Samyak
An Institute For Civil Services

DAILY
CURRENT नामा

For UPSC CSE

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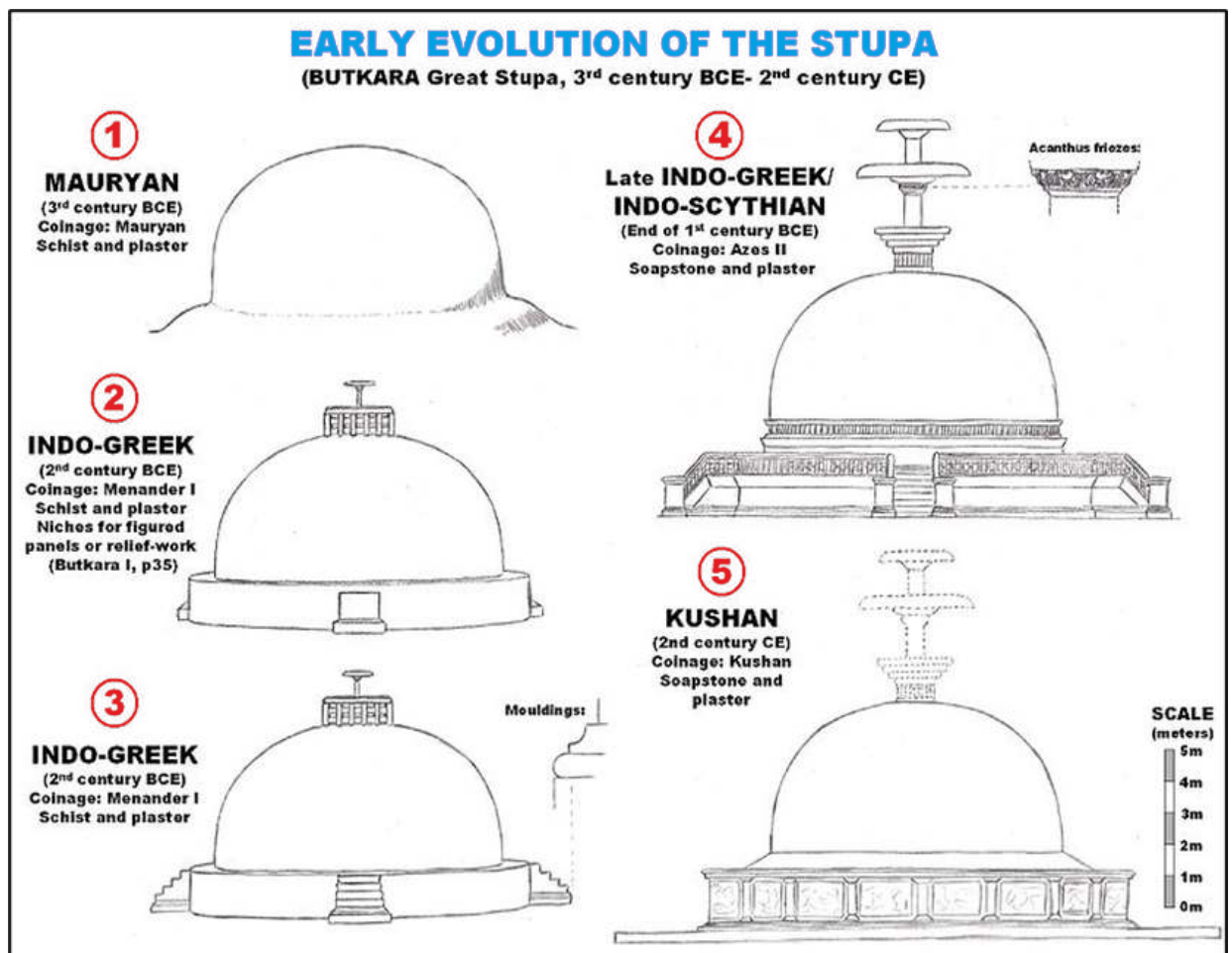
📍 **SAMYAK IAS, NEAR RIDDHI-SIDDHI, JAIPUR**

Art and Culture

1.From Ashokan times to now, Sanchi to Europe, story of the Great Stupa – Indian Express

Context »

External Affairs Minister recently stopped by the replica of the East Gate of Sanchi's Great Stupa standing in front of Humboldt Forum museum in Berlin. The ornate red sandstone gateway, which was unveiled in December 2022, is a 1:1 reproduction of the original structure standing at almost 10 metres high and 6 metres wide, and weighing roughly 150 tonnes.

Stupa »

EARLY EVOLUTION OF THE STUPA
(BUTKARA Great Stupa, 3rd century BCE- 2nd century CE)

1 MAURYAN
(3rd century BCE)
Coinage: Mauryan
Schist and plaster

2 INDO-GREEK
(2nd century BCE)
Coinage: Menander I
Schist and plaster
Niches for figured
panels or relief-work
(Butkara I, p35)

3 INDO-GREEK
(2nd century BCE)
Coinage: Menander I
Schist and plaster

4 Late INDO-GREEK/
INDO-SCYTHIAN
(End of 1st century BCE)
Coinage: Azes II
Soapstone and plaster

Acanthus friezes:

Mouldings:

5 KUSHAN
(2nd century CE)
Coinage: Kushan
Soapstone and
plaster

SCALE
(meters)
5m
4m
3m
2m
1m
0m

- **Meaning:** In Buddhism, a stupa is a mound-like or hemispherical structure that contains relics (typically of Buddha or Buddhist monks/nuns) and is used for meditation.

- **Origin:** Pre-Buddhist burial mounds in ancient India, originally non-religious memorials.

- **Development:**
  - ○ **Ashoka's Expansion (250 BCE):** Emperor Ashoka is believed to have built 84,000 stupas across India to distribute Buddha's relics.
  - ○ **Decorated Stupas (125 BCE onwards):** Stupas became richly decorated with sculptural reliefs, examples include Bharhut, Bodh Gaya, and Sanchi.
  - ○ **Gandhara Development (3rd century BCE – 5th century CE):** Influenced the spread of Buddhism to Central Asia, China, Korea, and Japan; Gandharan stupas shaped the design of Buddhist architecture.
- **Significance:** The stupa design influenced temple architecture, such as the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya.

Sanchi Stupa »
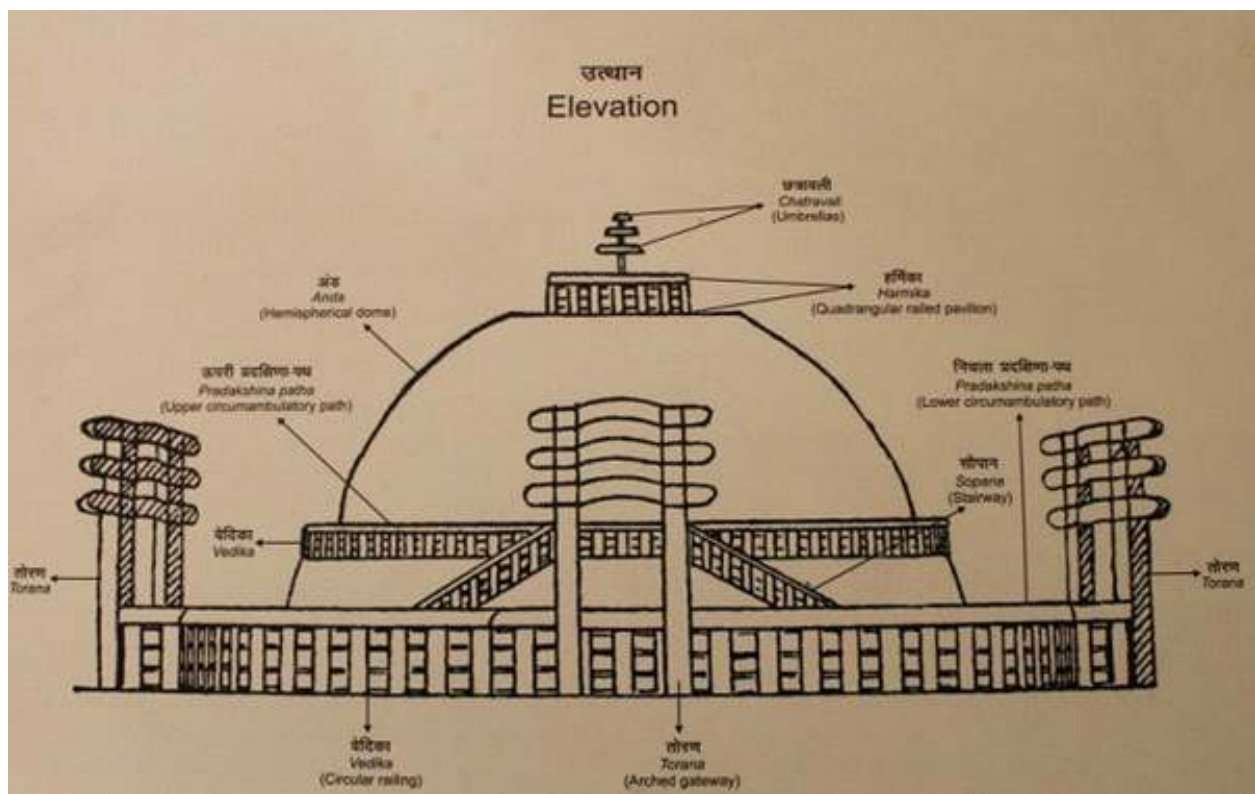
- **Construction:** Commissioned in the 3rd century BCE by Emperor Ashoka, the oldest stone structure in India. Last construction dated to the 12th century CE, after which the site was abandoned.
- **About:** Built over the relics of Buddha and his disciples Sariputra and Maudgalyayan.
- **Rediscovery:** By British General Henry Taylor in 1818; formal excavation led by Alexander Cunningham in 1851.

- Restoring: ASI director-general John Marshall in the 1910s with funding from the Bhopal begums.
- Designation: A UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1989.
- Location: Sanchi Town, Raisen District, Madhya Pradesh.
- Gateways/ Toranas of the Great Stupa:
○ Original stupa was a plain hemispherical structure with a chhatra (parasol).
○ Four ornamental gateways (toranas) oriented to the cardinal directions were added in the 1st century BCE during the Satavahana reign.
○ Gateways feature sculptures depicting scenes from Buddha's life and stories from the Jataka tales.

Society

2. What role does CSTT play in standardising technical terms? – The Hindu

Context »

In alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, to impart education in the Indian languages for an improved understanding and improved teaching-learning outcome, the government has initiated technical education, including engineering and medicine in Indian languages.

Shabd ('shabd.education.gov.in') Portal »

- **Aim:** To be a central repository for all the terminologies prepared for Indian languages.
- **Hosting content:** Glossaries of CSTT, other institutions or agencies having such dictionaries are also able to host their work in digital form.
- **Current content:** 450 dictionaries with three million words.
- **Significance:**
  ○ The users will be able to search the equivalent terms of scientific and technical terminology in Indian languages.
  ○ They will be able to register their feedback for the equivalents already prepared by the CSTT.
  ○ The user will have various options for search, whether based on languages, subjects, dictionary type, or language pairs.
  ○ Not only this, the user can choose to search in a specific glossary or through the entire collection.
  ○ Assumes significance amid efforts to provide technical education, including in medicine and engineering, in Indian languages.

Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) »

Union Home Minister was unanimously re-elected the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language recently.

Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT)

Aim:
To evolve and define scientific and technical terms in Hindi and all Indian languages.

Establishment:
December 21, 1960 by a resolution of Government of India under the proviso to Clause (4) of Article 344 of the Constitution.

Functions:
- Preparation and Publication of Bilingual and Trilingual Glossaries involving English/Hindi and other Indian Languages.
- Preparation and Publication of National terminology.
- Identification and Publication of School Level Terminology and Departmental Glossaries.
- Identification of Pan Indian Terms.
- Preparation of Definitional Dictionaries and Encyclopaedias.
- Preparation of University level textbooks,monographs and journals
- Grant-in-Aid to Granth Academies, Textbook Boards and University Cells for University level books in regional languages.
- Propagation, expansion and critical review of terms coined and defined through training/orientation programmes, workshops, seminars etc.
- Free distribution of Publications.
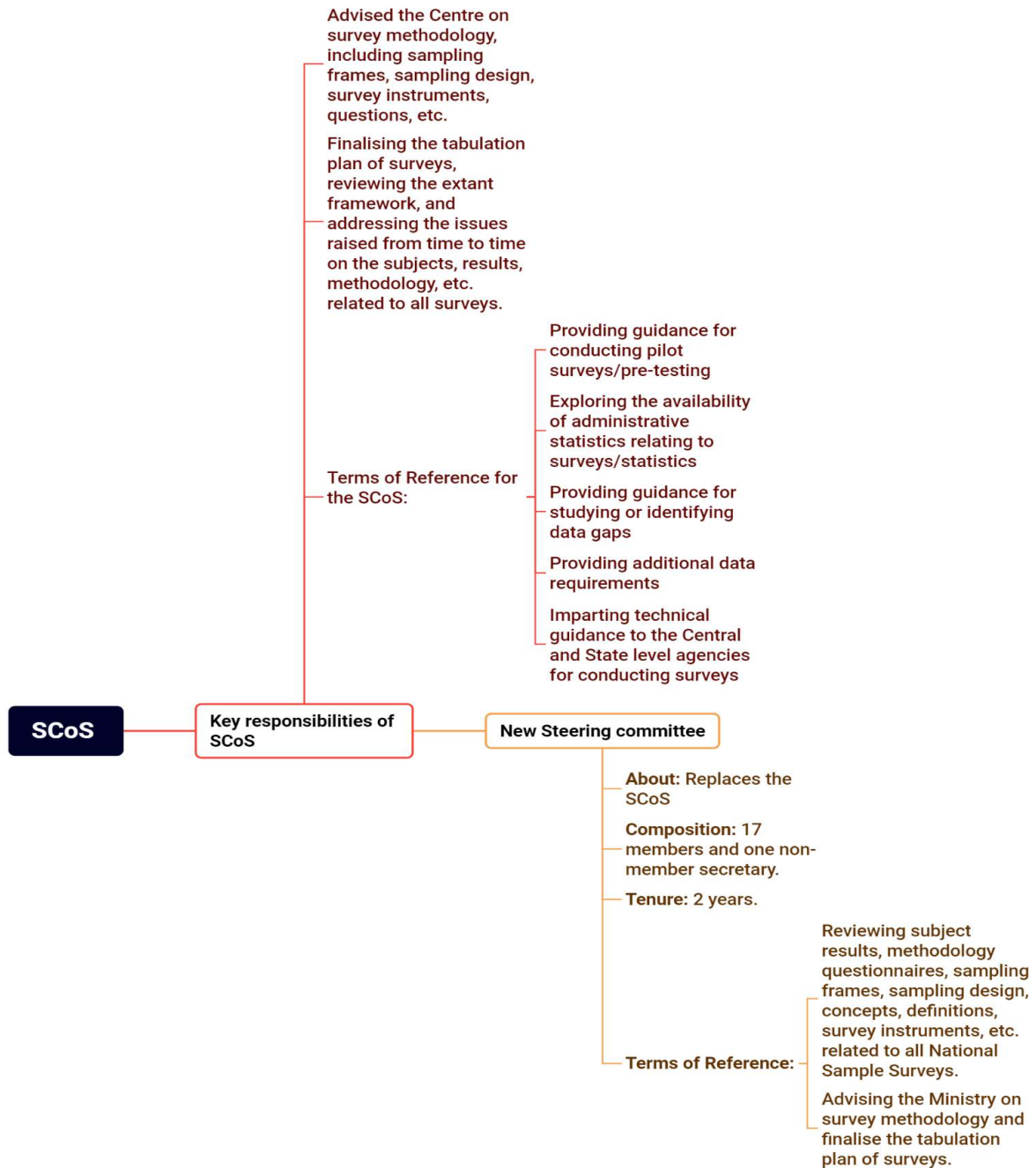- Providing necessary terminology to the National Translation Mission.

Polity

3. What does dissolution of SCoS entail? – The Hindu

Context »

The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has dissolved the 14-member Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS) headed by eminent economist and former chief statistician of the country Pronab Sen.

SCoS — **Key responsibilities of SCoS**

- Advised the Centre on survey methodology, including sampling frames, sampling design, survey instruments, questions, etc.

- Finalising the tabulation plan of surveys, reviewing the extant framework, and addressing the issues raised from time to time on the subjects, results, methodology, etc. related to all surveys.

- **Terms of Reference for the SCoS:**
  - Providing guidance for conducting pilot surveys/pre-testing
  - Exploring the availability of administrative statistics relating to surveys/statistics
  - Providing guidance for studying or identifying data gaps
  - Providing additional data requirements
  - Imparting technical guidance to the Central and State level agencies for conducting surveys

New Steering committee

- **About:** Replaces the SCoS

- **Composition:** 17 members and one non-member secretary.

- **Tenure:** 2 years.

- **Terms of Reference:**
  - Reviewing subject results, methodology questionnaires, sampling frames, sampling design, concepts, definitions, survey instruments, etc. related to all National Sample Surveys.
  - Advising the Ministry on survey methodology and finalise the tabulation plan of surveys.
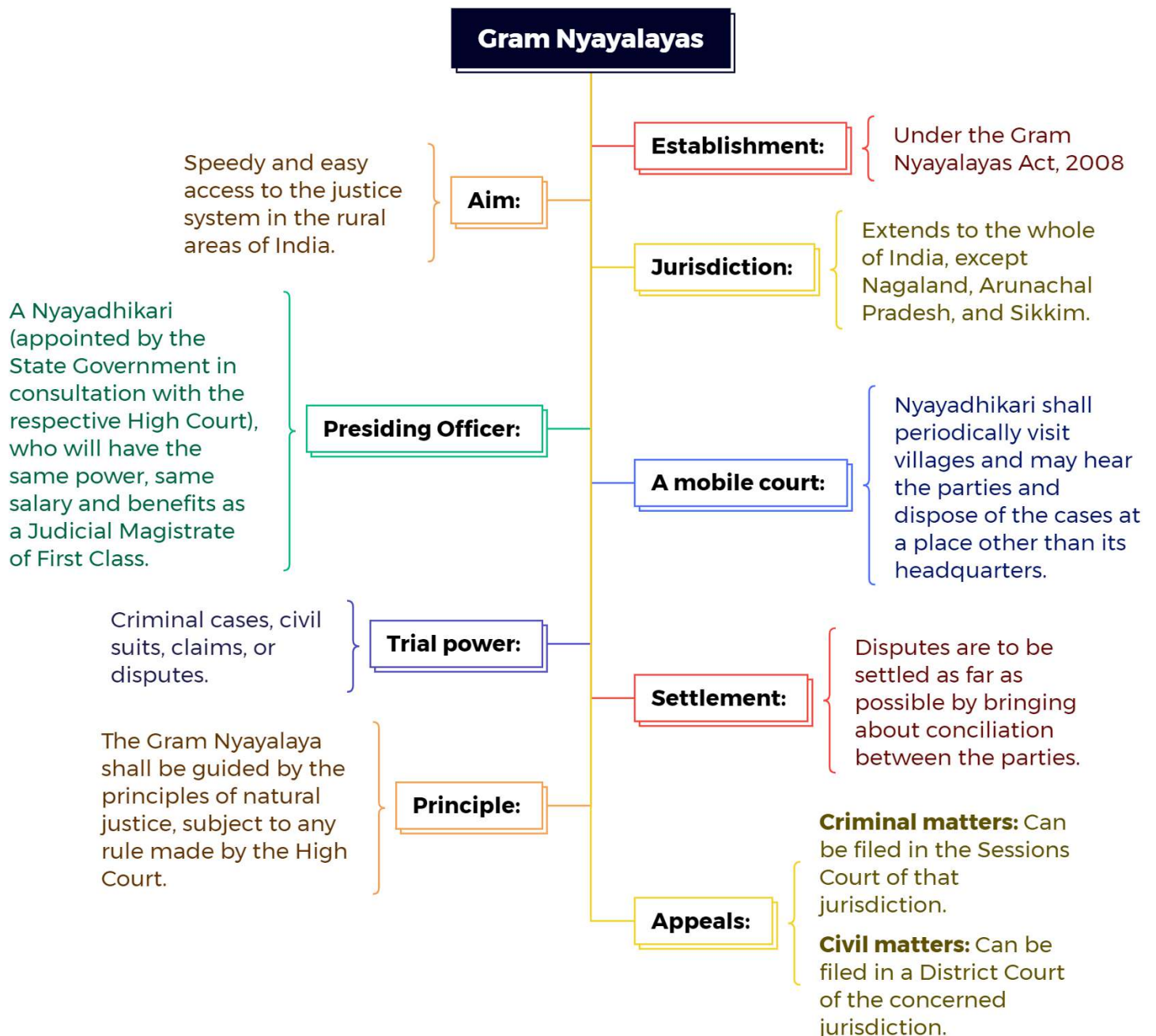
4. Gram Nyayalayas – The Hindu

Context »

The Supreme Court recently said establishment of Gram Nyayalayas across the country would help improve access to justice.

Gram Nyayalayas »

Gram Nyayalayas

Aim: Speedy and easy access to the justice system in the rural areas of India.

Establishment: Under the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008

Jurisdiction: Extends to the whole of India, except Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sikkim.

Presiding Officer: A Nyayadhikari (appointed by the State Government in consultation with the respective High Court), who will have the same power, same salary and benefits as a Judicial Magistrate of First Class.

A mobile court: Nyayadhikari shall periodically visit villages and may hear the parties and dispose of the cases at a place other than its headquarters.

Trial power: Criminal cases, civil suits, claims, or disputes.

Settlement: Disputes are to be settled as far as possible by bringing about conciliation between the parties.

Principle: The Gram Nyayalaya shall be guided by the principles of natural justice, subject to any rule made by the High Court.

Appeals:
Criminal matters: Can be filed in the Sessions Court of that jurisdiction.
Civil matters: Can be filed in a District Court of the concerned jurisdiction.

Environment

5. Mithun spotted in Assam for first time – Indian Express

Context »

Bovine animal Mithun has been spotted in Assam for the first time, Assam chief minister said recently.

- **Scientific Name:** Bos frontalis
- **About:** A heavily built, semi-domesticated bovine species which is the state animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.
- **Origin:** Originated more than 8000 years ago and is considered to be a descendant of wild Indian gaur or bison.
- **Distribution in India:** North Eastern (NE) region of India, with Arunachal Pradesh having the highest population.
- **Global distribution:** Southeast Asia, viz., Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Bhutan.
- **IUCN Red List Status:** Vulnerable
- **CITES Status:** Appendix I

6. Ahaetulla Longirostris – Indian Express

Context »

A new species of snake with a remarkably long snout has been discovered in India, marking an exciting addition to the country's rich biodiversity. The species, named the long-snouted vine snake (Ahaetulla Longirostris), was identified after two specimens were found in vastly different regions, Bihar in the eastern part of the country and Meghalaya in the northeastern region.

Long-snouted vine snake/ Ahaetulla Longirostris »

- **About:** A new snake species with a remarkably long snout.

- **Appearance:**

  - Has slender, elongated body and striking colouration.

  - Can grow up to 4 feet in length

  - Typically bright green or orange-brown, with an orange belly.

  - Its head of this snake is triangular.

7. India's second largest butterfly species found in Madurai – The Hindu

Context »

India's second largest butterfly species, Southern Birdwing, has been found on the satellite campus of The American College between Chathirapatti and Kadavur on New Natham Highway in Madurai district.

Southern Birdwing butterfly/ 'Sahyadri Birdwing'

Southern Birdwing butterfly/ 'Sahyadri Birdwing'

About: India's second largest butterfly species.

Distribution: South Asia, majorly in the Western Ghats.

Features: Exceptionally large in size, with wings that exceed the dimensions of smaller birds.

Designation: State butterfly of Karnataka.

IUCN status: Least concern

Sci and Tech

8. Cholera – The Hindu

Context »

How cholera affects the body

Cholera is an acute intestinal infection that causes severe diarrhea, dehydration and, if not treated promptly, death.

How it spreads

• People ingest water or food contaminated with cholera bacteria

• In epidemic, feces of diseased person is source of contamination

Treatment

• Salt solution, intravenous fluids, antibiotics

• In unprepared communities, death rates can be as high as 50 percent

© 2010 MCT
Source: World Health Organization
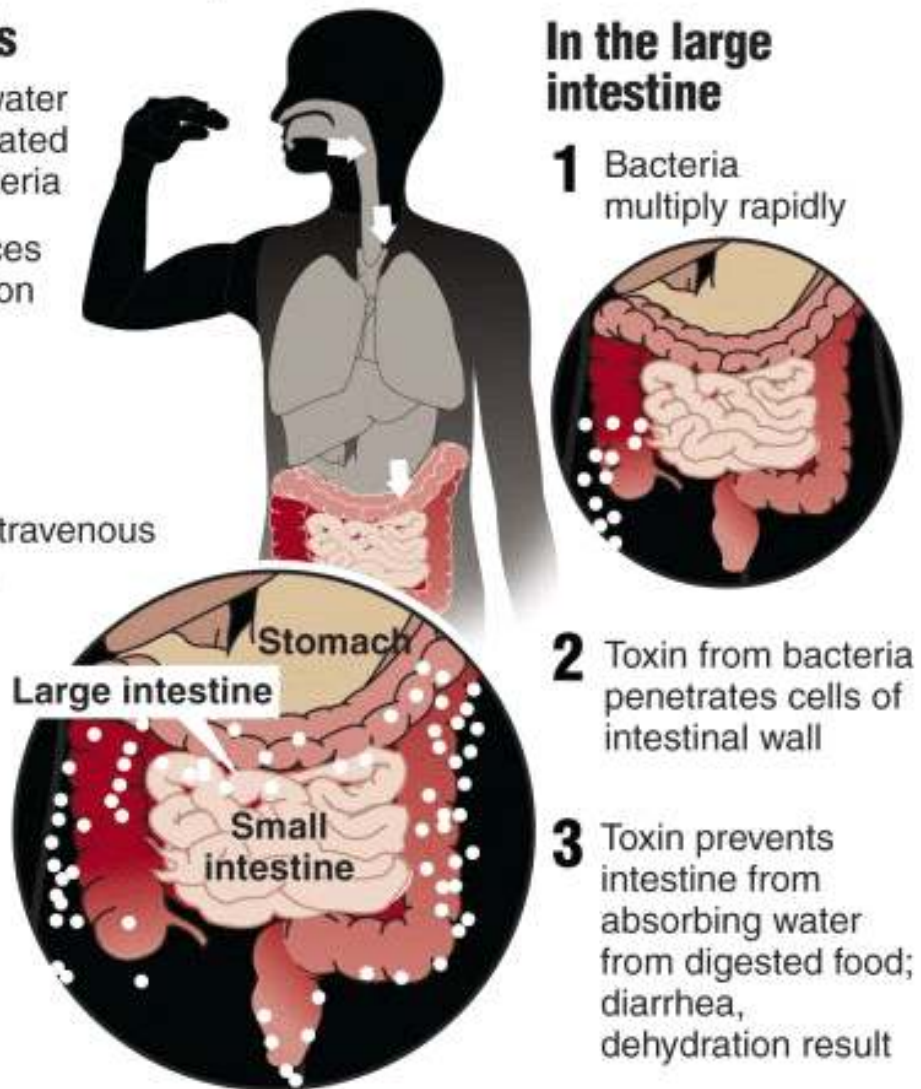
In the large intestine

1 Bacteria multiply rapidly

Stomach
Large intestine
Small intestine

2 Toxin from bacteria penetrates cells of intestinal wall

3 Toxin prevents intestine from absorbing water from digested food; diarrhea, dehydration result

9. Dark patterns pose a growing concern in India's digital landscape - The Hindu

Context »

As online shopping becomes more prevalent, dark patterns are increasingly used to manipulate user decisions, exploiting the surge in digital activity.

Dark Patterns »

DARK PATTERNS

DARK PATTERNS ARE **TRICKS** THAT MAKE THE USERS DO THINGS THEY DID NOT MEAN TO.

fine line between influencing users' behaviour and tricking them!

DARK PATTERNS CAN WORK IF SOMEONE IS LOOKING FOR SHORT-TERM RESULTS. ONLY INITIAL SUCCESS, NOT SUSTAINABLE

VS.

USING DARK PATTERNS HAS A NEGATIVE IMPACT IN THE LONG-TERM. USERS WILL SWITCH TO MORE ETHICAL PRODUCTS/SERVICES

THE MOST COMMON TYPES

FORCED CONTINUITY FREE TRIAL → CHANGES TO A PAYING SCHEME WITHOUT WARNING

DELIBERATE MISDIRECTION FOCUSING THE USERS' ATTENTION ON THE MORE EXPENSIVE OPTION, HIDING THE CHEAPER WAY

BAIT & SWITCH USE A CONVENTION, PATTERN IN A WAY TO MAKE THE USER FALSELY ASSUME SOMETHING

HIDDEN COSTS AT THE CHECKOUT, A NEW, UNEXPECTED COST APPEARS

ROACH MOTEL THE START IS EASY (SIGN UP/SUBSCRIPTION), QUITTING IS HARD

OBSCURED PRICING MAKING IT HARD TO COMPARE THE PRICES

DISGUISED ADS AN AD LOOKING LIKE ANOTHER TYPE OF CONTENT/NAVIGATION

PRIVACY ZUCKERING SHARING MORE PRIVATE INFO THAN YOU WANT

GROWTH HACKING THROUGH SPAMMING YOU BECOME THE SPAMMER WITHOUT KNOWING IT

SNEAK INTO BASKET A RANDOM ADDITIONAL ITEM APPEARS IN YOUR BASKET (WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT)

ROADBLOCK A POP-UP INTERRUPTS YOUR INTENDED ACTION

MISINFORMATION E.G. CONFUSING: COLOR, CONTRAST + LANGUAGE TRICK QUESTIONS CHECK BOX TREACHERY