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4-5 August 2024

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 **SAMYAK IAS, NEAR RIDDHI-SIDDHI, JAIPUR**

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Art and Culture

1. ASI to copy stone inscriptions onto paper in Tiruppur - The Hindu

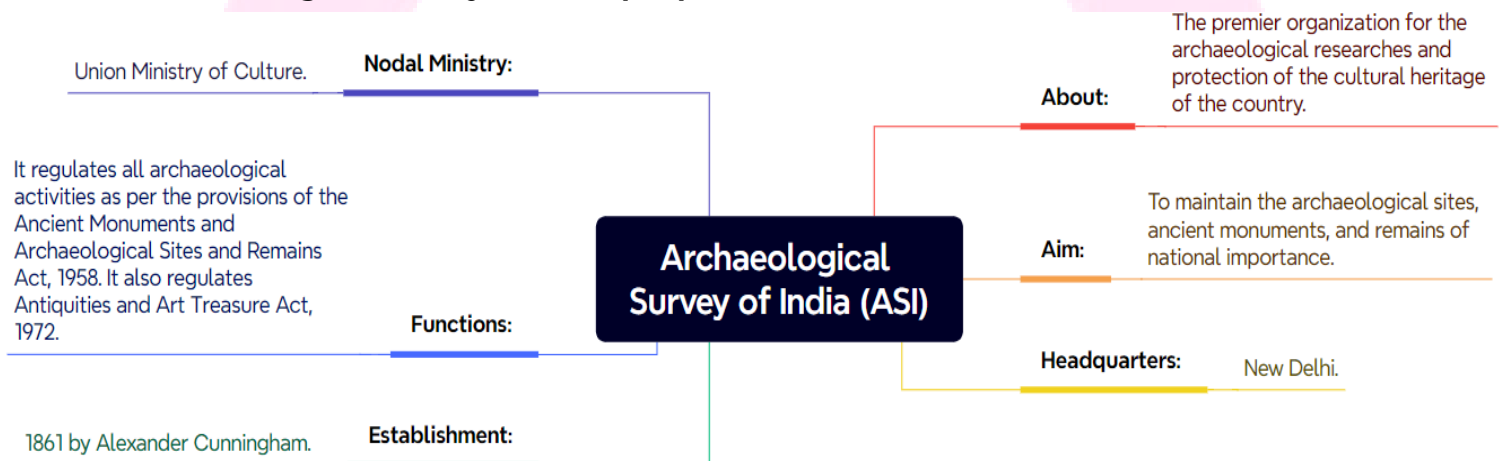
Context

A team of epigraphists from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Mysore, recently embarked on an exercise to copy important stone inscriptions at the Thalishwarar temple in Kovilpalayam near Palladam, and a few other places in Tiruppur district, onto 'maplitho' papers.

Copying of inscriptions

- **Copied using the 'estampage' method:** In it, an exact imitation of an inscription is made on an inked paper for further analysis.
- **8 inscriptions identified:** One inscription, probably from the 9th Century, was in Vattezhuthu. The other seven, likely to be from the 12th Century, were in Tamil.

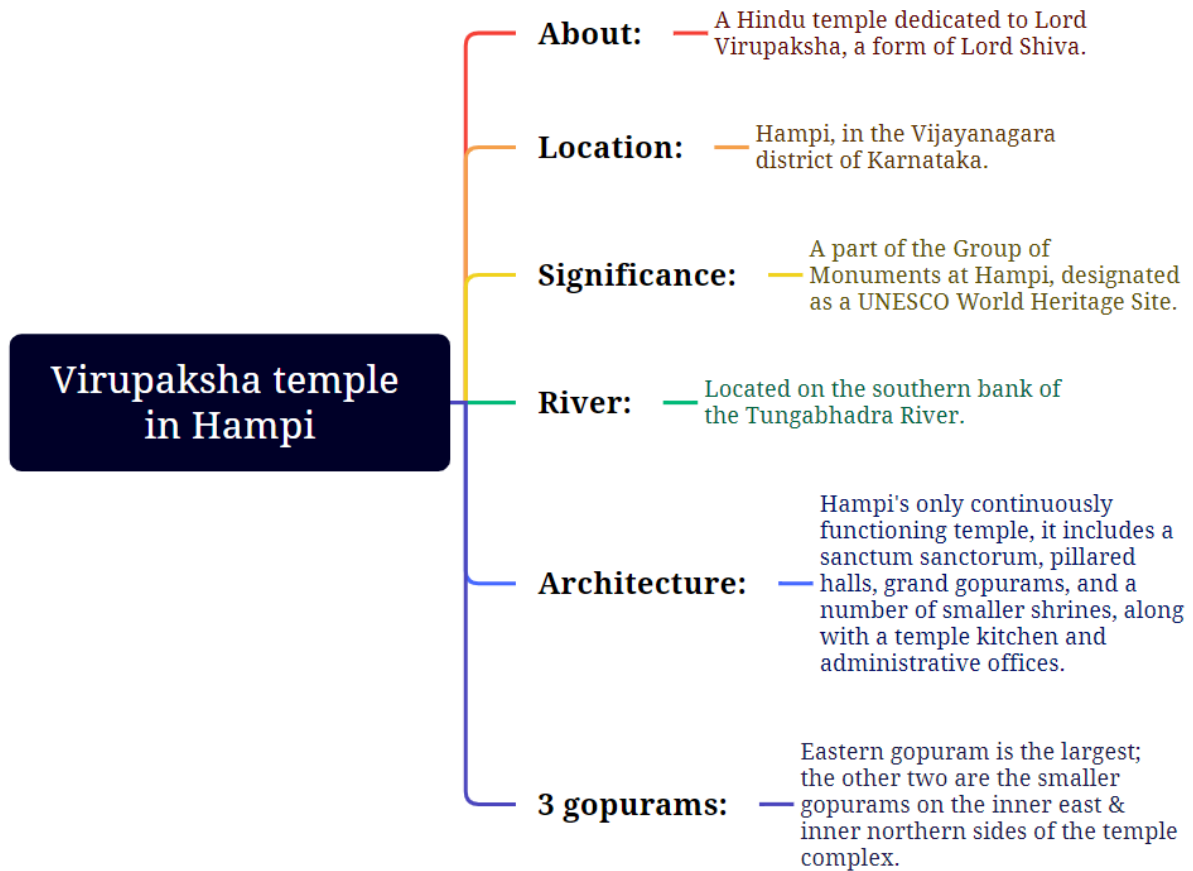
Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)



2. Karkidaka Vavu Bali - The Hindu

- **About:** A ritual performed by Hindus in Kerala to honour their dead ancestors.
- **Observance:** On Amavasya or no moon days.
- **Month:** Karkidakam (July to August) is the last month of the Malayalam calendar.
- **Aim:** This ceremony, called the Vavubali, is said to free the departed from their earthly shackles and ensure their safe passage in the afterlife.

3. Virupaksha temple in Hampi - The Hindu



Society

4. 2023 saw highest transplants, 63% of living donors women: Data - Indian Express

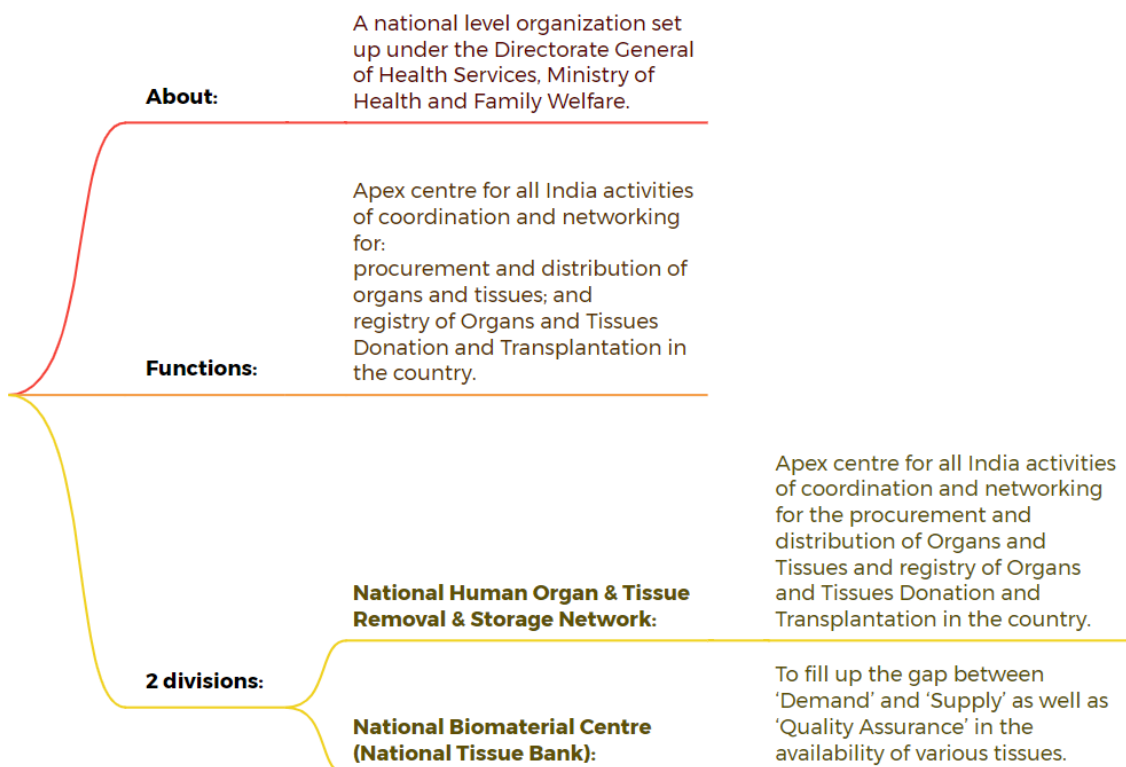
Context

Of the total 18,378 organ transplants in the country in 2023 — the highest-ever in a year — 10% were to foreign nationals who had come to India for treatment, while more than six of 10 living organ donors were women, shows data released Saturday by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO).

Findings of the report

- **Donors:** 63% living donors were women while 77% of deceased donors were men.
- **Recipients:** 30% were women, with their proportion being the highest among lung recipients at 47%.
- **Total organ transplants to foreigners:** 1,851 organ transplants to foreign nationals and Delhi-NCR accounted for nearly 78% of these.
- **Conditions for foreigner transplant:** Foreigners are allocated organs from deceased donors only when there are no Indian patients at the state, regional, or national level who matches.
- **Domino transplants:** 8 domino transplants in the country under which, if donor A is not a match for recipient A but recipient B, & donor B is a match for recipient A, the organs are exchanged among the donor recipient pair.

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)

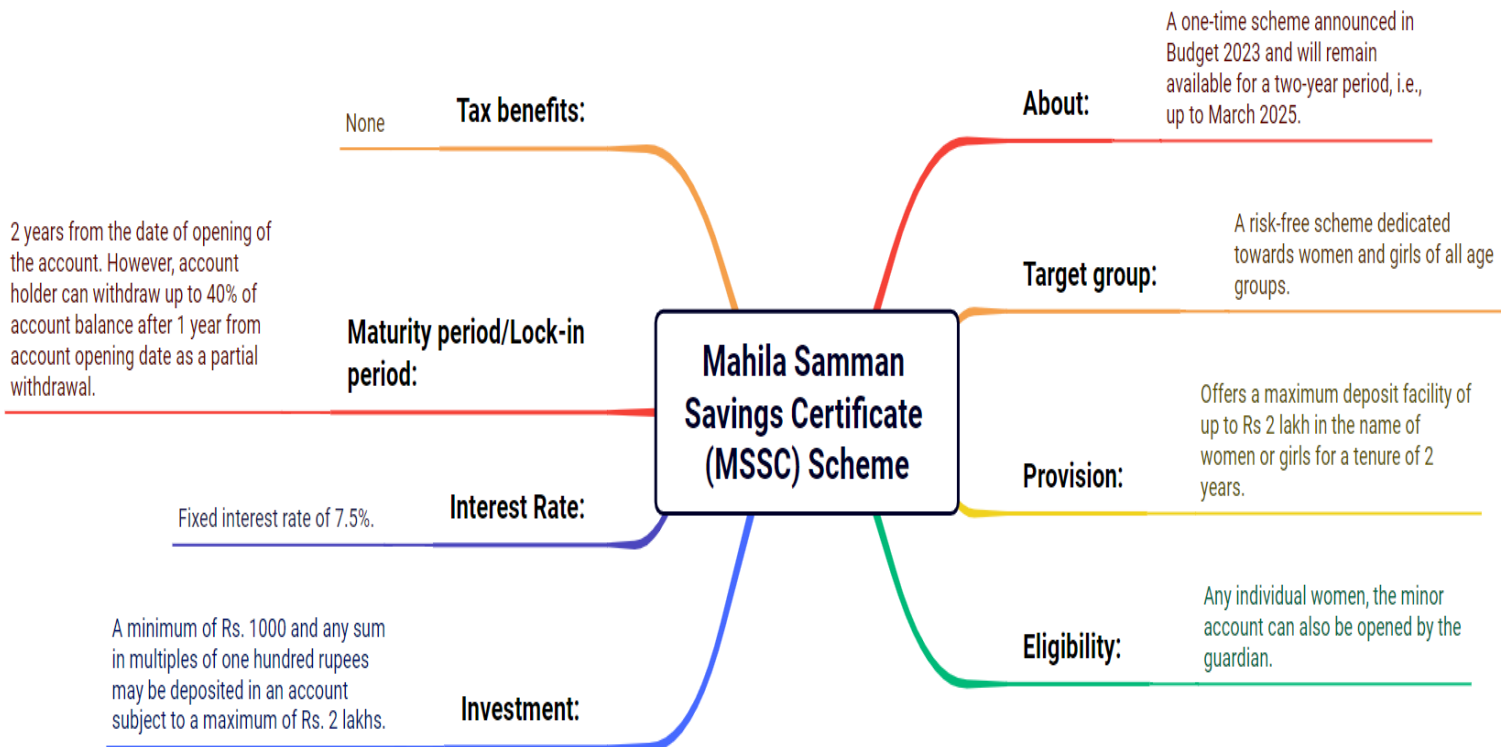


5. Centre unlikely to extend Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme - Indian Express

Context

The Centre is unlikely to extend the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme (MSSCS) that was made available for two years beyond its March 2025 deadline, according to official sources.

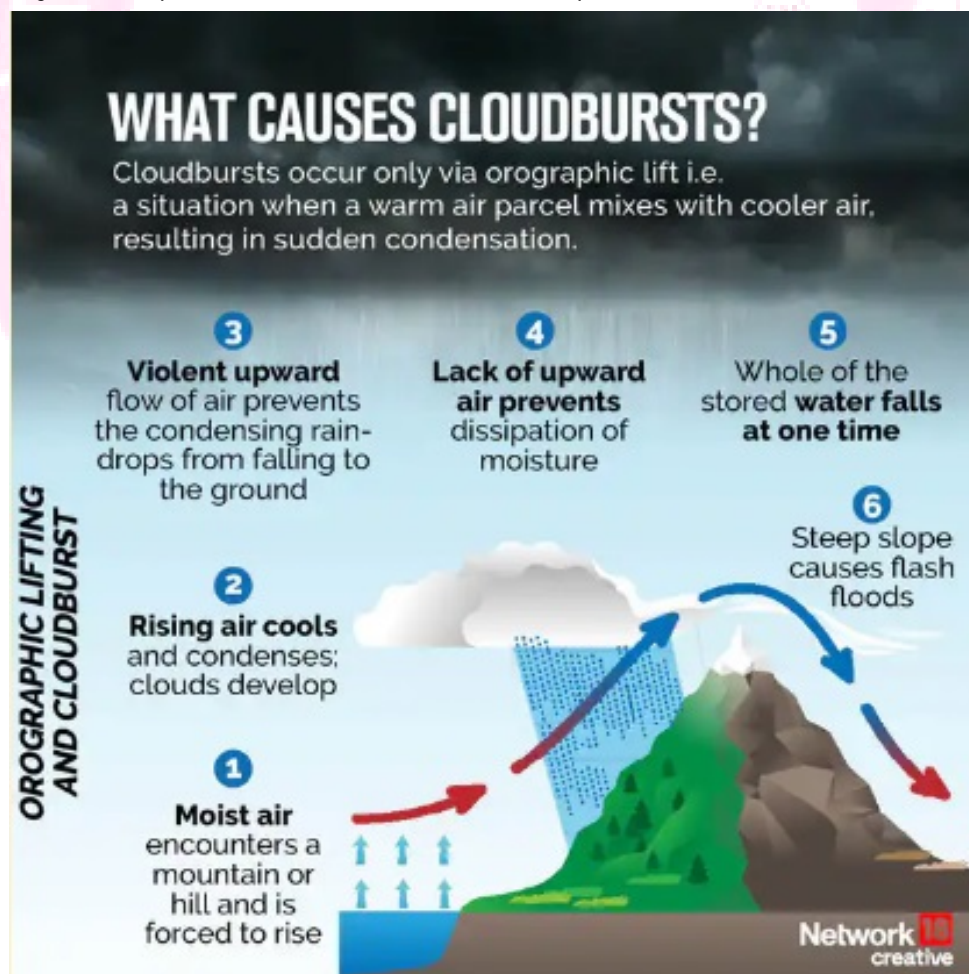
Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) Scheme



Geography

6. Cloudburst - The Hindu

- **About:** Sudden, heavy rainstorms where more than 10 cm of rain falls in less than an hour over a small area, of about 10 square km.
- **Cause:** Occur when strong upward currents of hot air prevent raindrops from falling, allowing them to grow larger while new smaller drops form below.
- **Impact:** Leads to a significant accumulation of water in the atmosphere, which is released abruptly when the upward currents weaken.
- **Occurrence:** In the hilly and mountainous areas of the Indian subcontinent, largely due to the region's complex topography, which facilitates orographic lifting.
- **Difference from Rainfall:** Rain is condensed water falling from a cloud while cloudburst is a sudden heavy rainstorm. Rain over 10 cm per hour is categorised as a cloudburst.
- **Prediction:** No satisfactory technique for anticipating the occurrence of cloud bursts through satellites and ground monitoring stations because they develop over a small area and for a period of time.



World Affairs

7. Foreign nationals told to leave Lebanon as fears surge - The Hindu

Context

Urgent calls for foreign nationals to leave Lebanon grew recently with France warning of “a highly volatile” situation as Iran and its allies ready their response to high-profile killings blamed on Israel. Hezbollah, the Shiite Islamic militant group based in Lebanon, said its senior commander Fuad Shukr was killed in an Israeli airstrike in the capital Beirut recently.

Fuad Shukr

Fuad Shukr is a longtime member of Lebanese Hizballah (LH) who serves as a military advisor to LH General Secretary Hassan Nasrallah. Shukr played a key role in the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, which killed 241 U.S. service personnel.

If you have information about Fuad Shukr, text it to Rewards for Justice at the number below via Signal, Telegram, or WhatsApp. You could be eligible for a reward.

Hezbollah

The party's arsenal is comprised primarily of small, man-portable, unguided artillery rockets. Hezbollah has expanded its rocket force, today estimated at 130,000 rounds.

Hezbollah's military capabilities:

It opposes Israel and Western influence in the Middle East. It also reflects West Asia's two major powers and their rivalry - the Sunni Muslim-dominated Saudi Arabia and the majority Shia Muslim-dominated Iran.

Aim:

By Iran and its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRCC).

Funding:

Literal meaning:

"Party of God".

Description:

The world's most heavily armed non-state actor, with a large and diverse stockpile of unguided artillery rockets, as well as ballistic, anti-air, anti-tank, and anti-ship missiles.

Origin:

Originated during the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990), which was a result of "long-simmering discontent over the large, armed Palestinian presence in the country".

Inspiration:

Hezbollah was formed around this time, inspired by the formation of a theocratic Islamic government in Iran in 1979.

Hezbollah

Lebanon

- **About:** A part of the Levant region of the Middle East, a country in Western Asia & the second smallest country in continental Asia.
- **Boundaries:**
Syria to the north and east and Israel to the south, & Cyprus to its west across the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Location:**
Crossroads of Mediterranean Basin and Arabian hinterland.
- **Capital:** Beirut
- **Border disputes:** The border with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights is disputed by Lebanon in a small area called Shebaa Farms.
- **4 distinct physiographic regions:** Coastal plain, Lebanon mountain range, Beqaa valley and Anti-Lebanon mountains.
- **Climate:** Moderate Mediterranean climate. In coastal areas, winters are generally cool and rainy whilst summers are hot and humid.



8. India commits \$85 million to WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre - The Hindu

Context

India has committed \$85 million over 10 years, 2022–2032, to support the programming of the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre and this decade-long contribution will support a cross-sectoral programme of work to strengthen the evidence base for traditional medicine by providing data and evidence on traditional medicine policies, practice, products, and public use.

WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (WHO GCTM)

Location:	Jamnagar, Gujarat
About:	A knowledge centre for traditional medicine whose foundation was laid in April 2022.
Establishment:	First global outpost centre for traditional medicine established under the Ministry of AYUSH.
Aim:	To harness the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through modern science and technology and improve the overall health of the communities the world over.
4 main strategic areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Evidence and learning.Data and analytics.Sustainability and equity.Innovation and technology
Guiding principle: Respect	for local heritages, resources, and rights

Economy

9. SCCL inks tripartite MoU for Godavari Geothermal Energy Project at Manuguru - The Hindu

Context

Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL), the State-owned coal company, inked a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and the Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation Ltd., (TGREDCO) for Godavari Geothermal Energy Project.

The MoU

- **About:** Signed for exploration and development of the Manuguru Geothermal Field in the Pranahita Godavari (PG) basin in Telangana through collaboration.
- **Significance:** It will help promote renewable energy generation by effectively utilising hot water springs of the coal belt of the Manuguru area. It is expected to transform Manuguru into a major geothermal energy hub in the country.

10. In Govt's 100-day plan: Launching 5,000-cr projects in AMRUT 2.0 - Indian Express

Context

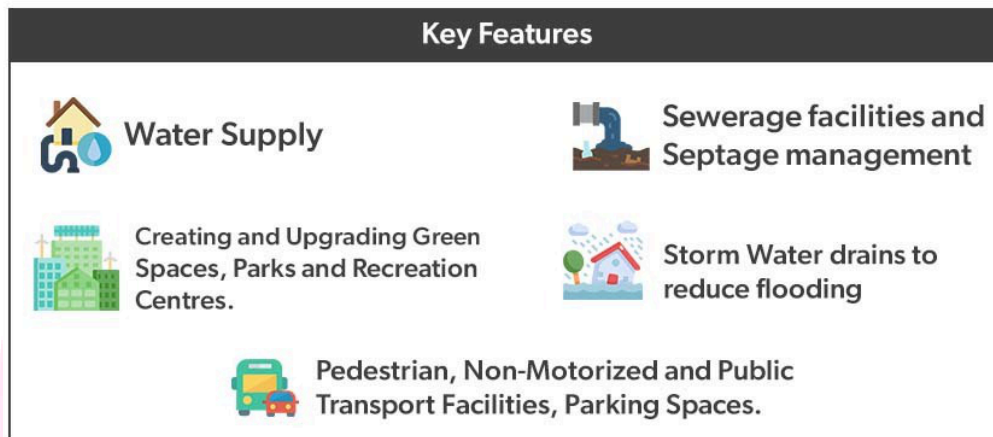
Under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0, cities are likely to initiate projects worth Rs 5,000 crore, covering water supply, sewage treatment, and rejuvenation of water bodies and parks.

AMRUT 2.0

- **Launch:** 1st October 2021, subsuming AMRUT 1.0 from the financial year (FY) 2021-22 to the FY 2025-26.
- **Aim:**
 - Universal coverage of water supply from 500 cities to about 4,900 statutory towns in the country and coverage of sewerage/septage management in 500 cities covered in the first phase of the scheme.
 - To promote the circular economy of water through the development of a City Water Balance Plan (CWBP) by recycling/reuse of treated sewage, rejuvenation of water bodies and water conservation.
 - Reform agenda on ease of living of citizens through the reduction of non-revenue water, urban planning, strengthening urban finance etc.
- **Other components:**

- **Pey Jal Survekshan:** To ascertain equitable distribution of water, reuse of wastewater, mapping of water bodies and promote healthy competition among the cities /towns.
- **Technology Sub-Mission for Water:** To leverage the latest global technologies in the field of water.
- **Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign:** To spread awareness among the masses about the conservation of water.

AMRUT Mission



11. Going after the weeds - Indian Express

Context

Cultivating rice using less water and not burning the leftover straw after harvesting, and wheat without any ploughing and land preparation, has been a holy grail for stakeholders concerned over the ecological footprint. But there's been some breakthrough of late, with the breeding of varieties/hybrids that can "tolerate" the application of a herbicide – Imazethapyr – to control weeds and grasses.

New weed-resistant varieties

- **Basmati varieties:** Pusa Basmati 1979 and Pusa Basmati 1985
- **Non-basmati rice hybrids:** Sava 134 and Sava 127
- **Wheat varieties:** Goal and Mukut

12. FAME-India Scheme - Indian Express

- **About:** A part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan to encourage the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles by offering upfront incentives on purchase.
- **Components:** Covers Hybrid and electric technologies like Mild Hybrid, Strong Hybrid, Plug-in Hybrid and battery Electric Vehicles.
- **Phase I:**
 - **Started** in 2015 and was completed on 31st March 2019.

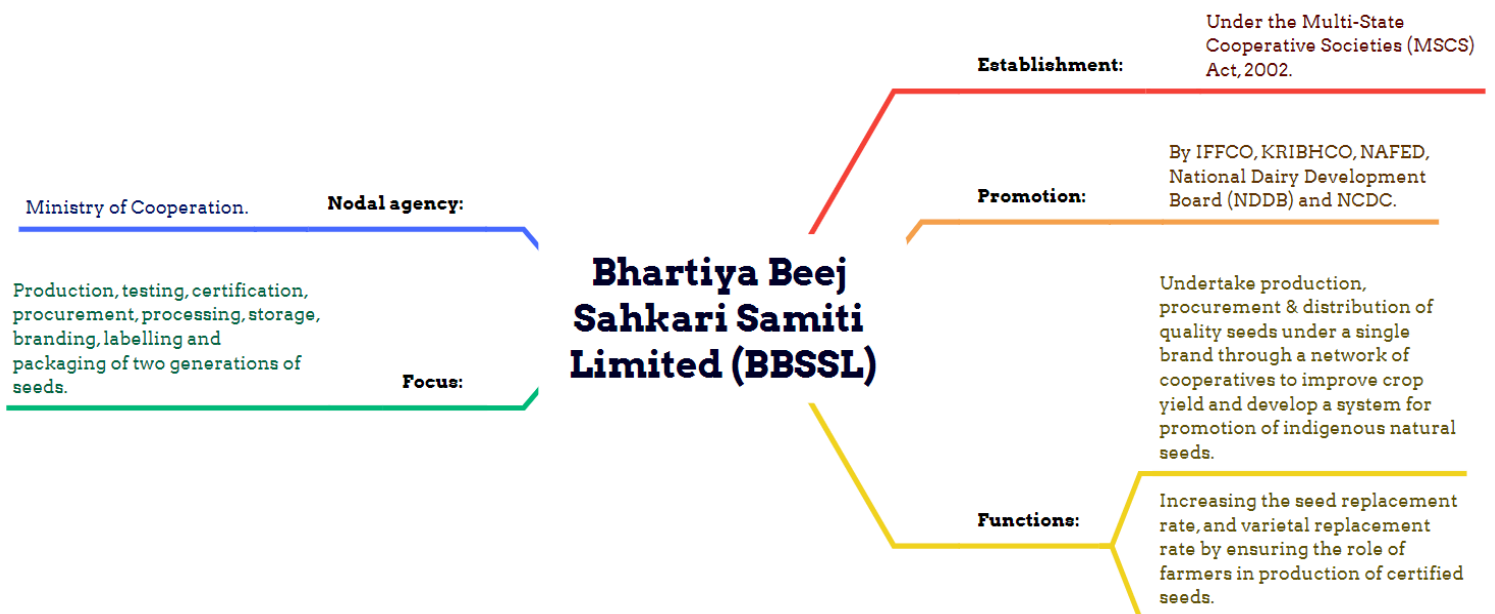
- **4 focus areas:** Technology development, demand creation, pilot project, and charging infrastructure.
- **Achievements:** ~ 2.78 lakh xEVs were supported with total demand incentives. 465 buses were sanctioned to various cities/states.
- **Phase-II:**
 - **Started** April 1, 2019.
 - **Focus:** Supporting the electrification of public & shared transportation.
 - **Aim:** To support through demand incentive eBuses, e-3 Wheelers, e-4 Wheeler Passenger Cars and e-2 Wheelers & creation of charging infrastructure.

13. Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) - PIB

Context

Ministry of Cooperation has set up Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002.

Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL)



Environment

14. Four-ringed butterfly - The Hindu

Context

A four-ringed butterfly belonging to a family with most members in China has resurfaced in India after 61 years, a new study said. The butterfly was recorded in 2018 from the Namdapha National Park.

Four-ringed butterfly

- **Scientific name:** *Ypthima cantliei*, a species of Satyrinae butterfly.
- **Reporting:** Last reported in 1957 from (eastern) Assam's Margherita.
- **Ypthima species in India:** Of the 35 *Ypthima* species recorded in India, 23 have been reported from the northeast.
- **Highest Ypthima diversity:** China, particularly in the Yunnan and Sichuan provinces.



Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh

- **Namdapha:** A river originating in the park which meets Noa-Dehing river.
- **Noa-Dehing river:** A tributary of the Brahmaputra and flows in a North-South direction in the middle of the National Park.
- **Climate:** Sub-tropical climate.
- **Area:** 1,985 sq km.
- **Location:** Located between the Dapha bum range of the Mishmi Hills and the Patkai range.
- **Size:** Fourth largest



national park in India after Hemis National Park, Ladakh, Desert National Park, Rajasthan, & Gangotri National Park, Uttarakhand.

- **Designation:** Established as a national park in 1983, and a Tiger Reserve in the same year.
- **Significance:**
 - On the Tentative Lists of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India.
 - Only park in the World to have the four Feline species of big cat namely the Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard and Clouded Leopard .
 - Houses critically endangered species like the Namdapha flying squirrel, species that was last spotted in 1981.
- **Vegetation:** Tropical evergreen forests (Tropical Rain Forests)



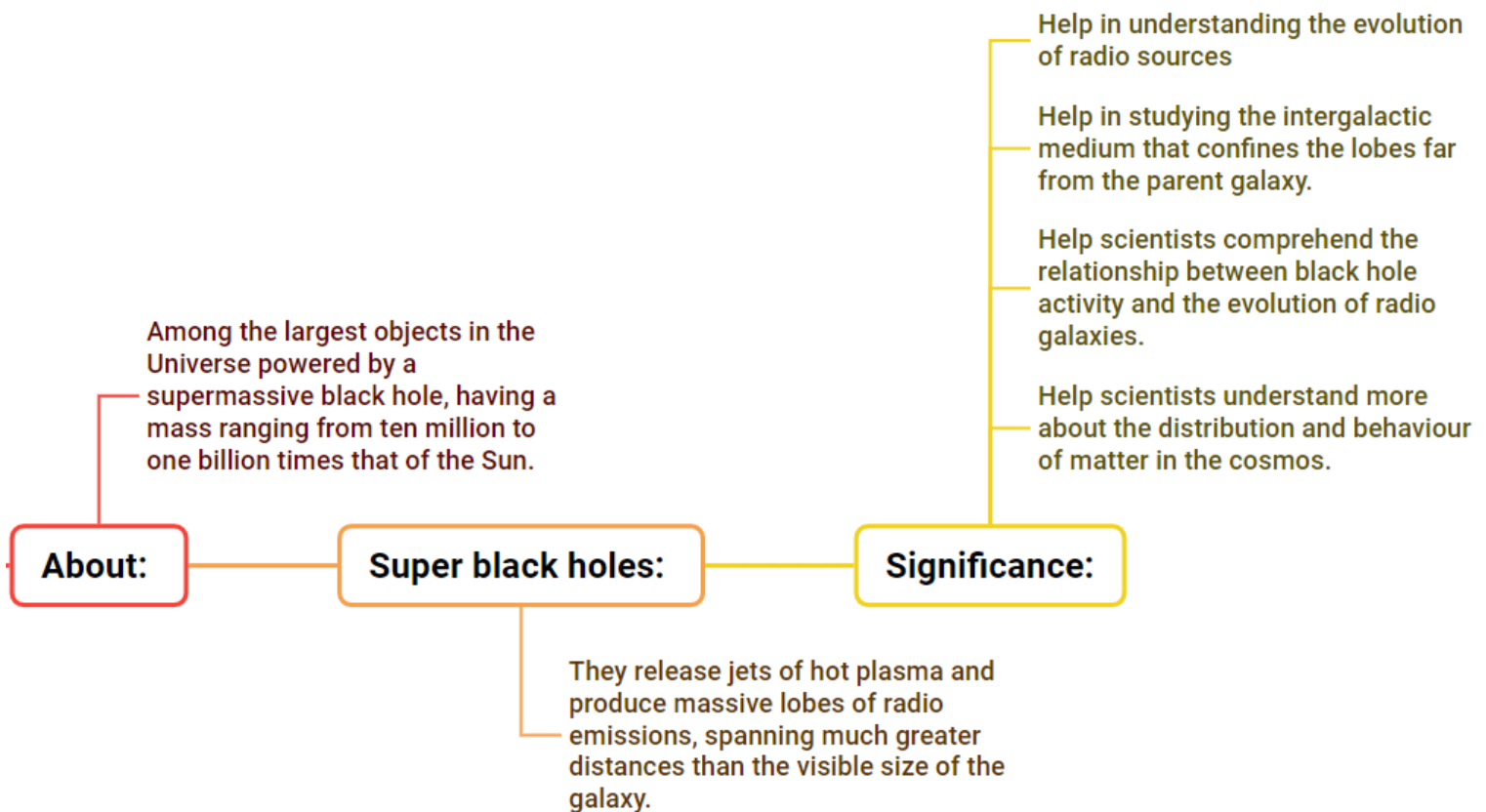
Sci and Tech

15. Indian astronomers discover 34 new giant radio sources - Indian Express

Context

A team led by Indian radio astronomers have reported the discovery of 34 new giant radio sources (GRSs) using the giant metrowave radio telescope (GMRT).

Giant Radio Source



16. Legionnaires' disease Outbreak - Indian Express

Context

Australia's Victoria has recorded 71 confirmed cases of legionnaires' disease and a woman died from the disease.

Legionnaires' disease

- **Cause:** Legionella bacteria found only in natural water bodies like lakes and hot springs.
- **About:** A severe form of pneumonia caused by legionella bacteria.
- **Transmission:** Inhalation of contaminated aerosols from contaminated water. Not contagious, meaning it is not spread from person-to-person.

- **Symptoms:** Fever, chills, headache, malaise and muscle pain (myalgia).
- **Treatment:** Treatments exist, but no vaccine is available currently.

LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE

**Cough ;
Shortness of
breath;
Fever;
Muscle aches;
Headache;
Sometimes
diarrhea, nausea,
confusion.**

**A serious type of
pneumonia, caused by
breathing in small
droplets of water that
contain Legionella
bacteria**

**Most likely sources of
infection:**

- Shower heads
- Hot tubs
- Air-conditioning systems
- Plumbing systems
- Decorative fountains

Legionella bacteria occurs naturally in fresh water environment (lakes, stream)

It becomes health concern when the bacteria grows and spreads in human-made building water system

Defence

17. INDIAN NAVAL SHIP TABAR CONDUCTS MARITIME PARTNERSHIP EXERCISE (MPX) WITH RUSSIAN NAVAL SHIP SOOBRAZITELNY - PIB

Context

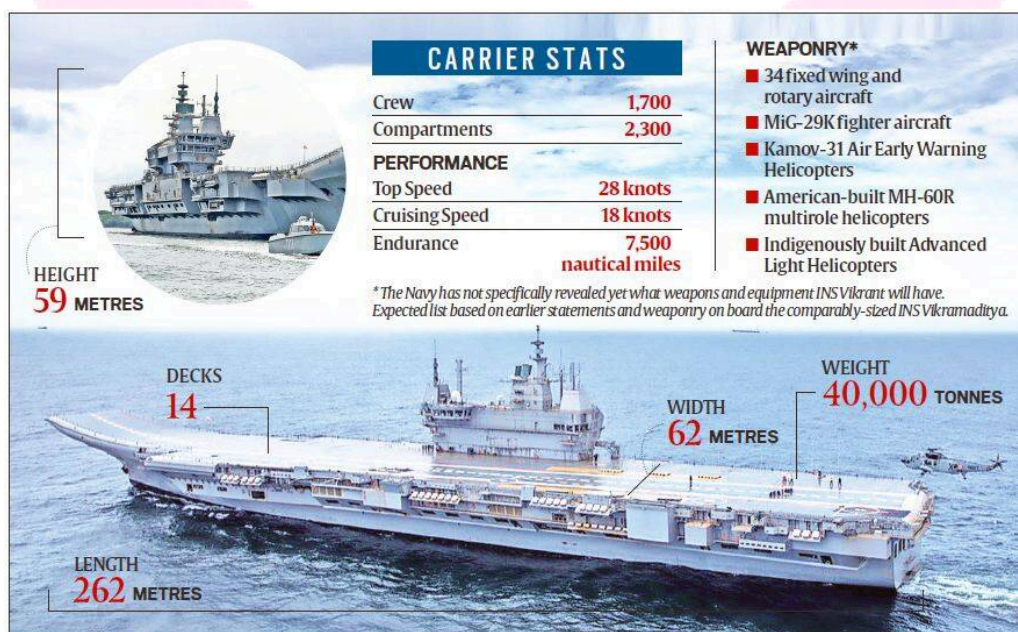
Recently, a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) was conducted between India and Russia in St. Petersburg.

Maritime Partnership Exercise

- **Parties:** Conducted between Russia and India on 328th Russian Navy Day.
- **Naval ships:** INS Tabar naval ship from India and Soobrazitelny from Russia.
- **Components:** Involved a series of complex naval manoeuvres, including communication drills, Search & Rescue tactics and Replenishment at Sea serials.
- **Significance:** Reinforces the strong bilateral naval ties, strengthening India's resolve and commitment towards ensuring enhanced cooperation in the maritime domain.

INS Tabar

- **About:** A stealth frigate built for the Indian Navy in Russia.
- **Class:** The third of the Talwar-class frigate of the Indian Navy.
- **Commissioning:** 19 April 2004 in Kaliningrad, Russia.
- **Capabilities:** Can handle air/surface/sub-surface missions or defend itself, operating either independently on maritime missions or supporting a larger naval task force.
- **Part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet:** Based in Mumbai under the Western Naval Command.



Miscellaneous

18. Sara Abraham - The Hindu

- Sara Abraham, the doyenne of contemporary Indian Art in the early Seventies, passed away peacefully at Chennai.
- Born into the distinguished family of Chalakuzhy Paulose Matthen and his wife, Eliamma Matthen in Travancore, Kerala, as it was then known, Sara was one of eight children.



19. Yamini Krishnamurthy - The Hindu

- Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi veteran Yamini Krishnamurthy died recently. She was 83.
- Born on December 20, 1940 in Madanapalli in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district to Sanskrit scholar M. Krishnamurti, she took to dance at the tender age of five at the Kalakshetra School of Dance in Chennai under the tutelage of legendary Bharatanatyam dancer Rukmini Devi Arundale.
- Also proficient in the form of Kuchipudi, Ms. Krishnamurthy expanded her horizon by learning Odissi from the likes of Pankaj Charan Das and Kelucharan Mohapatra.
- Besides learning the various dance forms, Ms. Krishnamurthy was trained in Carnatic vocals and the veena.

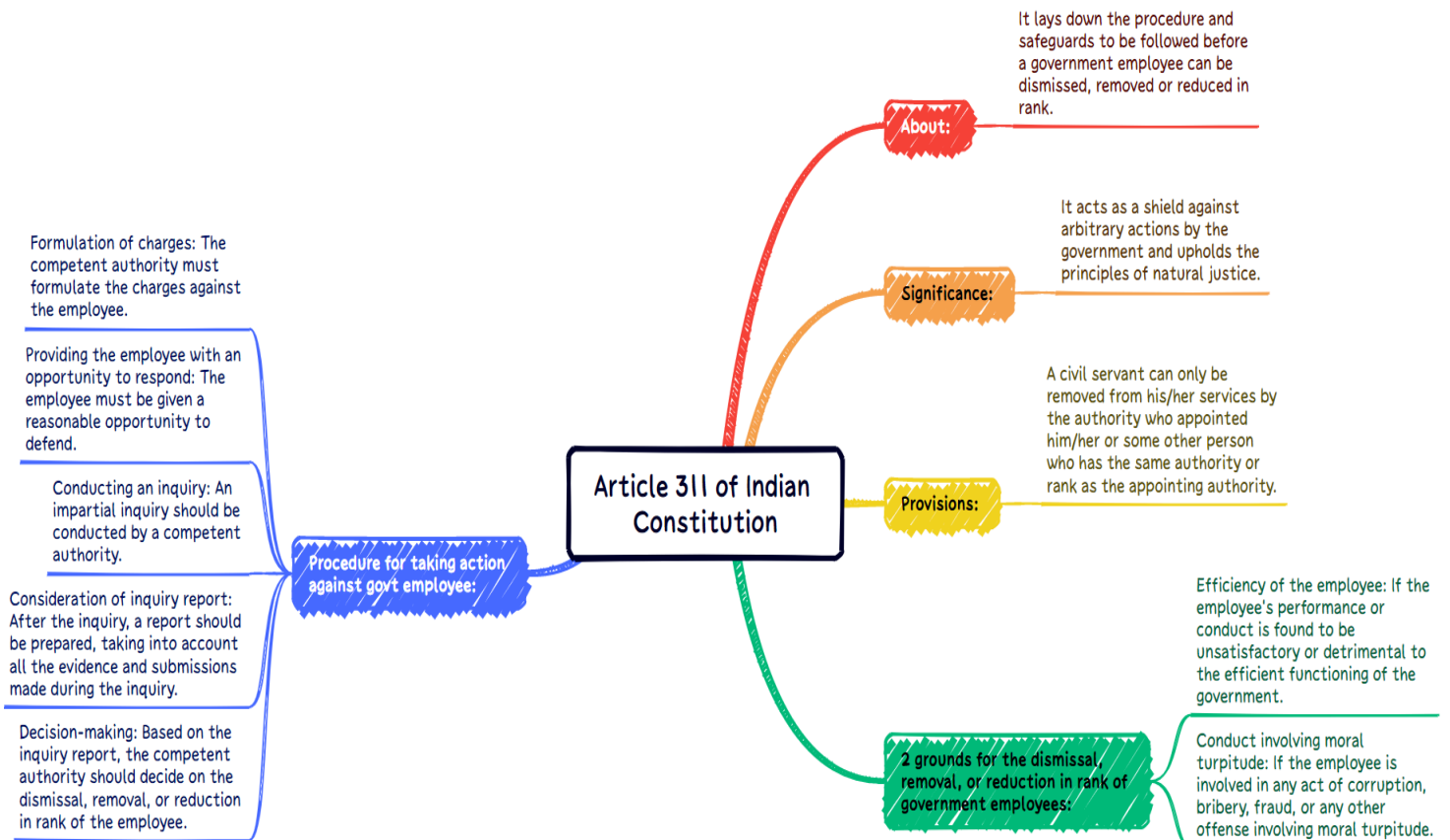


20. Five policemen sacked in J&K in drug, terror cases - The Hindu

Context

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor on Saturday invoked Article 311 of the Constitution and terminated the services of six government employees, five of them policemen, based on reports filed by security agencies for alleged involvement in narcotics smuggling and terrorist activities.

Article 311 of Indian Constitution



Rajasthan Current Affairs

1. 6 Apache helicopters to be deployed in Jodhpur

- 6 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters will be deployed by the Indian Army on the Western Front at Jodhpur Military Station from October 2024.
- The Union Defense Ministry had signed an agreement with Boeing in 2022 to purchase 6 helicopters for the Army.
- At present, Advanced Light Helicopter Rudra is deployed with the Army Aviation Corps in Jodhpur.

APACHE AH-64E

IAF inducts 8 Apache AH-64E attack helicopters on Sept 3, 2019	Manufactured by Boeing; used by US Army and international defence forces	To replace old Russia-made Mi-35 attack helicopters
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THE APACHE ADVANTAGE

Two high-performance turboshaft engines for maximum cruise speed of 284km/hr

World's most advanced multi-role combat helicopter

Advanced laser, infrared & target acquisition designation to attack targets

Laser guided precision Hellfire missiles, 70mm rockets, 30mm automatic cannon

Wing Span: **17.15 ft**

Height: **15.24 ft**

SPECIFICATIONS

Primary mission gross weight	6,838Kg
Vertical rate of climb	More than 2000ft per min
Maximum rate of climb	More than 2,800ft per min

Source: Boeing, news reports

2. Inauguration of Aircraft Flying School in Kishangarh

- The state's first aircraft flying school was inaugurated in Kishangarh, Rajasthan on 4 August 2024.
- Note: The Civil Aviation Policy, 2024 was approved by the State Cabinet on 02 July 2024 with the objective of improving regional air connectivity and promoting tourism in Rajasthan.
- Under this, provision was made to open flying schools in Kishangarh, Jhalawar and Bhilwara.
- Under this, a greenfield airport is being built in Kota.
- This policy focuses on enhancing aviation training facilities, aviation maintenance services and developing aerospace activities.
- Apart from this, Aerocity will be built in Jaipur, in which various infrastructure including hotels, restaurants will be developed.

3. Education Department made changes in Shiksha Bhushan and Shiksha Shri provisions

- The Education Department has made changes in the rules of Bhamashah Samman.
- The Education Department has reduced the contribution amount for Shiksha Bhushan Samman from Rs 30 lakh to Rs 15 lakh and for Shiksha Shri Samman from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 1 lakh.
- Now, Bhamashahs who contribute from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 1 crore will be awarded Shiksha Bhushan at the state level and those who contribute from Rs 1 lakh to 15 lakh will be awarded Shiksha Shri Samman at the district level.
- Earlier, the rule was implemented to give Shiksha Bhushan at the state level to Bhamashahs who contribute from Rs 30 lakh to Rs 1 crore and Shiksha Shri Samman at the district level to those who contribute from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 30 lakh.
- Note: There has been no change in the provisions of the state level Shiksha Vibhushan Samman. This award is given to those who contribute more than Rs 1 crore.