

THINK IAS

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For UPSC CSE

19 SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Art and Culture

1. Pulikali – The Hindu

Pulikali

Literal meaning:

Puli means Leopard/ Tiger and Kali means Play in Malayalam

About:

A recreational street folk art performed on the fourth day of Onam (Hindu rice harvest festival of Kerala celebrated to commemorate King Mahabali) celebrations.

Practise:

Mainly practiced in Thrissur district of Kerala.

Main theme:

Tiger hunting with participants playing the role of tiger and hunter.

Celebration:

Performers paint their bodies like tigers and hunters and dance on streets to the beats of traditional percussion instruments such as thakil, udukku and chenda.

Introduction:

Introduced by Maharaja Rama Varma Sakthan Thampuran, the then Maharaja of Cochin

2. Aranmula Boat Race – The Hindu

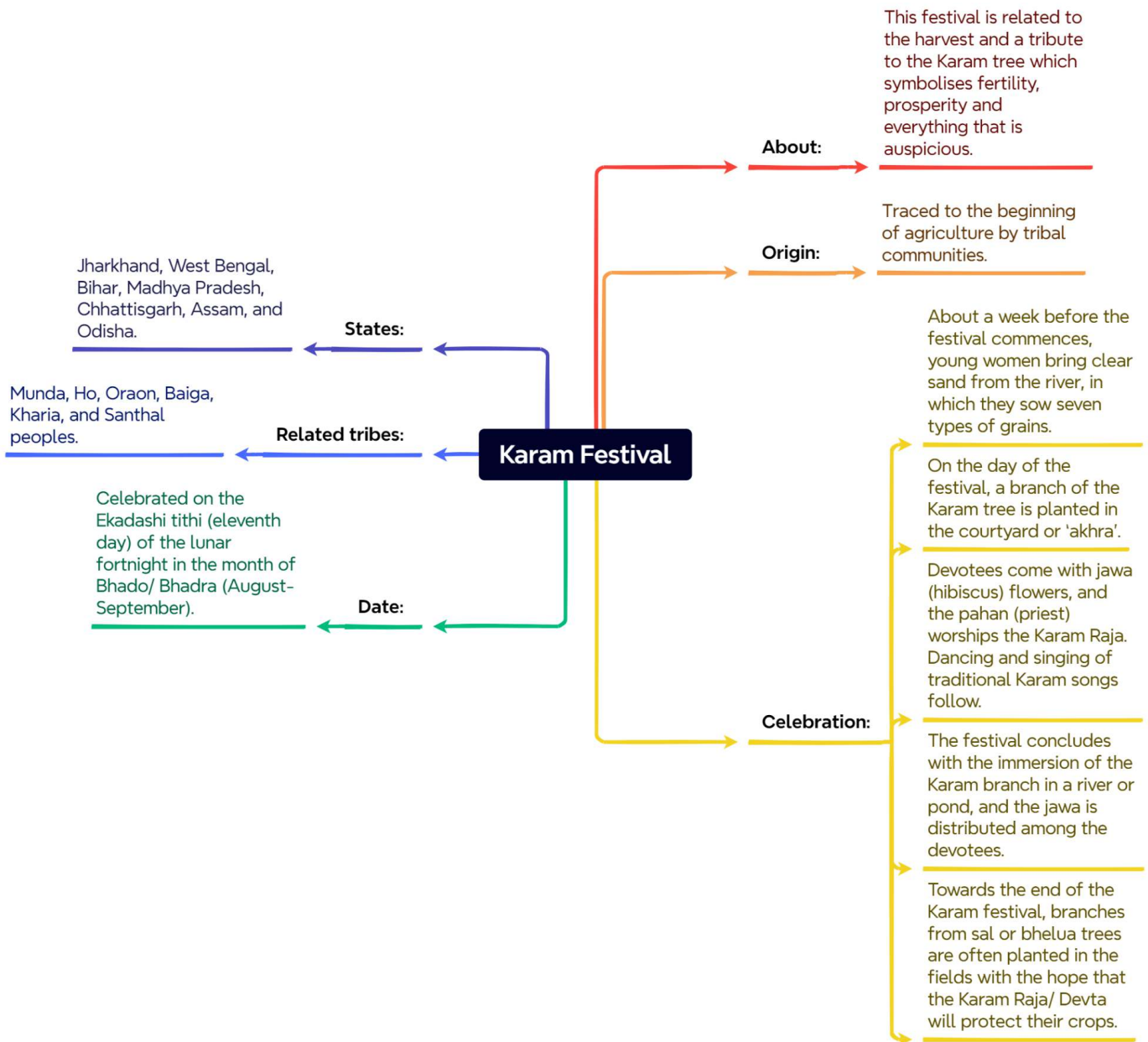
- **About:** The oldest river boat race in Kerala held during Onam (August–September).
- **Location:** At Aranmula Parthasarathy temple (dedicated to Lord Krishna and Arjuna) in the river Pampa.
- **Palliyodams:** Aranmula's unique snake boats ("Chundan Vallam").
- **Vanchipattu (song):** Traditional boat songs sung by the oarsmen while rowing the boat.

3. Tribal harvest festival of Karma – Indian Express

Context »

Tribal populations in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, and Odisha celebrated the harvest festival of Karma or Karam Parv last week.

Karam Festival »



Society

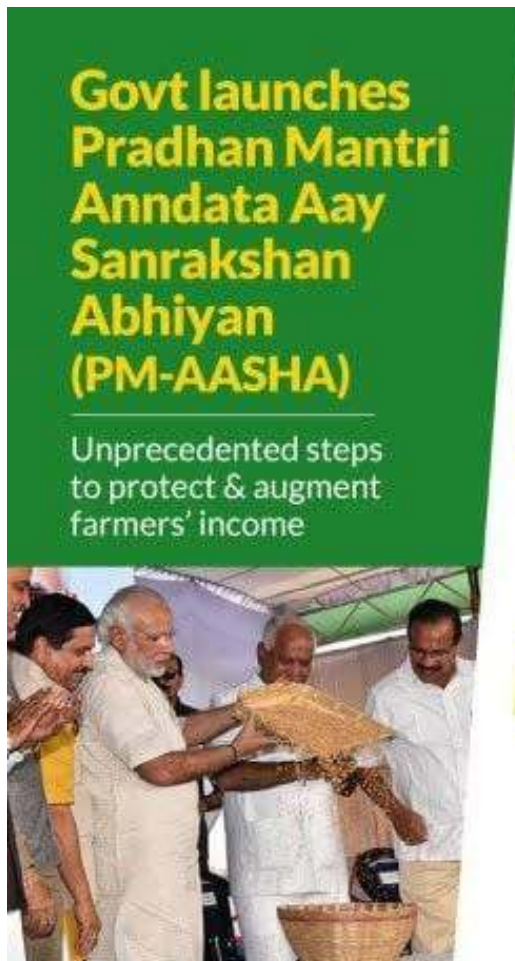
4. PM-AASHA schemes to continue with additions: Centre - The Hindu

Context »

The government has approved the continuation of the PM-AASHA scheme, with an outlay of ₹35,000 crore, to provide better prices to farmers and control price volatility of essential commodities for consumers.

Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) »

- **About:** An umbrella scheme aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce.
- **Aim:** Ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018.
- **Components:**



Price Support Scheme (PSS):

Physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and copra to be done by Central Nodal Agencies along with state govts. Central Govt to bear procurement expenditure & losses due to procurement up to 25% of production.

Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS):

Will cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified. Farmers will get direct payment of the difference between the MSP and the selling price.

Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PDPS):

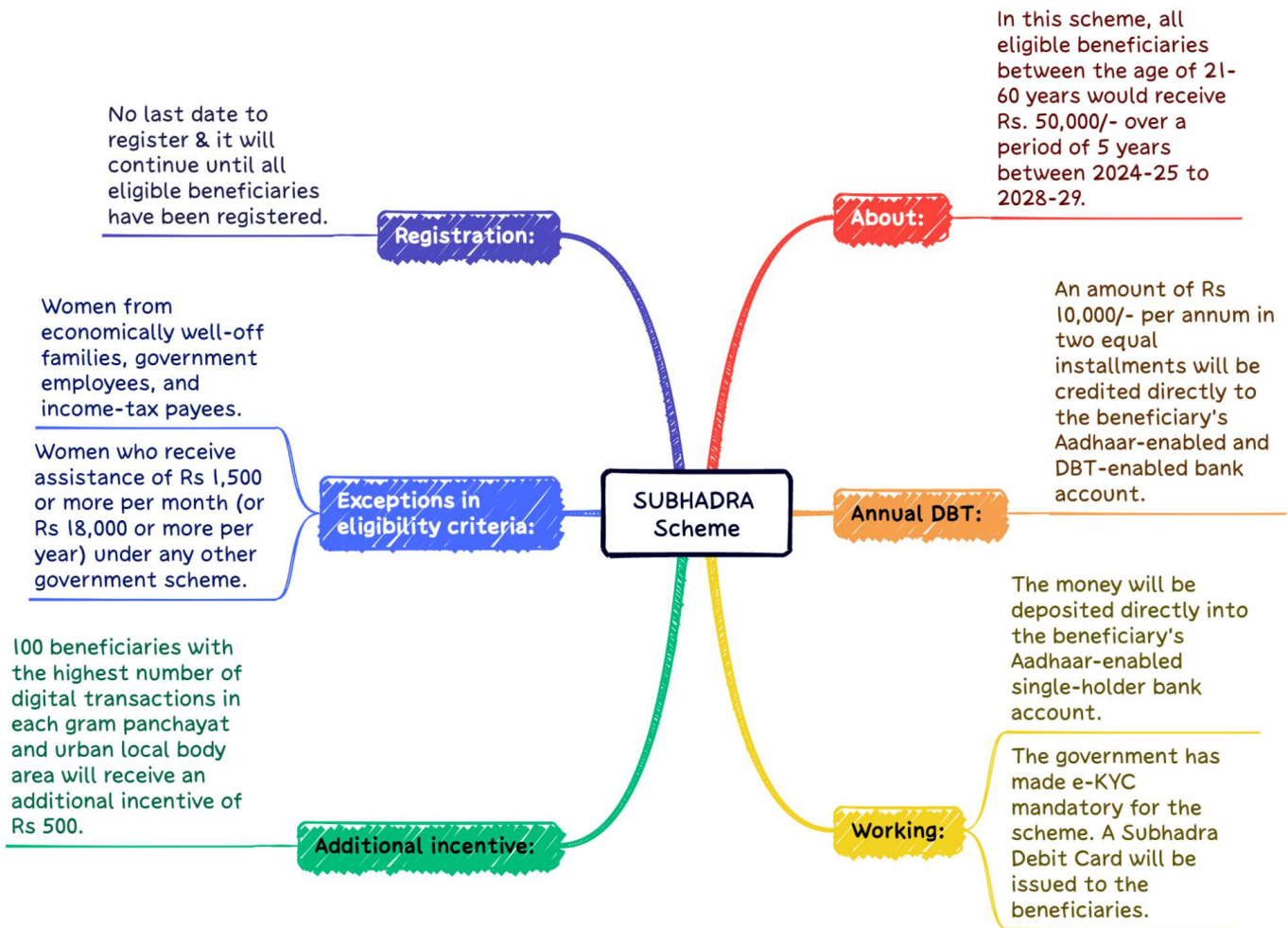
Participation of private sector in procurement operation to be piloted. For oilseeds, states have the option to roll out the scheme on pilot basis in selected district/ APMC(s) involving private stockist.

5. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launches 'SUBHADRA' – the largest women-centric scheme in Bhubaneswar, Odisha – PIB

Context >>

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched 'SUBHADRA', the flagship Scheme of Government of Odisha, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha recently.

SUBHADRA Scheme >>



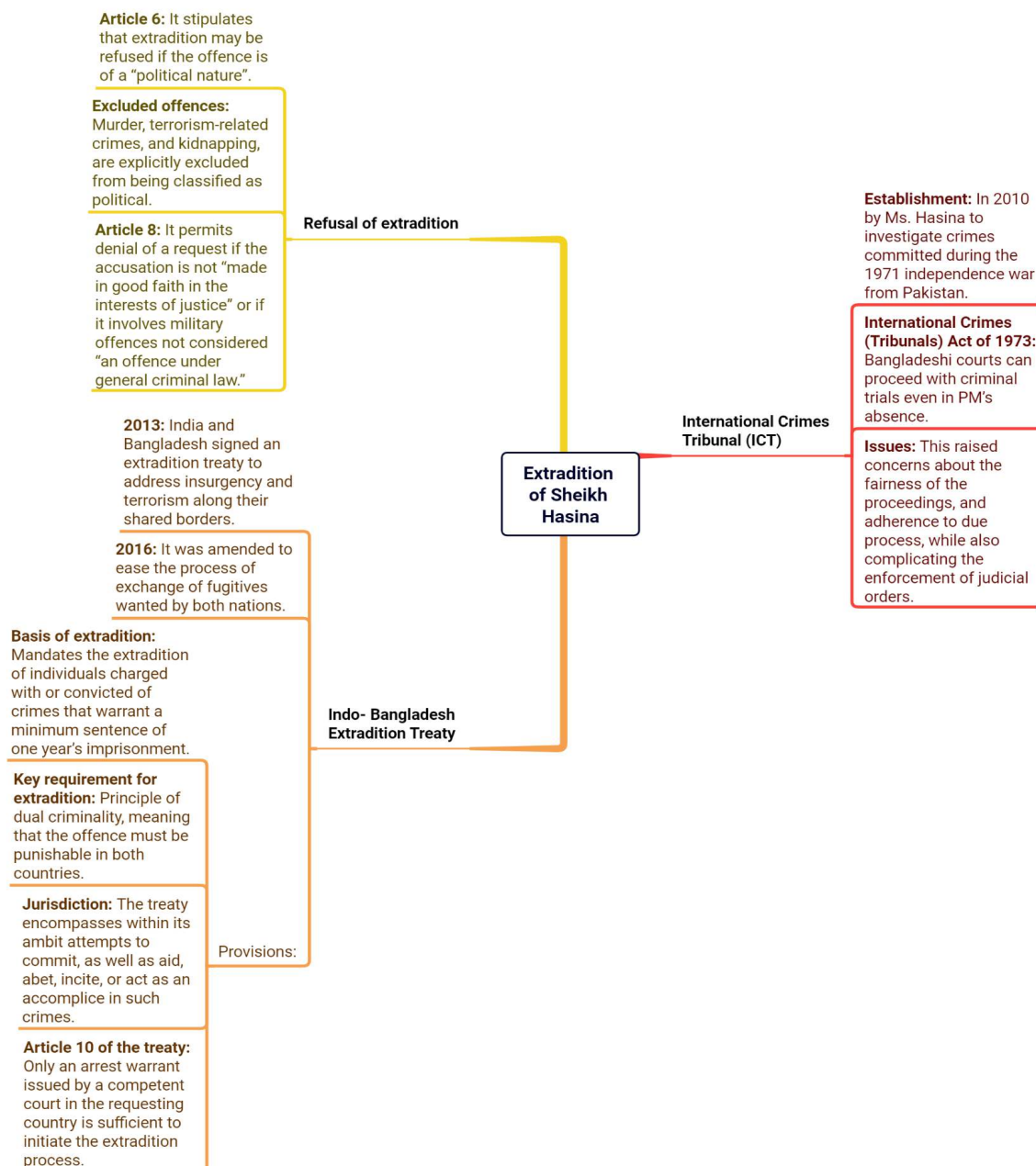
World Affairs

6. Can Sheikh Hasina be extradited? – The Hindu

Context »

The chief prosecutor of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has announced plans to seek the extradition of ousted leader Sheikh Hasina from neighbouring India. She had sought refuge in India after a mass uprising compelled her to step down.

Line of Actual Control (LAC) »



1. India to freeze talks with Pakistan on Indus waters – The Hindu/ Why India wants 'review & modification' of Indus Waters Treaty – Indian Express

Context »

A year-and-a-half after New Delhi issued a notice to Islamabad seeking the “modification” of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in January 2023, India has once again sent a formal notice to Pakistan, this time seeking the “review and modification” of the treaty.

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

■ The distribution of waters of the Indus and its tributaries between India and Pakistan is governed by the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

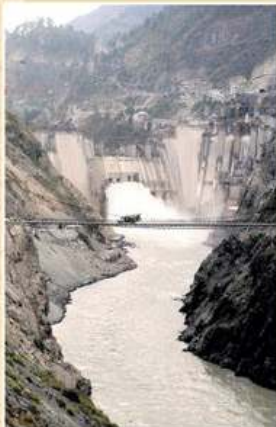
■ Was signed on Sept 19, 1960, between India, Pakistan and a representative of World Bank after eight years of negotiations.

■ Partition of India cut across the Indus river basin, which has the Indus river, plus five of its main tributaries.

Western rivers

Chenab, Jhelum, Indus

India's rights over these rivers: Limited — can set up certain irrigation, run-of-the-river power plants, very limited storage, domestic and non-consumptive use, all subject to conditions

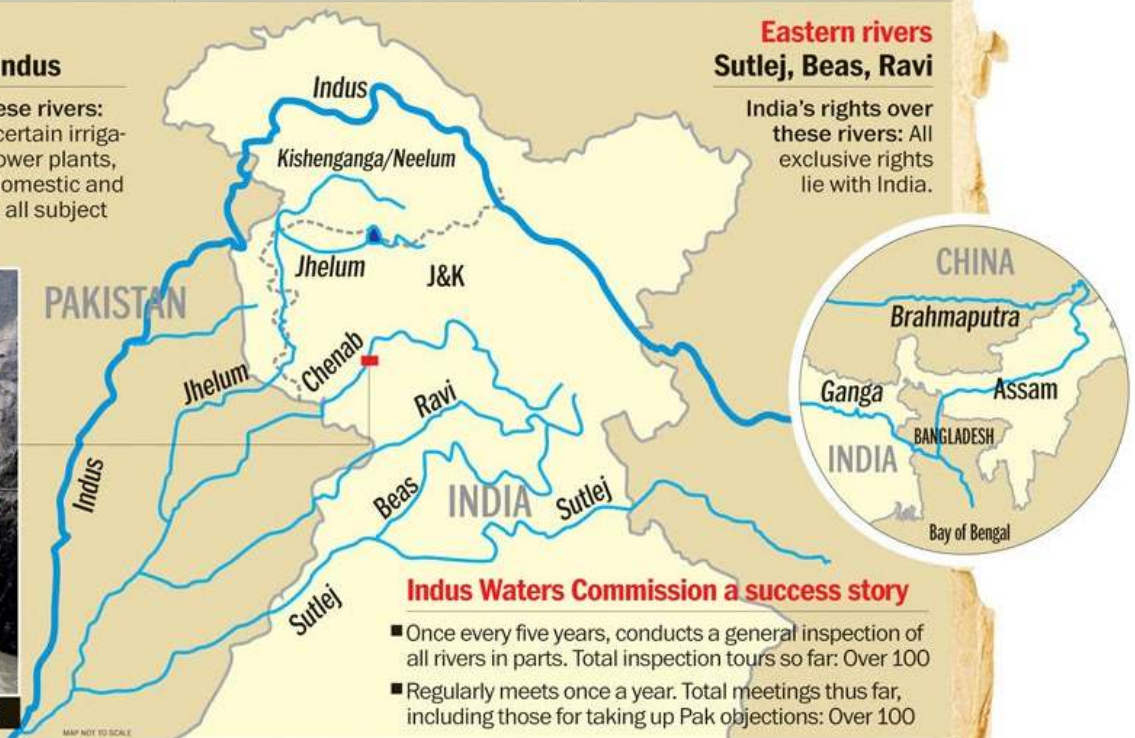


Baglihar dam on Chenab

Eastern rivers

Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

India's rights over these rivers: All exclusive rights lie with India.



Indus Waters Commission a success story

- Once every five years, conducts a general inspection of all rivers in parts. Total inspection tours so far: Over 100
- Regularly meets once a year. Total meetings thus far, including those for taking up Pak objections: Over 100

- **About:** Signed on September 19, 1960 in Karachi by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and then Pakistan President Mohammed Ayub Khan for the use of water available in the Indus and its tributaries.
- **Mediator:** World Bank
- **Water sharing:** India enjoys the “unrestricted use” of the three “Eastern Rivers [Beas, Ravi, Sutlej] except as otherwise expressly provided” whereas Pakistan got control of the three “Western Rivers” [Indus, Chenab, Jhelum].

Why does India want to renegotiate the treaty? >>

- Change in **population demographics**
- **Environmental issues**
- **Need to accelerate development of clean energy** to meet India's emission targets
- Impact of persistent **cross-border terrorism**
- **Needs of 2 Indian hydel (run-of-the-river) power projects in J&K:**
 - Kishanganga Project
 - Ratle Hydroelectric Project on Chenab in Kishtwar district

Economy

8. OIDAR services sector “untapped” – Indian Express

Context >>

Many providers of Online Information and Database Access or Retrieval (OIDAR) services, particularly those based abroad and unregistered with Indian tax authorities, represent a “relatively untapped” sector with “tremendous” revenue potential, according to a report by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI).

Online Information and Database Access or Retrieval (OIDAR) services >>

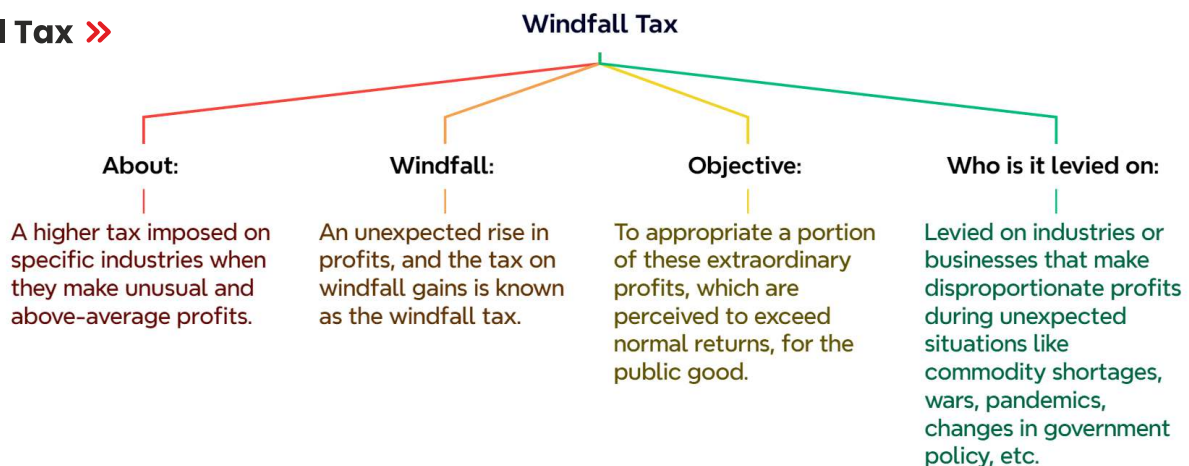
- **About:** A category of services provided through the medium of the internet, and received by the recipient online without having any physical interface with the supplier of such services.
- **Criteria to determine an OIDAR Service:** Their delivery is mediated by information technology over the internet/ electronic network and Services are automated and impossible to ensure in the absence of internet technology.

9. Government scraps windfall tax on crude petroleum – The Hindu

Context »

The government recently slashed windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to 'nil' per tonne with effect from September 18.

Windfall Tax »

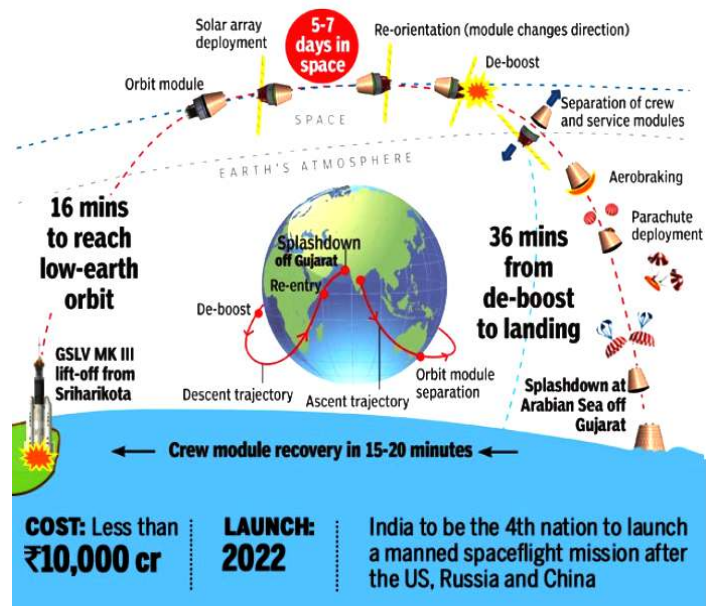


Sci. and Tech.

10. Gaganyaan – The Hindu

- **About:** India's first manned mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) which will circle Earth at a low-earth-orbit at an altitude of 300-400 km from earth for 3 days.
- **Schedule:**
 - 2 unmanned flights
 - 1 human spaceflight
- **Gaganyaan system module/ Orbital Module:** It will have three Indian astronauts, including a woman.
- **Payloads:**
 - **Crew module:** Spacecraft carrying human beings.
 - **Service module:** Powered by two liquid propellant engines.
 - **Emergency escape and emergency mission abort**
- **Launch Vehicle:** GSLV Mk III/ LVM-3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3) – the three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle.

MANNED MISSION

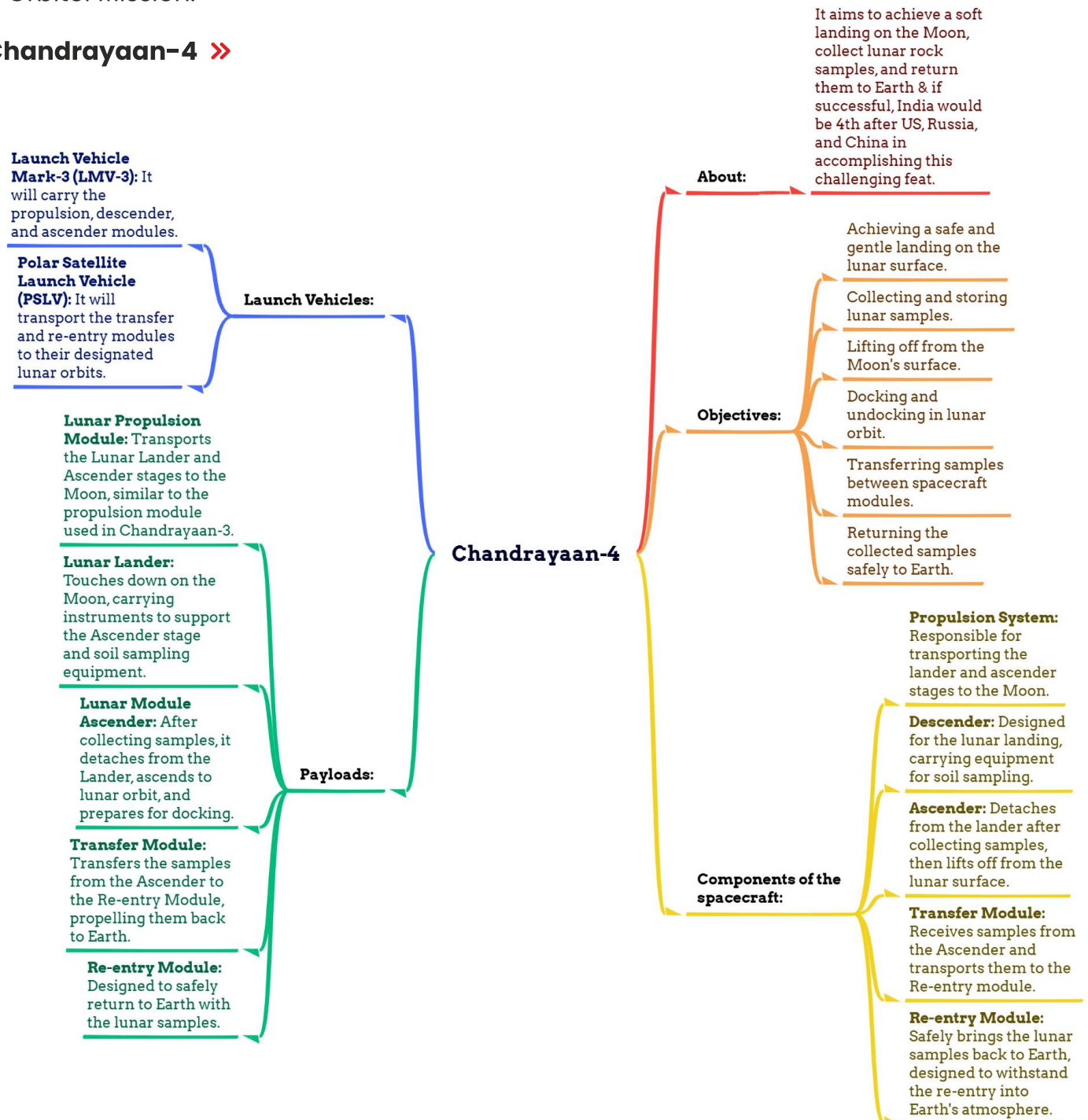


II. Chandrayaan-4, Venus orbiter get approval from Union Cabinet - The Hindu

Context »

Union Cabinet recently approved expansion of Chandrayaan-4 Mission to include preparatory measures for eventual manned moon mission. It also approved Venus Orbiter Mission.

Chandrayaan-4 »



12. EARTH TO TEMPORARILY GET A 'MINI-MOON': WHAT DOES IT MEAN? – Indian Express

Context »

According to a new study, the Earth's gravitational field will temporarily capture a small asteroid, called 2024 PT5, in late September. The asteroid will stay for two months before flying off into space. While gaining such a "mini-moon" is not new for Earth, the phenomenon is rare in most cases, asteroids either miss our planet, or burn up upon entering the Earth's atmosphere.

Mini-moon »

- **About:** Very small asteroids that fail to escape Earth's gravity and end up orbiting the planet for some time.
- **Hard to detect:** Only four mini-moons of Earth have ever been discovered,

2024 PT5

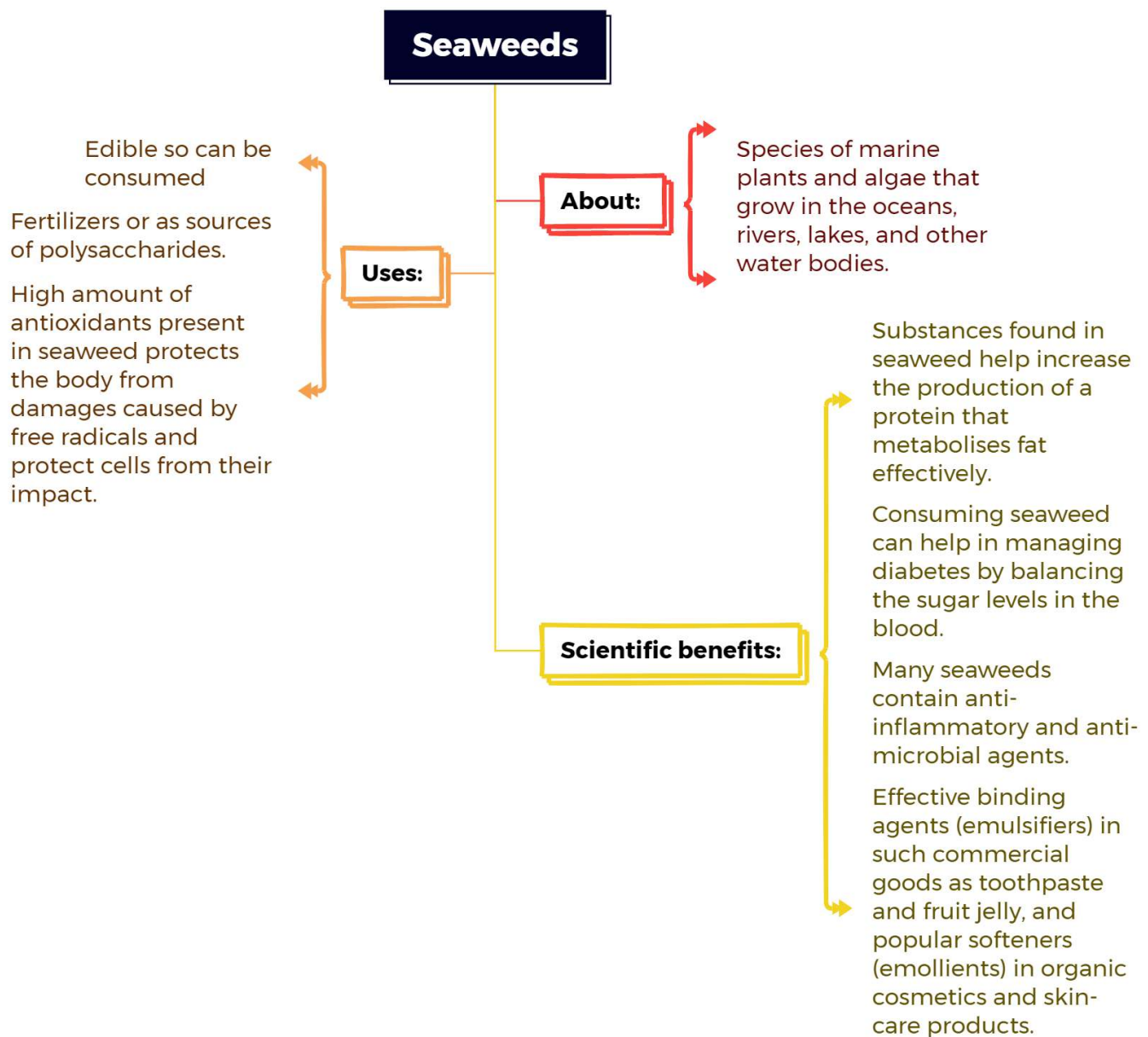
- **Discovery:** Discovered with the help of the NASA-funded Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (AT-LAS).
- **Dimensions:** Estimated to be just 33 feet long and is too small to be visible to the naked eye or through typical amateur telescopes.
- **Significance:**
 - The observations of 2024 PT5 will help scientists expand the knowledge of asteroids that pass close to the Earth and those that sometimes collide with it.
 - Many asteroids contain valuable minerals and water, which companies hope to extract one day and use for purposes such as rocket fuel.

13. CMFRI unit designated seaweed research centre of excellence - The Hindu

Context >>

The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has designated the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) as a centre of excellence for seaweed cultivation.

Seaweeds >>



14. Necrotising fasciitis – Indian Express

Context »

A 59-year-old British man from the Isles of Scilly, narrowly escaped death after a seemingly minor spider bite that turned into a life-threatening necrotising fasciitis.

Necrotising fasciitis/ Flesh-eating disease

