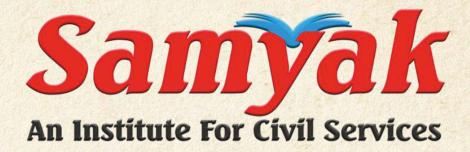
THINK IAS JOIN SAMYAK



# DAILY CURRENT OTTO

For UPSC CSE 03 October 2024

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



# Society

# 1. PM launches Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan from Hazaribagh, Jharkhand on 2nd October 2024 - PIB

On October 2, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) from Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, marking the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. It aims to saturate critical gaps in the social infrastructure of tribal communities.

Additionally, the Prime Minister inaugurated 40 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) and laid the foundation for 25 new schools, along with other significant projects under PM-JANMAN.

#### Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) »

- Focus: to saturate tribal majority villages in Aspirational Districts across India and implement holistic development through 25 scheme interventions under 17 Ministries, covering health, education, social infrastructure, and livelihood in such villages.
- Target Duration: Next 5 years.
- Outlay: Rs. 79,156 crores (Central Share: Rs. 56,333 crores, State Share: Rs. 22,823 crores)
- Coverage: 63,843 villages in 549 districts across 30 States/UTs; benefiting over 5 crore tribal people.

# Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS): >>





# 2. In the first 100 days of this government a new scheme Jal Hi AMRIT has been approved - PIB

The Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs recently said that the government has introduced the Jal Hi AMRIT scheme in its first 100 days.

#### Jal Hi AMRIT Programme »

- Launch: Under the AMRUT 2.0.
- Objective: Incentivizing States & UTs to efficiently manage used water treatment plants (UWTPs/STPs) to ensure good quality treated water meeting environmental standards.
- Purpose: Fostering competition among cities, develop capacities, and incentivize attaining the best quality of treated water.
- Focus: Capacity building and incentivizing qualitative improvements in treated effluent discharge.
- Assessment: A mid-course assessment, water quality testing, and final assessment with awards of Clean Water Credits (3 to 5-star ratings) valid for six months.

#### AMRUT 2.0 »





Cabinet approves the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation - AMRUT 2.0 till 2025-26



Total indicative outlay of ₹2,77,000 crore



Targets universal coverage of water supply by providing household tap connections in all 4,378 statutory towns



100% coverage of household sewerage/septage management in 500 AMRUT cities



Provide 2.68 crore tap connections and 2.64 crore sewer/septage connections

# **Polity**

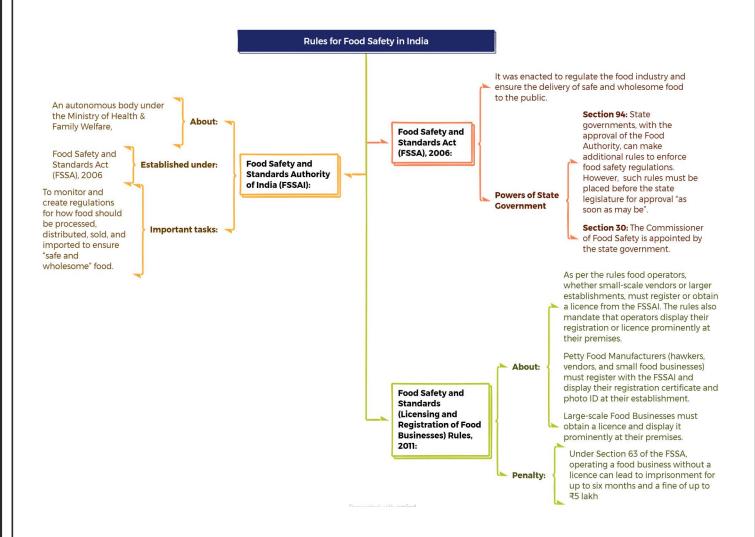
# 3. Food safety laws in states - Indian Express

- The Uttar Pradesh government recently made it mandatory for food establishments to "prominently" display to customers the names of "the operator, proprietor, manager, and other relevant personnel".
- The Supreme Court of India in July stayed similar orders passed by the police in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand concerning food safety regulations during the kanwar yatra. The Court noted that only the competent authority under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006, could issue such directives, and the police were overstepping their powers.





#### Rules for Food Safety in India >>



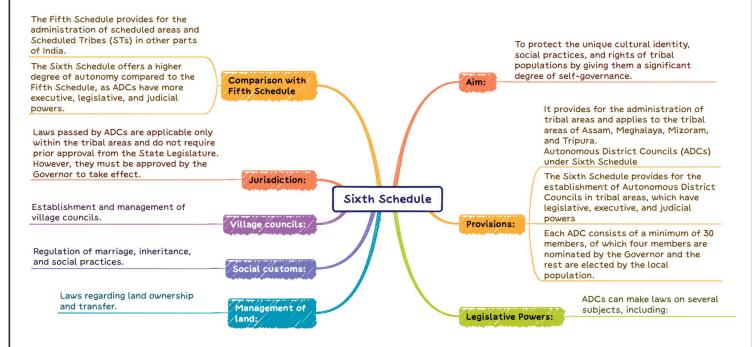
# 4. What special status is Ladakh seeking?

Recently, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk led a padayatra from Leh to Delhi, advocating for the inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The Sixth Schedule provides for greater autonomy in governance for certain tribal areas, which activists argue is essential for preserving Ladakh's cultural identity and managing local resources effectively.



#### Sixth Schedule: >>

Over the past week, Israel has carried out massive bombardments in Lebanon targeting Hezbollah, killing at least 700 people and displacing more than 1,00,000. Among the dead was Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary-General of Hezbollah.



### **World Affairs**

#### 5. Israel-Iran conflict - The Hindu

Tensions in the Middle East have intensified, with the escalating conflict between Iran and Israel raising concerns about a possible full-scale regional crisis. If the situation worsens, it could significantly affect global crude oil prices, as Iran is a major oil producer.

#### Escalation of Conflict in West Asia >>>

- Iran's Missile Attack: Iran launched missiles on Israel, intensifying the conflict in West Asia.
- Shift in Israeli Focus: Israeli military has shifted focus from Hamas in Gaza to the Hezbollah in Lebanon.
- Retaliation Concerns: Analysts fear an Israeli retaliation could widen the conflict.



- Assassination Impact: The assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has led to further instability.
- Trade Disruption Risks: The conflict may disrupt trade, as Hezbollah has close ties with Houthi rebels in Yemen, who frequently attack ships in the Red Sea route.





Trade Vulnerability:

India faces risks due to potential disruption of the Red Sea shipping route, critical for over \$400 billion in trade with Europe, the US, Africa, and West Asia.

**Fears of Protracted Red Sea Disruption** 

Hezbollah-Houthi Involvement: The involvement of Hezbollah's allies (Houthi rebels) increases the risk of attacks on ships in this trade route

**Decline in Exports:** 

India's petroleum exports fell by 38% in August 2024 compared to August 2023, impacted by rising shipping costs and the Red Sea crisis.

Impact on Indian **Petroleum Exports**  European Market: Rising costs have reduced profit margins, affecting exports to Europe, which accounts for 21% of India's petroleum

Sectoral Declines:

exports.

Despite a 6.8% increase in exports to the EU, sectors like machinery, steel, gems, jewellery, and footwear have seen declines

**European Market** Challenges

Impact on India

Israel-Iran conflict

Rising Freight Costs: Increasing freight costs are straining highvolume, low-value exports, reducing competitiveness

> Increased Trade: Trade with GCC countries grew by 17.8%, and exports to Iran rose by 15.2%, benefiting from neutrality of regional players.

**Trade Opportunities in** West Asia

IMEC Project: The

Risk to India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

conflict threatens the progress of the IMEC, a strategic corridor connecting India, the Gulf, and Europe announced during G20 2023.

Trade Route Goals: IMEC aims to reduce reliance on the Suez Canal through a rail and ship network, but the ongoing conflict poses risks to its development.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) data: Trade volume through the Suez Canal dropped by 50% year-over-year in early 2024, while trade transiting around the Cape of Good Hope surged by 74%.

Reasons: Disruptions in key shipping routes, particularly through the Suez Canal and Red Sea, forcing vessels to take longer paths increasing shipping costs by 15-20%

Aim: Indian exporters are urging the government to establish an Indian shipping line to reduce reliance on foreign firms.

Benefit: An Indian shipping line may benefit MSMEs, reducing foreign shipping lines' ability to dictate terms, especially during crises. Surge in Shipping

Impact on shipping sector

Calls for an Indian **Shipping Line** 





# **Economy**

#### 6. New SEBI rules to curb F&O frenzy, aim to protect small investors - Indian Express

- SEBI has introduced new rules to curb speculation and protect retail investors in the derivatives market, especially in the Futures & Options (F&O) segment. The new regulations focus on minimizing undue risks, increasing market stability, and improving prudent risk management.
- These changes target speculation by tightening the rules for index derivatives, options premium collection, and weekly index derivatives products, among others.

#### Why need for the Rules? >>

- The derivatives market, particularly F&O, has seen increased speculative activity, especially from retail investors in smaller cities. Many of these traders have incurred losses due to excessive risk-taking.
- To counteract this, SEBI has introduced measures aimed at raising entry barriers, reducing intraday leverage, and ensuring real-time monitoring to maintain orderly market behavior.
- The changes also target the practice of options selling and speculative trades on expiry days, which can cause significant market volatility.

About: A legal agreement to buy or sell an asset at a predetermined price at a specified time in the future. Obligatory: Both the buyer and the seller are obligated to execute the contract on the expiration date, i.e., the buyer **Futures contract:** must buy, and the seller must sell the underlying asset. Example: If you expect the price of gold to rise, you can enter into a gold futures contract to buy gold at a predetermined price, expecting to sell it at a higher price **Futures and Options** About: Gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to (F&O) buy or sell an asset at a predetermined price before a specified date. 2 types of options: call options and put options. **Options Contracts:** Example:

Call Option: If you buy a call option on a stock at a strike price of Rs 100, and the stock's market price rises to Rs 120, you can exercise the option to buy the stock at Rs 100 and make a profit.

Put Option: If you buy a put option at Rs 100, and the stock price drops to Rs 80, you can sell the stock at Rs 100. profiting from the drop.



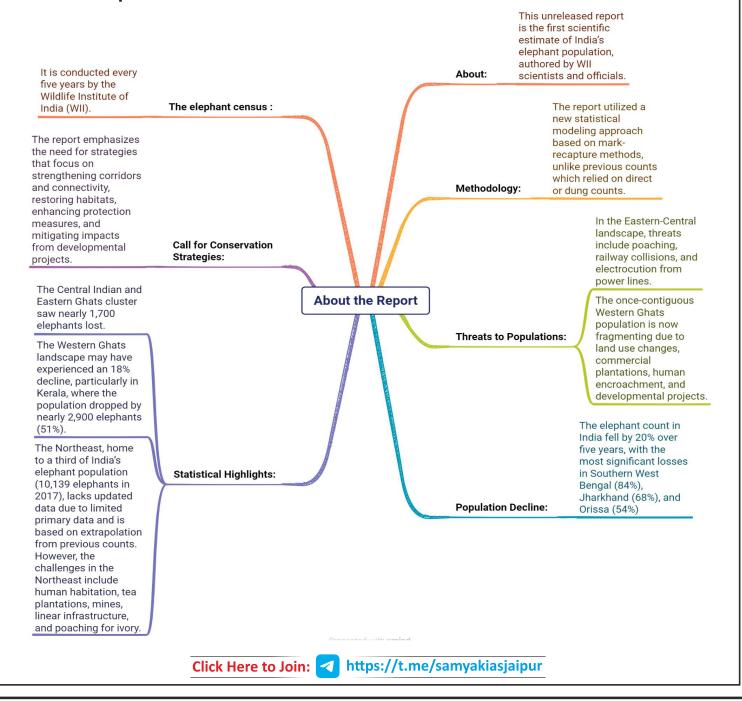


#### **Environment**

# 7. Govt. printed, then shelved its report on elephant census: Count fell by 20% in 5 years - Indian Express

A government report detailing the declining elephant population in India, which showed a 20% decrease over five years, was printed but remains unreleased. The report identifies significant threats to the species from developmental projects.

#### About the Report >>





# 8. Rare and endangered herpetofauna recorded in survey at **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve - The Hindu**

A survey of herpetofauna – reptiles and amphibians – within the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR), led to the identification of 33 reptiles and 36 amphibians that were recorded from the region for the first time.

## New species found >>

- Location: Nilgiri District, Tamil Nadu, at the tri-junction of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Arabian Nadu.
- Literal meaning: Mudumalai means ancient hill range (65 million years old).
- Boundaries: Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) in the west and Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) in the north.
- Tourist Attraction: Theppakadu elephant camp.
- **Vegetation:** Tropical evergreen, moist deciduous, teak forests, grasslands, and swamps.



- Flora: Elephant Grass, giant Bamboo, and timber species like Teak and Rosewood.
- Fauna: Elephants, Gaur, Tigers, Panthers, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Wild Boar, Porcupine, etc.

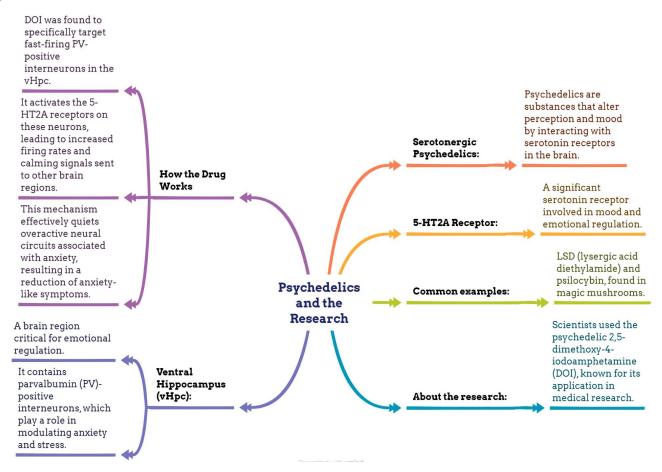
# **Sci and Tech**

# 9. New research shows why psychedelic drugs hold promise for treatment of anxiety and depression - Indian Express

Recent research has highlighted the potential of psychedelics, particularly serotonergic compounds, to effectively reduce anxiety-like symptoms. This study sheds light on the intricate mechanisms through which these substances can impact mental health, suggesting a path toward developing targeted therapies for anxiety and depression.



## Psychedelics and the Research



# 10. Five-Hundred Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) - The Hindu

China has kicked off of a second phase of construction to enhance the capabilities of what is already the world's largest single-dish radio telescope.

# Five-Hundred Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) >>



