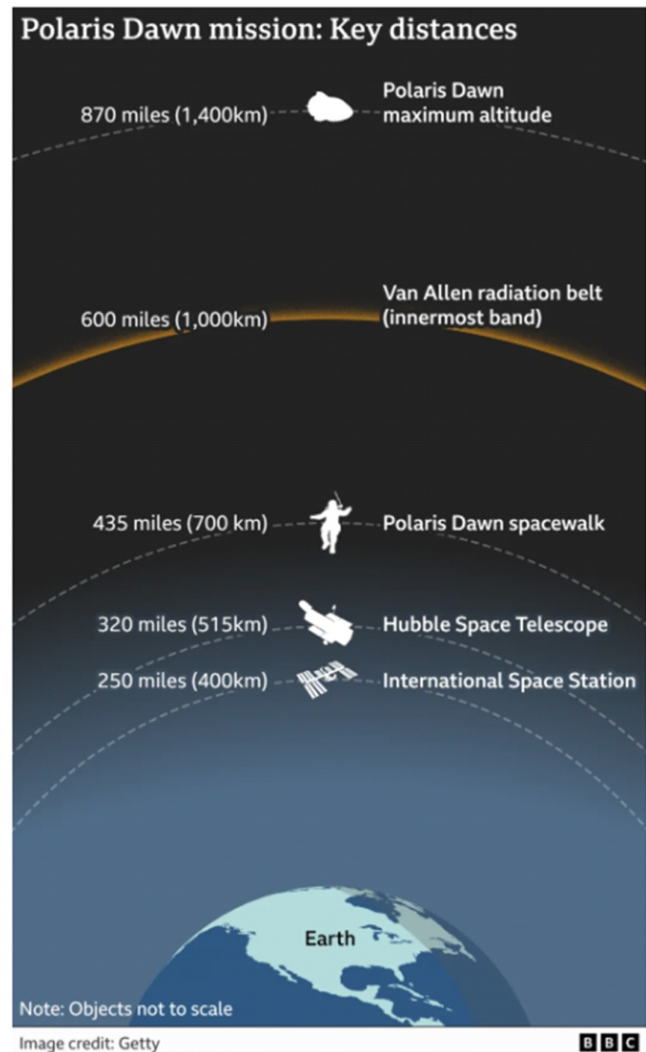
- The crew of the Polaris Dawn mission conducted the first-ever private spacewalk on September 12, crossing yet another milestone for private industry in the space sector.

### Key Highlights

- The five-day mission, known as Polaris Dawn, is the first of three testing and development missions under the Polaris Program, which will be jointly executed by Isaacman and Elon Musk's SpaceX.
  - The second may aim to boost the Hubble Space Telescope's orbit and prolong its life, while the third may use SpaceX's reusable Starship rocket (which is currently in the early stages of testing).
- The mission was executed by billionaire Jared Isaacman, who is the founder of the electronic payment company Shift4. He has bankrolled the mission along with SpaceX and is the commander of the crew.
  - This is Isaacman's second trip into space. In 2021, he went into low-Earth orbit for three days and then splashed down off Florida.
- Apart from Isaacman, the crew comprises Scott Poteet, a retired US Air Force lieutenant colonel; and two SpaceX employees, Anna Menon, a lead space operations engineer, and Sarah Gillis, an engineer who oversees astronaut training.

### Key Achievements

- One of the mission's key milestones was the first private spacewalk (also known as an Extravehicular Activity or EVA) performed by civilians.
  - On September 12, Isaacman and Sarah Gillis, a SpaceX engineer and mission specialist, ventured outside the SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule, tethered for safety.
  - The EVA tested SpaceX's newly developed spacesuits, designed for future commercial space missions.
- In addition to the spacewalk, the Polaris Dawn crew reached a record orbital altitude of 1,408 kilometres, the highest a human crew has flown since NASA's Gemini 11 mission in 1966.
  - This feat sets the stage for future missions aiming for deep space exploration.
- The Polaris Dawn astronauts collaborated with 31 institutions, including NASA, on various science experiments.
  - The crew focused on studying human health in space, particularly the effects of space radiation.
- The Polaris Dawn astronauts also tested SpaceX's Starlink internet system in space, demonstrating how it could support future missions with seamless communications between spacecraft and Earth.
- The mission concluded safely with the crew splashing down in the Gulf of Mexico in the early hours of September 15.



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## **QUICK FACTS**

**CONTEMPORARY EVENTS OF  
SIGNIFICANCE FROM INDIA  
AND THE WORLD**



1. President Droupadi Murmu unveiled the **new flag and insignia of the Supreme Court** (established - 26th January 1950) to mark the **75th year of its establishment**. The Supreme Court's new flag and insignia symbolise justice and democracy and have been conceptualised and designed by NIFT Delhi. The flag features the Ashoka Chakra, the Supreme Court building and the book of the Constitution of India. Also, the Prime Minister released a commemorative postage stamp celebrating 75 years of the Supreme Court of India.
2. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the **'BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy for Fostering High-Performance Biomanufacturing'** of the Department of Biotechnology aimed at accelerating India's transition to green growth and a Net Zero carbon economy.
3. The central government has granted **Navratna status** to **four** of its companies - **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), Solar Energy Corporation of India, and Raitel Corporation of India**. With the latest addition, the country now has 25 state-owned Navratna companies. Navratna status is awarded to government-owned enterprises previously classified as 'Miniratna' category I, recognising their exceptional financial and market performance. The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) in the Ministry of Finance is responsible for granting Navratna status to companies.
4. India is set to implement **mandatory hallmarking for 9-karat (KT) gold jewellery**. Hallmarking by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) was made mandatory for six purity categories—14KT, 18KT, 20KT, 22KT, 23KT and 24KT – in 2022. India is the world's second-largest gold consumer, with demand expected to touch 750 tonnes during the calendar year 2024, on account of upcoming festive seasons, as per the World Gold Council. The price of 22 KT gold in August 2024 was ₹68,000 per 10 grams, while that of 9 KT gold ranged between ₹25,000 and ₹30,000 per 10 grams.
5. A Tamil Nadu-based start-up successfully launched **India's first reusable hybrid rocket – "RHUMI 1"** from a mobile platform in Thiruvandhurai, Chennai, with the goal of advancing research on global warming and climate change. It deployed 50 Pico satellites to investigate various atmospheric factors, including accelerometer readings, altitude, and ozone levels, to better understand environmental dynamics. Mission RHUMI 2024 is spearheaded by Anand Megalingam, founder of Space Zone India, with guidance from Myswamy Annadurai, former Director of ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC) and project director of India's Moon Mission "Chandrayaan".
6. Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Savitri Thakur, launched the **Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2024** in the **Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh on 1st September 2024**. Also, the Ministry of Women and Child Development received the National Award for e-Governance 2024 (Gold) for the Poshan Tracker initiative.
7. The Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and Chief Minister of Rajasthan presented the **Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award 2024**, on the occasion of the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies (Swachh Vayu Diwas) at Jaipur on 7th September. Swachh Vayu Survekshan Awards were presented to the best performing NCAP cities under Category-1 (population over 10 Lakhs) to Surat, Jabalpur, and Agra; Category-2 (population between 3 and 10 Lakhs) to Firozabad, Amravati, and Jhansi; and Category-3 (population under 3 Lakhs) to Raebareli, Nalgonda, and Nalagarh.
8. Over 17 lakh oil palm saplings, covering more than 12,000 hectares across 15 states in India benefitting over 10,000 farmers were undertaken as part of the **Mega Oil Palm Plantation Drive** conducted under the National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm. It is organised by state governments in collaboration with leading oil palm processing companies.
9. Recently, the **Arabian Sea** witnessed a **rare August cyclone, named Asna**, which stirred considerable interest due to its unusual timing and origin. The north Indian Ocean, which includes the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, is the least active region of the world's oceans vis-à-vis the number of cyclones. There is a lot of excitement right now about a rare August cyclone – named 'Asna' – born from the transition of a strong land-born depression onto the warm Arabian Sea. This is the first North Indian Ocean cyclone in August since 1981.
10. **India's first study on 'teal carbon'** was undertaken at **Keoladeo National Park (KNP)** in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district. The concept of teal carbon is a recent addition to the environmental science pertaining to organic carbon in inland fresh wetlands. Teal carbon refers to carbon stored in non-tidal freshwater wetlands, encompassing carbon sequestered in vegetation, microbial biomass, and dissolved and particulate organic matter. Though these wetlands play a crucial role in regulating greenhouse gases, they are







vulnerable to degradation from pollution, land use changes, water extraction, and landscape modifications.

11. The **20<sup>th</sup> edition of India-USA joint military exercise YUDH ABHYAS-2024** was conducted at the Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan. Exercise YUDH ABHYAS has been held annually since 2004, alternating between India and the USA. The Indian Army contingent comprising 600 personnel is being represented by a battalion of the RAJPUT Regiment along with personnel from other arms and services.
12. **Afghanistan** is set to begin work on a **\$10 billion Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI)** pipeline. Progress on the TAPI pipeline — running through Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India — has been repeatedly delayed because of security issues in conflict-ravaged Afghanistan. The pipeline will see around 33 billion cubic metres of natural gas each year extracted from the Galkynysh gas field in southeast Turkmenistan. Pakistan and India will each purchase 42% of the gas deliveries, and Afghanistan 16%, while Kabul will also benefit from lucrative transit fees of around \$500 million per year.
13. The **World Bank** has raised **India's growth forecast for FY25 to 7% from 6.6%**. This aligns with forecasts from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also projected India's GDP to grow at 7.2% in FY25.
14. The **Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT)**, under the aegis of the Union Education Ministry, has launched a unique website which provides technical terms in all 22 official Indian languages. The web portal '[shabd.education.gov.in](http://shabd.education.gov.in)' aims to be a central repository for all the terminologies prepared for Indian languages. Besides all the glossaries of CSTT, other institutions or agencies having such dictionaries are also able to host their work in digital form on this platform. As of now, a total of 322 glossaries with around 22,00,000 words are currently available on search in the portal.
15. Delhi's **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)** has been ranked among the top 25 “megahub” airports globally by international aviation data and analytics firm OAG. IGIA has improved its position to the **24th spot** from last year's 25th in OAG's latest list of megahub airports—those with the highest ratio of possible scheduled international connections to the number of destinations served. The only other Indian airport among the top 50 megahub airports—Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA)—however dropped 10 spots from last year to the 44th position.
16. Over a decade after a law governing it was passed, **anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal** has **constituted an inquiry wing** for conducting a preliminary probe into graft-related offences committed by public servants. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013 (Act of 2013) came into force on January 1, 2014, when it received the assent of the President. However, it began functioning only on March 27, 2019, following the appointment of its chairperson and members.
17. In a pioneering development poised to transform artificial intelligence and computing, researchers from the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** have introduced a revolutionary “brain on a chip” technology. This innovation is capable of storing and processing data in an astonishing 16,500 states within a molecular film.
18. The government has notified the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (**NaBFID**) as a **public financial institution under the Companies Act**. This will help the government fortify the nation's infrastructure finance structures. NaBFID, a specialised Development Finance Institution (DFI), was set up in 2021, by an Act (The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021) as India's fifth All India Financial Institution (AIFI) to support long-term infrastructure financing, including the development of bonds and derivatives markets.
19. An expert group constituted by **NITI Aayog** has recommended a new **Public Health Emergency Management Act (PHEMA)** to deal with the public health crisis, which would create health cadres at national and state levels and also empower public health agencies to take urgent action. The group, headed by Dr Renu Swarup, former secretary at the Department of Biotechnology, was formed in June 2023. Its 'Future Pandemic Preparedness and Emergency Response: A Framework for Action' report was made public.
20. Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**), on September 13, 2024, successfully conducted the preliminary automotive trials of the **Indian light Tank, Zorawar**, a highly versatile platform capable of deployment in high-altitude areas. Zorawar has been successfully developed by the Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), a unit of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro Ltd.





21. The Indian government has introduced the **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-Drive)** scheme. This initiative replaces the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicle (FAME II) scheme, which ended in March. The **PM E-Drive** scheme, managed by the Ministry of Heavy Industries, will run for two years with a budget of Rs 10,900 crore.
22. Vaccine maker Indian Immunologicals (IIL) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) for the clinical development of the country's **first codon de-optimised live-attenuated Zika vaccine**. ICMR will be funding phase I clinical trial costs, including those relating to the conduct, investigations and monitoring of clinical trials under the agreement.
23. The **Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha** has introduced '**Zero Hour**' to address urgent public issues during the ongoing monsoon session. Zero Hour, which will immediately follow the Question Hour, will run for 30 minutes, providing members with a brief window to address pending concerns, including constituency-related matters, questions, call attention motions, and points of order.



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# **QUICK FACTS**

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## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**





1. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** arrived in **Ukraine's capital Kyiv** from neighbouring Poland by train. The train, which is run by the state-owned Ukrainian Railways or Ukrzaliznytsia, is painted blue and yellow, the colours of Ukraine's flag. Foreign dignitaries visiting Kyiv have been taking the train ever since Ukraine's airspace was closed following the Russian invasion in February 2022. After Joe Biden rolled into Kyiv last year instead of flying in on Air Force One, the US President's iconic Boeing 747 aircraft, the train was dubbed "**Rail Force One**". The train's 10-hour, 700-odd-km journey begins at Przemysł Główny station in Poland, located around 400 km southeast of Warsaw, close to the country's border with Ukraine, and ends at Kyiv.
2. **OpenAI** is expected to release its most advanced AI model, codenamed **Project Strawberry**, between September and November 2024 and could integrate it into ChatGPT-5, the new version of the chatbot and virtual assistant that it launched in late 2022. Project Strawberry (Previously Project Q\* (Q-star)) is expected to feature autonomous Internet research and dramatically improve AI reasoning capabilities and has been billed as OpenAI's push to create Artificial General Intelligence - AI with capabilities similar to that of the human brain.
3. **Prime Minister of India's visits to Brunei Darussalam and Singapore** have marked significant advancements in India's diplomatic and strategic engagements in Southeast Asia. The PM visited the iconic Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan, a symbol of Brunei's Islamic heritage and is named after the 28th Sultan of Brunei. India also appreciated Brunei's support in hosting ISRO's Telemetry Tracking and Telecommand (TTC) Station, with discussions on furthering cooperation under the renewed MoU. India and Singapore have agreed to elevate their bilateral relationship to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership,' broadening cooperation across various sectors.
4. A massive **2,492-carat rough diamond**, believed to be the **second biggest ever** found, has been unearthed in Botswana, recently. The huge stone is thought to be the biggest found since the 3,106-carat Cullinan Diamond was discovered in South Africa in 1905. It was detected, unearthed and recovered thanks to the company's Mega Diamond Recovery (MDR) X-ray Transmission (XRT) technology, which is designed to "identify and preserve large, high-value diamonds. Botswana, a major diamond producer, relies heavily on the gem for 30% of its GDP and 80% of its exports.
5. According to a study published in the journal Nature, **India contributes to a fifth of global plastic pollution**. India burns roughly 5.8 million tonnes (mt) of plastic each year and releases another 3.5 mt of plastics into the environment (land, air, water) as debris. Cumulatively, India contributes to 9.3 mt of plastic pollution in the world annually, significantly more than the countries next in this list — Nigeria (3.5 mt), Indonesia (3.4 mt) and China (2.8 mt) — and exceeding previous estimates.
6. The American Association for Cancer Research, the world's oldest and largest professional organization dedicated to cancer research, has recognized **September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month**. This month is dedicated to raising awareness about this deadly gynaecological cancer.
7. **Saturn's rings** will seemingly **disappear** from view in **2025**, a phenomenon caused by the planet's rotation on an axis. Because the planet rotates on an axis tilted by 26.7 degrees, the view of its rings from Earth changes with time. Every 13 to 15 years, Earth sees Saturn's rings edge-on, meaning "they reflect very little light, and are very difficult to see, making them essentially invisible. The rings last went edge-on in 2009 and they will be precisely edge-on on March 23, 2025, he said. After going edge-on in 2025, the rings will be visible a few months later.
8. The **7th edition** of the bilateral air exercise **Eastern Bridge** between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Oman Air Force was conducted from 11th to 22nd September 2024 at Masirah, Oman. The first edition was held between the two Air Forces at Thumrait, Oman in 2009.
9. **World Suicide Prevention Day** is observed annually on 10<sup>th</sup> September to increase global awareness that suicide is preventable and to encourage open conversations about mental health. The triennial theme for World Suicide Prevention Day from 2024 to 2026 is "Changing the Narrative on Suicide". The 1<sup>st</sup> WSPD was launched in Stockholm on 10th September 2003, as an initiative by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
10. **BRICS Literature Forum 2024** was inaugurated by Ilur Metshin, Mayor of Kazan, in **Kazan, Russia**. The theme of the 2024 edition of Literary BRICS is, "**World Literature in the New Reality**". India was represented by Madhav Kaushik, President of Sahitya Akademi and Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary of Sahitya Akademi.





11. The Indian **International Maritime Dispute Resolution Centre (IIMDRC)** was launched at the **20th Maritime State Development Council (MSDC)** meeting that concluded in Goa. An Indian Maritime Centre (IMC), a Policy Think Tank, was also launched at the council meeting. For the IIMDRC, to be set up in Mumbai, an MoU was signed between the Ministry and the India International Arbitration Centre. The IIMDRC will serve as a specialised platform and offer merit-based and industry-governed solutions to resolve maritime disputes efficiently, addressing the multi-modal, multi-contract, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-national nature of maritime transactions.
12. The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has granted its first authorisation for the use of a **vaccine against mpox in adults**, calling it an important step toward fighting the disease in Africa and beyond. Mpox belongs to the same family of viruses as smallpox but causes milder symptoms such as fever, chills and body aches. People with more serious cases can develop lesions on the face, hands, chest and genitals.
13. The **5th edition of India-Oman Joint Military Exercise Al Najah** was conducted at Rabkoot Training Area in Oman's Salalah from September 13-26. The aim of the exercise was to enhance the joint military capability of two nations to undertake counter-terrorism operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
14. The **first-ever Africa Urban Forum (AUF)** was held from 4-6 September 2024 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Hosted by the Ethiopian government and organized in partnership with the African Union, UN-Habitat, and UNECA, this inaugural forum marked a significant milestone. Member states and urban stakeholders broadly affirmed urbanization as an irreversible trend that must be harnessed for Africa's structural transformation. This recognition comes at a crucial time, with 70 per cent of African countries' GDP generated in cities, and African cities being the fastest-growing globally. By 2050, they are expected to host an additional 814 million people (UNDESA), highlighting the urgent need for rapid, well-planned, and adequately financed urban expansion.
15. **Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed**, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, officially inaugurated the **Abu Dhabi campus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi**. The first batch of undergraduate students, who will pursue BTech degrees in Energy Engineering and Computer Science and Engineering, were greeted by the Crown Prince. This first batch of 52 students was chosen through the JEE Advanced examination and the newly introduced Combined Admission Entrance Test (CAET) for international candidates. This is the first international campus of IIT Delhi.



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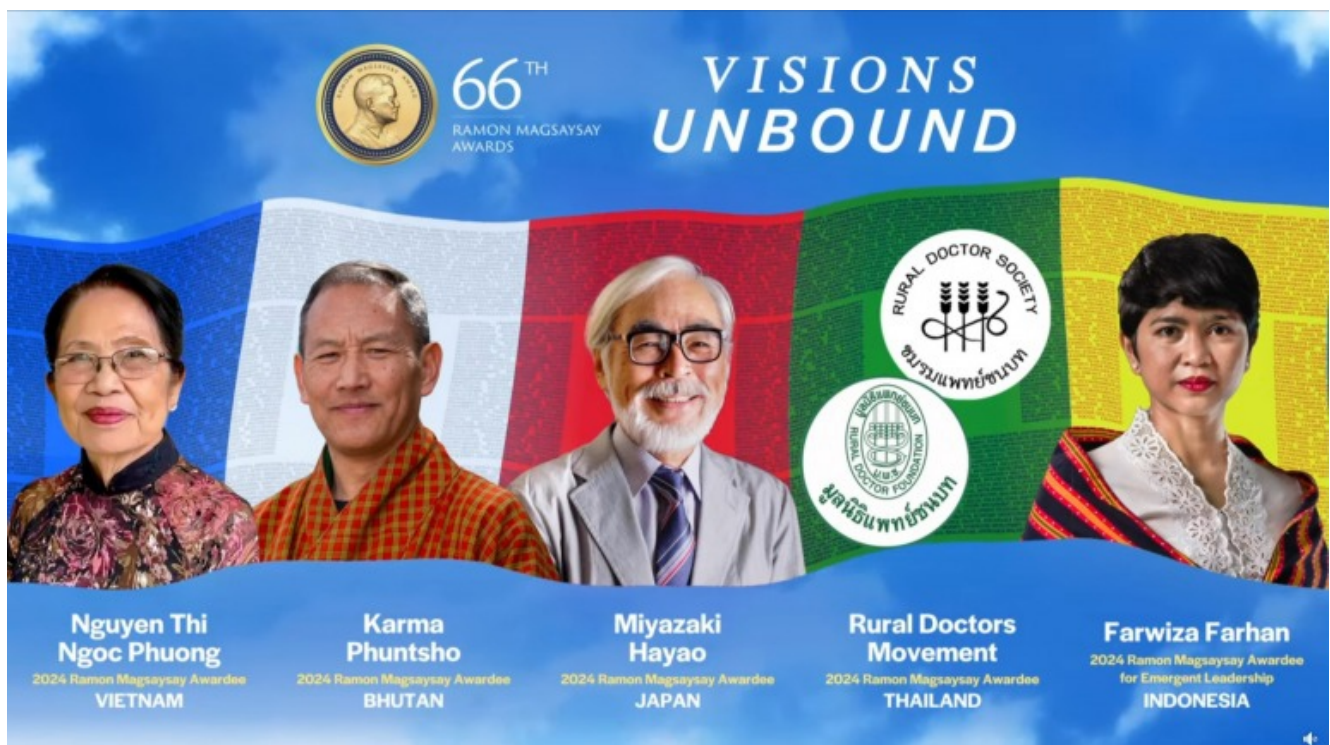
## **QUICK FACTS**

**ARTS & CULTURE AND HISTORICAL  
EVENTS OF CONTINUING SIGNIFICANCE**





1. India celebrates the **Teachers' Day** on **September 5**. Teachers' Day marks the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan - the first Vice-President and the second President of India. He was awarded Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India, in 1954 and honorary membership of the British Royal Order of Merit in 1963. The World Teachers' Day is celebrated after a month on October 5.
2. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has proposed changing the name of **Ravenshaw University in Cuttack**, citing the association with Thomas Edward Ravenshaw a British administrator, who oversaw the catastrophic famine of 1866 in Orissa (Odisha), known locally as "Na Anka Durbhikshya," in which more than a million people perished.
3. The heritage conservation and development of the **Walled City of Jaipur**, which was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2019**, will be taken up with a budgetary expenditure of ₹100 crore. The city's infrastructure will be strengthened with an emphasis on protecting its architectural legacy and vibrant culture.
4. Japanese filmmaker **Hayao Miyazaki**, a co-founder of Studio Ghibli and director of acclaimed films such as "Spirited Away" and "Princess Mononoke," has won the **2024 Ramon Magsaysay Award**. Named after the former President of the Philippines, the awards "honor greatness of spirit shown in service to the peoples of Asia", covering fields such as community service and arts. The foundation also named **Karma Phuntsho, founder of an educational charity in Bhutan**, **Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, a Vietnamese physician** who dealt with the effects of a toxic chemical used by the United States during the Vietnam War and the **Rural Doctors Movement of Thailand** as 2024 Magsaysay Awardees.



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**TEST ZONE**



## PASSAGE - 1

[1] intends to cull 723 wild animals, including 83 elephants, to address food shortages during the country's worst drought in a century, according to a report by the New York Times. Nearly half of [1]'s 1.4 million people are facing a hunger crisis. This action aims to provide food and reduce the risk of dangerous human-wildlife encounters due to limited resources, the report stated. The Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism has described the plan as "necessary," in line with the constitutional duty to use natural resources for the benefit of Namibians.

Drought is impacting a significant portion of southern Africa. The U.N. World Food Program noted in June that over 30

million people in the region are affected. Benjamin Suarato, spokesperson for the U.S. Agency for International Development, mentioned that droughts are a familiar issue in southern Africa, with several occurring in the past decade, including from 2018 to 2021. However, this particular drought is especially severe and wide-reaching, said Juliane Zeidler, country director of the World Wildlife Fund in [1]. "There is no food," Zeidler remarked. "There is no food for people and there is no food for animals."

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "[1] plans to kill 723 wild animals including zebras, hippos, and even 83 elephants, for food!"; The EconomicTimes]

Q.1 Which country's name has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A Namibia     | <input type="radio"/> C Ethiopia |
| <input type="radio"/> B South Sudan | <input type="radio"/> D Nigeria  |

Q.2 Which Indian state will launch a drive to cull 'Ghodparas', popularly known as 'Nilgai' (blue bulls) and wild boars in five districts?

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A Uttar Pradesh  | <input type="radio"/> C Bihar     |
| <input type="radio"/> B Madhya Pradesh | <input type="radio"/> D Rajasthan |

Q.3 The 2024 World Food Day was observed on which date under the theme 'Right to food for a better life and better future'?

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A October 13 | <input type="radio"/> C October 15 |
| <input type="radio"/> B October 16 | <input type="radio"/> D October 14 |

Q.4 In which country of southern Africa, the second-largest diamond ever found - a rough 2,492-carat stone - has been unearthed?

- |                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A South Africa | <input type="radio"/> C Namibia  |
| <input type="radio"/> B Zambia       | <input type="radio"/> D Botswana |

Q.5 IIT Madras became the first IIT to open an international campus with the inauguration of a campus in \_\_\_\_\_, an East African country.

- |                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A Tanzania | <input type="radio"/> C Kenya        |
| <input type="radio"/> B Namibia  | <input type="radio"/> D South Africa |

Q.1 (A) Q.2 (C) Q.3 (B) Q.4 (D) Q.5 (A)

Answers

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## PASSAGE - 2

The Union government has notified the constitution of the 23rd Law Commission of India with effect from September 1. The tenure of the previous Law Commission chaired by the former Karnataka High Court [1] ended on August 31. The Law Commission is a non-statutory commission (not created by a law of Parliament) formed by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice through a gazette notification to help the government review functioning of laws, suggest repealing of obsolete legislation, and make recommendations on matters referred to it by the government.

The commission is usually chaired by a retired judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court, and has legal scholars as members. Serving judges can also be appointed to the

commission, according to the notification on the appointment of the new panel. The 22 Law Commissions appointed since Independence have submitted a total 289 reports to the government. The government is under no obligation to accept the reports; however, the commissions' recommendations have over the decades led to the enactment of important legislation including the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC), and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act).

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "What is the Law Commission: its role, members, & recommendations", by Damini Nath, The Indian Express]

**Q.1 Which name has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?**

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>A</b> Justice Hima Kohli       | <b>C</b> Justice KT Sankaran  |
| <b>B</b> Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi | <b>D</b> Justice Ajay Rastogi |

**Q.2 The 23rd Law Commission, which was notified on September 2, will have a three-year term from\_\_\_\_\_.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>A</b> September 1, 2024, to September 31, 2027 | <b>C</b> January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2028 |
| <b>B</b> December 1, 2024, to August 31, 2027     | <b>D</b> September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2027 |

**Q.3 The first Law Commission, constituted in 1834 as a result of the Charter Act of 1833, was chaired by:**

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>A</b> Lord Macaulay   | <b>C</b> Lord Dalhousie |
| <b>B</b> Lord Cornwallis | <b>D</b> Lord Ripon     |

**Q.4 The first Law Commission of Independent India was established in \_\_\_\_\_ with the then Attorney-General of India, M. C. Setalvad, as its Chairman.**

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| <b>A</b> 1956 | <b>C</b> 1955 |
| <b>B</b> 1952 | <b>D</b> 1950 |

**Q.5 When was the 22nd Law Commission established?**

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| <b>A</b> 2018 | <b>C</b> 2019 |
| <b>B</b> 2020 | <b>D</b> 2021 |

Q.1 (B) Q.2 (D) Q.3 (A) Q.4 (C) Q.5 (B)

Answers

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## PASSAGE - 3

India's para-athletes delivered a stellar performance at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, marking a new chapter in the nation's sporting history. With a total of 29 medals, including seven gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze, India secured [1] place among the participating nations. This achievement reflects the progress and determination of the athletes, as well as the support from the government, the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), and the dedicated coaching staff.

India's para-athletes not only secured medals but also shattered world, Paralympic, and Asian records. In archery, Sheetal Devi surpassed previous world and Paralympic records, missing the new record by just one point. In athletics, Sumit Antil set a new Paralympic record with a javelin throw of 70.59m, while Sharad Kumar, Dharambir, and Sachin Khilari broke records in high jump,

club throw, and shot put, respectively. In shooting, Avani Lekhara surpassed her own Paralympic record in the women's 10m air rifle SH1 event, securing a new record with a score of 249.7 points.

India's remarkable performance at the Paris Paralympics is a testament to the grit, determination, and hard work of the athletes and their support systems. With continuous efforts and focused development, the future of India's para-athletes looks bright, and the country can look forward to more success in the global sporting arena.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Paris Paralympics 2024 Highlights: Indian players make history with 29 medals", The Economic Times]

**Q.1** Which rank has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- A** 18th
- B** 19th

- C** 15th
- D** 14th

**Q.2** A record \_\_\_\_\_ para-athletes represented India at the Paris 2024 Paralympics, held from August 28 to September 8.

- A** 75
- B** 59

- C** 68
- D** 84

**Q.3** Which player became the first Indian woman to win back-to-back gold medals at the Paralympic Games, following her success in Tokyo 2020?

- A** Sheetal Devi
- B** Preethi Pal

- C** Avani Lekhara
- D** Simran Sharma

**Q.4** Debutant \_\_\_\_\_, at just 17 years, 7 months, and 23 days, became India's youngest Paralympic medallist, securing bronze in the mixed team event alongside Rakesh Kumar at the Paris 2024 Paralympics.

- A** Mona Agrawal
- B** Sheetal Devi

- C** Rubina Francis
- D** Thulasimathi Murugesan

**Q.5** Which Indian player became the oldest athlete to win gold at the age of 35 years, 7 months at the Paris 2024 Paralympics?

- A** Sumit Antil
- B** Rakesh Kumar

- C** Sharad Kumar
- D** Dharambir

Q.1 (A) Q.2 (D) Q.3 (C) Q.4 (B) Q.5 (D)

Answers

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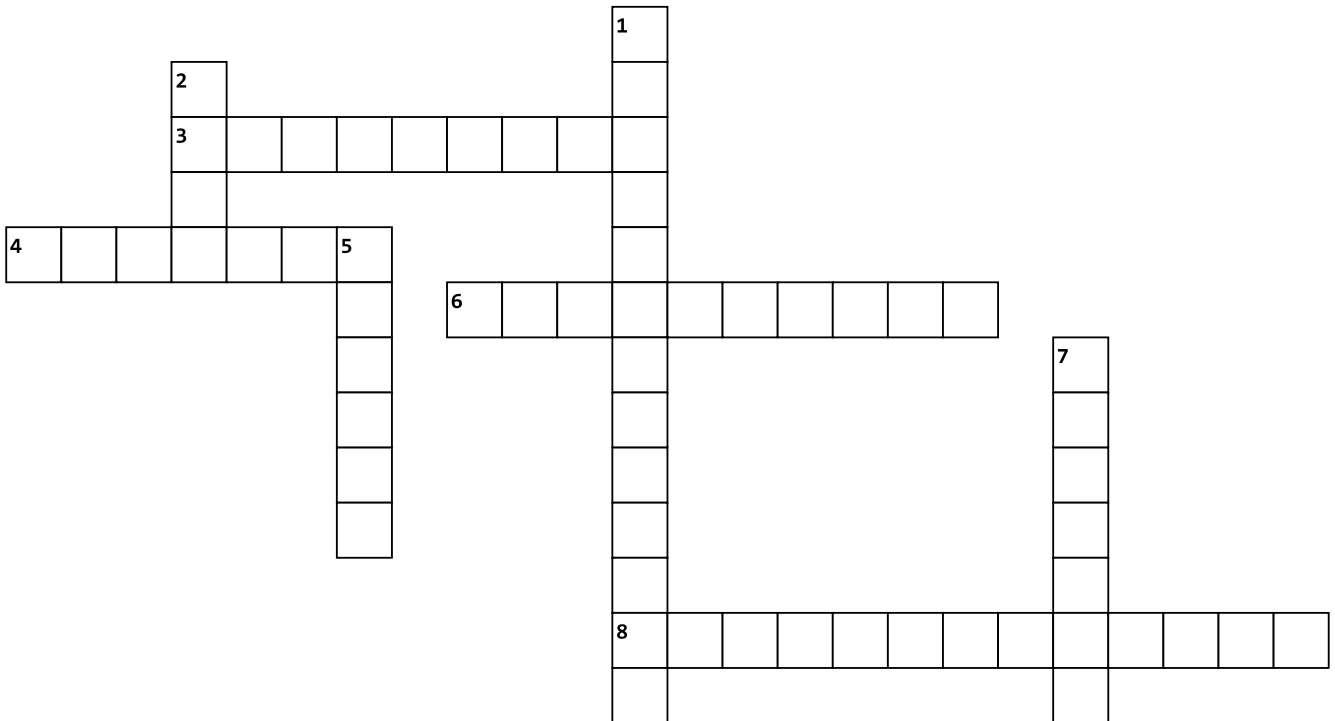


# CROSSWORD CORNER





## CROSSWORD - 1



### Across

3. Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2024
4. Indian light Tank for high-altitude areas
6. International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies
8. One of the winners of 2024 Ramon Magsaysay Award from Japan

### Down

1. One of the winners of 2024 Ramon Magsaysay Award from Bhutan
2. Rare Arabian Sea Cyclone in August month
5. India's first reusable hybrid rocket
7. Physician Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong of this country is one of the winners of 2024 Ramon Magsaysay Award

### Answers

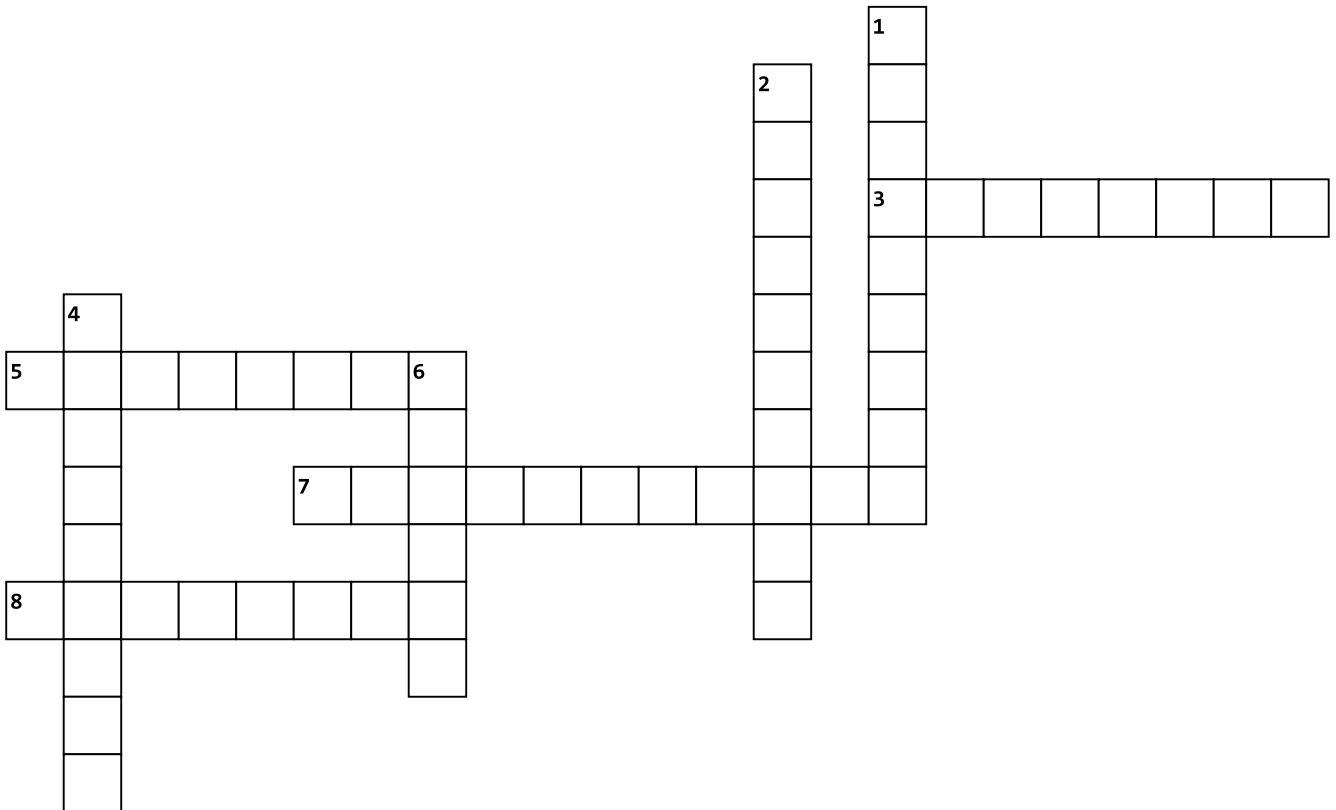
8 Hayao Miyazaki  
7 Vietnam  
6 7 September  
5 RHUMI1

4 Zorwar  
3 September  
2 Asna  
1 Karmaphuntsho





## CROSSWORD - 2



### Across

3. Place where one of the winners of 2024 Ramon Magsaysay Award Rural Doctors Movement is working
5. World Teachers' Day
7. World Suicide Prevention Day
8. Place where the first international campus of IIT Delhi opened

### Down

1. Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
2. National Teachers' Day
4. This organisation raised India's growth forecast for FY25 to 7% from 6.6%
6. Place where BRICS Literature Forum 2024 was held

### Answers

8	Abudhabi	4	WorldBank
7	10September	3	Thailand
6	Russia	2	5September
5	5October	1	September

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