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**25 July 2024**

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

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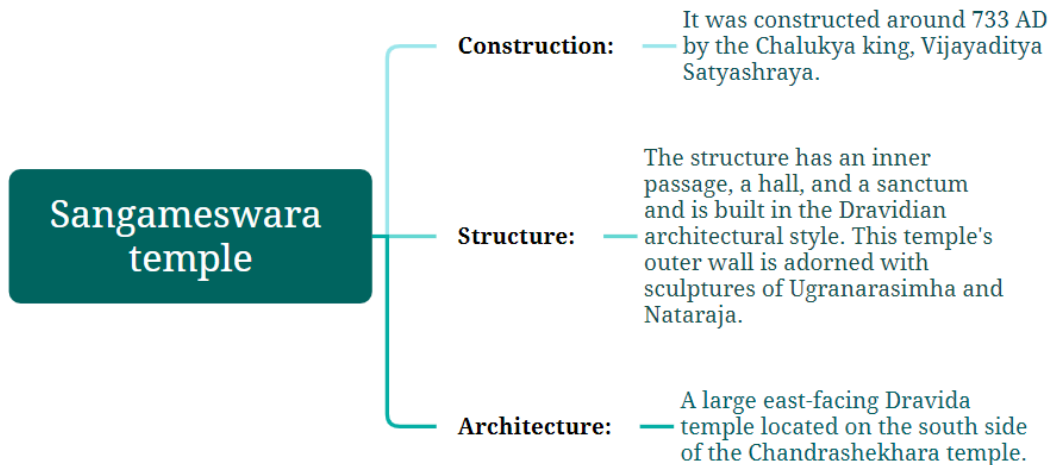
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## Art and Culture

### 1. Sangameswara temple/ Vijayeswara Temple - The Hindu

#### Context



### 2. Bihar's Vishnupad and Mahabodhi temples - Indian Express

#### Context

Finance Minister recently announced during her Union Budget speech that corridor projects will be built for the Vishnupad Temple at Gaya and the Mahabodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya in Bihar.

#### Vishnupad Temple

Architecturally, the temple is around 100 feet tall and has 44 pillars.

#### Structure:

#### Location:

In Bihar on the banks of the Falgu river

### Vishnupad Temple

Built in 1787 on the orders of Queen Ahilyabai Holkar of Ahmadnagar.

#### Construction:

#### Deity:

Lord Vishnu.

#### Mahabodhi Temple

It was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2002.

#### Designation:

#### Significance:

The temple stands to the east of the Mahabodhi Tree, where Gautam Buddha is believed to have attained nirvana.

The first temple built by Emperor Asoka in the 3rd century B.C., and the present temple dates from the 5th–6th centuries.

#### Construction:

### Mahabodhi Temple

#### Location:

Bodh Gaya, in central Bihar, on the banks of the Niranjana River.

## Polity

### 3. Is immunity for the President and Governors absolute? - The Hindu

#### Context

A three-judge Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India has impleaded the Union government and sought assistance from the Attorney General of India to decide if a “blanket” immunity granted under Article 361 to the President and Governors, while in office, from criminal proceedings undermines fairness, constitutional morality and violates fundamental rights to equal protection of the law and fair trial.

Governor's Immunity		
<b>Origin of Governor's Immunity</b>	<b>Basis:</b>	It is linked to the Latin maxim "rex non potest peccare," or "the king can do no wrong".
	<b>Constituent Assembly's debate on Article 361:</b>	A member H V Kamath questions the extent of criminal immunity for the President and Governors, regarding the initiation of proceedings against them for criminal acts. Despite these concerns, the article was adopted without further debate.
<b>Immunity to Governors under Article 361 (exception to Article 14)</b>	<b>Article 361(1):</b>	It states that the President or the Governor of a State is not answerable to any court for the exercise of their powers and duties, or for any act done in the exercise of those powers and duties.
	<b>Article 361(2):</b>	No criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President, or the Governor of a State, in any court during his term of office.
	<b>Article 361(3):</b>	No arrest or imprisonment processes can be issued against the President or Governor during their term of office.
	<b>Article 361(4):</b>	No civil lawsuits can be filed against the President or Governor of a State during their term of office for any personal acts until two months after giving written notice. The notice must include the nature of the proceedings, the cause of action, the party filing the lawsuit, and the relief being sought.
<b>Related judgements and case laws</b>	<b>Rameshwar Prasad v Union of India:</b>	The Supreme Court stressed that Governors cannot be held accountable in any court for the exercise of their powers and duties. This immunity is of a personal nature and does not absolve Governors from judicial scrutiny if their actions are found to be beyond their authority or malicious.
	<b>Rajendra Singh Rana v. Swami Prasad Maurya (2007):</b>	The Supreme Court declared that Governors cannot face prosecution while in office, regardless of actions taken prior to assuming their gubernatorial position.
	<b>Dr S.C. Barot And Anr. vs Hari Vinayak Pataskar And Ors. (1961):</b>	While complete immunity is granted for official actions, civil proceedings can be initiated with prior notice of two months for a Governor's personal actions.
	<b>State of Rajasthan v. Union of India (1977):</b>	The Supreme Court clarified that while Governors enjoy immunity from criminal prosecution during their term, this immunity does not extend to actions undertaken outside the scope of their official duties or to private matters unrelated to their role as Governor.

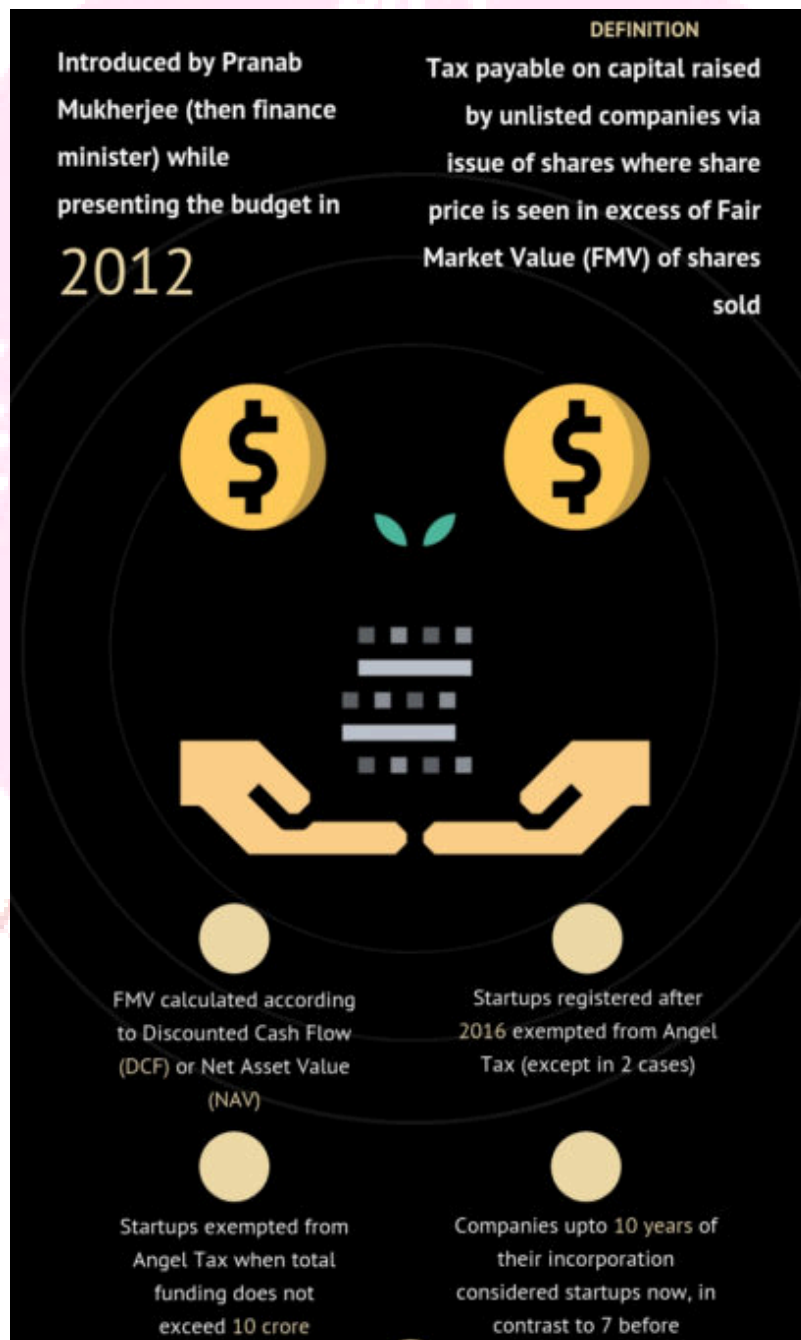
## Economy

### 4. 'ANGEL TAX' ABOLISHED FOR ALL CLASSES OF INVESTORS - PIB

#### Context

The Union Minister for Finance recently proposed to abolish 'angel tax' for all classes of investors, while presenting the Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament.

#### Angel Tax

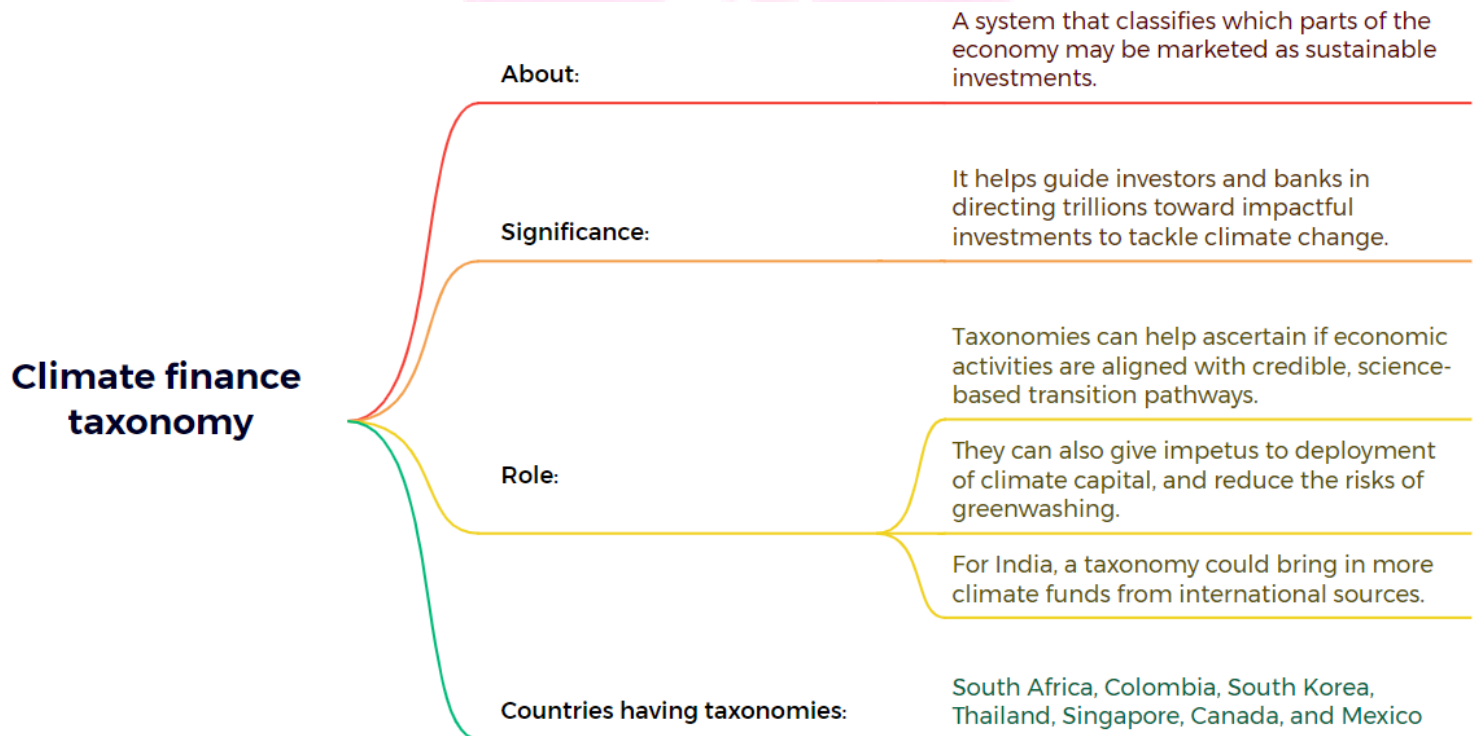


## 5. What is a climate finance taxonomy, announced by FM Sitharaman? - Indian Express

### Context

Presenting the Union Budget for 2024-25 recently, Finance Minister announced that the government would develop a 'climate finance taxonomy' to enhance the availability of capital for climate adaptation and mitigation. This will help India achieve its climate commitments and green transition.

### Climate finance taxonomy



### Potential for green investments in India

- **India's potential:** \$ 3.1 trillion from 2018 to 2030.
- **Largest scope:** Electric-vehicle segment at \$ 667 billion as India aims to electrify all of its new vehicles by 2030.
- **India's renewable energy sector:** It continues to be a good investment avenue at \$ 403.7 billion.

### India's climate commitments

- **India aims to achieve net-zero** economy by 2070.
- **Pledged to reduce the emissions intensity** of its GDP by 45% by 2030, from the 2005 level.
- **Committed to achieve about 50% cumulative electric power** installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030 as well.

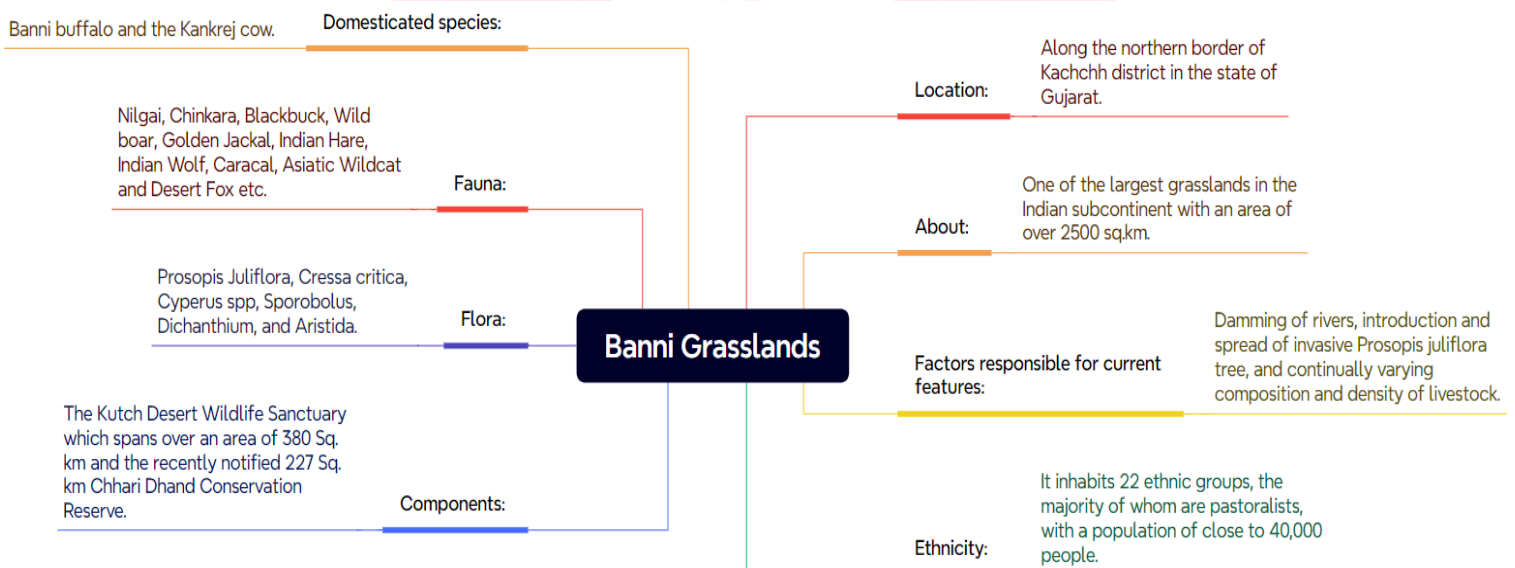
## Environment

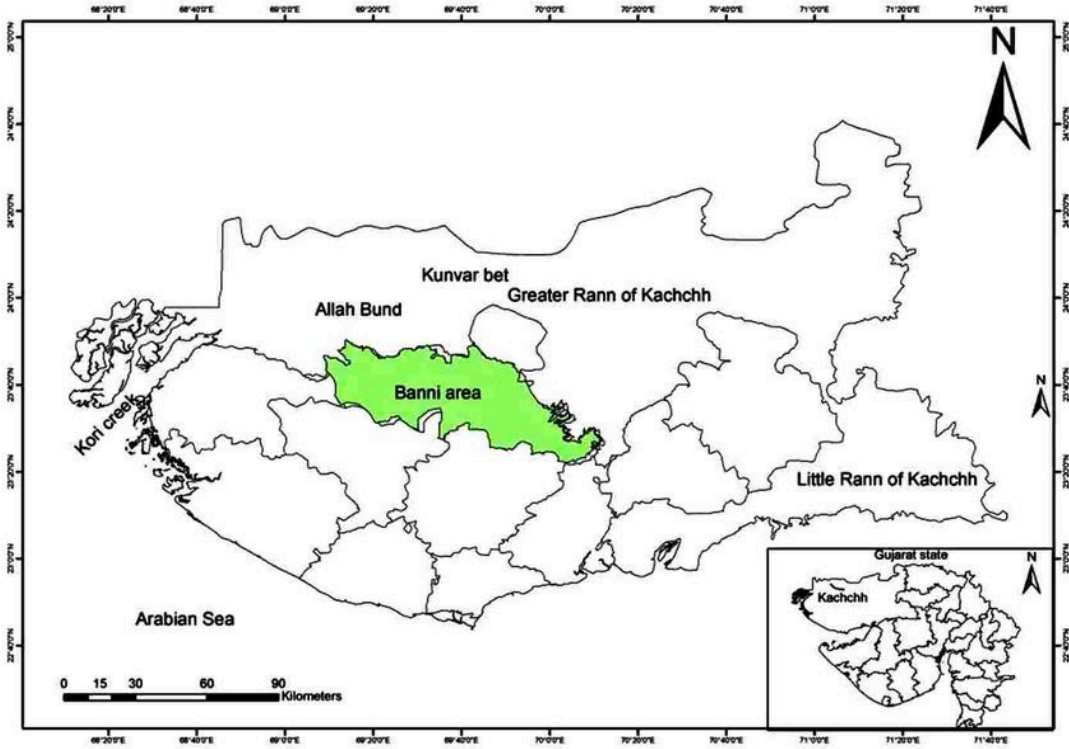
### 6. Gandhi Sagar sanctuary - The Hindu

- **About:** Notified in 1974, encompassing the districts of Mandsaur and Neemuch in western Madhya Pradesh, bordering Rajasthan.
- **Area:** 368.62 Sq. km
- **River:** The Chambal River bifurcates the sanctuary into two nearly equal parts, with the Gandhi Sagar Dam situated within the sanctuary.
- **Ecosystem:** Rocky terrain and shallow topsoil, which supports a savanna ecosystem.
- **Vegetation:** This comprises open grasslands interspersed with dry deciduous trees and shrubs. The riverine valleys within the sanctuary are evergreen.
- **Flora:** Khair, Salai, Kardhai, Dhawda, Tendu and Palash.
- **Fauna:** Chinkara, Nilgai, Spotted Deer, Indian Leopard, Striped Hyena, Jackal, crocodiles, fish, otters and turtles.



### 7. Banni Grasslands - The Hindu







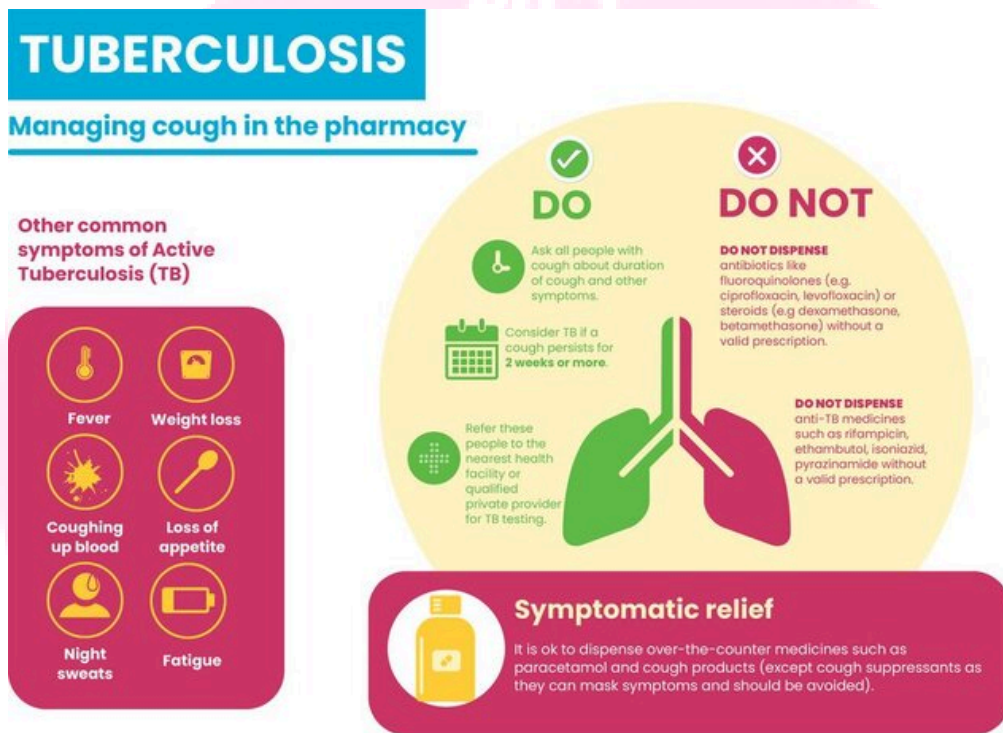
## Sci and Tech

### 8. ICMR ready to transfer technology of a 'breakthrough' TB detection system - The Hindu

#### Context

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has begun work on spreading an affordable, faster and easy-to-use testing technology for detection of tuberculosis.

#### Tuberculosis



#### Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

Presided over by the Union Health Minister.

**Governing Body:**

Government of India through the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

**Funding:**

To conduct, coordinate and implement medical research for the benefit of the Society; translating medical innovations into products/processes and introducing them into the public health system.

**Mandate:**

**Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**

**Origin:**

In 1911, the Government set up the Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) to sponsor and coordinate medical research in the country. It was renamed ICMR in 1949.

**About:**

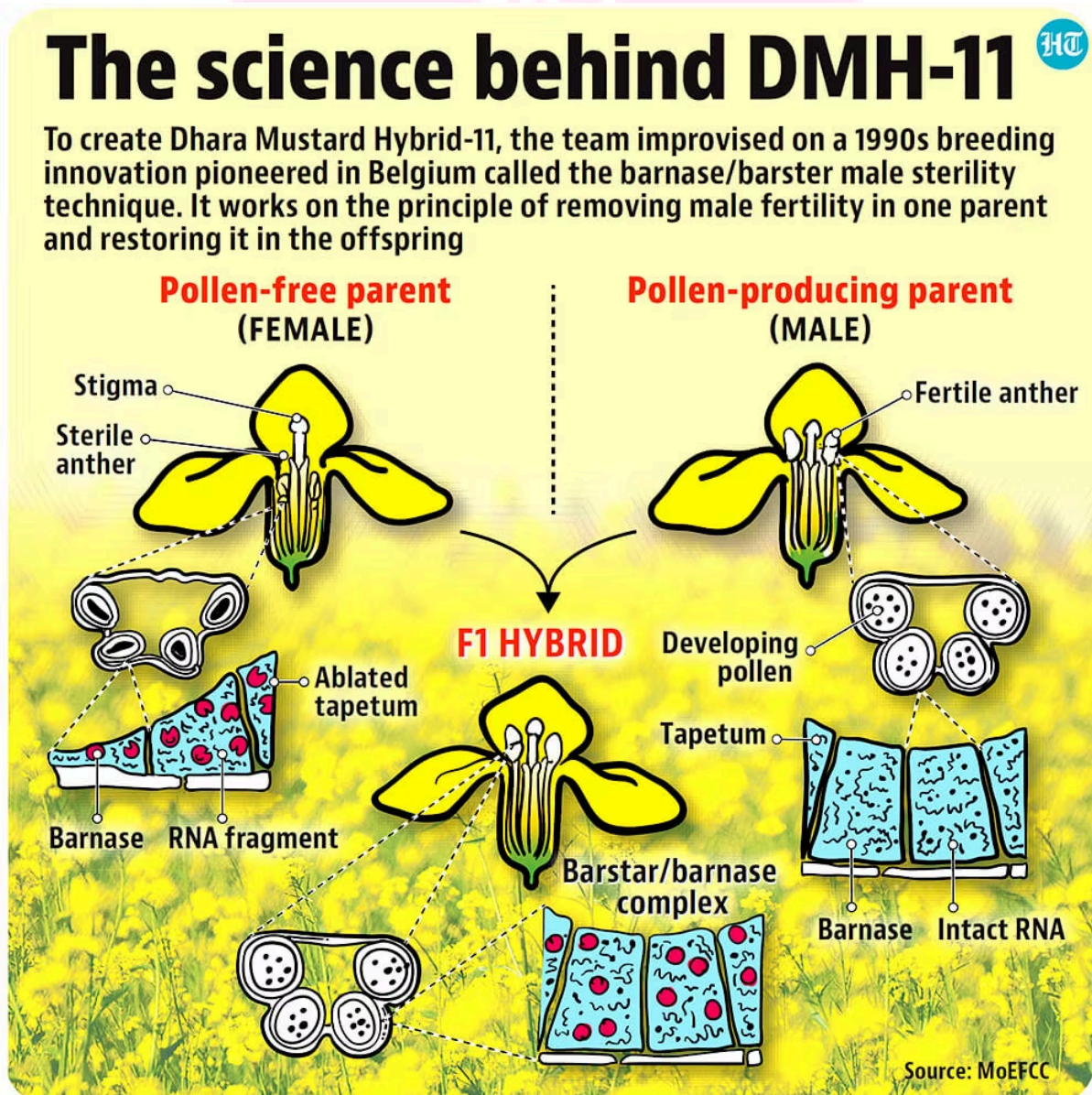
The apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research.

## 9. Why SC couldn't agree on environmental release of GM mustard - Indian Express

### Context

A two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court recently delivered a split verdict on whether to allow the “environmental release” of Genetically Modified (GM) mustard.

### GM mustard



- **2015:** The Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP) sought the GEAC's approval for the environmental release of a genetically engineered hybrid mustard called DMH-11/ GM mustard.
- **GM mustard:** It contains two alien genes:

- **Barnase:** It interferes with pollen production and renders the plant male-sterile, and the resulting plant is crossed with fertile mustard flowers containing the second, barstar gene.
- **Barstar:** It blocks the action of the barnase gene. The resulting plants are meant to be high-yield variants of mustard.
- **2017:** The GEAC recommended the environmental release of GM mustard. If approved, this would allow field tests to be conducted to examine the effects of cultivating the crop.
- **2018:** The GEAC directed the CGMCP to examine the effect of GM mustard on honey bees and soil microbial diversity. But these tests were deferred through 2020-21.

**Advantages and concerns**

Advantages	Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Increased production:</b> DMH-11 can increase yield by 25 to 30% despite using less water, fertilizers, &amp; pesticides.</li> <li>● <b>Boost to more genetic research:</b> It opens up the possibility for further genetic engineering research toward developing mustard hybrids with other selective traits such as better input efficiency, better product quality, and higher pest resistance.</li> <li>● <b>Pest Management:</b> It is modified to be resistant to the broad-spectrum plant-killer or herbicide glufosinate.</li> <li>● <b>Herbicide Tolerant:</b> The use of herbicides in herbicide tolerant (HT) crops has an advantage in terms of saving soil moisture and nutrients, besides effective weed control.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Impact on bees:</b> GM mustard has mutated flowering and pollen production and, as a result, can affect honeybees directly or indirectly.</li> <li>● <b>Health Concerns:</b> Introducing new genes can create novel proteins with unknown impacts.</li> <li>● <b>Use of Herbicide:</b> DMH-11 is herbicide tolerant, allowing farmers to spray over the crops with weed killer.</li> <li>● <b>Unemployment:</b> Earlier manual labour had to be employed to remove weeds, now the work will be done by adding chemicals.</li> </ul>

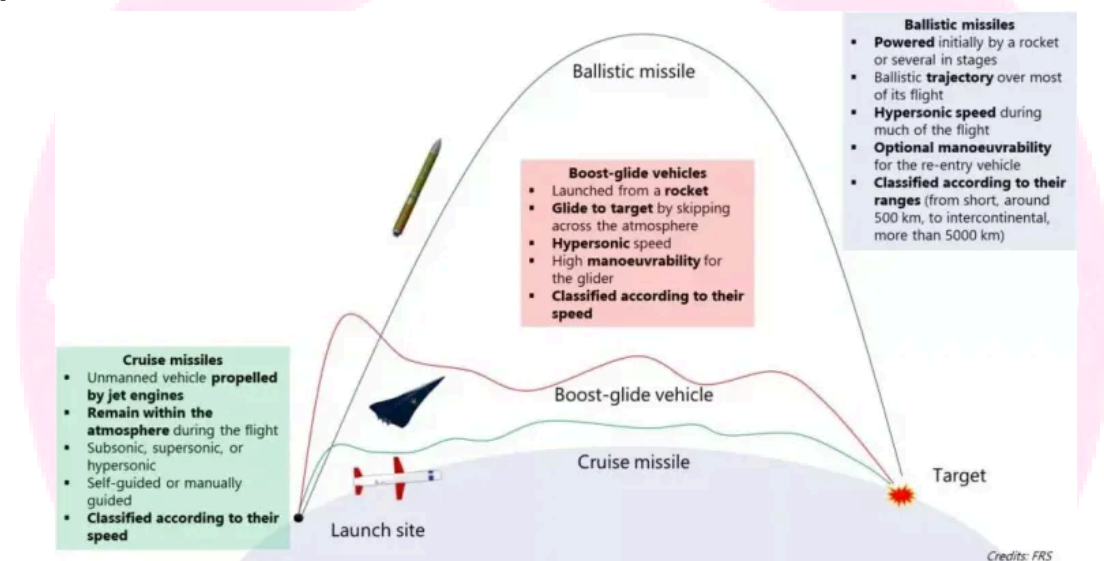
## Defence

### 10. DRDO tests Phase-II ballistic missile defence system - The Hindu

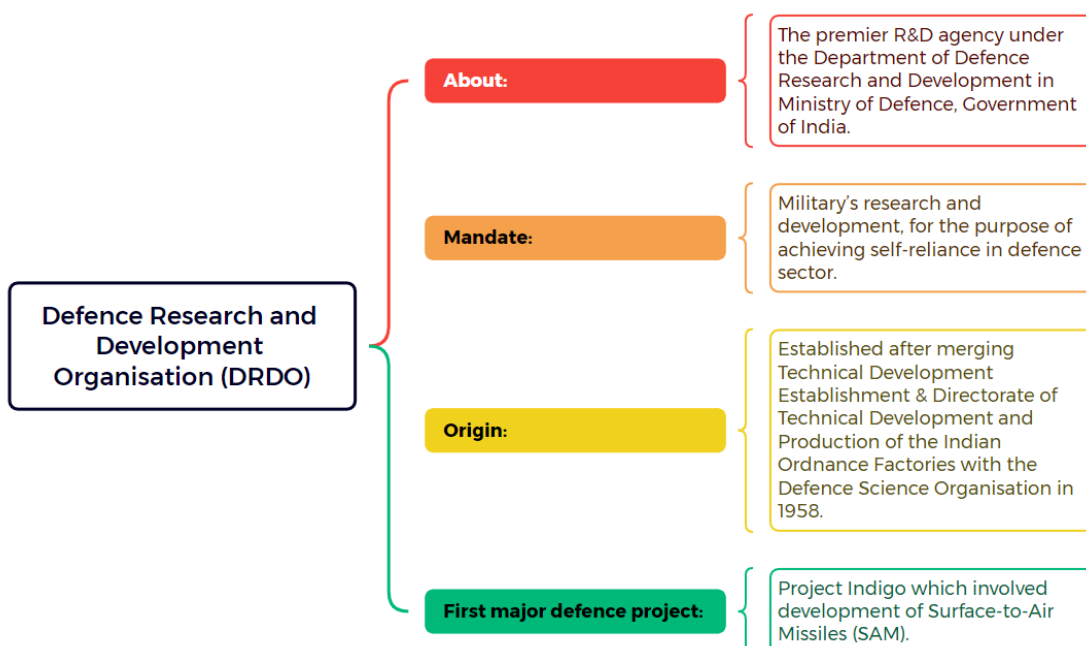
#### Context

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) recently successfully flight-tested the Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system demonstrating the indigenous capability to defend against ballistic missiles of 5,000 km class. Phase 1 of the BMD, which can intercept ballistic missiles with a range of 2,000 km, has already been deployed.

#### Types of Missiles



#### Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)



## **Rajasthan Current Affairs**

### **1. MoU of Rs 1 lakh crore between state government and HUDCO**

- An MoU was signed between Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) and the state government on 24 July 2024.
- Under this, Rajasthan will be made self-reliant in the field of energy and the infrastructure for drinking water and irrigation will be strengthened.
- Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) will give loan to the state government for 5 years for infrastructure projects like water, irrigation and electricity in the state.
- Under this, a loan of Rs 1577 crore has been given to Jal Nigam for Jal Jeevan Mission.

### **2. Virtual inauguration of Jaisalmer solar power plant**

- A 400 MW solar power plant has been commissioned in Jaisalmer on 24 July 2024 by Renew, a leading company in renewable energy generation.
- The production of the remaining 200 MW will start by October.
- This will increase the renewable energy capacity of the state. Through this plant, electricity will be supplied to Rajasthan Discom at cheaper rates.
- Renew will invest in the renewable energy sector, including 5500 MW of renewable projects and setting up a 4GW solar module manufacturing plant at Mahindra World City, Jaipur.

### **3. 'Pahal' Yojana Shivar**

- An initiative taken by Salumber District Administration.
- Under this, every eligible person will be benefited from government welfare schemes and linked to the schemes of Central Government and State Government to improve their standard of living.
- This camp will be organized at Gram Panchayat level.
- It includes Aadhar Card, Jan Aadhar, Electricity Connection, Bank Account, PM Jeevan Suraksha Bima Yojana, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Cattle Shed Yojana, Krishak Parivar, Ujjwala Yojana, Vishwakarma Yojana, Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, e -Shram, Specially Abled, Roadways Pass, Birth Certificate, Death Certificate, Pension, Palanhar, Kanyadan, Marriage Registration and other public welfare schemes.