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**14 August 2024**

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

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## Art and Culture

### 1. Mallakhamb - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Indian Culture - Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times

**About:** A traditional sport, originating from the Indian subcontinent, in which a gymnast performs aerial yoga or gymnastic postures and wrestling grips with a vertical stationary or hanging wooden pole, cane, or rope

**Literal meaning:** Literally meaning "wrestling pole", the term refers to a traditional training implement used by wrestlers.

**Origin:** Traced to earlier part of the 12th century. A mention of wrestlers exercising on wooden poles is found in the Manasholas, written by Chalukya, in 1153 AD.

**Revival:** It was revived late in the 19th century by Balambhatta Dada Deodhar, physical instructor to Bajirao Peshwa II.  
Hotspots: Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

### 2. Pompeii - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Indian Culture - Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times

- **About:** A preserved ancient Roman city located near modern day Naples, Italy which lies at the southeastern base of Mount Vesuvius.
- **Settlement:** Originally settled in the Bronze Age on an escarpment at the mouth of the Sarnus(modern Sarno) River.

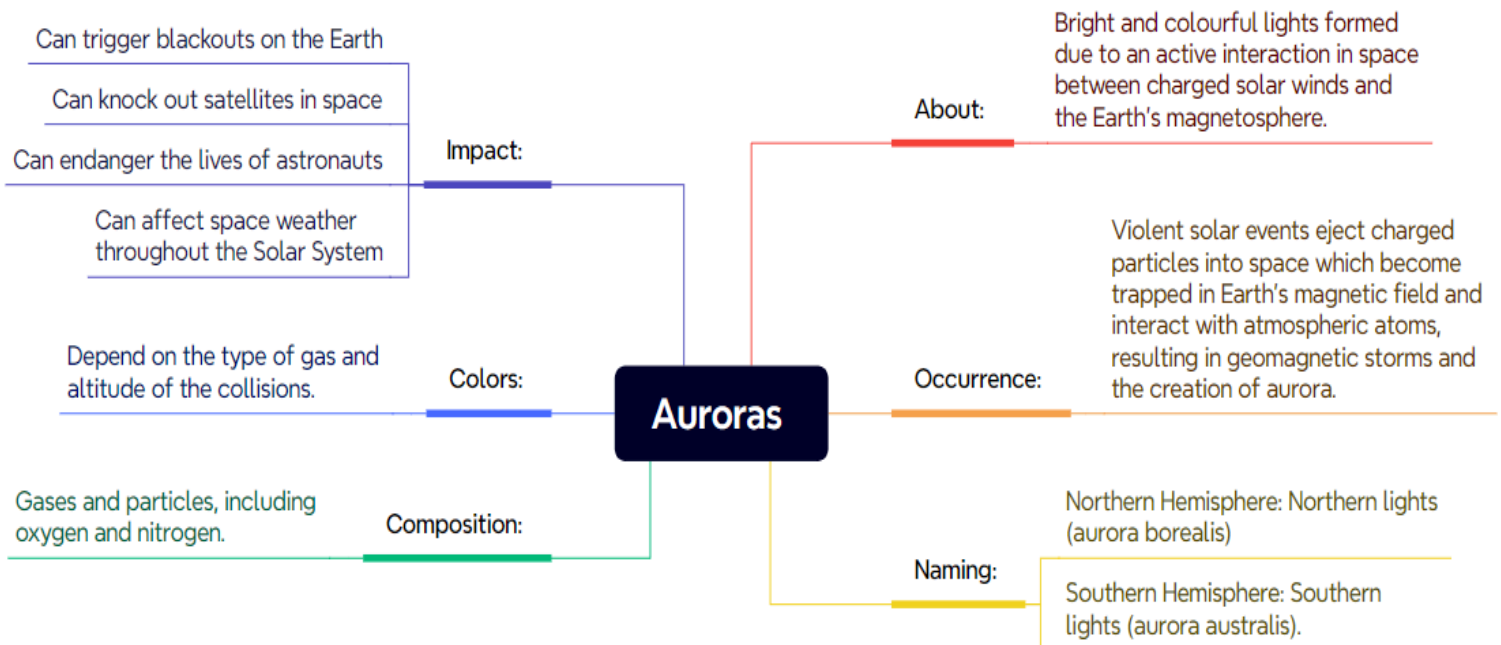
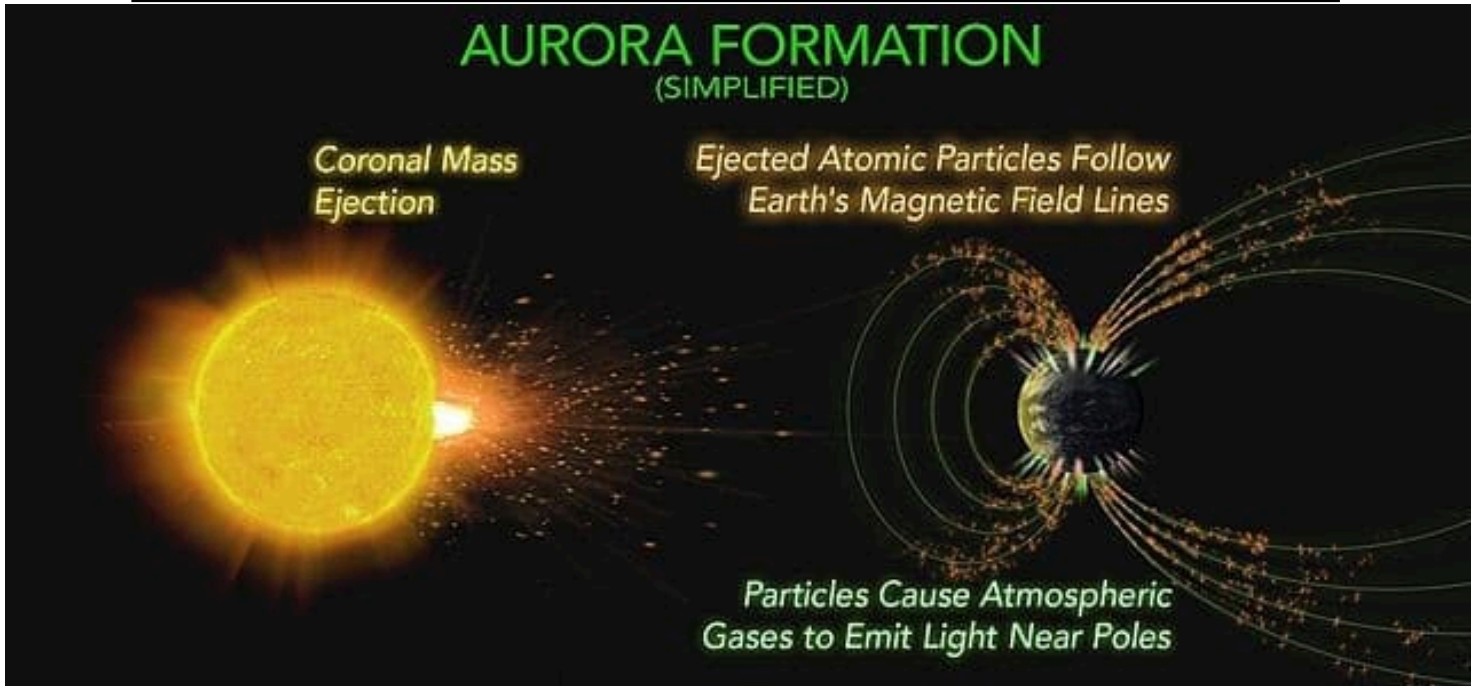
- **Formation:** Built on a spur formed by a prehistoric lava flow to the north of the mouth of the Sarno River. It was conquered and absorbed into the Roman Empire in 80 BCE.
- **Population:** Estimated at 10-12 thousand, with one third being slaves.
- **Features:** Complex municipal water system, an amphitheater, and a gymnasium.
- **End:** It was buried in volcanic ash following the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 CE. It was basically lost and forgotten until it was rediscovered in 1748.
- **Significance:** It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



## Geography

### 3. Auroras - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Important Geophysical Phenomena



#### 4. The melting of polar ice due to climate change is making days longer - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Important Geophysical Phenomena

**Context**

Researchers have discovered that the melting polar ice caps have caused the earth to spin slower. This can lead to minuscule changes in the actual duration of a day — something that, ironically, does not affect our daily lives as much but could affect the technology we rely on.

**Reason for slow spin (Mains)**

- **Conservation of angular momentum:** As the ice sheets melt, the earth's oblateness increases, and the region around the equator elongates slightly. The moment of inertia increases, and the rotation rate gets smaller.
- **Bulging out:** Water from the melt flows towards the equator, making the earth bulge out slightly, slowing its rotation and increasing the time taken to complete one rotation, lengthening our day.



## Society

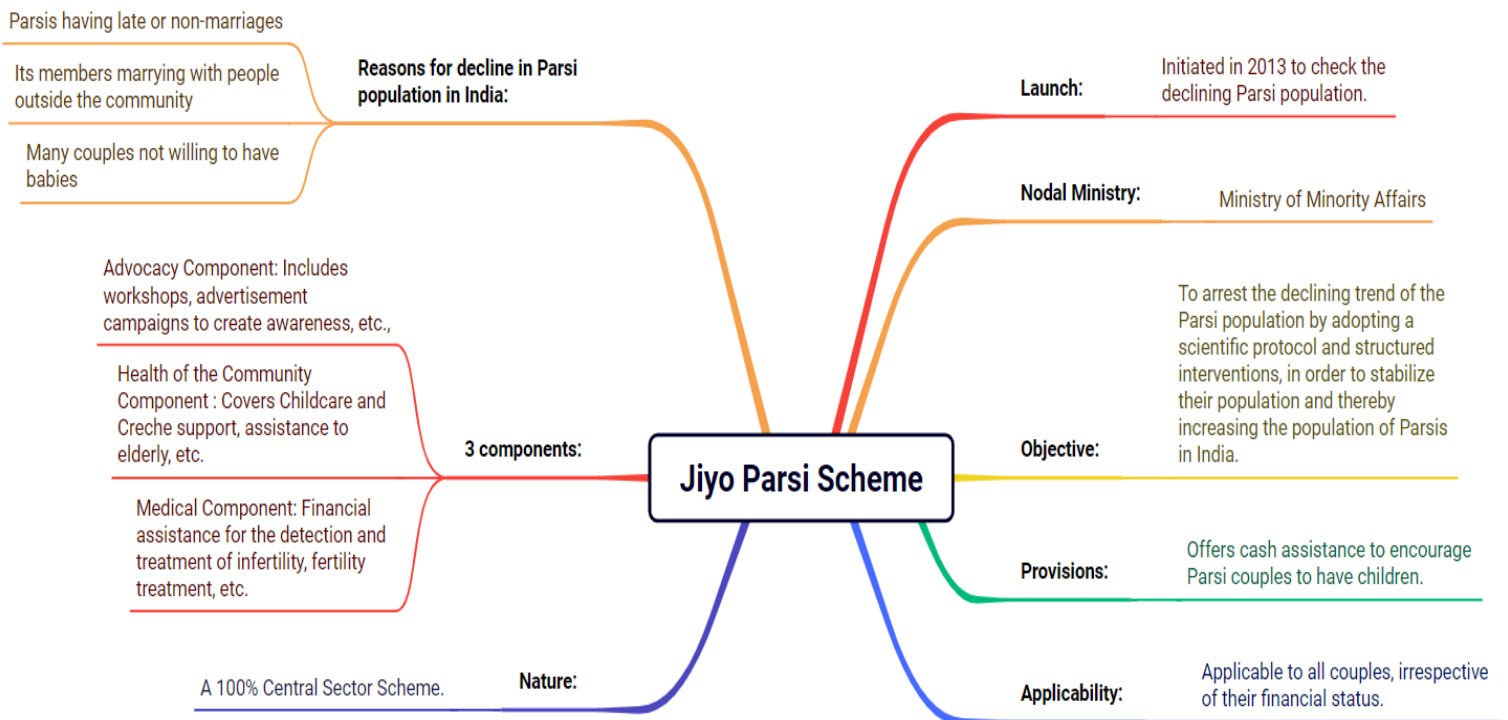
### 5. Kiren Rijiju launches portal for Jiyo Parsi Scheme - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Social Empowerment

**Context**

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju recently launched the portal for the Jiyo Parsi Scheme, a Central sector scheme to arrest the population decline of the Parsi community in India.

**Jiyo Parsi Scheme (Prelims)**



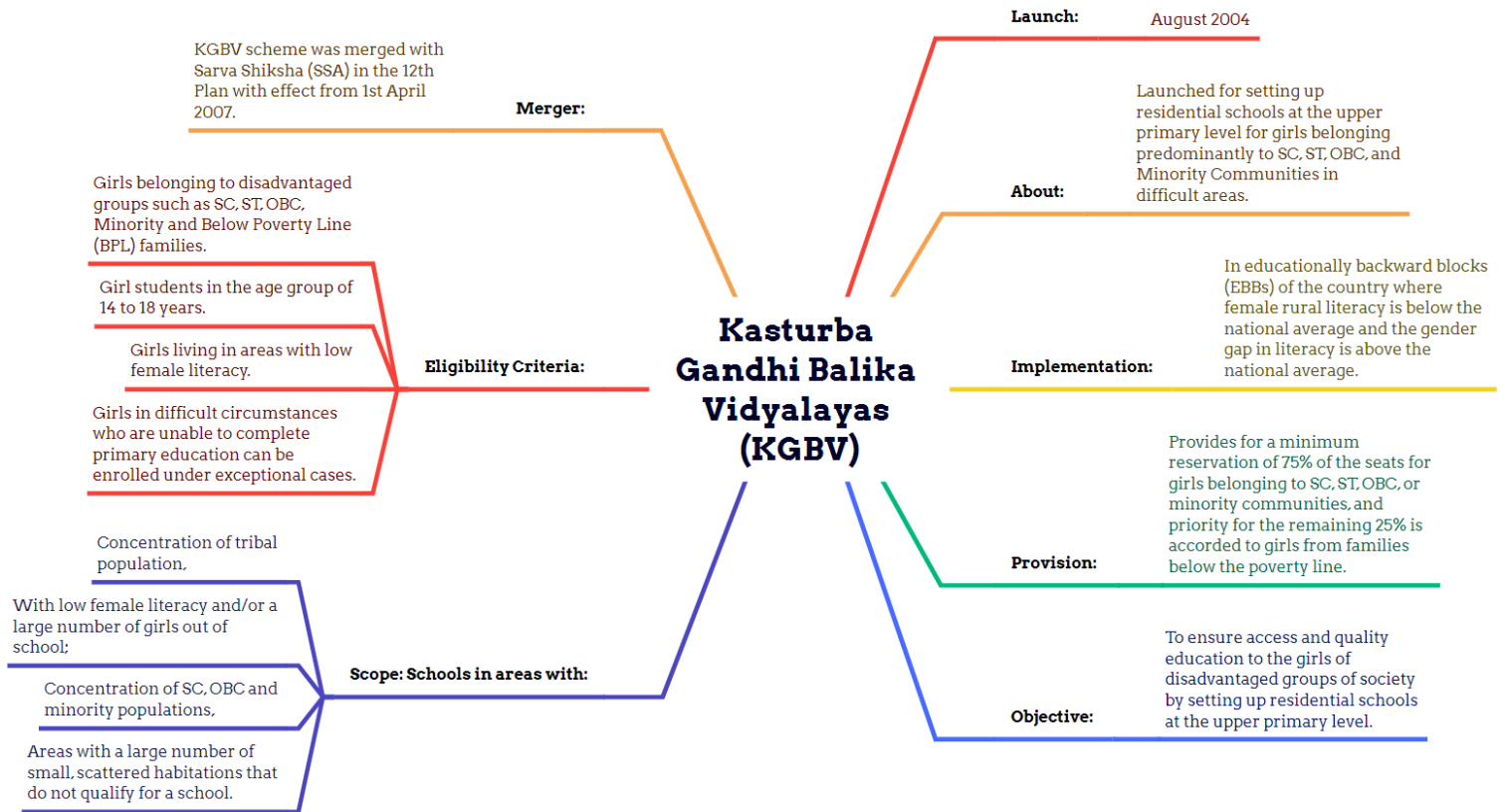
### 6. Lack of transparency in spending, weak infrastructure, safety concerns: NCERT report highlights issues in KGBV schools - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Social Empowerment

**Context**

Lack of transparency in the utilisation of funds, weak infrastructure, shortage of teachers, low salaries, and concerns over student safety are among the challenges identified in an evaluation of 254 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). The NCERT has submitted the report to the Ministry of Education (MoE).

## Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) (Prelims)



## 7. Issuance of certificates for birth and death registration hit by glitch in CRS portal - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Social Empowerment

### Context

The Civil Registration System (CRS), the Union government's centralised portal to register births and deaths, has been facing glitches for the past four months. The malfunction has led to delays in issuing birth and death registration certificates.

### Civil Registration System (CRS)

- **About:** The unified process of continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the vital events (births, deaths, stillbirths) and characteristics thereof.
- **Significance:** The data generated through a complete and up-to-date CRS is essential for socio-economic planning.

### CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Registration of Births and Deaths

- Under a Central Act "Registration of Birth and Death Act (RBD), 1969".
- Mandatory and uniform throughout the country
- Implementation is the responsibility of the State Governments through State Rules
- Registration to be done at the place of occurrence of the event
- Provides a legal document for the general public - birth / death certificates



### Civil Registration System in India (Mains)

- **Origin:** Dates back to the middle of the 19th century.
- **1886:** Central Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act was promulgated to provide for voluntary registration throughout British India.
- **Post-independence (1969):** Registration of Births and Death Act (RBD Act) was enacted to promote uniformity in the registration of Births and Deaths. With its enactment, registration of births, deaths and stillbirths has become mandatory in India.
- **Registration:** Coordination by Registrar General, India (RGI) at the Central Government level. However, implementation of the statute is vested with the State Governments.

### 8. ILO to help farmers eliminate child labour, forced work in cotton fields - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Salient features of Indian Society

#### Context

As cotton and hybrid cotton seeds from India continue to remain in the United States Labour Department's 'List of Goods Produced by Child Labour or Forced Labour', the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has joined hands with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to help farm workers and small and medium farmers engaged in cotton cultivation.

#### Promoting Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW) (Prelims)

- **Aim:** To promote effective recognition of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, elimination of child labour, abolition of forced labour, elimination of all forms of discrimination, and the promotion of a safe and healthy working environment among the cotton growing community in India.
- **Target:** Expected to reach out to 65 lakh cotton farmers in 11 States.
- **Focus:** Promoting financial inclusion and bank linkage for the farmers and agriculture workers.

#### International Labour Organisation (Prelims)

## International Labour Organisation

- About:** The only tripartite United Nation (UN) agency that brings together governments, employers and workers of member States.
- Aim:** To set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.
- Establishment:** In 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations and became the first affiliated specialized agency of the UN in 1946.
- Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- Parent organization:** Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.
- Members:** 187 member states: 186 out of 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands (India is a member).



## Polity

### 9. Amid Hindenburg probe calls, look at JPCs on financial allegations - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Parliament and State Legislatures—Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges and Issues Arising out of these

**Context**

The Opposition has demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to investigate the Hindenburg Research allegations against Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch. The BJP has rejected the demand.

**Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) (Mains)**

**Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)**

The representation of Lok Sabha is double that of Rajya Sabha. The details of membership and subjects relating to a particular JPC are decided by Parliament.

**Composition:**

**About:**

An ad hoc body comprising members from both Houses of Parliament.

**Function:**

Acts as a mini Parliament to carry out detailed scrutiny of a specific matter within a specific time frame.

Can look into documents and examine officials of any ministry or institution concerned.

**Powers:**

If one or more members disagree with the majority in a JPC, they can submit notes of dissent.

**Nature:**

Advisory nature- It is up to the government to take action on the recommendations of the committee.

**Major JPCs constituted so far:**

To investigate the 2G spectrum scam in 2013, the Ketan Parekh share market scam in 2001, and the securities, banking deals relating to Harshad Mehta in 1992 & Bofors scam.

**Scams discovered by JPC**

2G SPECTRUM (2013): JPC report absolved PM Manmohan Singh saying he was misled about the procedure to be followed by Department of Telecommunications on issuance of Unified Access Services licenses.

SHARE MARKET SCAM (2001): Heavy exposure to the stock markets due to Ketan Parekh, a stock broker. It was alleged that at his behest, the bank issued pay orders without the backing of funds. He was accused of using this money to rig share prices of 10 Indian companies between 1995 & 2001.

SECURITIES & BANKING TRANSACTIONS (1992): Allegations that "Big Bull" Harshad Mehta had diverted funds from the public sector Maruti Udyog Limited to his own accounts, leading to a 570-point fall in the Sensex.

## World Affairs

### 10. International Data Corporation (IDC) - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

<b>About:</b>	{ A premier global market intelligence, data, and events provider for the information technology, telecommunications, and consumer technology markets.
<b>Composition:</b>	{ More than 1,300 analysts worldwide.
<b>Function:</b>	{ It offers the local, regional and global expertise in the technology & industry opportunities.
<b>Coverage:</b>	{ More than 110 countries.
<b>Significance:</b>	{ Analysis and insight provided by the IDC helps IT professionals, investment communities and business executives in making the fact-based technology decisions and in achieving the key business objectives.
<b>Establishment:</b>	{ 1964
<b>Ownership:</b>	{ By International Data Group - leading tech media, data and marketing services company of the world.

### 11. Ex-ISI chief who visited Kabul after Taliban takeover, arrested: reasons, context - Indian Express

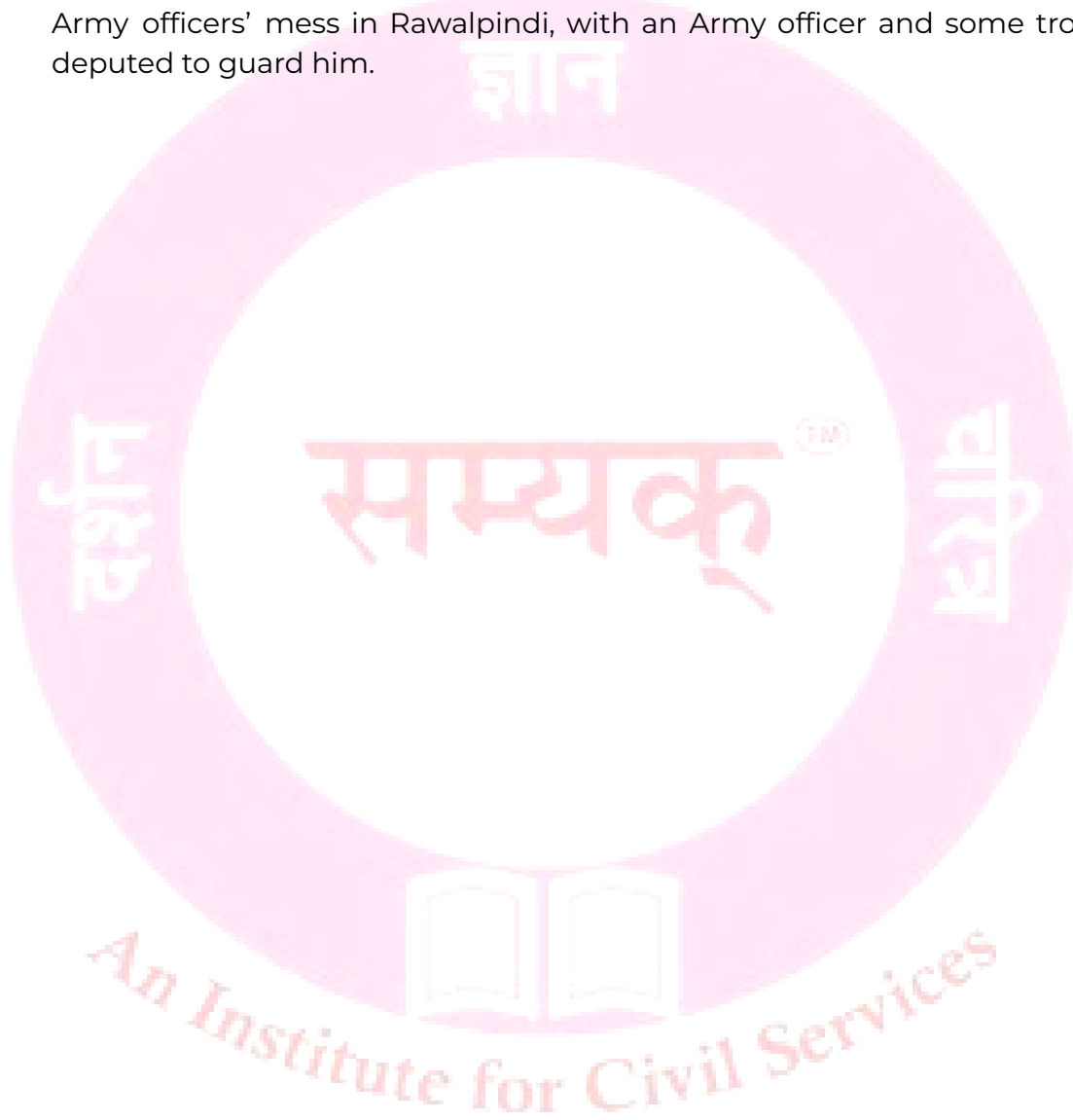
**Relevance:** India and its Neighborhood

#### **Context**

The Pakistan Army has begun court martial proceedings against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (ret'd), who was until recently Director General of the Inter Service Intelligence (ISI). He is accused of corruption while in service, and of engaging in questionable activities after retirement.

### Allegations against Lt Gen Hameed

- **Adverse observations made by Supreme Court of Pakistan:** SC held that allegations made by the petitioner against Hameed were “of an extremely serious nature, and if true, undoubtedly would undermine the reputation of the federal government, the armed forces, ISI and Pakistan Rangers”.
- **Accused of extortion:** It was alleged that in May 2017, Hameed took away gold and diamond jewellery after falsely accusing people of terrorism.
- **Action taken against Hameed:** He has been housed in a guest room of an Army officers' mess in Rawalpindi, with an Army officer and some troops deputed to guard him.



## Economy

### 12. Resolution of IBC cases took 716 days in 2023-24 - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Indian Economy

#### Resolution of IBC cases took 716 days in 2023-24

In 2023-24, the percentage of realisable amount to admitted claims was at 27%, showed the recent data provided by the corporate affairs ministry to Rajya Sabha



#### AVERAGE TIME TAKEN FOR RESOLUTION PROCESS

2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
557 Days	654 Days	716 Days

■ At least 19,770 cases were pending before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) as on June 30, 2024. Out of the total, 10,125 cases were pending for more than a year

■ The number of ongoing corporate insolvency resolution processes stood at 1,973 as of June 30, 2024

■ As per the Insolvency and

Bankruptcy Code (IBC), the stipulated resolution time for a case is 330 days

■ As many as 3,019 cases were pending before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal. Out of them, 1,356 cases were pending for over a year

■ The 330-day timeline is exclusive of extensions granted by the NCLT



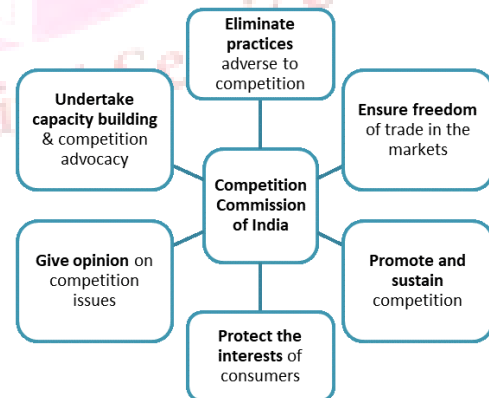
*"During financial year 2023-24, a total of 12 amendments to various regulations and model bye laws were carried out, thereby effectuating about 86 changes in the regulatory framework to further strengthen the insolvency resolution process,"*  
Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Harsh Malhotra said in a written reply

Source: MCA/PII

### 13. Competition Commission of India (CCI) - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Indian Economy and issues

- **About:** A statutory and quasi-judicial body working under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- **Formation:** Established under the Competition Act, 2002 and was duly constituted in March 2009
- **Aim:** Administration, implementation and enforcement of the Act
- **Objectives:**
  - Ensure markets benefit consumers.
  - Implement competition policies for efficient resource utilization.
  - Foster fair and healthy competition for inclusive economic growth.
  - Ensure alignment of sectoral regulatory laws with competition law.



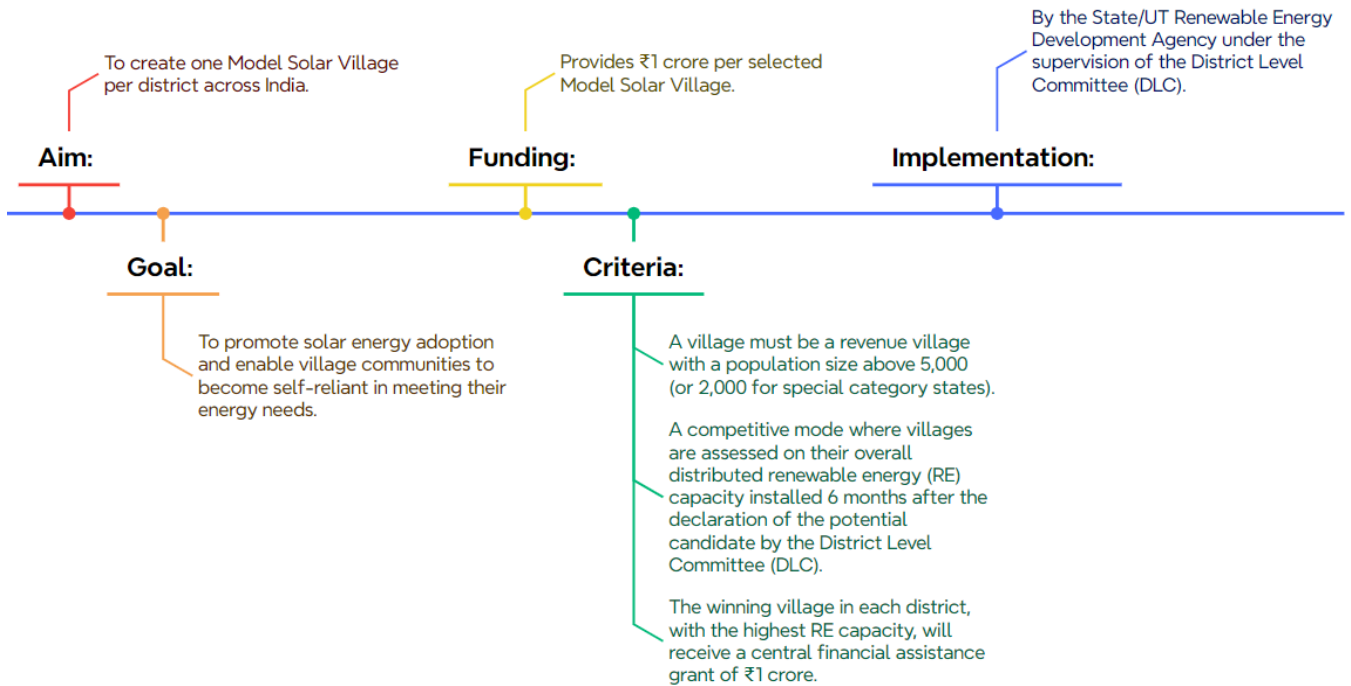
## 14. Model Solar Village - PIB

**Relevance:** Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

**Context**

Government of India recently issued Operational Guidelines for Implementation of 'Model Solar Village' under PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.

**Model Solar Village (Prelims)**



**PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (Prelims)**

**PM-Surya Ghar  
Muft Bijli Yojana**

Cabinet approves scheme for installing rooftop solar and providing free electricity up to 300 units every month for One Crore households



- ❖ Total outlay of ₹ 75,021 crore
- ❖ Scheme provides a central financial assistance of
  - ₹ 30,000 subsidy for 1 kW system
  - ₹ 60,000 for 2 kW systems
  - ₹ 78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher
- ❖ Households will apply for subsidy through national portal and can select suitable vendor for installing rooftop solar
- ❖ Households can access collateral-free low-interest loan products of around 7% at present for installation
- ❖ Model Solar Village to be developed in each district to act as role model for adoption of rooftop solar in rural areas



## Sci and Tech

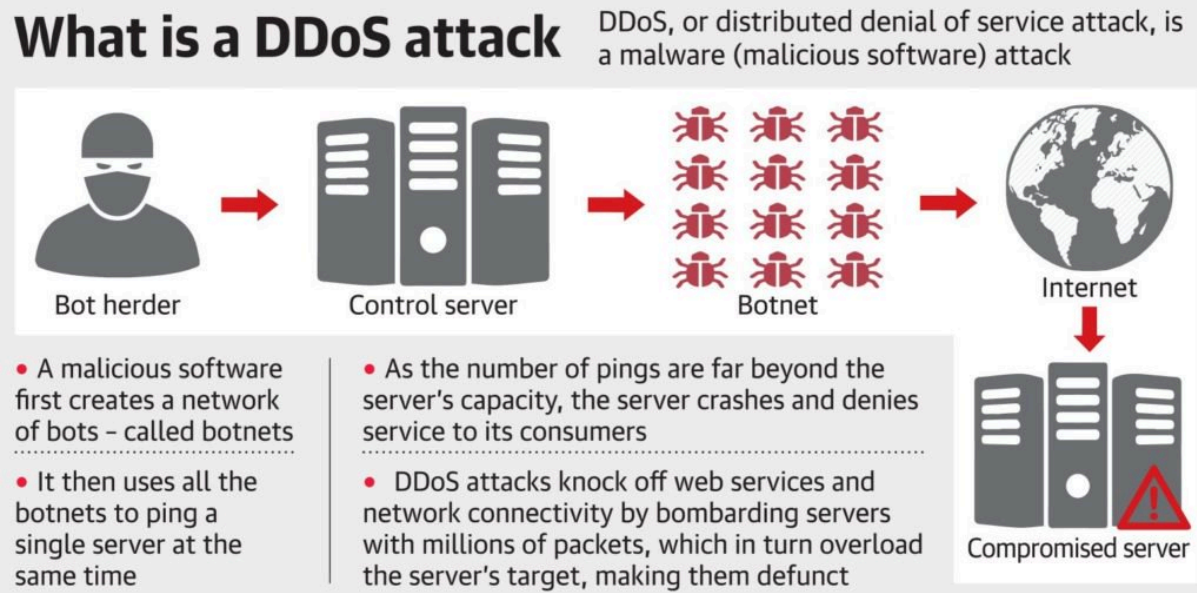
### 15. WHAT IS A DDOS ATTACK, CAUSE OF TRUMP-MUSK INTERVIEW GLITCHES? - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nano-technology, Bio-technology and issues relating to Intellectual Property Rights

#### Context

Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk hosted former US President and Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump on his social media platform X for a live audio interview. However, their conversation started after delay and witnessed several glitches, due to what appeared to be a “massive DDoS attack on X”.

#### DDoS attack (Prelims)



- **Denial-of-Service (DoS) attack:** It means that a website or any other online service cannot be accessed because it has been the target of attacks from a malicious actor.
- **Mechanism:** This targeting is done by directing a large number of users against a particular online server at the same time to “flood” it. Bots can also be used to overwhelm the network.
- **Ways of carrying out DOS attacks**
  - **Botnets:** Networks of compromised devices deployed by potential attackers.
  - **Smurf Attack:** Attacker sends Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) broadcast packets to several hosts maliciously.



- **SYN flood:** In this case, the attacker sends a request and receives an acknowledgement, but does not complete the connection. Multiple, targeted incomplete connections result in a load for the server.
- **Signs of a DoS attack:**
  - Slowing internet speed
  - Inability to access an online service
- **Dealing with a DoS attack**
  - Firewalls
  - Online security systems for verification
- **Impact:** Can cause major disruption, lasting for anywhere between a few hours to a few days.

## 16. Does India have laws on the movement of ballast water? - The Hindu

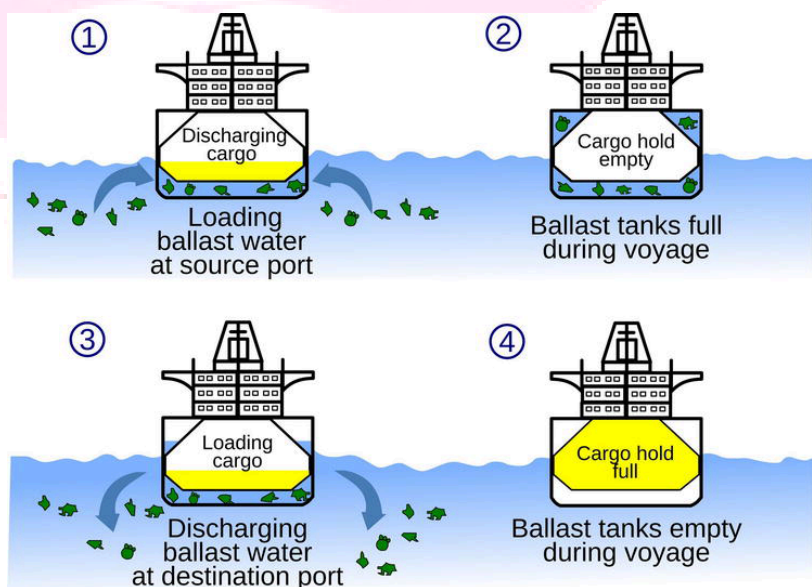
**Relevance:** Science and Technology- Developments

### Context

The Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department (WRD) has informed the National Green Tribunal that it has sought ₹160 crore from the Kamarajar Port in Ennore, Tamil Nadu, to facilitate the removing of invasive mussels on the coast near the port in connection with an ongoing case on the proliferation of *Mytella strigata*, or charru mussel that harms marine ecosystems and hinders fisher boat movements, affecting their livelihood. The WRD has charged that Kamarajar Port is the main reason for the spread of the invasive species by not regulating the ballast water from ships.

### Ballast water (Prelims and Mains)

- **Meaning:** Ships need to have a certain level of immersion into the sea to be stable. When a ship discharges cargo, it rises up in the water and therefore, to keep a minimum level of immersion, ship staff take in sea water inside tanks in the ship called ballast water.
- **Issue:** Since ballast water carries invasive species into other countries that



destroy ecosystems, global shipping has sought to regulate ballast water discharge.

- **Impact:** In India, scientists have recorded nearly 30 invasive species coming from ship ballast water. Eg, charru mussel in the Pulicat & Ashtamudi has replaced almost all other species.

#### **Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention of IMO (Mains)**

- **About:** Came into force in 2017 to help prevent the spread of potentially harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in ships' ballast water.
- **Mandate:** From September 8, 2017, ships must manage their ballast water so that aquatic organisms and pathogens are removed or rendered harmless before the ballast water is released in a new location.
- **Parties to the convention:** As of July 2, 97 countries have signed on to the BWM as contracting states.
- **India's position:** India is not on the list which means that there is no obligation on the part of ships calling on Indian ports to enforce the BWM convention.

## 17. Xerogel dressing - PIB

**Relevance:** Science and Technology- Developments

#### **Context**

Researchers have developed a porous composite xerogel dressing incorporating Silica Nanoparticles and calcium that can help blood clot rapidly and provide relief for uncontrolled hemorrhage.

#### **Xerogel (Prelims)**

- **About:** A solid form of a gel obtained by drying it with unhindered shrinkage. They are mesoporous materials having high thermal stability.
- **Mechanism:** The drying process of xerogels involves solvent evaporation under standard conditions using conventional methods.
- **Properties:** Non-toxic, cost-effective, biocompatible and high surface area, high porosity and can easily be modified
- **Examples:** Carbon-based xerogels and silica-based aerogels.
- **Application:** Used as catalysts, adsorbents, sensors, membranes and also in drug delivery systems.

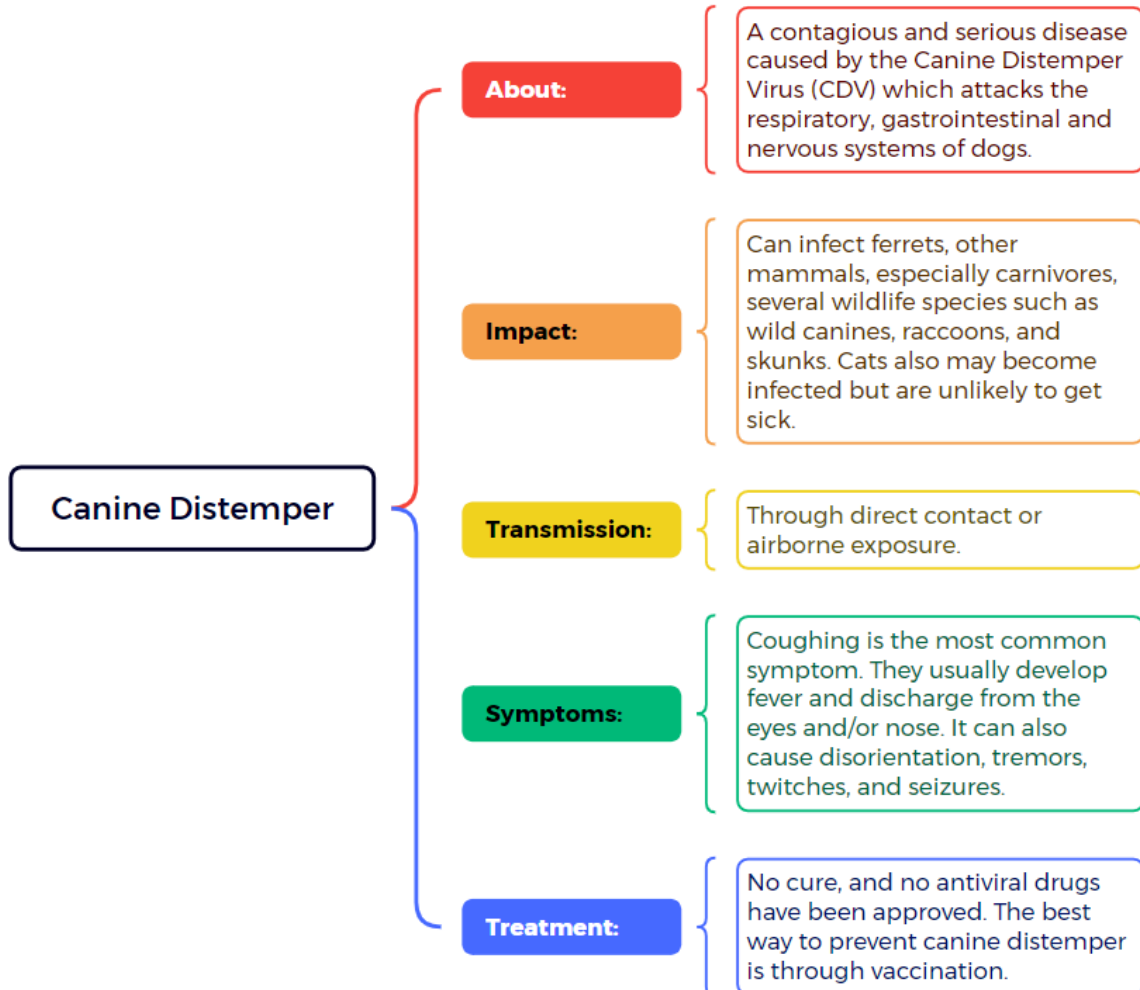
## 18. Canine distemper virus - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Science and Technology- Developments

#### **Context**

Stray dogs in villages within two kilometre radius of the Corbett Tiger Reserve's boundaries in Uttarakhand will be vaccinated against the canine distemper virus so that the disease does not infect tigers and elephants of the reserve.

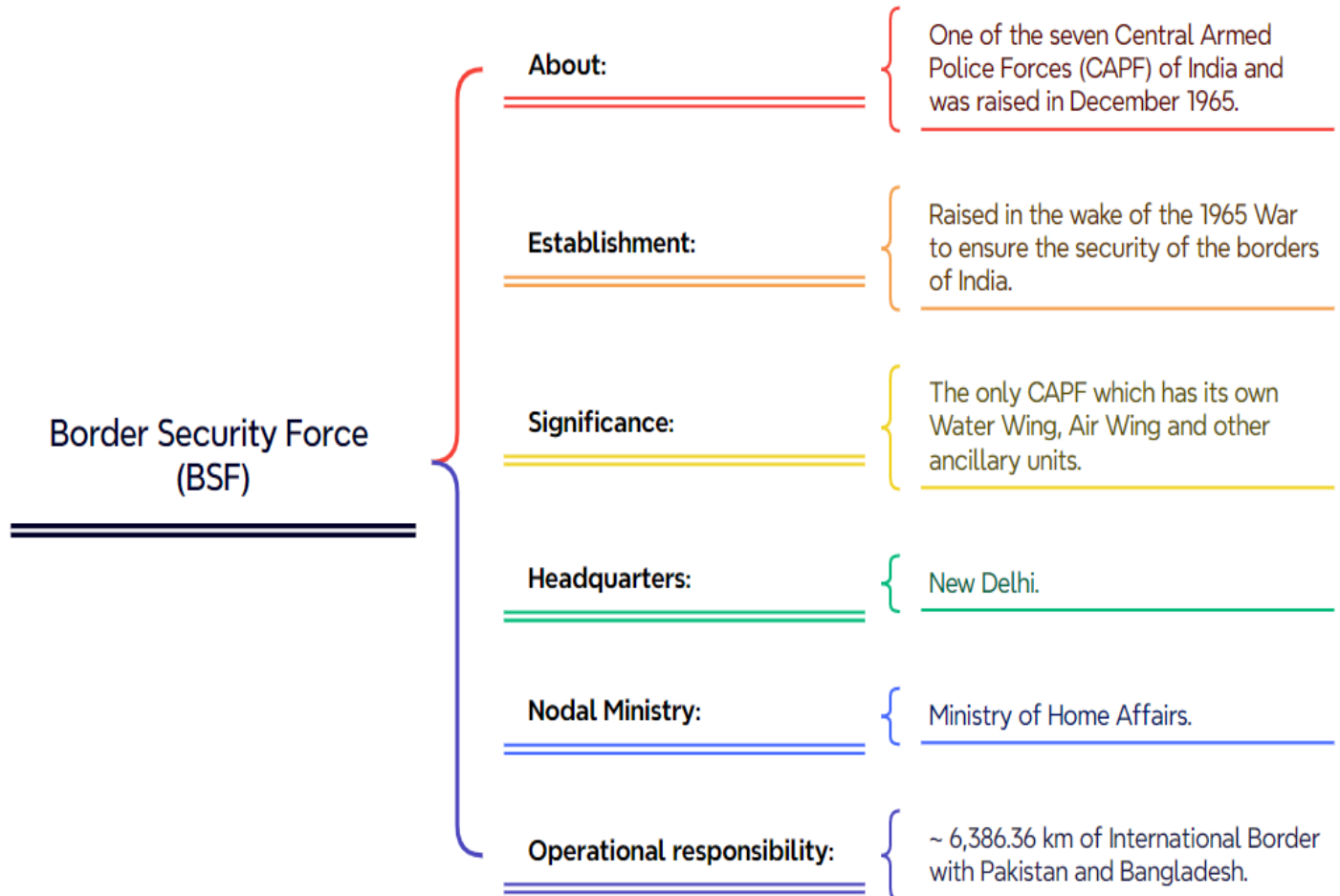
**Canine Distemper (Prelims)**



## Defence

### 19. BSF - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Defence



### 20. DRDO carries out flight test of long-range glide bomb - The Hindu

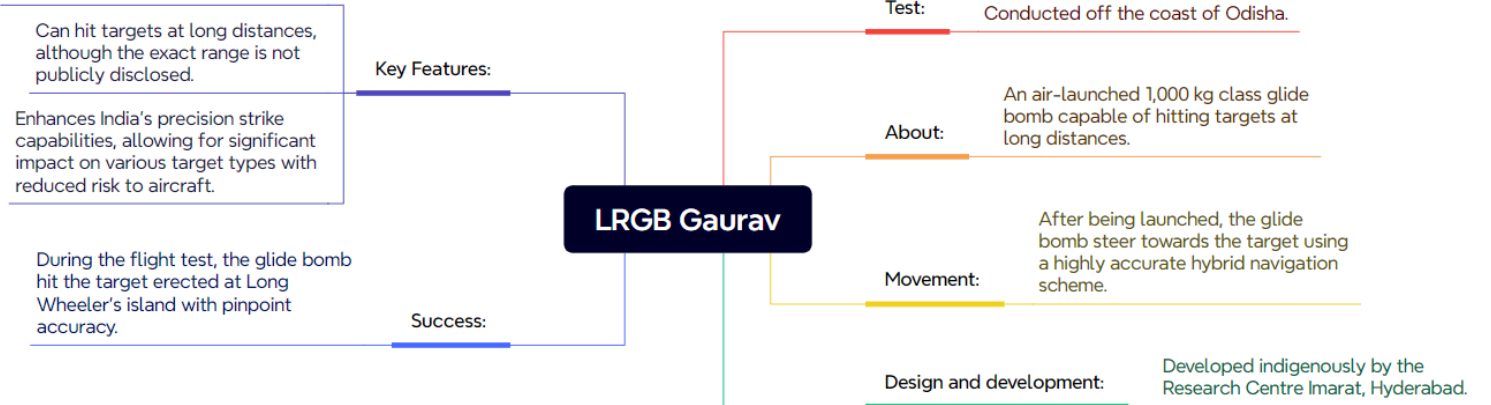
**Relevance:** Achievements of Indians in Science & Technology

#### **Context**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently successfully carried out the maiden flight test of the long-range glide bomb (LRGB) Gaurav from a Su-30 MK-I fighter jet of the Indian Air Force.

#### **LRGB Gaurav (Prelims)**

Uses a hybrid navigation system that combines Inertial Navigation System (INS) with GPS data for highly accurate targeting.



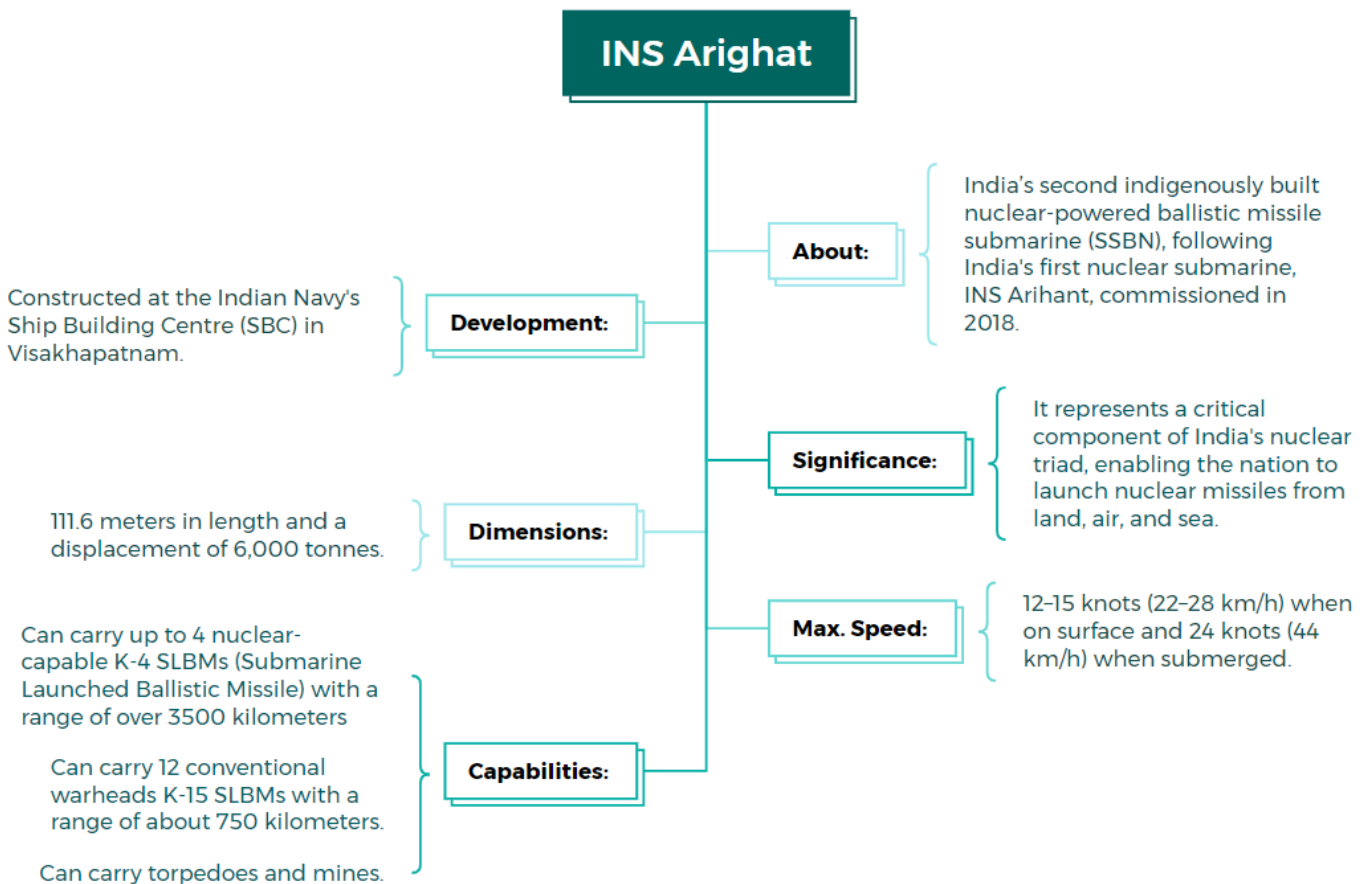
## 21. INS Arighat - PIB

**Relevance:** Achievements of Indians in Science & Technology

### Context

India is now all set to commission its second nuclear-powered submarine INS Arighat armed with nuclear missiles for strategic deterrence.

### INS Arighat (Prelims)



## 22. Tarang Shakti exercise to be biennial event, says IAF chief - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Defence

### Context

As Phase-I of Tarang Shakti, the largest multilateral air exercise hosted by the Indian Air Force (IAF), comes to a close, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) V. R. Chaudhari has announced plans to make the exercise a biennial event. He stressed that it should not be seen as a “challenge to any other nation.”

### Tarang Shakti 2024 (Prelims)

- **About:** The largest international air exercise ever conducted in India, with invitations extended to 51 countries.
- **Aim:** To strengthen strategic relations with our friends from the international community.
- **Objective:** To invite friendly foreign countries with whom the IAF interacts regularly and has a certain degree of interoperability.
- **Participants:** 51 countries were invited to take part in the exercise and nearly 30 of them will be taking part in it
- **Phases:**
  - **Phase 1:** Conducted at Sulur in Tamil Nadu from August 6-14 & 4 countries including France, Germany, Spain and UK participated.
  - **Phase 2:** To be held at Jodhpur from September 1-14 & will see participation from Australia, Bangladesh, Greece, Singapore, UAE and the USA with their assets.