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## GS 1 - HISTORY

### **When Jinnah asked Sam Manekshaw to join the Pak army**

**#SamBahadur #SamManekShaw #FieldMarshall #Partition #History #GS1**

**Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw (1914-2008) is one of the most storied figures in Indian military history, and now the subject of a biopic, Sam Bahadur.**

Known for his valour and humour alike, **Manekshaw's military career spanned nearly four decades and five wars, from World War II to the 1971 war against Pakistan**, where he led Indian forces to a decisive victory.

History, however, could have been very different had Manekshaw chosen differently in 1947.

### **Partition of the army**

The Partition divided much more than just the subcontinent's landmass. From the railways to the government treasury, the civil services to government assets down to chairs and tables, everything was split between the two nascent countries.

**Also partitioned, was the British Indian Army, nearly 400,000 strong in 1947. All assets and indigenous personnel were split between the two countries, with India allotted approximately 260,000 men and Pakistan the rest.**

### **Officers' choice**

While enlisted men did not have a say in which army they would join, that was not true for officers, at least formally.

Most Hindus and Sikhs had no option. Pakistan would not have them. But for those Muslims whose homes lay in what was to be India ... many convinced of the need for a secular army in a secular state, chose India. Christian and Parsi soldiers too were faced with a similar choice.

**Sam Manekshaw, a Major at the time, was a Parsi born in Amritsar, although his family**

originally hailed from Bombay (now Mumbai). He spent his early years in the city in Punjab before being sent to Nainital to study at Sherwood College. His parent unit, the 12th Frontier Force Regiment, became part of the Pakistani Army. Thus, Manekshaw was faced with a choice.

### **Manekshaw denies Jinnah's request**

**In fact, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan's founding father, himself requested Manekshaw to join the Pakistani Army.** Thankfully for India, Manekshaw turned Jinnah down, despite Pakistan providing rosy career prospects for a talented officer such as him.

Agreeing with Jinnah would have resulted in faster promotions in the Pakistan Army, but Sam preferred to remain in India.

**Manekshaw was transferred first to the 16th Punjab Regiment for a very brief while, and later, as Lieutenant Colonel, to the 5th Gorkha Rifles.** He would, however, not serve with Gorkha troops, being assigned to the Army Headquarters' Military Operations Directorate during the 1947-48 Kashmir War.

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### **An emperor's dream come to life, a 13th-century reservoir hopes to restore lost glory**

**#Hauz-i-Shamsi #ShamsiTalab #JalitihasUtsav #Iltutmish #MedievalHistory #History #GS3**

Home to a myriad dynasties one after the other, Delhi is a repository of the indelible legacy left by each of them in the form of various architectural marvels. One such legacy is the **Hauz-i-Shamsi, a project which was Sultan Iltutmish's "dream come true".**

**Situated in Mehrauli near the Jahaz Mahal, Hauz-i- Shamsi, also known as the Shamsi Talab, is a water reservoir built between 1211- 1236 AD.**



### Hauz-i-Shamsi

Once spread over 100 hectares, this water body has shrunk into a patch of filthy water over the years. However, in recent years, some efforts have been made to restore and conserve it with the ASI taking up the task of repairing and maintaining the monuments near the tank. On Friday, the ministry of Jal Shakti organised a 'Jal Itihas Utsav' here to raise public consciousness about safeguarding water heritage sites.

"According to historians, Sultan Iltutmish wanted to build a tank for his people...One night it was the Prophet Mohammad, who came in his dreams on his horse and instructed him to dig for water and build a water reservoir in the place marked by the hoof of his winged horse, named **Buraq**. The sultan...went to look for the place and found the mark of the hoof with water flowing from it and built the reservoir around it."

**Sultan Firoz (Shah) Tughlaq got it repaired and it was refilled with water...**Even today there is water in it—although extremely dirty—and weeds choke the tank.

The reservoir also finds mentions in the works of famed traveller Ibn Batuta who had described the Hauz-i-Shamsi as a rectangular-shaped reservoir that was spread across an area of one mile by two miles.

In the middle of a depression in the Shamsi Talab was a rock...Today, this rock is not in the middle of the lake anymore but stands at the corner. This suggests that **more than 50% of the lake had been encroached upon.**

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## In Mehrauli, a Mughal-sponsored temple is a testament to Delhi's syncretic roots

#YogmayaTemple #MedievalHistory #History #GS1

From a Mughal-sponsored structure to a concrete building, the **Yogmaya Temple in Mehrauli** is a historically important monument believed to be standing at the site of an ancient temple that is said to have come up during the period of the Mahabharata but of which no trace exists anymore.

A noble in the court of Mughal Emperor Akbar II by the name of Lala Sidhu Mal built the temple between 1806 and 1837. The area was known as Yoginipura in ancient Jain texts and Prithviraj Chauhan himself was said to have patronised a Yogini temple here shortly before his city's destruction. Lala Sidhu Mal, also known as Sed Mal, built his temple on the site where an ancient Yogini Temple is believed to have existed.

Today, parts of the structure built in the 1800s can be seen on the site of the temple before it was renovated in the 1960s. It now stands as a dilapidated building, with the walls of the structure worn out and full of cracks, and paint peeling off.

Zafar Hasan's book Monuments of Delhi talks about it as **fully intact in 1920** and said in his books that it was **one of the best-preserved sites in Delhi** ... Something curious which you find it in almost all of UP, Haryana and Delhi is the idea that there are no historical mandirs in the area and they were all destroyed by Muslim rule.

**Yogmaya temple was a focal point of Akbar II's rule.** When his son was released from British prison in Allahabad, the emperor's wife offered a chador of flowers at the Qutubuddin Dargah. The Emperor himself ordered a similar offering to be given at Yogmaya. Placing flowers at both holy sites became a **yearly tradition known as Phool Walon ki Sair**, and it continues to this day as the capital's most prominent **display of Hindu-Muslim unity.**

## GS 1- ART & CULTURE

### Move over Swifties, Gen Z favourite Rizz is Oxford Word of the Year 2023

#Rizz #OxfordWordOfTheYear2023  
#ArtandCulture #GS1

According to Oxford University Press (OUP), which publishes the Oxford English Dictionary, **Rizz is defined as style, charm, attractiveness, and the ability to attract a romantic or sexual partner.** Many believe the term to be a **shortened version of the word “charisma”.**

It was not an easy fight, by any means, with **Rizz beating out strong contenders like Situationship, Prompt, De-influencing, and Swiftie.**

Previous words chosen by OUP have included **Vax (2021), Climate Emergency (2019), and, by public vote for the first time, Goblin Mode (2022).**

#### How is the Word of The Year chosen and why did Rizz win it?

Typically, the **Word of the Year chosen by Oxford relies on evidence of usage derived from its regularly updated corpus, which comprises over 22 billion words.** These words are sourced from news outlets spanning the English-speaking world.

But over the last two years, by issuing a call-out to the public to have a say in the **Word of the Year**, OUP has sparked debate and discussion around language.

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### Gujarat's Garba dance enters UNESCO's list of 'intangible cultural heritage'

#IntangibleCulturalHeritage #UNESCO  
#Garba #ArtandCulture #GS1

The UNESCO on Wednesday approved the inclusion of garba, Gujarat's most popular folk dance form, in its Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of

**Humanity.** A decision to “inscribe” the dance form as “intangible heritage” was taken at the **18th session of the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Republic of Botswana.**

With this, **15 elements from various parts of India have been inscribed to UNESCO's representative list of ICH.**

Explaining the dance form, the official website of UNESCO stated, “The practitioners and bearers (of garba) are broad and inclusive, from the dancers to the musicians, social groups, craftspeople and religious figures involved in the festivities and preparations. Transmitted through practice and observation, **Garba fosters equality by transcending socio-economic, gender and religious structures. It is inclusive of diverse and marginalized communities, thus strengthening social bonds.”**

The **14 other elements from India** that have been inscribed to UNESCO's representative list of ICH are **Ramlila; yoga; vedic chanting; Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre of Kerala; Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas; Mudi yettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala; Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan; Chhau dance of eastern India; Buddhist chanting of Ladakh; Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur; traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making in Punjab; Nawrouz; Kumbh Mela and Durga Puja in Kolkata.**

*Read more about Indian elements included in the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO:*  
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/state/india-IN?info=elements-on-the-lists>

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## Parliament committee suggests allowing puja, rituals at ASI monuments of 'religious significance'

*#ProtectedMonuments #ASI #LivingMonuments #ArtandCulture #GS1*

A parliamentary panel has recommended the government to explore the possibility of permitting puja and worship at monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) that have religious significance. The report on 'Issues relating to Untraceable Monuments and Protection of Monuments in India' was presented in both Houses on Friday.

If that happens, it will open a Pandora's Box since many of the protected monuments include dilapidated temples, dargahs, churches and other religious sites. **As of now, ASI only permits worship and rituals at monuments wherein such traditions were on at the time of the monument coming to the agency's custody.**

It recommended that the ASI may explore the possibility of permitting puja/worship/certain religious activities at Centrally Protected Monuments of religious significance, subject to the condition that such activities would not have any detrimental effect on the state of conservation and preservation of the monuments.

In its response, the Ministry of Culture said it had noted the recommendation and will explore its feasibility. It, however, said that as per the policy decision, revival of worship is not allowed where it was not in vogue at the time of protection (by the ASI) or has been abandoned since long.

In May last year, after prayers were held at the ruins of the eighth-century Martand Sun Temple in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag, the ASI had expressed its concern to the district administration. The agency, which functions under the Ministry of Culture, deemed the incident to be a violation of its rules.

**Of the 3,693 centrally protected monuments and archaeological sites maintained by the**

ASI, a little less than a fourth (820) have places of worship, while the rest are considered non-living monuments where no new religious rituals can be started or conducted. The sites that have places of worship include temples, mosques, dargahs and churches.

Although the Martand Sun Temple was once a thriving place of worship, commissioned by Karkota dynasty king Lalitaditya Muktapida (725 AD to 753 AD) in the eighth century, it was destroyed by Sikandar Shah Miri in the 14th century. At the time the ASI took over the temple ruins in the 20th century for conservation, no puja or Hindu ritual was being held there. So, when puja was conducted on the temple complex twice last year — first by a group of devotees and then in the presence of J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha — it was a violation of ASI norms since the temple is considered a non-living monument, ASI officials said.

### Why prayers are held at some protected sites?

According to ASI rules, prayers are allowed at protected sites only if they were "functioning places of worship" at the time it took charge of them. The best-known example of a living ASI monument is the Taj Mahal where namaz is held every Friday. Other notable living monuments include three mosques in Kannauj, Roman Catholic Church in Meerut, Nila Mosque in Delhi's Hauz Khas Village and several Buddhist monasteries in Ladakh.

Many protected monuments also witness "unauthorised worship", according to ASI records. These include Lal Gumbad, Sultan Ghari's tomb and Ferozeshah Kotla, all in Delhi.

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## Bihar to develop Sita's birthplace: An expert explains the history and mythology of Mithila

*#PunauraDham #SitaBirthplace #RamayanCircuit #ArtandCulture #GS1*



racism,” U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Türk said on Wednesday.

“If we did not have it, we would be even in a more serious situation because then you would have different standards, and let’s also be very clear: It is the universal standard,” he said. He acknowledged that some have said it doesn’t apply to a specific religion, culture or region, but called that “absolute nonsense.” Türk’s own job emerged from one of the agreements that built on the 1948 declaration: the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action of 1993.

### What is the situation now?

**The 75th anniversary comes as human rights are challenged in the war between Israel and Hamas, Russia’s war in Ukraine, internal conflicts in Myanmar and Sudan and in a host of other places and situations.**

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the universal declaration has been “too often misused and abused.” “It is exploited for political gain and it is ignored, often, by the very same people,” Guterres said in a speech in February to the U.N. Human Rights Council – itself frequently criticized because of some member countries’ own poor rights records. “Some governments chip away at it. Others use a wrecking ball.” Still, Amnesty International says the declaration “is living proof that a global vision for human rights is possible, is doable, can be realized.” And Türk says despite the many times the declaration has been ignored or exploited, it is still relevant, and the world should honour its successes and learn from its failures.

“Human rights are inherent to every human being. Leaders who ignore this truth imperil the people they are meant to serve,” he said.

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## GS 1 - GEOGRAPHY

### What makes Cyclone Michaung, headed to the Andhra coast, such an unusual storm?

**#CycloneMichaung #TropicalCyclone  
#Cyclogenesis #Climatology #Geography  
#GS1**

Tropical cyclone Michaung will cross the Andhra Pradesh coast in Bapatla district between the cities of Nellore and Machilipatnam in the forenoon of Tuesday (December 5), the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday (December 4) evening.

The storm has brought heavy rain to most of Tamil Nadu, parts of Andhra Pradesh, and southern Odisha.

### An unusual cyclone

**Due to unfavourable ocean conditions, storms that develop over the North Indian Ocean in December don’t usually attain destructive intensities.** High-intensity cyclones — packing high speeds and bringing heavy and widespread rain — such as Michaung are not common at this time of the year.

The IMD had initially predicted that Michaung would remain a ‘tropical cyclone’ (wind speeds of 62 kph to 87 kph) until it crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast. On Sunday, however, the IMD upgraded it to the intensity of a ‘severe’ storm (wind speeds of 88 kph to 166 kph).

Such intensification of a December cyclone is unique, the IMD said. **The above-normal value of the heat index off the southern Andhra Pradesh coast led to the strengthening of Michaung,** IMD officials said.

### Indian tropical storms

**Climatologically, about five cyclones develop in the North Indian Ocean basin — comprising the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea — every year. Of these, an average of four cyclones develop over the Bay of Bengal and one over the Arabian Sea. However, Arabian Sea storms often reach higher intensities and carry the potential to cause widespread damage.**

**The North Indian Ocean basin is most prone to cyclone development during the pre-monsoon (April-June) and post-monsoon (October-December) months. Due to**

**favourable ocean conditions, cyclones that form in May and November usually reach higher intensities than storms that form at other times.**

## **Storm intensification**

**Tropical cyclones are fueled by ocean heat (in addition to other factors). Ocean temperatures of 26 degrees Celsius or more, prevailing at depths between 50 metres and 100 metres, are conducive for cyclogenesis, which refers to the processes that lead to the development and strengthening of a cyclone.**

**Warm oceans contribute to a cyclone's rapid intensification while at sea. An oceanographic parameter called the Tropical Cyclone Heat Potential (TCHP) is considered an important factor in cyclone genesis, intensification, and propagation.**

The intensification process is highly complex, and is also influenced by a combination of various favourable atmospheric conditions including **boundary layers (the fluid layer adjacent to a bounding surface), wind shear (changes in wind direction and/or speed over a vertical or horizontal distance), convection (transfer of heat within a fluid), Rossby waves (which occur in rotating fluids), upper ocean circulation, and air-sea interaction.**

## **What after landfall**

The IMD has warned of **very heavy to extremely heavy rain** (115 mm to 200 mm and above) over the Godavari, Krishna, Bapatla, Guntur, Srikakulam, Palnadu, Dr B R Ambedkar Konaseema, Yanam, Kakinada, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Kurnool, and YSR districts of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday and Wednesday.

It is **expected to cause widespread crop damage.** Paddy, pineapple, and other standing crops that are nearing harvest, could be hit due to the extremely heavy rainfall (over 200 mm in 24 hours) during the next two days.

**Storm surges and tidal waves up to 1.5 metres** are predicted as the cyclone nears the coast. Strong winds with speeds of 90-100 kph

gusting to 110 kph, are expected during landfall. The IMD's flash flood alert has warned of likely inundation in the low lying areas of Rayalaseema, Yanam, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Karaikal.

After crossing the Andhra coast, the system is expected to continue to move northwestward towards southern Odisha. Here, the IMD has issued an 'orange' alert.

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## **Iceland volcano eruption: What are volcanoes and why is the island so volcanically active?**

**#IcelandVolcano #Volcano #Volcanism #Geography #GS1**

The volcano, which is known as Fagradalsfjall and located on the Reykjanes peninsula in southwest Iceland, erupted on Monday (December 18) after weeks of intense earthquakes and tremors.

The authorities anticipated the eruption due to the seismic activity and evacuated nearly 4,000 people last month from Grindavik, a fishing town threatened by the lava flow.

This is the third time that the Fagradalsfjall volcano has erupted in the past two years. It had been dormant for over 6,000 years but became active in March 2021. Notably, Iceland is one of the most volcanically active regions on the planet. It witnesses an eruption every four to five years. However, since 2021 the frequency has spiked to almost one eruption per year.



## What are volcanoes?

According to the US Geological Survey: **“Volcanoes are openings, or vents where lava, tephra (small rocks), and steam erupt onto the Earth’s surface.”**

**Volcanoes can be on land and in the ocean. They are formed when material significantly hotter than its surroundings is erupted onto the surface of the Earth. The material could be liquid rock (known as “magma”, when it’s underground and “lava” when it breaks through the surface), ash, and/or gases.**

**The rise of magma can take place in three different ways, according to NASA.**

**First, when tectonic plates — massive, irregularly shaped slabs of solid rock that carry both continents and oceans and are constantly in motion — move away from each other.** “The magma rises up to fill in the space. When this happens **underwater volcanoes can form,**” it added.

**Second, when the plates move towards each other.** “When this happens, part of Earth’s crust can be forced deep into its interior. **The high heat and pressure cause the crust to melt and rise as magma,**” NASA said.

**Third is how magma rises at the hotspots — hot areas inside of the Earth, where magma gets heated up. As magma gets warmer, it becomes less dense, leading to its rise.**

## What are the different kinds of volcanoes?

According to the British Geological Survey, the **type of volcano depends on the viscosity of the magma, the amount of gas in the magma, the composition of the magma, and the way the magma reaches the surface.**

**There are two broad types of volcanoes: a stratovolcano and a shield volcano. Stratovolcanoes have steep sides and are more cone-shaped than shield volcanoes have a low profile and resemble a shield lying on the ground.**

# Inside of a Stratovolcano

Stratovolcano, also known as a composite volcano, are formed from years of eruptions of lava and ash. Stratovolcanos differ from other types by their steep profile and periodic eruptions, sometimes coming decades apart.

## Volcanic Layers of Cooled Magma and Ash

After each successive eruption by the volcano, magma and ash forms new layers which build the volcano up.

## Main Vent

Pathway for lava from the magma chamber to the surface.

## Magma Chamber

When magma rises up through the Earth's crust, it forms into a pool of magma where it can no longer rise. But with enough pressure, the magma will continue its upward movement and a volcanic explosion occurs.

## Volcanic Dikes

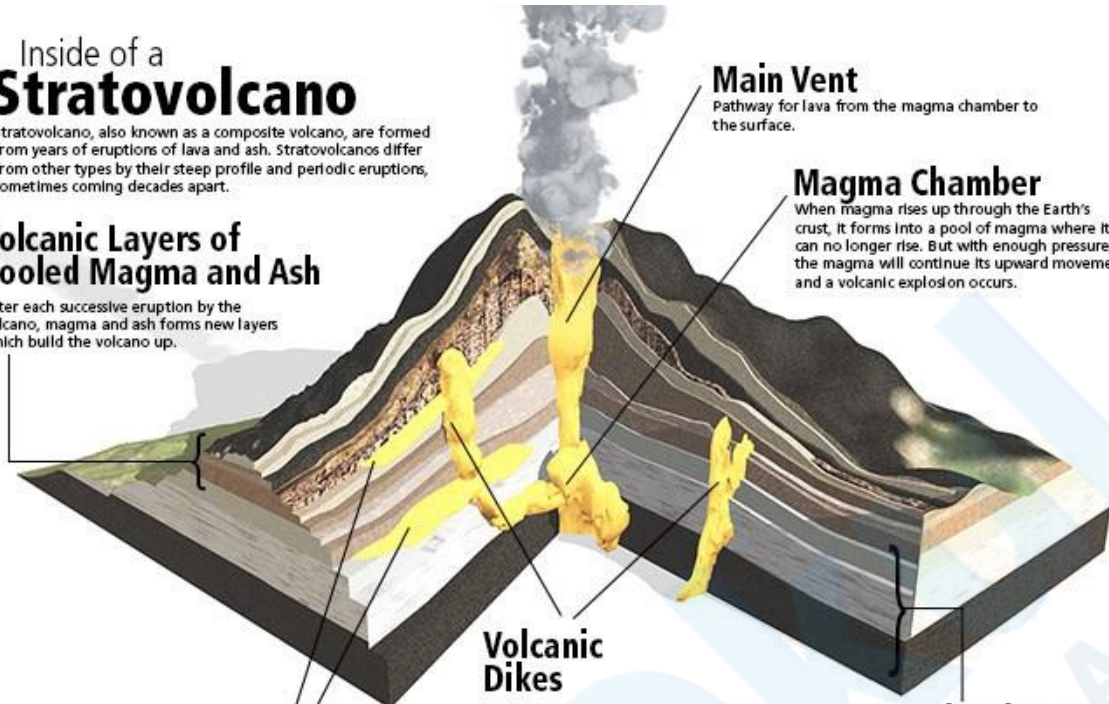
Magmatic, or volcanic, dikes form when the magma intrudes into upper layers of rock. Dikes are mostly near vertical or have a large angle. As the rocks and soil around these dikes erode, the dikes often become visible and form interesting shapes relative to their surroundings.









## Volcanic Sills

Volcanic, or intrusive, sills form when the magma intrudes into the planes between older strata or rock. Sills are horizontal and are fed by dikes.

## Pre Volcanic Layers of Rock and Earth

Land that formed prior to the volcano formation.



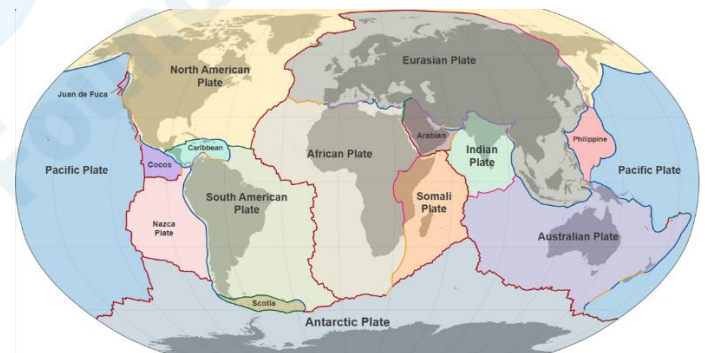
Types of Volcanoes			
<b>SHIELD VOLCANOES</b> Large broad slopes, fluid lava flow   Mauna Loa, Hawaii	<b>COMPOSITE VOLCANOES</b> Steep and symmetrical, explosive eruptions   Mayon, Philippines	<b>LAVA DOMES</b> Small with steep sides, oozes viscous lava   Showa Shinjan, Japan	<b>CINDER CONES</b> Smallest, single vent, erupts cinders, ash, and rocks   Sunset Crater, Arizona

There are also a host of different volcanic features that can form from erupted magma (such as cinder cones or lava domes) as well as processes that shape volcanoes.

## Why is Iceland so volcanically active?

There are two reasons for this. One, Iceland sits on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (part of the longest mountain range in the world) in the North Atlantic Ocean, where the Eurasian and

North American plates are moving apart a few centimetres every year.



The UK's Meteorological Office said: "This produces volcanic rift zones, regions where the Earth's crust is being pulled apart and fractured, and here molten rock, or magma, rises up, and some reaches the surface and erupts as lava and/or ash."

Two, the island sits over a hot zone (or hotspot, as mentioned before), which leads to enhanced volcanic activity in the region.

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## GS 2 - POLITY

### **Governors acting as Chancellor not bound by advice of ministers, says Supreme Court**

#Governors #Chancellors #PowersOfGovernors #Polity #GS2

**Governors acting in their statutory capacity as University Chancellor are not bound by the aid and advice of the council of ministers, the Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday.**

“In... a situation” where “the statute makes a clear-cut distinction between two distinct authorities, namely, the Chancellor and the State Government... the same must also be interpreted distinctly, and while dealing with the case of the Vice-Chancellor, the Governor,

being the Chancellor of the University, acts only in his personal capacity, and therefore, the powers and duties exercised and performed by him under a statute related to the University, as its Chancellor, have absolutely no relation to the exercise and performance of the powers and duties by him while he holds office as the Governor of the state”, the bench said.

The SC recalled that in its **1981 judgment in Hardwari Lal, Rohtak v. G.D. Tapase**, Chandigarh, a full bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, while dealing with powers of the Governor with respect to the appointment/removal of Vice-Chancellor of Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, under the Maharshi Dayanand University

(Amendment) Act, 1980, had held that **“the Governor was the ex officio Chancellor of the University. Therefore, by virtue of his office, he was not bound to act under the aid and advice of the council of ministers”**.

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## **Governor can't send re-adopted Bill to President after withholding assent: SC**

**#Governor #PowersOfGovernor #RoleOfGovernor #Article200 #Polity #GS2**

Observing that a **Governor cannot refer for Presidential assent a Bill passed by the Assembly and later re-adopted or re-enacted**, the Supreme Court said Friday it “would like” Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi to “engage” with Chief Minister M K Stalin and “resolve” the “impasse” over the delay in clearing Bills sent to him by the House.

The bench said **if the Governor exercises the option to withhold assent to a Bill, he has to send it back to the Assembly, that he cannot simply withhold assent and retain the Bill.**

**“There are three options for the Governor under the substantive part of Article 200 (which deals with the Governor’s power to deal with a Bill presented by the Assembly). He can assent to the Bill or he can withhold assent or he can reserve the Bill for the consideration of the President.** They are all alternatives. In this case... Governor... withholds assent. **Once he withholds assent, there is no question of then again referring it to the President,”** the bench said.

The CJI said, “He (Governor) can’t. He has to follow one of the three options... When he withholds assent, he can’t then say I am referring it to the President. Once he withholds assent, he can’t stall the Bill there... The proviso (to Article 200) does not give him a fourth option.”

### **Text of Article 200:**

**200. Assent to Bills.**—When a Bill has been passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State or, in the case of a State having a Legislative Council, has been passed by both Houses of the Legislature of the State, it shall be presented to the Governor and the Governor shall declare either that he assents to the Bill or that he withholds assent therefrom or that he reserves the Bill for the consideration of the President:

Provided that the Governor may, as soon as possible after the presentation to him of the Bill for assent, return the Bill if it is not a Money Bill together with a message requesting that the House or Houses will reconsider the Bill or any specified provisions thereof and, in particular, will consider the desirability of introducing any such amendments as he may recommend in his message and, when a Bill is so returned, the House or Houses shall reconsider the Bill accordingly, and if the Bill is passed again by the House or Houses with or without amendment and presented to the Governor for assent, the Governor shall not withhold assent therefrom:

Provided further that the Governor shall not assent to, but shall reserve for the consideration of the President, any Bill which in the opinion of the Governor would, if it became law, so derogate from the powers of the High Court as to endanger the position which that Court is by this Constitution designed to fill.

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## **How EC decides poll schedule**

**#ElectionsSchedule #ElectionCommission #RPA1951 #Polity #GS2**

### **What does the Election Commission take into account while deciding the schedule for elections?**

The election schedule includes all dates from the date of issue of gazette notification to the date before which the election process shall be completed. For ordinary voters, the two most important dates in the schedule are the date(s) of polling and counting.

The ECI can notify elections at any time within six months of the end of the term of Lok Sabha or a state Assembly, according to Sections 14 and 15 respectively of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The election process has to be completed before the expiration of the existing term of Lok Sabha or the state Assembly.

While deciding the election schedule, the ECI looks at the **availability and requirements for the movement of security forces, the logistics of arranging electronic voting machines (EVMs) and poll officials, as well as major national and local festivals, and the prevailing law and order situation.**

**If the terms of multiple state Assemblies are ending around the same time, the ECI tries to hold the elections together. While polling may be held on different days, the counting of votes usually happens on the same day.**

## Have counting dates for elections been shifted earlier?

Yes, dates have been changed in earlier elections too, and various reasons have been given by the ECI.

**In Mizoram itself, the ECI had initially announced that counting of votes in the Assembly elections of 2013 would be held on December 8, a Sunday, but had then changed the date to December 9, Monday.**

**In this round of elections, polling in Rajasthan was initially scheduled for November 23 — however, two days after making the announcement, the date was revised to November 25.**

The ECI said political parties and social organisations had pointed out that there were “large scale wedding/ social engagement on that day which may cause inconvenience to large number of people”.

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## What is All India Judicial Service, why it has failed to become a reality

**#AllIndiaJudicialService #AllIndiaServices  
#DistrictJudge #Article312 #Article236  
#Article233 #Article234 #PCS-J  
#LawCommission #LowerJudiciary  
#SubordinateJudiciary #Judiciary #Polity  
#GS2**

During her inaugural address at the Supreme Court’s Constitution Day celebration on Sunday (November 26), President Droupadi Murmu called for an “all-India judicial service” to recruit judges, saying this will help make the judiciary diverse by increasing representation from marginalised social groups.

### What is the All India Judicial Service?

**Article 312 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS), along the lines of the central civil services.**

If the Rajya Sabha declares through a resolution, supported by at least two-thirds of its present

and voting members, that it is necessary or expedient to create a service in “national interest,” the Parliament “may by law provide for the creation of one or more all India services (including an all India judicial service) common to the Union and the States” and regulate the recruitment and service conditions of persons appointed to any such service.

However, **Article 312 (3) states that the AIJS cannot include any post inferior to that of a district judge, as defined in Article 236.** A district judge can include a city civil court judge, additional district judge, joint district judge, assistant district judge, chief judge of a small cause court, chief presidency magistrate, additional chief presidency magistrate, sessions judge, additional sessions judge, and assistant sessions judge.

Essentially, the **AIJS seeks to centralise the recruitment of judges at the level of additional district judges and district judges for all states.** Just as the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducts a central recruitment process and assigns successful candidates to cadres, the recruitment of judges of the lower judiciary is being proposed to be made central, following which they’ll be assigned to states.

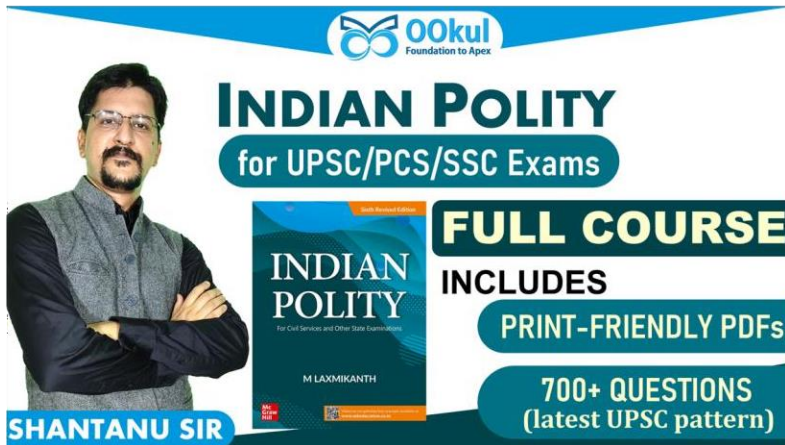
### How will this differ from the present system of selection?

**Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution of India deal with the appointment of district judges and place it in the domain of the states.**

**The selection process is conducted by the State Public Service Commissions and the concerned High Court, since HCs exercise jurisdiction over the subordinate judiciary in the state. Panels of HC judges interview candidates after the exam and select them for appointment.**

**All judges of the lower judiciary up to the level of district judges are selected through the Provincial Civil Services (Judicial) exam. PCS (J) is commonly referred to as the judicial services exam.**

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## GS 2 - GOVERNANCE

### 24% rise in cybercrime in 2022, 11% surge in economic offences: NCRB report

#NCRB2022report

#CrimesInIndia

#Governance #GS2

India saw a **rise of 24 per cent in cybercrimes registered in 2022** compared to 2021, whereas other categories of crime – including **economic offences (11%), crimes against senior citizens (9%), against women (4%)** – too recorded an increase, as per the latest data released by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** Sunday.

According to the report 'Crime in India', 65,893 cases were registered under cybercrime, showing an increase of 24.4 per cent compared to 52,974 cases in 2021. "Crime rate (per lakh population) under this category has increased from 3.9 in 2021 to 4.8 in 2022. During 2022, 64.8 per cent of cybercrime cases registered were for the motive of fraud – 42,710 out of 65,893 cases – followed by extortion with 5.5 per cent – 3,648 cases – and sexual exploitation with 5.2 per cent – 3,434 cases," it said.

According to the NCRB data, a **total of 1,93,385 cases were registered under economic offences, showing an increase of 11.1 per cent compared to 1,74,013 cases in 2021.** "Out of three specified categories of economic offences; **criminal breach of trust, FCF (forgery, cheating & fraud) and**

**counterfeiting, FCF accounted for maximum of such cases, with 1,70,901 cases, followed by criminal breach of trust with 21,814 cases and counterfeiting with 670 cases in the last year,"** the report said.

As many as **57,582 cases were registered for crimes against SCs, a surge of 13.1 per cent compared to 50,900 cases in 2021.** "A total of **10,064 cases were registered last year for crimes against STs, showing an increase of 14.3 per cent compared to 8,802 cases in 2021.** Crime rate registered increased from **8.4 in 2021 to 9.6 in 2022,"** the report stated.

**Cases of crime against senior citizens increased to 28,545 compared to 26,110 the previous year – an increase of 9.3 per cent in registration.**

In 2022, a total of 4,45,256 crimes against women were registered, showing an increase of 4 per cent compared to 4,28,278 cases in 2021. "Majority of cases under crime against women were registered under 'cruelty by husband or his relatives' at 31.4 per cent followed by kidnapping and abduction of women at 19.2 per cent, assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty at 18.7 per cent, and rape at 7.1 per cent. The crime rate registered per lakh women population was 66.4 in 2022 in comparison with 64.5 in 2021," according to the data.

The data showed that a **total of 192 crimes were registered against foreigners (tourists**



and residents) compared to 150 cases in 2021, showing an increase of 28 per cent. “Most of the cases registered were theft (34) and rape (28). Out of 222 victims in 192 registered cases, 56.8 per cent of the victims were from the Asian continent (126) followed by 18 per cent of victims from African countries (40),” it added.

Last year, 58,24,946 cognizable crimes – comprising 35,61,379 under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 22,63,567 Special & Local Laws (SLL) crimes – were registered. “It shows a decline of 2,71,364 – 4.5 per cent – in registration of cases compared to 60,96,310 cases in 2021. Crime rate registered per lakh population has declined from 445.9 in 2021 to 422.2 in 2022. “During 2022, registration of cases under IPC and SLL Crimes have declined by 2.8 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively over 2021. Percentage share of IPC was 61.1 per cent while percentage share of SLL cases was 38.9 per cent of total cognizable crimes during 2022,” the report further said.

In 2022, a total of 1,07,588 cases of kidnapping and abduction were registered, showing an increase of 5.8 per cent compared to 1,01,707 cases in 2021.

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## NMC logo: Why are doctors protesting now if it always had Dhanvantri's image?

#NMClogo #Dhanvantari  
#NationalMedicalCommission #Governance  
#GS2

The logo of the National Medical Commission (NMC), with a colourful image of physician god Dhanvantri in the centre, has drawn criticism from doctors, with the Indian Medical Association (IMA) urging the the apex medical education regulator to take “corrective steps”.

“The logo of any national institution ought to capture the aspirations of all our citizens in an equal manner and by remaining neutral in all respects thereby eliminating any possibility of any part or section of the society feeling aggrieved in any manner,” the IMA said in a letter.

Officials from the NMC, however, maintained that the image of Dhanvantri had always been a part of its logo, albeit as a dark silhouette. The new logo colourises the image, while also replacing the word ‘India’ with ‘Bharat’.



New Logo

Old Logo

## Why are doctors opposing the new logo?

Once the changes to the logo were highlighted last month, the IMA said it went against the “fundamental values” of doctors. Dr Sharad Agarwal, president of IMA, said: “Doctors take an oath to treat everyone irrespective of their caste, class, or religion. Why then should the logo of an institute that governs training of doctors have any religious connection?”

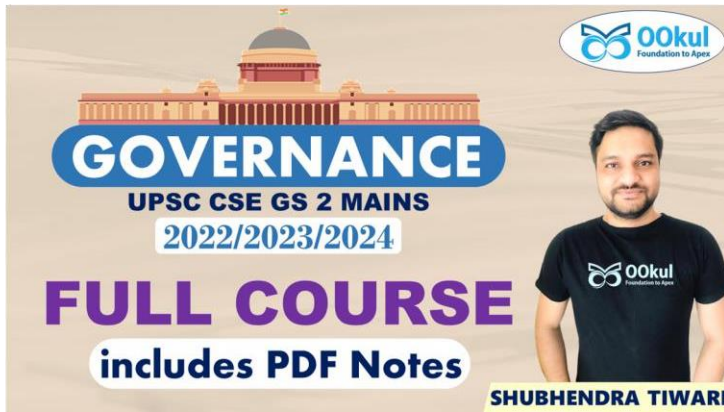
He added that while doctors can follow their faith at home, institutions must not do so. “Creating controversies is not the job of NMC, they should focus on improving the quality of medical education in the country,” he said.

“The IMA calls upon the NMC to take corrective steps to adopt a logo which does not contradict the oath and duty of doctors towards all our citizens with complete neutrality, especially in shunning any attempt to connect or identify an institution such as NMC with any particular religion.”

## Why has Dhanvantri been included in the NMC logo?

With Dhanvantri considered to be the god of Ayurveda and medicine, officials from the NMC said it was an appropriate addition to the logo for a medical body. An official said: “If the logo for doctors can be Caduceus — the staff surrounded by two serpents — that is

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## GS2 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### What is Article 99 of the UN Charter, invoked for the first time in decades as Israel attacks Gaza

#UNcharter #UNcharterArticle99  
#UnitedNations #UNSC  
#InternationalOrganisation  
#InternationalRelations #GS2

Amid Israel's ongoing military attacks on the Gaza Strip, particularly in its southern region, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter in a bid to establish a ceasefire.

### What is Article 99 of the UN Charter?

The UN Charter is the founding document of the United Nations. Based on the powers conferred through it, the UN can take action on a wide variety of issues. The Charter is considered an international treaty, meaning UN Member States are "bound by it". However, in practice, there is little that member countries can be forced to do.

**Article 99 states:** "The Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security."

It is seen as a discretionary power. A 1945 report of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations said of the Article: "...The responsibility it confers upon the Secretary-General will require the exercise of the highest qualities of political judgment, tact and

integrity." According to the UN, the President of the Security Council is under the obligation to call a meeting of the Council if the Secretary-General brings to the attention of the Council any matter under Article 99.

### United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

The UNSC is one of the principal organs of the UN. It comprises five permanent members – the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China and Russia – and 10 non-permanent members appointed for specific periods. On a rotational basis, each of these 15 countries holds the presidency for a month. The South American country of Ecuador is the President for December 2023.

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### India-Italy ties

#IndiaItalyRelations #BilateralRelations  
#InternationalRelations #GS2

### History

India and Italy are ancient civilisations with links going back 2,000 years. Italian port cities were important trading posts on the spice route. The Venetian merchant Marco Polo traveled to India in the 13th century and wrote about his experiences.

In the last century, Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore visited Italy in May-June 1926, a visit arranged by Carlo Formichi, a Professor of Sanskrit at the University of Rome.

**Mahatma Gandhi visited Rome in December 1931 on his way back from the Round Table Conference in London. Leaders of the Indian freedom struggle read the works of the Italian revolutionary Mazzini.**

**Indian troops, serving with the British Indian Army, were deployed in Italy during World War II, fighting against the Germans and Mussolini's forces.**

**After Independence, political relations between India and Italy were established in 1947. Since then, there has been a regular exchange of visits at political and official levels between both countries, including several visits by Heads of States.**

### **The stakes**

**With Italy, India had a bilateral trade of USD 13.229 billion in 2021-22, a more than 50% increase over the previous financial year. Italy is India's 4th largest trading partner in the EU.**

**Over 600 large Italian companies are active in India, covering varied sectors. Italian brands such as Fiat and Piaggio to the recent Ferrero Roche, KinderJoy, Tic Tac, etc. are household names in India.**

**Italy has also deployed an official from its Embassy for the Information Fusion Center-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in February 2023 to enhance maritime security and to counter anti-piracy operations across the Indian Ocean Region.**

### **Rethink by Italy on China**

**India has opposed the BRI since its inception, since it violated India's territorial integrity by crossing through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.**

**In 2019, during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Rome, Italy became the first G7 country to join the BRI, in the hopes of China serving as a market for Italian products and Chinese investment boosting Italian infrastructure.**

**But the BRI would not meet Italian hopes and expectations. "Since Italy joined the BRI, its exports to China have increased from 14.5**

**billion euros to 18.5 billion euros, while Chinese exports to Italy have grown far more dramatically, from 33.5 billion euros to 50.9 billion euros. Similarly, Chinese FDI in Italy also dropped from \$650 million in 2019 to just \$33 million in 2021," an assessment by David Sacks, a fellow for Asia studies at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), said in August this year.**

**For the past year, Meloni has indicated that joining the BRI was a "big mistake" that she intended to correct. With its five-year memorandum of understanding up for renewal in March 2024, Italy has officially conveyed its position to Beijing.**

**Thus, while Delhi and Rome view Beijing from different prisms and vantage points, India-Italy ties have found another strategic glue: that Beijing is no benevolent and benign power.**

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### **US vetoes UNSC draft for Gaza truce: 'Did not condemn Hamas'**

**#UNSCresolution #USveto #UNSC #IsraelPalestineWar #UN #UNCharter #Article99 #InternationalRelations #GS2**

**The US has vetoed a draft resolution on the raging Israel-Hamas conflict in the UN Security Council that would have demanded an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in war-ravaged Gaza and the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages taken by the Hamas militant group.**

**The 15-nation Council met on Friday to vote on the resolution tabled by The United Arab Emirates and backed by over 90 member states. The resolution got the backing of 13 Council members who voted in its favour while UK abstained.**

**The voting on the resolution came after UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, in a rare move, had invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter to appeal to the Security Council for the humanitarian ceasefire.**

**In the Explanation of Vote, US Ambassador Robert Wood said it is incomprehensible why the resolution's authors have "declined to include language condemning Hamas's**

horrific terrorist attack” on Israel on October 7.

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## EU ‘historic’ deal: What does the world’s first law on regulating AI propose?

[#AIregulation](#) [#ArtificialIntelligence](#)  
[#AIGovernance](#) [#AIRules](#) [#EuropeanUnion](#)  
[#InternationalRelations](#) [#GS2](#)

The EU becomes the very first continent to set clear rules for the use of AI.

The European Parliament will now vote on the proposed AI Act early next year, and a legislation is likely to come into force by 2025.

The European Union’s legislative framework assumes significance given that the US, the UK, and China are also jostling for the lead to set the template for AI regulations and publish their own set of guidelines.

### The EU framework

The legislation includes safeguards on the use of AI within the EU, including clear guardrails on its adoption by law enforcement agencies, and consumers have been empowered to launch complaints against any perceived violations. The deal includes **strong restrictions on facial recognition technology**, and on using AI to manipulate human behaviour, alongside provisions for tough penalties for companies breaking the rules. **Governments can only use real-time biometric surveillance in public areas only when there are serious threats involved, such as terrorist attacks.**

In terms of details, the EU legal framework broadly divides AI applications into four risk classes: on one end, **some applications will be largely banned, including the deployment of facial recognition on a mass-scale, with some exemptions for law enforcement. AI applications focused on behavioural control will be also banned. High risk applications such as the use of AI tools for self-driving cars will be allowed, but subject to certification and an explicit provision for the**

backend techniques to be made open to public scrutiny.

Those applications that fall in the “medium risk” category can be deployed without restrictions, such as generative AI chatbots, but there has to be detailed documentation of how the tech works and users have to be explicitly made aware that they are dealing with an AI and not interacting with a human. Developers will need to comply with transparency obligations before they release chatbots into the markets, including details about the contents used for training the algorithm.

### Leadership on regulation

Over the last decade, Europe has taken a decisive lead over the US on tech regulation, with overarching laws safeguarding online privacy, regulations to curb the dominance of the tech majors and new legislation to protect its citizens from harmful online content. On AI, though, the US has made an attempt to take the lead by way of the new White House Executive Order on AI, which is being offered as an elaborate template that could work as a blueprint for every other country looking to regulate AI. Last October, Washington released a blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights – seen as a building block for the subsequent executive order.

Washington’s move assumed significance, given that over the last quarter century, the US Congress has not managed to pass any major regulation to rein in Big Tech companies or safeguard internet consumers, with the exception of just two legislations: one on child privacy and the other on blocking trafficking content on the net.

In contrast, the EU has enforced the landmark **GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)** since May 2018 that is clearly focused on privacy and requires individuals to give explicit consent before their data can be processed and is now a template being used by over 100 countries. Then there are a pair of sub-legislations – the **Digital Services Act (DSA)** and the **Digital Markets Act (DMA)** – that take off from the

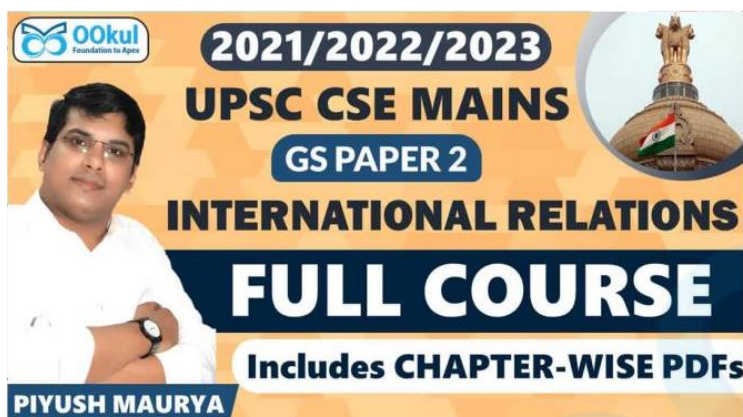
Argentina was among the six countries (Saudi Arabia, Iran, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia and Argentina) invited in August to join the bloc made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to make an 11-nation bloc. Argentina was set to join January 1, 2024. The move

comes as Argentina has been left reeling by deepening economic crisis.

BRICS currently accounts for more than a quarter of the world's GDP.

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## GS3 - ECONOMY

### India to resume import of oil from Venezuela after 3 years as US sanctions on Caracas ease

*#OilImport #VenezuelaOil #OPEC #Oilsector #InternationalTrade #Economy #GS3*

With the United States (US) easing sanctions on Venezuela, **India's crude oil imports from Caracas are set to resume after three years** with private sector giant Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) booking three tankers scheduled to load oil from the Latin American country in December and January 2024, as per shipping fixtures shared by trade sources.

**Private sector refiners RIL and Nayara Energy (NEL) were regular buyers of Venezuelan crude prior to imposition of US sanctions** on Caracas in 2019. Following the sanctions, oil imports from Venezuela stopped.

**India last imported Venezuelan crude in November 2020. Venezuela was New Delhi's fifth-largest supplier of oil in 2019**, providing close to 16 million tonnes of crude to Indian refiners.

Venezuela, a member of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has the largest proven oil reserves in the world.

India is the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil and depends on imports to meet over 85 per cent of its requirement.

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### Now, low-fare flights from N-E to Bangladesh, Thailand and Myanmar

*#UDANscheme #InternationalUDAN #NorthEastIndia #AviationSector #Tourism #Economy #GS3*

IN A first, four new air routes connecting northeastern states with international destinations have been approved under the Centre's flagship regional air connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik). These will connect Assam to Thailand and Bangladesh, Manipur to Myanmar and Tripura to Bangladesh.

Airfares on these approved routes —  
Guwahati-Bangkok, Guwahati-Dhaka,

**Imphal-Mandalay and Agartala-Chittagong** — under the UDAN scheme, will be subsidised.

**Reasonable airfares could boost tourism** from neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan in the northeastern states.

**Under the UDAN scheme, concerned states subsidise the airfares.** The Airports Authority of India runs the bid process, selects the airlines, and informs the states about operators interested to offer services on the said routes. States then pick the subsidy tab by providing viability gap funding to the lowest bidder. In the last seven years, states offering regional air connectivity under the UDAN scheme have spent Rs 3,000 crore on subsidies.

**Under the UDAN scheme launched in 2017, airlines could charge up to Rs 2,500 for journeys under 500 km for 40 seats on a flight (not for all seats). Now, they can charge up to Rs 3,800, say officials.**

The **'International UDAN', conceived and launched in 2022**, aimed to promote socio-economic growth by enhancing air connectivity from certain states to select international destinations. Most of these routes requested by the northeastern states are untested and haven't had an international flight so far.

**Presently, there are two international airports in the northeastern region** - at Guwahati and Imphal, and are operated by Guwahati International Airport Limited (GIAL) and AAI, respectively.

**A new terminal building at Agartala Airport has been designed as an integrated terminal keeping in view the future requirement for international operations.** The AAI is also upgrading the Imphal Airport — already declared an international airport — to handle 2.4 million passengers a year.

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## **Center notifies guidelines against 'dark patterns' that mislead buyers**

*#DarkPatterns #DarkPatternsGuidelines #CCPA #ConsumerProtection #Economy #GS3*

The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)**, the country's top consumer watchdog, **has notified guidelines for the "prevention and regulation" of dark patterns.**

**Dark patterns are tactics used by online platforms to mislead customers and prevent them from making right choices.**

The Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023, issued under section 18 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, have been notified by the CCPA in the Official Gazette on November 30.

The guidelines that have now come into force **will apply to all platforms, systematically offering goods or services in India; advertisers and sellers.** They prohibit "against engaging" in dark patterns.

**"No person, including any platform, shall engage in any dark pattern practice,"** as per the norms.

The **guidelines define dark patterns as "any practices or deceptive design pattern using user interface or user experience interactions on any platform that is designed to mislead or trick users to do something they originally did not intend or want to do, by subverting or impairing the consumer autonomy, decision making or choice, amounting to misleading advertisement or unfair trade practice or violation of consumer rights."**

The Annexure-1 of guidelines, have a list of **13 specified dark patterns.** These are— false urgency; basket sneaking; confirm shaming; forced action; subscription trap; interface interference; bait and switch; drip pricing; disguise advertisement; nagging; trick question; Saas billing; and rogue malwares.

The Department of Consumer Affairs along with the Advertising Standards Council of India

(ASCI) had held a consultation with stakeholders on dark patterns on June 13, 2023. Thereafter, the department constituted a task force on June 28, 2023.

Based on the suggestions from the task force, the department released draft guidelines on September 7.

In the draft guidelines, the Centre had given the list of 10 specified dark patterns. However, in the final guidelines this list has been expanded to 13.

## Specified Dark Patterns

1. **“False Urgency”** means falsely stating or implying the sense of urgency or scarcity so as to mislead a user into making an immediate purchase or taking an immediate action, which may lead to a purchase, including –

(i) showing false popularity of a product or service to manipulate user decision;

(ii) stating that quantities of a particular product or service are more limited than they actually are.

2. **“Basket sneaking”** means inclusion of additional items such as products, services, payments to charity or donation at the time of checkout from a platform, without the consent of the user, such that the total amount payable by the user is more than the amount payable for the product or service chosen by the user: Provided that the addition of free samples or providing complimentary services or addition of necessary fees disclosed at the time of purchase, shall not be considered as basket sneaking.

3. **“Confirm shaming”** means using a phrase, video, audio or any other means to create a sense of fear or shame or ridicule or guilt in the mind of the user so as to nudge the user to act in a certain way that results in the user purchasing a product or service from the platform or continuing a subscription of a service, primarily for the purpose of making commercial gains by subverting consumer choice.

4. **“Forced action”** mean forcing a user into taking an action that would require the user to buy any additional goods or subscribe or sign up

for an unrelated service or share personal information in order to buy or subscribe to the product or service originally intended by the user.

5. **“Subscription trap”** means the process of- (i) making cancellation of a paid subscription impossible or a complex and lengthy process; or (ii) hiding the cancellation option for a subscription; or (iii) forcing a user to provide payment details or authorization for auto debits for availing a free subscription; or (iv) making the instructions related to cancellation of subscription ambiguous, latent, confusing, cumbersome.

6. **“Interface interference”** means a design element that manipulates the user interface in ways that (a) highlights certain specific information; and (b) obscures other relevant information relative to the other information; to misdirect a user from taking an action as desired.

7. **“Bait and switch”** means the practice of advertising a particular outcome based on the user’s action but deceptively serving an alternate outcome.

8. **“Drip pricing”** means a practice whereby-

(i) elements of prices are not revealed upfront or are revealed surreptitiously within the user experience; or

(ii) revealing the price post-confirmation of purchase, i.e. charging an amount higher than the amount disclosed at the time of checkout; or

(iii) a product or service is advertised as free without appropriate disclosure of the fact that the continuation of use requires in-app purchase; or

(iv) a user is prevented from availing a service which is already paid for unless something additional is purchased.

9. **“Disguised advertisement”** means a practice of posing, masking advertisements as other types of content such as user-generated content or new articles or false advertisements, which are designed to blend in with the rest of an interface in order to trick customers into clicking on them.

## GS3 - ENVIRONMENT

### **\$475 million pledged to climate disaster fund as COP28 makes a promising start**

**#LossAndDamageFund #COP28 #ClimateChange #Environment #GS3**

The COP28 climate conference in Dubai began Thursday on a promising note, approving one of the most keenly-awaited decisions – the operationalisation of a loss and damage fund for developing countries – on the first day.

About \$475 million was immediately committed to the fund, with the European Union pledging nearly \$275 million, and hosts UAE promising another \$100 million.

The loss and damage fund was set up during COP27, the previous version of the UN's annual climate change conference, at Sharm el-Shaikh in Egypt last year. The fund, a long-pending demand of developing countries, is meant to provide financial assistance to countries recovering from climate disasters, such as extreme weather events. It would also be used to finance measures to deal with other climate-related emergencies, like sea-level rise, migration, and displacement.

Apart from the EU and the UAE, Germany promised \$100 million, the UK committed about \$70 million. The United States said it would contribute \$17.5 million, and Japan promised \$10 million.

Under the international climate change architecture, developed countries are obligated to provide money to developing countries for different kinds of climate action.

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### **2023 set to become warmest year ever, reveals World Meteorological Organisation report**

**#WarmestYear #WMO #ClimateChange #Environment #GS3**

It is official now. The year 2023 is all set to be the warmest year ever, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has said, as climate negotiators and world leaders began their discussions at the annual climate change conference, COP28, in Dubai.

Global average temperatures till October this year were about 1.4 degree Celsius higher than pre-industrial average, considerably more than the previous hottest year 2016 which was about 1.29 degree Celsius warmer. The gap is so large that data from November and December is unlikely to prevent 2023 from becoming the warmest ever, the WMO said.

In its provisional State of the Global Climate report, an annual publication that it released at the COP meetings, the WMO said that the observed concentrations of the three main greenhouse gases – carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide — were at their highest in 2022, the last year for which detailed data is available, and there were indications that these concentrations continued to increase in 2023 as well.

Further, ocean heat content as well as global mean sea levels were at record highs, while the Antarctic sea-ice extent was at its lowest ever.

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### **PM Modi pitches India as host for climate conference in 2028, calls on countries to rise above self-interest**

**#COP28 #COP33 #ClimateChangeConference #UNFCCC #Environment #GS3**

Urging countries to rise above self-interest and deliver on all their climate obligations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here Friday that developing countries must get appropriate access to the remaining global carbon budget.

Speaking at the high-level segment of the COP28 meeting here, Modi also proposed to host the



**2028 climate change conference, COP33, in India.**

**India has hosted this annual climate change conference once earlier, COP8 in 2002.** Then, the scale of this conference used to be much smaller unlike the most high-profile annual event that it has evolved into now, attracting the attendance of over 100 heads of states and governments, topmost global business leaders, celebrities and others.

**India was among very few large economies which were on track to fulfil their climate commitments.** He said every other country must also do so.

**“The energy transition (that is required) has to be just, inclusive, equitable and innovative.** We must develop innovative technology... and the developed countries must agree to transfer this technology to others,” he said.

While recalling the global climate initiatives India had launched — **International Solar Alliance, Coalition of Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure, and Lifestyle for Environment Campaign** – and climate-related decisions like **renewable energy tripling** and **Global Biofuels Alliance** taken by the G20 summit under its presidency, Modi made another offering to the world.

He said India’s recently launched **Green Credits Initiative** is something that the entire world should adopt. The programme **launched by the Environment Ministry** is a way of incentivising environmental actions by offering green credits for projects that help the environment in any way. In its first round, **activities in water conservation and afforestation** would be acknowledged.

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## **Climate goals: Global South needs finance, tech, says PM**

**#GlobalSouth #ClimateFinance #ClimateChange #COP28 #Environment #GS3**

In keeping with its pursuit to forcefully raise issues of common concern of the developing countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

repeatedly referred to ‘Global South’ as he called for more climate finance, technology, and carbon space during his speeches at the COP28 meeting.

**Global South** is a relatively new formulation to refer to the developing countries, and does not allude to geographical north or south of equator. **India has held two Voice of Global South Summits this year** in an effort to take leadership of the developing countries, and amplify their concerns at international forums.

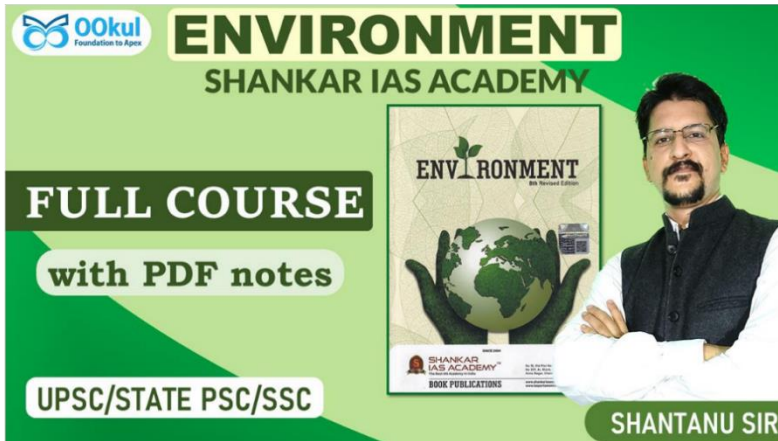
“Everyone knows that **countries of the Global South, including India, have contributed very little in causing climate change. Yet, the adverse impacts of climate change affect them the most.** Despite lack of adequate resources, these countries have committed themselves to take climate action. But to fulfil their objectives, Global South needs climate finance and technology,” Modi said at a session on Transforming Climate Finance.

“It is the expectation of the Global South that developed countries help them in the fight against climate change. This is natural, and justifiable too,” he said.

“The G20 meeting had agreed that 2030 climate action requires trillions of dollars in climate finance. This climate finance has not only to be made available, but it must also be accessible and affordable (to the countries of Global South),” he said.

Modi also welcomed the operationalisation of the loss and damage fund on the opening day of COP28 Thursday. “First of all, I hope that **COP28 would show real progress on the New Collective Quantified Goal (a new target in the place of US\$ 100 billion per year from 2025 onwards) on Climate Finance.** Second, **Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund must not be starved of money, and they should also be replenished immediately.** Third, the **Multilateral Development Banks should assure that they would provide affordable finance, not just for development projects, but also for climate action.** And fourth, I hope that **developed countries would diminish their carbon footprint by 2050,”** Modi said.

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## GS 3 - SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### IISER Bhopal researchers conduct first genome sequencing of jamun

**#Jamun** **#SyzygiumCumini**  
**#GenomeSequencing** **#Terpenoids**  
**#ScienceandTechnology #GS3**

Not just Ayurveda but multiple clinical studies have shown the health benefits of jamun as an excellent source of antioxidants, iron, and vitamin C. Now, researchers at the **Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER Bhopal)** have completed the first-ever genome sequencing of the jamun tree (*Syzygium cumini*), popular in India for its medicinal properties, fruit and ornamental value.

**This is the first time the plant has been examined and decoded so closely.**

Fruit seed extracts of jamun have well-known **anti-diabetic properties** and is highly recommended in Ayurveda to treat a variety of health ailments.

To understand the genomic and evolutionary basis of the tree's medicinal values, the **research team sequenced the S.cumini genome using Oxford Nanopore and 10x Genomics sequencing technologies.**

**Jamun is the largest genome to be sequenced from the Syzygium genus.**

The jamun genome has a higher number of coding genes resulting from gene duplication

events compared to the other two sequenced species from this genus, which point towards a **neopolyploidy** event in the jamun species.

This duplication of genes can allow jamun to acquire novel functions. Analyses revealed the key genes involved in facilitating the adaptive evolution of jamun. Among these, 14 genes allow for the **biosynthesis of terpenoids, which are a diverse class of metabolites responsible for plant defense responses.** These also contribute to the anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.

To fully explain the anti-diabetic properties of this plant, the researchers discovered the presence of glucosides, another class of metabolites that prevent the conversion of starch into sugar, and explain how the plant possesses anti-diabetic value.

Jamun has various genes that make the plant rugged and improve its stress tolerance to factors like weeds and insects that induce damage, heat stress, salinity, and drought. This points to remarkable adaptive evolution in jamun.

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### Chandrayaan-3 propulsion module retraces steps to Earth orbit: why it matters

**#PropulsionModule #Chandrayaan3 #SHAPE #ScienceandTechnology #GS3**

**Scientists have brought the Propulsion Module (PM) of the Chandrayaan-3 mission — which took the Vikram lander to within 100 km of the surface of the Moon before it detached and made the historic controlled descent to the lunar surface on August 23 — back into Earth orbit.**

Its successful return to Earth orbit is a significant achievement that marks a step towards bringing back samples from lunar missions in the future.

**The manoeuvre, announced by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Monday, was not in the original mission plan.** Like the impromptu ‘hop’ experiment of September 4 — in which the lander, just before going into sleep mode, fired its engines, lifted itself about 40 cm from the surface, and landed about 30-40 cm away — the PM’s return to Earth orbit utilised the logistics advantages of the near perfect mission, especially the availability of more than 100 kg of fuel.

## **The Propulsion Module**

Unlike Chandrayaan-2 — ISRO’s second lunar exploration mission that failed in September 2019 — the Chandrayaan-3 mission featured, instead of a full fledged orbiter, a **light Propulsion Module that was essentially only a system for the lander to travel to the Moon.** For communications with Earth stations, the mission used the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, which was still in orbit around the Moon with functioning systems on board.

The Chandrayaan-3 PM carried only an instrument called the Spectro Polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE), an experimental payload to look back at Earth and study the signatures that make it habitable, so as to identify habitable exoplanets.

## **Return to Earth orbit**

After considering fuel availability and aspects of safety, “the optimal Earth return trajectory was designed for October 2023 month,” ISRO said.

Subsequently, the PM made four Moon fly-bys before leaving the Moon’s sphere of influence on November 10.

“Currently, the propulsion module is orbiting Earth... [and] the orbit period is nearly 13 days with 27 deg inclination. The perigee and apogee altitude vary... **There are no threats of close approach with any operational Earth orbiting satellites,**” ISRO said.

“As per plan, SHAPE payload is being operated whenever Earth is in its field of view... A special operation of...SHAPE...was carried out on October 28...during a Solar Eclipse. The SHAPE payload operations will continue further,” it said.

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## **Google Gemini is here... but is it better than ChatGPT 4?**

**#Gemini #AImodel #ArtificialIntelligence #ScienceandTechnology #GS3**

**Google Gemini, a new multimodal general AI model** that the tech giant calls its most powerful yet, is now available to users across the world through Bard, some developer platforms and even the new Google Pixel 8 Pro devices. The new flexible AI model, which comes in three sizes — the yet-to-be-launched Ultra, Pro and Nano — is being seen as Google’s answer to ChatGPT which has been ahead of the game so far when it comes to GenAI.

Gemini has been built from scratch as a collaborative effort by teams across Google. **It is also multimodal, which means it is not limited to the type of information it can process and can work understand and operate across text, code, audio, image and video. In contrast, ChatGPT cannot work on video at the moment, at least not natively.**

## **What is Google Gemini?**

It is also much more powerful than existing models. For instance, Google claims Gemini Ultra’s performance “exceeds current state-of-the-art results on 30 of the 32 widely-used academic benchmarks” used in large language model (LLM) research and development. Gemini Ultra is the first model to outperform human

While **Bhattacharya declined to comment on how “complete” the deal is, he agreed that major question marks remain on how exactly it would work out.** Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma has said he is keen on engaging with the anti-talks faction as well, but Baruah remains steadfast on his demand for Assam’s sovereignty.

Yet, after signing the agreement, **Union Home Minister Amit Shah was confident that a “complete solution” had been negotiated. “This tripartite agreement is the beginning of a new age of peace for Assam,” he said.**

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## DEFENCE

### A first: Woman officer to take over command of warship **INS Trinkat**

*#INSTRinkat #TrinkatClass #Defence #GS3*

The Navy has appointed the first woman commanding officer in a naval ship in line with the Navy’s philosophy of “**all roles-all ranks**” to deploying women in the service, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said.

The officer, a **Lieutenant Commander, would be commanding INS Trinkat**, a fast attack craft based in the western seaboard. She is yet to take over the new role.

**This is for the first time that a woman officer would assume command of a ship.**

She is also learnt to be the first woman officer who served as an observer in the Navy’s **Tupolev Tu-142 maritime patrol aircraft.**

#### More about Trinkat class patrol vessels

Name	Pennant	Homeport	Commissioned	Status
<i>Trinkat</i>	T61	Port Blair	28 September 2000	Active
<i>Tillanchang</i>	T62		17 March 2001	Transferred to <a href="#">Maldivan Coast Guard</a> on 16 April 2006, as <a href="#">MCGS Huravee</a> . Decommissioned on 2 May 2023, and replaced with new MCGS Huravee. <sup>[2][3]</sup>
<i>Tarasa</i>	T63		24 August 2001	Transferred to <a href="#">Seychelles Coast Guard</a> on 7 November 2014 as <a href="#">PS Constant</a>
<i>Tarmugli</i>	T64		4 March 2002	Transferred to <a href="#">Seychelles Coast Guard</a> on 23 February 2005, as <a href="#">SCG PS Topaz</a>

*Source: Wikipedia*

All the vessels of Trinkat class are constructed by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. Headquartered at Kolkata, West Bengal.**

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### Pilatus PC-7 Mk II crash: 5 things to know about the trainer aircraft

*#PilatusAircraft #TrainerAircraft #Defence #GS3*

Two Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots were killed today (December 4) after their Pilatus PC-7 Mk II trainer aircraft crashed during a routine training sortie from the Air Force Academy at Dundigal, Telangana.

The aircraft which took off from the Dundigal Air Force station in the morning, was found completely charred near the town of Toopran in the Medak district, some 40 km away. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident, an IAF statement said.

**This is the first crash involving the aircraft since it was inducted into the Air Force almost a decade earlier, having clocked around 2 lakh hours of flying time since then.**

Here are 5 things you need to know about the Pilatus PC-7 Mk II trainer aircraft.

#### **What is a trainer aircraft?**

**A trainer is a class of aircraft designed specifically to facilitate flight training of pilots and aircrews.** Modern military aircraft are notoriously difficult to master for rookie pilots. Hence, they must first be trained on other, more basic aircraft. Trainer aircraft are far more forgiving than the aircraft military pilots will eventually fly — they fly slower, have less complex systems, and are designed to be resistant to and recoverable from stalls and spins, a common challenge for rookie pilots. They are also much cheaper, allowing air forces to buy them in bulk to train cadets.

champion Mikhail Botvinnik of the erstwhile USSR.

## Qualifications for Grandmaster

Thereafter, the qualifications for Grandmaster were changed several times, including in 1957, 1965, and 1970. Currently, FIDE awards chess's highest honour to a player who is able to achieve a FIDE Classical or Standard rating of 2,500, plus three Grandmaster norms.

Grandmaster norms are defined by a set of complex and rigorous rules regarding

tournaments, games, and players, that are set out in the FIDE Title Regulations.

Each norm is very difficult to attain. Broadly, a player must have a performance rating of 2,600 or higher in a FIDE tournament that has nine rounds, playing against several opponents from federations or countries other than the one to which the player belongs, and those opponents must be titled themselves.

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## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### South Korea launches its 1<sup>st</sup> military spy satellite

[#SpySatellite](#) [#SouthKorea](#) [#SpaceX](#)  
[#NorthKorea](#) [#InternationalAffairs](#)

South Korea launched its first military spy satellite into space Friday, a little over a week after North Korea claimed to put its own spy satellite into orbit for the first time as tensions rise between the rivals.

Launched from California's Vandenberg Space Force Base using SpaceX's Falcone 9 rocket, it was the first of five spy satellites South Korea plans to send into space by 2025 under a contract with SpaceX.

South Korea had no military reconnaissance satellites of its own in space and has partially resorted to the United State's spy satellites to monitor moves by North Korea.

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### As clean water gets expensive, 'bucket filters' help drought-prone Kenya

[#BucketFilter](#) [#DroughtInKenya](#)  
[#InternationalAffairs](#)

As the sun rises in the Bondeni-Jua Kali neighborhood on the outskirts of Kenya's capital Nairobi, dozens of women and men step out of their corrugated iron homes with yellow

jerricans, skip over pools of sewage and make their way to a nearby water vending station.

There is no piped water or sewage system in the area and drought has made clean water supplies scarcer and expensive for locals. Twice a week, trucks with 5,000 to 10,000 liters (1,300 to 2,600 gallons) of water will fill up vending stations across Athi River where residents can buy 20 liters (five gallons) for 20 Kenyan Shillings (\$0.16). A household of four needs about 20 liters a day, and weekly incomes are about \$13.

But for those whose homes are kitted out with 'bucket filters' distributed by a local nonprofit, the nearby river — polluted, prone to drought and usually unsafe for drinking — is becoming a cheaper and sometimes more reliable source of clean water.

The devices are the size of a small water bottle and are fitted with a hose pipe onto a bucket. They can filter water from the river and nearby swamps into potable water that can be used by residents. It filters every germ or pathogen that causes water-borne diseases.

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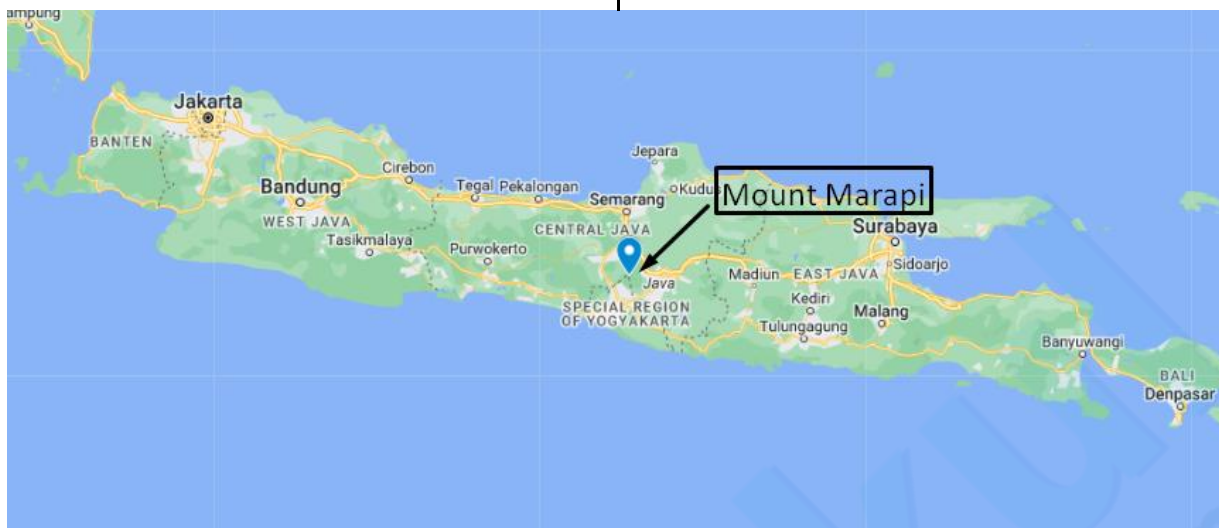
### Indonesia's Mount Marapi erupts

[#MarapiVolcano](#) [#MountMarapi](#) [#Volcanism](#)  
[#InternationalAffairs](#)

Indonesia's Mount Marapi volcano erupts again. Marapi has stayed at the third highest of four

alert levels since 2011, a level indicating above-normal volcanic activity.

**Mount Marapi is located in Central Java island of Indonesia.**



**Mount Marapi in Central Java, Indonesia**

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## **It Could Be a Vast Source of Clean Energy, Buried Deep Underground**

**#Lorraine** **#NaturalHydrogen**  
**#WhiteHydrogen** **#InternationalAffairs**

In the **rocky soil of Lorraine**, a former coal mining region near the **French-German border**, scientists guided a small probe one recent day down a borehole half a mile into the earth's crust.

Frothing in the water table below was an exciting find: champagne-size bubbles that signaled a potentially mammoth cache of so-called white hydrogen, one of the cleanest-burning fuels in nature.

**Hydrogen is magical** — when you burn it you release water, so there are no carbon emissions to warm the planet.

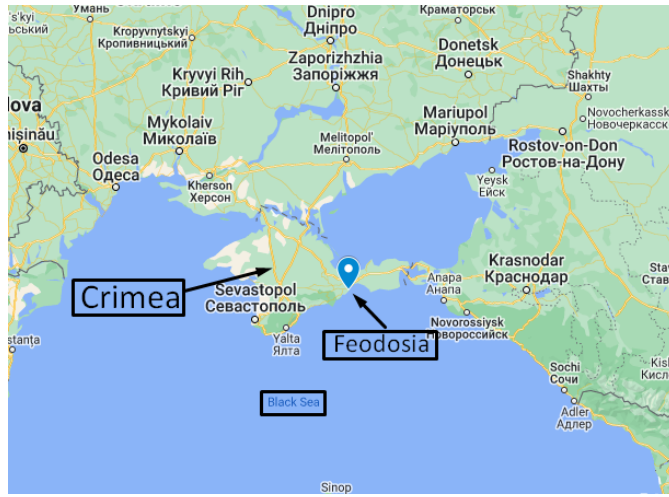
**Making commercial hydrogen involves splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen**, an endeavor that requires energy. If fossil fuels are used, the process results in greenhouse gas emissions, and the result is called **gray hydrogen**. Tapping renewable electricity from wind turbines and solar panels to produce what's called green hydrogen is cleaner but more expensive.

In Lorraine, the scientists said their tests suggested that **46 million to 260 million metric tons of natural hydrogen could be lurking beneath the coal mines**, which were abandoned in the 1970s when France shifted to nuclear power. **By comparison, around 70 million metric tons of hydrogen is produced commercially worldwide each year.**

**Natural hydrogen reserves have been detected recently in parts of the United States, Australia, Africa, Russia and elsewhere in Europe, too.** It's not unusual to find hydrogen when drilling for gas or oil, but in the past companies ignored such discoveries because of low demand.

**If all goes according to plan in Lorraine, new drilling will start next year with an advanced probe that will take gas samples from as far as 1.8 miles below ground** — deeper than the Golden Gate Bridge is long — to test the magnitude of the hydrogen trove, with the aim of **extracting natural hydrogen by 2027 or 2028.**

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#Feodosia #Crimea

## Gunmen kills at least 140 in 2-day attack on Nigeria village

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
ABUJA, DECEMBER 26

AT LEAST 140 people were killed by gunmen who attacked remote villages over two days in north-central Nigeria's Plateau state, survivors and officials said Tuesday in the latest of such mass killings this year blamed on the West African nation's farmer-herder crisis.

The assailants targeted 17

communities during the "senseless and unprovoked" attacks on Saturday and Sunday, during which most houses in the areas were burned down, Plateau Gov. Caleb Mutfwang said. "In Mangu local government alone, we buried 15 people. In Bokkos, we are counting not less than 100 corpses. I am yet to take stock of (the deaths in) Barkin Ladi," Gov. Mutfwang said. "It has been a very terrifying Christmas for us here in Plateau."

"Amnesty International Nigeria's office told The AP that it has so far confirmed 140 deaths in the Christian-dominated Bokkos and Barkin-Ladi local government areas of Plateau based on data compiled by its workers on the ground and from local officials, though locals feared a higher death toll with some people unaccounted for. Some of the locals said that it took more than 12 hours before security agencies responded to their call for help.



#Mangu #Bokkos #Barkin Ladi #Nigeria

## Persons in News

### 'People see me as Pashtun': First Hindu woman to contest polls in Pak province

PAGE 1  
ANCHOR

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL  
LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 29

SAVEERA PARKASH, a 25-year-old doctor who is set to become the first Hindu woman to contest an election from Buner district in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province, believes her religion will not be a factor in next year's polls. Her party, the People's Party of Pakistan (PPP), seems to share her view and has fielded her from

a general seat, instead of one reserved for religious minorities.

"I am probably the first minority woman candidate, not just from Buner, but the first to fight an election from a general seat. I am very proud to say that since the day I have filed the nomination, the response has been so amazing that people have given me the title of 'Buner ki Beti'. They are not recognising me as a Hindu woman, but as a pachtana (native) of the Pashtun community," said Saveera, who graduated from medical school just a few months ago.

"Divisions on religious lines are very outdated, we need to

move on," she said, adding that she is contesting elections to work on three crucial issues in her district — education, health, and the condition of women. She also strongly advocates for people-to-people ties between India and Pakistan.

She is the daughter of Dr Om Parkash, a native of Buner and a member of the PPP, and Dr Yelena Parkash, who is originally from Russia. Together, they run a clinic in Buner.

Pakistan will hold elections to its National and Provincial Assemblies on February 8, 2024. Saveera is the PPP's candidate for Buner's PK-25 seat in the Khyber



25-year-old doctor Saveera Parkash on the campaign trail

Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly.

Women from minority communities getting into electoral politics have been a rarity in the restive province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which neighbours Afghanistan and has in recent years seen skirmishes between the Taliban and Pakistani security forces.

The Pashtun people make up the majority of the population of the province, where Hindus account for less than 1 per cent. According to the 2017 census, the number of Hindus in the whole of Pakistan is around 4.4 million, or 2.15 per cent of the population.

Another report by the Centre of Peace and Justice in 2022 said Hindus made up only 1.18 per cent of Pakistan's population.

Delivering her first election speech on Wednesday, speaking in both Pashto and Urdu, she urged the youth to vote for development.

"It is my party's decision to give me a ticket from the PK-25 seat. Seeing my father associated with the party for decades, I always had that urge in me to do something for the people of Buner. The crucial issues that convinced me to take a plunge into electoral politics are the condition of women, education and health

in my district. The key to fixing all these issues is making education accessible for all. I feel the saddest to say that Buner still has just one college for women," she said.

Young boys in Buner still have the opportunity to get some education from madrasas, Saveera said, lamenting that even that is not an option for the girls there. "So, most girls here still don't have access to basic primary education. They don't have many government primary schools for girls, and not everyone can afford private schools," she said.

This means that most girls from underprivileged families

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#SaveeraPrakash

#PersonsInNews

Saveera Prakash, a 25-year-old doctor who is set to become the first Hindu woman to contest an election from the Buner district in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pankhtunkhwa (KPK) province.

## Practice Questions

1. Consider the following statements:

- India is close to signing the Cultural Property Agreement (CPA) - with the United States under which the process for the return of stolen antiquities will be hugely simplified.
- Antiquities and Art Treasures Act (AATA) 1972 defines antiquity as any coin, sculpture, painting, epigraph or other work of art or craftsmanship that has been in existence for not less than 150 years.
- CPA agreements provide a timeline for returns of 6 months for stolen antiquities.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

2. Consider the following pairs with regard to Panchteerth (Ambedkar Circuit):

	Name	Location
1.	Janma Bhoomi	Bhopal
2.	Deeksha Bhoomi	Nagpur
3.	Mahaparinirvana Bhoomi	Mumbai
4.	Chaitya Bhoomi	Delhi

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

3. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) operates under which ministry?

- Ministry of Communications
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Defence

4. Consider the following statements:



1. Thailand granted visa-free entry to Indians for stays of up to 30 days starting December 1, 2023.
2. Malaysia announced a similar visa exemption for Indian travellers from November 10 to May 10 next year.
3. As per Ministry of Tourism data, the top five destinations for Indians in 2022 include the UAE, Saudi Arabia, USA, Srilanka and Malaysia.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**5. Koraga community, recently seen in news belongs to which state?**

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Karnataka
- D. Goa

**6. Consider the following statements:**

1. 8-degree channel separates Minicoy islands and Maldives.
2. 10-degree channel separates Car Nicobar and Little Andaman.
3. Duncan passage is located between Middle Andaman and South Andaman.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**7. Consider the following statements with regard to the Climate related terms:**

1. Just transition describes a shift to a low-carbon or net-zero economy without jeopardising the rights of workers and the needs of communities.
2. Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is basically a process that captures carbon

dioxide and uses it in the production of goods such as alcohols, biofuels, plastics or concrete.

**Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**8. Consider the following statements:**

1. Union Cabinet has recently approved a central sponsored scheme to provide drones to women self-help groups (SHGs).
2. 15-day training will be provided to a member of women SHG that will include a ten-day mandatory drone pilot training and a five-day training in nutrients and pesticides application.
3. The scheme aims to provide drones to 15,000 selected women SHGs during the period 2023-24 to 2028-2029.

**How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**9. Consider the following statements:**

1. India has hosted the COP of UNFCCC only once in 2004 till now.
2. India has proposed to host COP33 in 2028.
3. In its updated NDC, announced last year, India raised the emission intensity reduction target to 40% and non-fossil fuel-based electricity target to 50%.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three