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30 August 2024

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

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Art and Culture

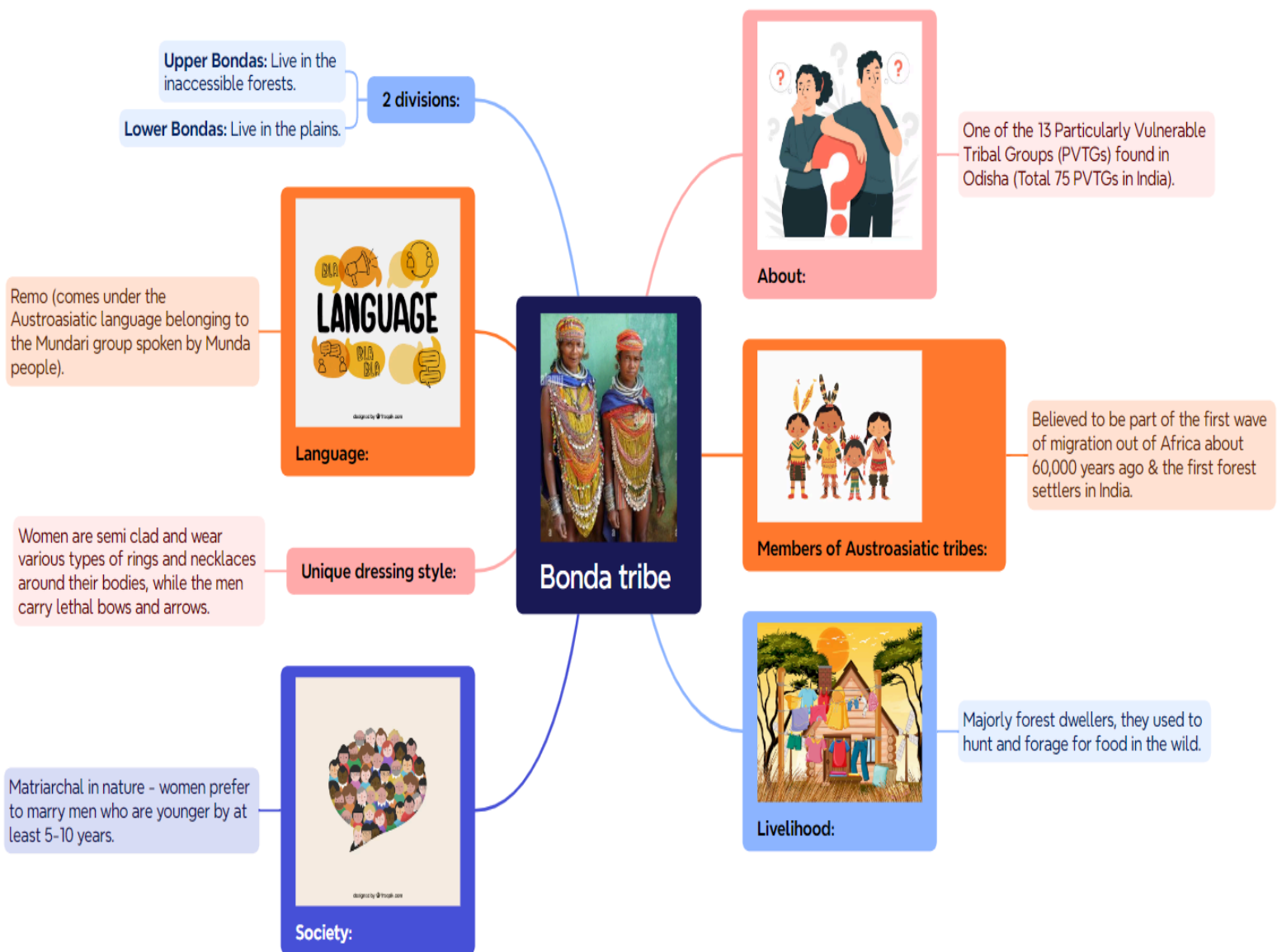
1. Bonda tribe - The Hindu

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

Context

Mangala Muduli, a Bonda tribe student, breaks barriers to study medicine — marking a historic achievement for his community.

Bonda tribe



2. Jiu-jitsu and Aikido - Indian Express

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

An offshoot of jujutsu developed by martial artist Morihei Ueshiba in the early 20th century, which makes it among the youngest of Japan's many martial arts.



About:

The "way of harmonising energy", and is different from most other martial arts.



Literal meaning:

Manipulating an opponent's energy to its logical extreme.



Principle:

To end conflict non-violently, to deflect strikes rather than overpower one's adversary, and to "match the opponent's force".

Aim:



Aikido: The art of not hurting one's foe



Jujutsu: the 'gentle art'



A family of martial arts originating in Japan, jujutsu translates to "gentle art" – "ju" means "soft/supple/gentle" and "jutsu" means "art/technique".

About:



Dates to late 16th century Japan, during the age of the samurai who developed various self-defence techniques for situations in which they lost their weapons (the legendary katana swords) during battle.

Origin:

Judo: Developed in the late 19th century and became an Olympic sport in the 1964 Tokyo Games;



Sambo: A combat sport developed by the Soviet Red Army in the 1920s to improve soldiers' hand-to-hand combat abilities;

Offshoots:

Brazilian jiu-jitsu: Developed in the 1920s, and revolves around the principle of a smaller, weaker person defeating a bigger, stronger opponent with the help of leverage and weight distribution; and

MMA or mixed martial arts: Most popular combat sport today, borrows heavily from jujutsu and other styles.

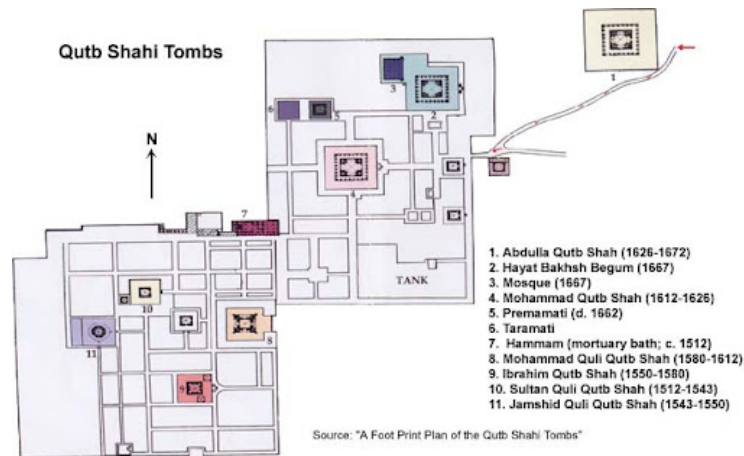
3. Qutb Shahi tombs - Indian Express

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

Context

After a decade-long restoration effort by the Telangana government's Department of Heritage and Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), supported by several agencies, the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park was opened to the public last month.

Qutb Shahi tomb complex



- **Location:** Ibrahim bagh in Hyderabad.
- **Complex:** 30 tombs, mosques and a mortuary bath belonging to Qutb Shahi Dynasty.
- **About:** A 500-year-old cluster of grand mausoleums, idgah, graves, funerary mosques, a hammam (bath), and baolis (stepwells).
- **Architecture:** Indo-Muslim dynastic necropolis - They resemble Persian, Pathan and Hindu architectural styles that use grey granite, with stucco ornamentation and is a one-of-its-kind place in the world where the whole dynasty is buried at a single spot.

Qutb Shahi dynasty

- **About:** Ruled the kingdom of Golconda, southeastern region of Deccan & a successor state of the Bahmani kingdom.
- **Founder:** Qulī Qutb Shah, a Turkish governor of the Bahmani region.
- **Time period:** 1518–1687
- **Initial capital:** Golconda.
- **New capital:** Hyderabad.
- **Extent:** Extended from Godavari river in the north, sharing a border with Tamil Nadu to the south, Bijapur to the west, & Bay of Bengal to the east.



Society

4. Analysing the Gender Budget of 2024-25 - The Hindu

Relevance: Salient features of Indian Society

Context

Commitment to women empowerment was reflected in Budget allocations to pro-women programmes. The GB reached 1% of GDP estimates in 2024-25 for the first time, and overall allocations currently stand at more than ₹3 lakh crore for pro-women programmes.

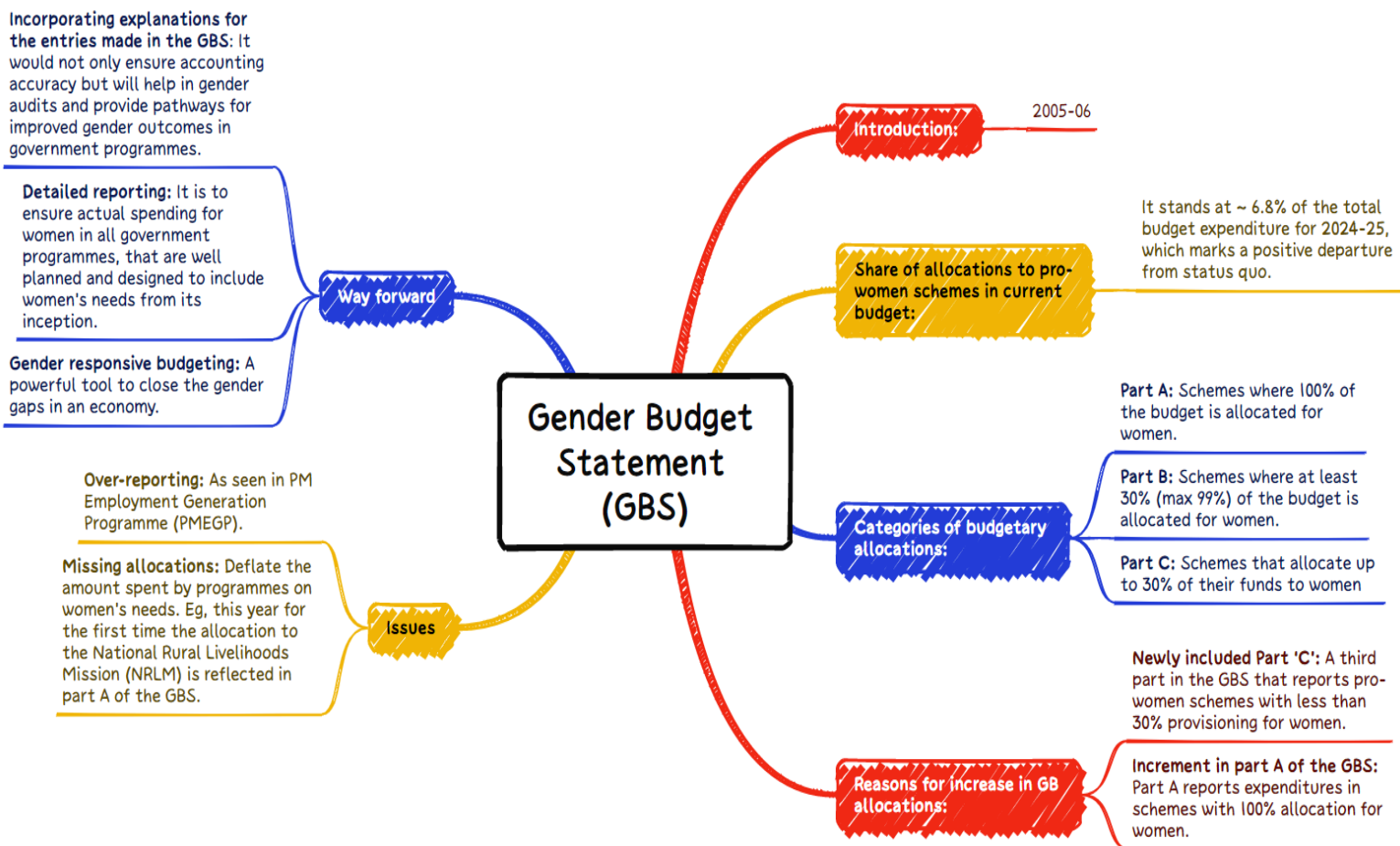
Incorporating explanations for the entries made in the GBS: It would not only ensure accounting accuracy but will help in gender audits and provide pathways for improved gender outcomes in government programmes.

Detailed reporting: It is to ensure actual spending for women in all government programmes, that are well planned and designed to include women's needs from its inception.

Gender responsive budgeting: A powerful tool to close the gender gaps in an economy.

Over-reporting: As seen in PM Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

Missing allocations: Deflate the amount spent by programmes on women's needs. Eg, this year for the first time the allocation to the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) is reflected in part A of the GBS.

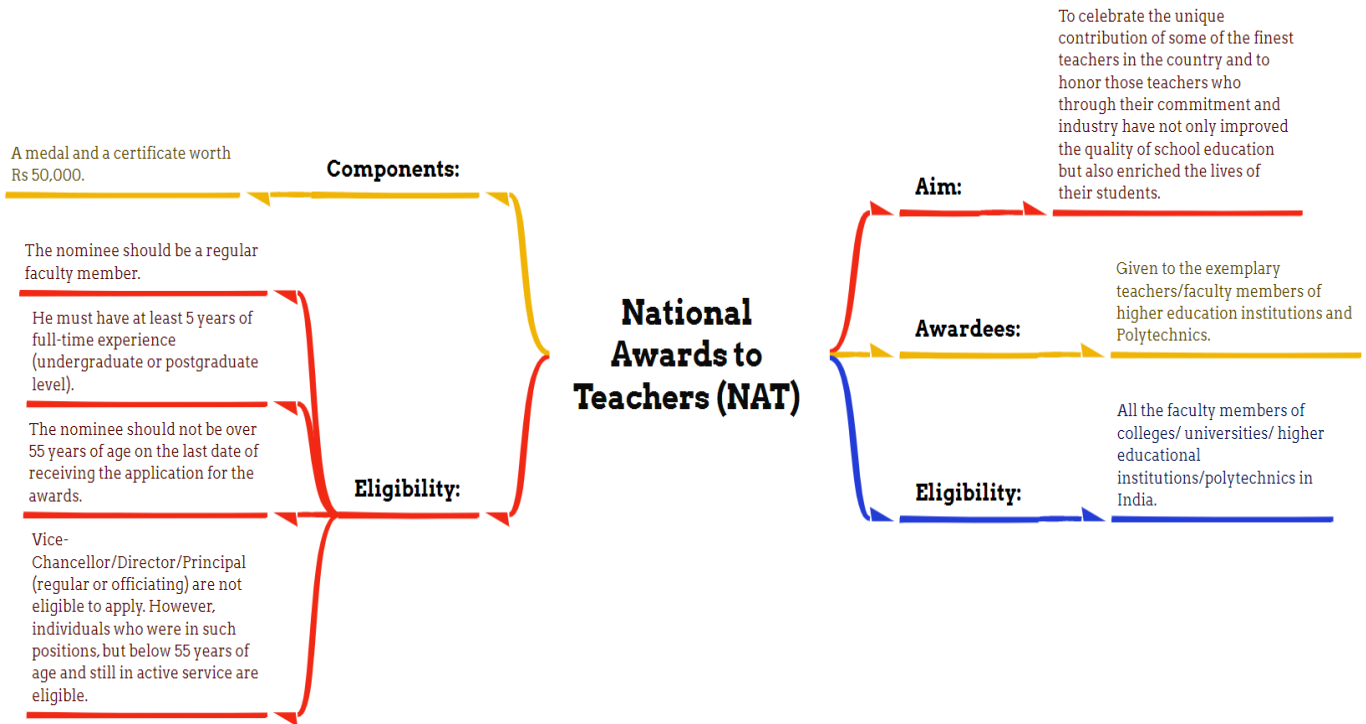


5. Department of Higher Education selects 16 teachers from HEIs and Polytechnics for National Awards to Teachers (NAT) 2024 - PIB

Relevance: Salient features of Indian Society

Context

Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education selects 16 teachers in HEIs and Polytechnic for National Awards to Teachers (NAT) 2024.



6. SHe-Box portal - The Hindu

Relevance: Salient features of Indian Society

- **About:** A centralized repository of information related to Internal Committees (ICs) and Local Committees (LCs) across the country, covering both government and private sectors.
- **Significance:** It allows women to file complaints, track their status, and ensures timely processing by ICs, with real-time monitoring facilitated by a designated nodal officer.

ENSURING SPEEDIER ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN AT WORKPLACE

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES SEXUAL HARASSMENT ELECTRONIC-BOX (SHE-BOX)

- Register complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace through www.wcd-sh.nic.in
- **Speedier remedy to women** facing sexual harassment at workplace
- Complainant can **monitor the progress** of inquiry conducted by the Internal Complaint Committee (ICC)

A safe workplace is every woman's right

Polity

7. Assam's Muslim marriage law - Indian Express

Relevance: Parliament and State Legislatures

Context

The Assam Legislative Assembly recently passed the Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Bill, 2024, a proposed law with the stated objectives of preventing “child marriages” and “marriages without the consent of the parties”, and to “check polygamy”. It also repealed an existing 89-year-old Act for the registration of Muslim marriages and divorces in the state, confirming an Ordinance promulgated five months ago.

Assam's Muslim marriage law	Assam Muslim Marriage & Divorce Registration Act, 1935 - The now-repealed law	Usage:	For the registration of marriages and divorces between Muslims in Assam.
		Provision:	It authorised the state to grant a licence to "any person, being a Muslim" to register such marriages and divorces. There were 95 such Muslim registrars or kazis across the state & deemed to be public servants.
		Reason for repeal:	It allowed the registration of marriages of and between minors.
	Provisions of the new law	About:	It regulates marriage between two Muslim persons which "includes 'nikah' or any other ceremony by which two persons are made husband and wife following Muslim personal law and Islamic rituals".
		No role of kazis in registering marriages under the new law:	The registering officer shall be the government's Marriage and Divorce Registrar in that jurisdiction, who is the Sub-Registrar.
		Conditions for a marriage to be registered under the new law:	Woman should have attained 18 years of age before the marriage
			Man should have attained 21 years of age before the marriage
			The marriage has been solemnized on free consent of both parties
			At least one of the parties must be resident within the district of the Marriage and Divorce Registrar for 30 days before giving notice of registration to the officer;
			The parties shall not be within the prohibited degree of relationship as per Muslim law.
		Preemptive notice:	The parties are required to give the registering officer at least 30 days' notice before the intended registration, with documents attesting to their identities, age, and place of residence.
		Objections to the marriage:	Allowed within the 30-day period on grounds of violation of any of the conditions laid down in the Bill, which will then be inquired into by the Registrar.
		Appeal for refusal:	If the Registrar after inquiry refuses to solemnize the marriage, the Bill provides for two stages of appeal, to the District Registrar and then, the Registrar General of Marriages.
		If either of the parties is underage:	If the officer makes this discovery during the scrutiny of documents, she must immediately report it to the jurisdictional Child Marriage Protection Officer appointed under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
		Penalty on a violating officer:	An officer who "knowingly and wilfully" registers a marriage that violates any of the conditions is liable to be imprisoned for up to a year and fined up to Rs 50,000.

8. On the controversy over lateral entry into the civil services - The Hindu

Relevance: Functions and Responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies

Context

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) had withdrawn its advertisement pertaining to lateral recruitment for 45 posts of Joint Secretaries (JS), Directors and Deputy Secretaries (DS) in the government.

Merit versus spoils system

Merit system	Spoils system
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● About: It entails appointments to government posts after a rigorous selection process by an independent authority. ● Evolution in India: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre- independence: Commenced in 1858 when the British introduced the Indian Civil Service (ICS) to select officers for administering the country. ○ Post - independence: The UPSC conducts exams to select officers for IAS, IPS and other central services. ● Aim: Building career bureaucrats who are expected to function without any political leanings and provide independent advice to the incumbent political executive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Principle: It works on the adage 'to the victor belong the spoils.' ● About: A system where the incumbent political executive appoints its supporters to various posts in the government. ● Origin: The U.S., and continued until 1883 when it was replaced largely by a merit system. ● Status in India: At present, out of more than 2.8 million federal government posts, only around 4,000 senior posts are directly appointed by the President.

Lateral entry

- **Meaning:** When executives from the private sector, PSUs and academia are appointed to senior and middle management positions in the government.
- **Aim:** To bring specialised knowledge and skills into governance.

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brings specialisation: Beneficial in niche areas of governance - emerging technologies, semiconductors, climate change, digital economy, cyber security etc. ● Ideation: Results in infusion of fresh ideas from experts to reinvigorate the system. ● Responsiveness: Has the potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Generalists vs Specialist controversy: The domain expertise and specialisation of IAS officers is their field experience that is hard to match by outside entrants. ● Coordination issues with career bureaucrats. ● Opacity and conflicts of interests while hiring recruits from

of making career bureaucrats more responsive thereby bringing in a positive change.

private sector.

Way forward

- **Political intervention:** Appointment at these levels should coalesce technical competence with reservation and social justice.
- **Addressingenuine grievances:** Need to curb red-tapism, inefficiency and corruption in administration.
- **Ensuring autonomy of career bureaucrats:** Providing reasonable independence with respect to postings, tenures and transfers.
- **Constitution of Civil Service Boards headed by top bureaucrats:** They should be effectively constituted and strengthened at the Centre and States.



World Affairs

9. Pakistan invites Modi to attend SCO meet - The Hindu

Relevance: India and its Neighbourhood Relations

Context

Pakistan recently invited the Indian Prime Minister to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Council of Heads of Government meeting to be held in Islamabad in October. Pakistan holds the rotating chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) and in that capacity, will be hosting the two-day in-person SCO Heads of Governments Meeting in October.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- **About:** An intergovernmental political, economic, and security alliance founded in 2001 by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.
- **First summit:** Shanghai, China, in 2001.
- **Aim:** To promote cooperation and mutual support in areas such as trade, investment, energy, transportation, and security.
- **Shanghai Spirit:** Mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity, and the pursuit of common development among the SCO members.
- **Official working language:** Russian and Chinese.
- **Objectives:**
 - Strengthen relations among member states.
 - Promote cooperation in political affairs, economics, and trade, scientific-technical, cultural, and educational spheres as well as in energy, transportation, tourism, and environmental protection.
 - Safeguard regional peace, security, and stability.
 - Create a democratic, equitable international political and economic order.
- **Composition:**

Members	China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Iran, and Uzbekistan
Observers	Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia
Dialogue Partners	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Egypt, Nepal, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia

Why SCO is important

- ▶ Is seen as an Eastern counter-balance to NATO
- ▶ Enhances security cooperation among members
- ▶ Helps deal with terrorism, particularly IS terrorists
- ▶ Increases economic cooperation in the region
- ▶ China's One Belt and One Road (OBOR) initiative
- ▶ India's push for connectivity with Chabahar port in Iran
- ▶ International North-South Transport Corridor connecting the sub-continent with Central Asian countries

Issues

India's objections to China on OBOR

Traditional hostility between India and Pakistan

Russia and China standoff over Ukraine

RATS-SCO

- **About:** A permanent body of the SCO to facilitate coordination and interaction between the SCO member states in the fight against terrorism, extremism and separatism.
- **Function:** Coordination and information sharing.
- **India :** A member

10. India, China hold 31st WMCC meeting to iron out issues - The Hindu

Relevance: India and its Neighbourhood Relations

Context

India and China had a “frank, constructive and forward-looking exchange of views” on the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to “narrow down the differences” and find an “early resolution” of the outstanding issues, at the 31st meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) in Beijing recently.

Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC)

- **Establishment:** 2012
- **About:** An institutional mechanism for consultation and coordination for management of India- China border areas, & to exchange views on

strengthening communication and cooperation, including between the border security personnel of the two sides.

- **Chairman:** Joint secretary-level officials from both sides.
- **Function:** To help the special representative for boundary talks.
- **Aim:**
 - To bring back normalcy in the bilateral relations between India and China
 - To restore peace along the Line of Actual Control.

11. NSA Ajit Doval arrives in Colombo on two-day visit - The Hindu

Relevance: India and its Neighbourhood Relations

Context

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit K. Doval arrived in Colombo recently to follow-up on the ongoing Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) initiative. He is also scheduled to meet with political leaders in Colombo.

Colombo Security Conclave

- **Establishment:** 2011
- **About:** An initially trilateral maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives (Mauritius - fourth member)
- **Observer States:** Bangladesh and Seychelles
- **Pillars:**
 - Maritime Safety and Security
 - Countering Terrorism and Radicalization
 - Combating Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime
 - Cyber Security, Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Technology
 - Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
- **Secretariat:** Colombo (established in 2021)

Regional security grouping initially formed in 2011 as a trilateral Indian Ocean maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives

MEMBERS

India
Sri Lanka
Maldives
Mauritius

OBSERVERS

Bangladesh
Seychelles



Economy

12. National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) - PIB

Relevance: Indian Economy

- **Aim:** To facilitate investments from both large anchor industries and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), serving as catalysts to achieve the government's ambitious goal of \$2 trillion in exports by 2030.
- **Newly sanctioned industrial areas:** Khurpia in Uttarakhand, Rajpura-Patiala in Punjab, Dighi in Maharashtra, Palakkad in Kerala, Agra and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, Gaya in Bihar, Zaheerabad in Telangana, Orvakal and Koppaerthy in Andhra Pradesh, and Jodhpur-Pali in Rajasthan.
- **Features:**
 - State-of-the-art industrial smart cities, each designed to foster a vibrant industrial ecosystem.
 - Creating regional manufacturing hubs across the country.
 - Greenfield smart cities built to global standards, embodying the 'plug-n-play' and 'walk-to-work' concepts.
 - Cities to be equipped with advanced infrastructure designed to support sustainable and efficient industrial operations.
 - Aligned with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, which focuses on integrated and seamless multi-modal connectivity.

Environment

13. Shun exotic trees, plant local species, says advisory from A.P. Forest Department - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

Context

As part of its afforestation drive aimed at increasing green cover to more than 33% of the State's geographical area, the Forest Department has recently recommended to the District Collectors, Municipal Commissioners and Zilla Parishad CEOs to raise trees from among a list of 25 indigenous species, and to dispense with the planting of three exotic species considered detrimental to the environment and human health.

Buttonwood Mangrove/ *Conocarpus erectus*

- **About:** A mangrove shrub that grows on shorelines in tropical and subtropical regions around the world used in gardens, parks, and indoors.
- **Features:**
 - A fast-growing plant that does not shed its leaves much.
 - If pruned with skill, it can make a natural green wall.

***Alstonia scholaris*/ Devil's Tree**

- **About:** A medium-sized evergreen tree from the very moist forests of the Himalayas.
- **Characteristics:** Hardy nature, high tolerance against pollution, and adaptability.
- **Origin:** Native to tropical Asia, southern China, and Australasia
- **Toxicity:** Show toxic effects and cause gastrointestinal irritations and other ailments in human beings

***Terminalia mantaly* ('Umbrella Tree'/'Madagascar Almond')**

- **Issues:** Expensive to maintain and are vulnerable to destruction in cyclone-prone areas. Both of them have more ornamental value than they are shade — bearing.

14. Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

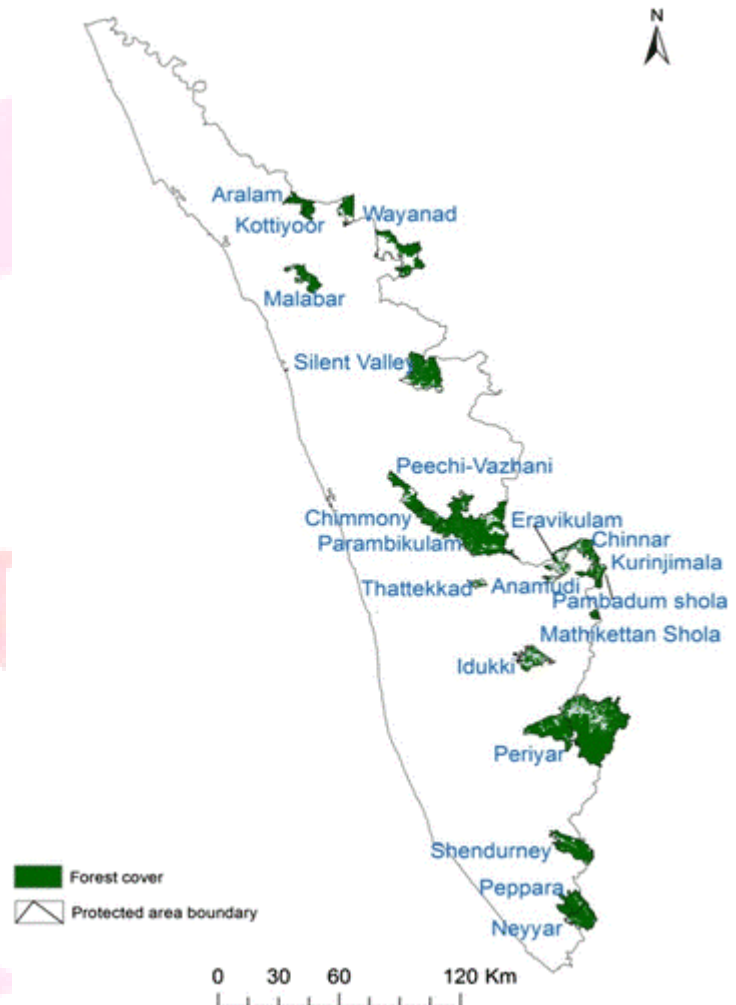
Context

Four monkeys were found dead in the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur district of Kerala, raising concerns among wildlife authorities.

Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Western slopes of Western Ghats

- **About:** The northernmost wildlife sanctuary of Kerala contiguous with Wayanad-Brahmagiri, Wayanad's northern slopes and Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary and the forests of Coorg.
- **Rivers:** Cheenkannipuzha river (Major source), Narikkadavu thodu, Kurukkathodu and Meenumuttithodu.
- **Vegetation:** West Coast tropical evergreen forest, west coast semi-evergreen forests, South Indian moist deciduous forest, Southern hilltop evergreen forest and plantations.
- **Significance:** The only protected area of the West Coast Tropical Evergreen forest of Dipterocarpus-Mesua-Palaquium type.
- **Highest peak:** Katti Betta.
- **Flora:** Artiocarpus heterophyllus, Bishofia javanica, Calophyllum elatum, Cannarium strictum, Cullenia exarillita, Dipterocarpus sp, Drypetes elata, Dysoxylum malabaricum, Elaeocarpus tuberculatus etc.
- **Fauna:** Elephant, Gaur, Tiger, Panther, Sambar, Spotted deer, Barking deer, Wild boar, Sloth bear, Nilgiri langur, Bonnet macaque, Common langur, Wild dog, common otter, Malabar giant squirrel etc



Sci and Tech





15. Leptospirosis - Indian Express

Relevance: Sci and Technology - Developments

Context

Kerala has breathed a collective sigh of relief this week as the threat of a Nipah virus outbreak in Malappuram district has subsided, with no new cases reported recently. However, the resurfacing of Nipah and the devastating landslides in Wayanad have overshadowed a severe Leptospirosis outbreak, which has emerged as a major public health concern across the state.

Leptospirosis

WHAT IS LEPTOSPIROSIS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects both humans and animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is caused by bacteria of the genus leptospira 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In humans, it can cause a wide range of symptoms, some of which may be mistaken for other diseases
<p>HOW DO HUMANS GET INFECTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The infection spreads first from animals through their urine  ➤ Humans get infected through direct contact with urine of infected animals or with a urine-contaminated environment  ➤ This infected urine gets mixed with water in puddles, waterlogged streets or flooded areas ➤ Humans who wade through such water may get infected ➤ The bacteria enters body through cuts or abrasions on skin, or through mucous membranes – nose and eyes  ➤ Person-to-person transmission is rare 		<p>ANIMAL SPECIES THAT CAN TRANSMIT THE DISEASE TO HUMANS</p> <p>A wide variety of animal species, primarily mammals, may serve as sources of human infection </p> <p>The following are considered to be the most important in this context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ➊ Small mammal species, notably feral and peridomestic rodents (rats, mice, voles, etc.) and insectivores (shrews and hedgehogs) ➋ Domestic animals (cattle, pigs, dogs, more rarely sheep, goats, horses and buffaloes)
<p>(Source: World Health Organization, Centre for Disease Control)</p>		

16. Deepfake - Indian Express

Relevance: Sci and Technology - Developments

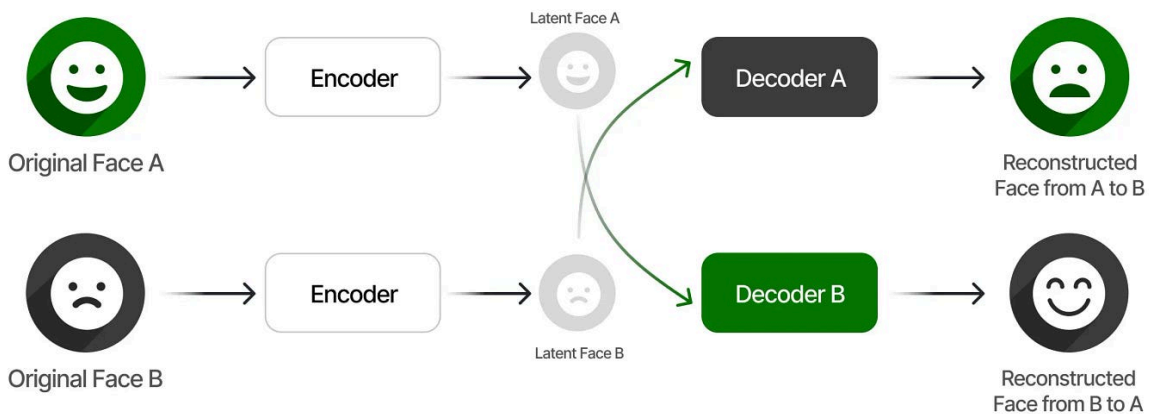
Context

South Korea's president, Yoon Suk Yeol, has ordered a crackdown on an epidemic of digital sex crimes targeting women and girls who become the unwitting victims of deepfake pornography.

Deepfakes

- **Deepfakes:** Synthetic media that use artificial intelligence (AI) to create or manipulate audio and visual content to deceive people. It can create non-existent people, and it can fake real people saying and doing many things.
- Origin of the term: In 2017, a Reddit user with the username "deepfakes", posted explicit videos of celebrities.

How does Deepfakes work



Pros	Cons
Can revolutionize the entertainment industry with realistic CGI and recreations	Risk of misuse for defamatory purposes, political deception, and impersonation
Facilitates immersive educational experiences by recreating historical events	Raises concerns about privacy and security
Opens new avenues in advertising with personalized celebrity endorsements	Threatens to destabilize societal trust with the spread of disinformation
Potential for personalizing digital communication with realistic avatars	Can be used for nefarious activities such as blackmail and fraud
Can enhance training programs with realistic role-play scenarios	As technology improves, distinguishing between real and fake becomes difficult for the untrained eye

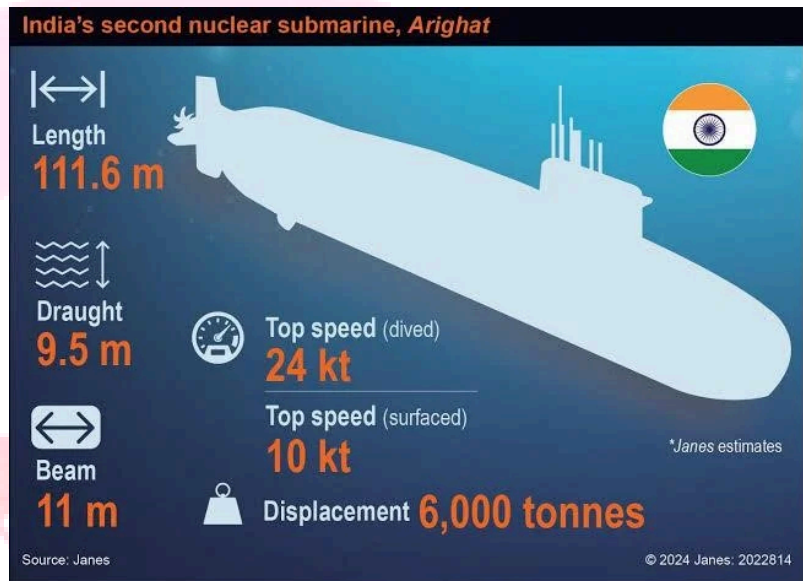


Defence

17.Submarine Arighaat - The Hindu

Relevance: Indigenization of Technology and Developing New Technology

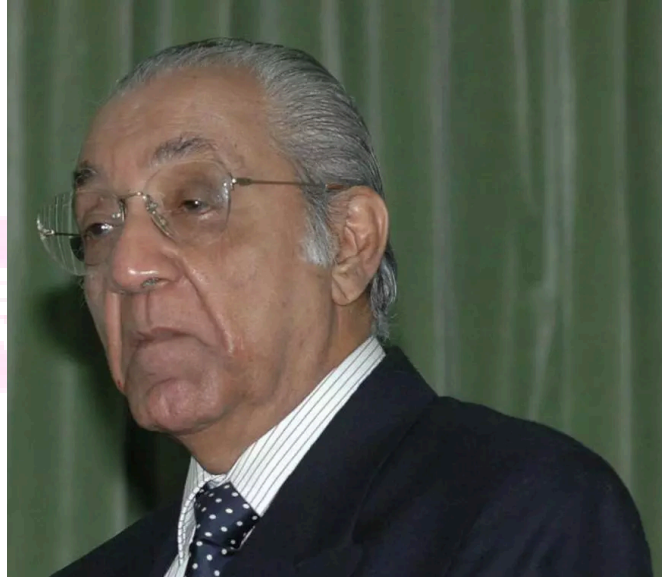
- **About:** India's second indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) after INS Arihant which was commissioned in 2018.
- **Construction:** At the Indian Navy's Ship Building Centre (SBC), Visakhapatnam.
- **Significance:** A critical component of India's nuclear triad, enabling the nation to launch nuclear missiles from land, air, and sea.
- **Dimensions:**
Length - 111.6 meters, a beam of 11 meters, a draught of 9.5 meters, and a displacement of 6,000 tonnes.
- **Maximum speed:** 12-15 knots (22-28 km/h) on surface and 24 knots (44 km/h) submerged.
- **Nuclear capabilities:** It can carry up to 4 nuclear-capable K-4 SLBMs (Submarine Launched ballistic Missile) (range - 3500 kilometers) or 12 conventional warhead K-15 SLBMs (range - 750 kilometers).
- **Other warheads:** Can also carry torpedoes and mines.
- **Additional safety measures:** 2 standby auxiliary engines and a retractable thruster for emergency power and mobility.



Miscellaneous

18. Abdul Ghafoor Noorani - The Hindu

- Renowned lawyer, constitutional expert, and prolific author who made significant contributions to legal scholarship and political discourse in India for over six decades, A.G. Noorani is no more.
- Born in Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1930, Abdul Ghafoor Abdul Majeed Noorani began his career as a lawyer in the Bombay High Court in 1953.
- Though he practised law, Noorani devoted much of his time to writing on legal, political, and historical topics.
- His sharp intellect and deep knowledge of constitutional matters made him a sought-after commentator on Indian politics and jurisprudence.



19. Anubhav Awards - PIB

Context

The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) organised 7th Anubhav Awards ceremony.

ANUBHAV Awards

- **Aim:** Recognising the contribution made by Retired Officials to Nation building while working in Government and documenting the administrative history of India by written narratives.
- **ANUBHAV Portal:** Established in March 2015, it serves as an online platform for retiring and retired government employees to share their experiences.
- **Nodal department:** Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.
- **Eligibility:** To participate in the scheme, retiring Central Government employees/pensioners are required to submit their Anubhav write ups, 8 months prior to retirement and up to 1 year after their retirement.
- **Components:** A medal and certificate and a Prize of 10,000 rupees; a Jury certificate Winner will be presented with a medal and a certificate.

20. 54th Foundation Day of BPRD - The Hindu

Context

The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) recently celebrated its 54th Foundation Day at its headquarters in New Delhi.

