



27 November, 2023

Ayushman Bharat

Context: The Union government will now call the existing Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir' with the tagline 'Arogyam Parmam Dhanam.'

- The rebranded centers will retain the National Health Mission (NHM) logo, according to the provided communication.
- India has over 1.6 lakh Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs).
- The primary goal of AB-HWCs is to offer comprehensive primary healthcare, encompassing maternal and child health services, along with free essential drugs and diagnostic services in proximity to people's residences.
- The centers conduct screenings for various health issues, including hypertension, diabetes, and oral, breast, and cervical cancer.
- **About the Scheme**
 - Launched in 2018 as the world's largest health assurance scheme.
 - **Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
 - **Aim:** Achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) encompassing various types of care.
 - **Funding:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme, sharing expenditure between Central and State governments.
 - **Coverage:** Targets over 10 crore families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) based on SECC.
 - **Implementing Agency:** National Health Authority (NHA).
 - **Components:**
 - **Health and Wellness Centres (HWC):** Provides comprehensive primary care, including for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY):**
 - ✓ Offers health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
 - ✓ Covers pre-hospitalization and post-hospitalization expenses.
 - ✓ No restrictions on family size, age, or gender.
 - ✓ Benefits are portable across the country.
 - **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM):**
 - ✓ Launched in 2021 to provide Unique Digital Health IDs (UHID) for all Indian citizens.
 - ✓ Facilitates electronic access to health records.
 - **Status of Ayushman Bharat Scheme:**
 - Covers about 15.5 crore families, potentially 50% of India's population.
 - 11 states/UTs aim for 100% coverage.
 - 48% of treatments under the scheme availed by women.
 - Over 24 crore Ayushman Cards created.
 - Savings of more than Rs 1 lakh crore for beneficiaries.
 - Proportion of out-of-pocket expenditure on healthcare in India is 50.59%, the highest among emerging economies (World Bank).
 - **Success Attributes:**
 - Private sector participation through health benefit packages (HBPs).
 - Quick settlement of claims, with some states achieving settlements in less than 7 days.
 - Rewarding service providers with upfront payments for trustworthy records.
 - Guidance mechanism through dedicated Pradhan Mantri Arogya Mitras (PMAMs).
 - Interstate portability for patients.
 - Digitalized service delivery with real-time monitoring.
 - Privacy ensured in beneficiary details.
 - AI and ML technologies used to detect potential frauds.
 - Aadhaar-based authentication mandated.
 - Feedback mechanism through NHA's call center.
 - Inclusive treatment with packages designed for the transgender community.
 - Provides cashless secondary and tertiary inpatient care for various health conditions.

Special Category Status to States

Context: On November 22, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led Cabinet passed a resolution seeking the grant of special category status (SCS) to Bihar.

- The demand comes in the backdrop of the findings from the "Bihar Caste-based Survey, 2022", which revealed that nearly one-third of Bihar's population continues to live in poverty.
- **About Special Category States**
 - **Granting of Special Category Status:**
 - Initiated in 1969 by the Fifth Finance Commission, under Mahavir Tyagi's chairmanship.
 - Initially conferred on Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, and Nagaland due to social, economic, and geographic backwardness.
 - States meeting specific criteria, including challenging terrain, strategic borders, low per capita income, tribal populations, economic backwardness, and unviable state finances, qualify.

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- **Historical Perspective:**
 - Started with Assam, Nagaland, Jammu & Kashmir in 1969.
 - Five more states included between 1974 and 1979 (Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura).
 - Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram added in 1990.
 - Uttarakhand granted special status in 2001.
 - Telangana, as the newest state, received this status post its separation from Andhra Pradesh.
- **Criteria for Special Category Status:**
 - Decision based on criteria like resource shortage, low per capita income, non-viable state finances, economic and structural underdevelopment, tribal population, challenging terrain, strategic border locations, and sparse population.
 - The National Development Council, including the prime minister, union ministers, chief ministers, and commission members, oversees the decision-making.
- **States with Special Category Status:**
 - Presently, 11 states have special category status: Assam, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, and Telangana.
- **Benefits of Special Category Status:**
 - Central government covers 90% of state expenditures for centrally sponsored programs, with the remaining 10% as a zero-interest loan.
 - States receive preferential treatment in government funding applications.
 - Excise tax reductions to attract businesses.
 - 30% share of the total federal budget.
 - Access to debt reduction and exchange programs.
 - Exemption from various taxes to attract investments.
 - Preference in receiving central funds for development projects.
 - Option to carry over unused funds from one fiscal year to the next.
- **Concerns Related to Special Category Status:**
 - Concerns about new states seeking special status, potentially diluting benefits.
 - Existing benefits perceived as meagre in terms of economic impact for states.

Chavittu Nadakam

Context: The recent CUSAT Stampede in Kochi caused death of a young proponent of Chavittu Nadakam, Ann Riffa Roy.

➤ Origin and Location:

- Chavittu Nadakam, a vibrant Latin Christian classical art form, has its roots in Ernakulam district, Kerala, India.
- The birthplace is commonly believed to be Fort Kochi, a cultural hub in the region.

➤ Characteristics:

- This artistic expression is characterized by captivating make-up, intricate costumes, and precise gestures.
- Its presentation bears a striking resemblance to European opera, showcasing a rich blend of cultural influences.

➤ Etymology:

- The term 'Chavittu Nadakam' literally translates to a play that accentuates steps, with "Chavittu" holding significance in Malayalam.

➤ Overview:

- Flourishing among the Latin Christian communities along the Kerala coast, from Chavakkad in the north to Kollam in the south.
- Chavittu Nadakam seamlessly integrates acting, singing, dancing, and incorporates elements of the traditional martial art form, Kalaripayattu.
- Its artistic framework draws inspiration from the theatrical traditions of medieval Europe.

➤ History:

- Originating in Cochin, Chavittu Nadakam is a folk art form closely tied to Kerala's Latin Christian heritage.
- Tracing its roots to the arrival of Portuguese missionaries, it exhibits significant European influences in its costumes and presentation.
- Historical debates persist regarding its creation, with some attributing it to the cultural void sensed by the Portuguese upon their arrival.

➤ Performance:

- Traditionally performed on open stages, the wooden planks resonate with the rhythmic movements, but contemporary renditions may also occur indoors, even within church premises.
- The performers don glittering European costumes, with the stage overseen by a training master known as Annavi.
- Musicality forms the core of Chavittu Nadakam, with dance and instrumental music harmonizing to create a visually and aurally captivating experience.

➤ Stage:

- The performance stage, termed Thattu, is meticulously crafted from planks to produce resonant sounds upon each step.

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- The stage's dimensions, including a width of 16 inches and a length of 50-60 inches, contribute to the immersive auditory experience.
- Elements such as a large cross, chair, and musicians strategically enhance the visual backdrop.
- **Costumes:**
 - Chavittu Nadakam boasts alluring costumes, with characters adorned in attire reminiscent of ancient Greco-Roman soldiers and European royalty.
 - Crafting these costumes involves the use of colored papers and silk cassava velvet cloth, creating a visual spectacle.
- **Instruments:**
 - Traditional instruments like chenda, patathamper, maddalam, and elathalam form the backbone of Chavittu Nadakam's musical accompaniment.
 - Contemporary adaptations may introduce instruments such as tabla, fiddle, flute, and bulbul, expanding the auditory palette.
- **Roles:**
 - Katiyakaran, a whimsical clown-like character, engages the audience with light-hearted interpretations.
 - Stuti yogars, also known as sutradharas or balaparts, are played by young boys, contributing to the narrative.
 - Todaya penkal, male performers adopting female roles, sing praises of Mother Mary, showcasing slow, graceful steps.
 - Essential roles like Rajavu (King) and Manthri (Minister) are pivotal in the unfolding drama.
- **Practice:**
 - The preparation ritual involves lighting a lamp, paying respects to the Asan (master), and bowing to the drama book called Chuvadi.
 - Training spans two years, encompassing weapon proficiency, body language, and rhythmic steps inspired by Kalaripayattu.
 - The meticulous training culminates in a debut performance, initially within the teaching school (kalari) before stepping onto the stage.
- **Librettos:**
 - Chavittu Nadakam's narratives revolve around heroic episodes from the Bible or the exploits of Christian warriors.
 - Themes have evolved over centuries, shifting from historical and adventurous tales in the 16th century to spiritual and moral narratives in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- **Popular Plays:**
 - Charlemagne the Great (Carelman Charitham)
 - Life of Queen Brijeena (Brijeena Charitham)
 - St. Sebastian
 - David and Goliath (Daveedhum Goliyathum)
 - Alexander the Great (Mahanaya Alexander)
 - Death of Great Warriors (Veerayodhakkalude Anthyam)

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Madiga Community

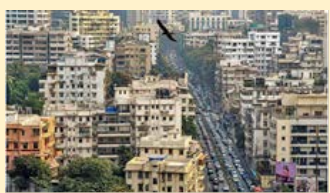


Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the formation of a committee to explore the sub-categorization of the Madiga community within the Scheduled Castes.

About Madiga Community:

- Madiga is a Telugu caste community, predominantly residing in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, with minor populations in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.
- They have diverse sub-castes like Bindla, Chindu, Dakkali and Mashti.
- The Madiga community had been struggling since 1994 for the sub-categorisation.
- Madiga community comprises over 50% of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Telangana.
- SCs represent just over 15% of the state's population according to the 2011 census.
- The priestly class is known as Madiga Dasari.
- Madiga Dandora movement was initiated in 1994 by Manda Krishna Madiga and Dandu Veeraiah Madiga.
- Documentaries and films like "1940 Lo Oka Gramam" and "Palasa 1978" depict caste-based societal dynamics and struggles faced by the Madiga community.

Amplifi 2.0 Portal



Recently, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs took a significant step forward with the launch of the Amplifi 2.0 portal.

About Amplifi 2.0 Portal:

- The Amplifi portal (Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive and Future-Ready Urban India) centralizes raw data from Indian cities.
- It facilitates data accessibility for academics, researchers and stakeholders, intending to support data-driven policymaking for urban development.
- It currently hosts data from 258 urban local bodies (ULBs) with information available for 150 cities.
- It offers a wide spectrum of urban-related information, covering diverse areas like diesel consumption and water quality testing.

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Dolomite Strategy



Recently, scientists have been investigating the cycling of solutions to facilitate the growth of dolomite crystals.

About Dolomite:

- Dolomite is a significant mineral composed of calcium magnesium carbonate ($\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$) and widely distributed throughout the Earth's crust.
- It frequently occurs alongside limestone formations.
- It forms through the chemical precipitation of calcium and magnesium in water that contains carbonate ions.
- It often occurs in sedimentary rocks and can have various colors, including white, gray, pink or even brown.
- Modern dolomite is primarily found in natural settings that experience fluctuations in pH or salinity.
- It is used in marine aquariums, Ornamental stone, horticulture, cement and iron and steel industries, etc.

Cosmic Rays



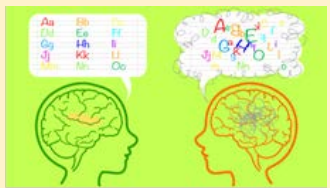
Recently, the scientists have detected an exceptionally powerful cosmic ray without a discernible origin.

About the Cosmic Rays:

- Cosmic rays are high-energy particles, primarily composed of protons and atomic nuclei that travel through space at nearly the speed of light.
- They originate from various sources such as supernovae, active galactic nuclei and other energetic cosmic events.
- Cosmic rays exhibit a wide spectrum of energies, ranging from low-energy particles originating from the sun to ultrahigh-energy cosmic rays (UHECRs) with incredibly high energies exceeding exa-electron volts (EeV).
- When cosmic rays enter the Earth's atmosphere, they interact, producing secondary particles that can reach the surface.

Instruments like telescopes, detectors and observatories are used to study cosmic rays, such as the Telescope Array experiment.

Dyslexia



About Dyslexia:

- Dyslexia is a specific learning disorder characterized by difficulties in accurate and/or fluent word recognition, spelling and decoding abilities.
- Individuals with dyslexia may struggle with reading comprehension, spelling and sometimes speech-related tasks.
- Dyslexia is associated with reduced activity in brain areas involved in language processing, affecting reading skills.
- Dyslexic individuals often experience challenges in processing and decoding written material.
- Dyslexia diagnosis involves assessment of reading abilities, language skills, and potential contributing factors.
- Multisensory teaching methods, specialized reading programs, and educational accommodations can help manage dyslexia.
- Impact and Coping Strategies:
- Dyslexia might lead to frustration, low self-esteem, and emotional challenges due to academic struggles.

IUCN Red List

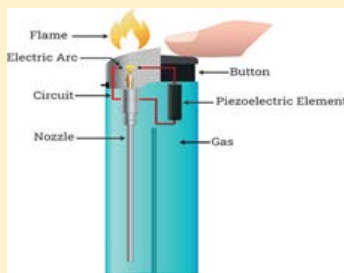


Recently, scientists and conservationists globally have criticized the IUCN Red List for being outdated and unreliable in accurately assessing species' extinction risks.

About IUCN Red List:

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List is a global inventory detailing the conservation status of various species, including animals, fungi, and plants.
- Established in 1964, it serves as a comprehensive tool for assessing the risk of extinction faced by species.
- It's a comprehensive and credible resource listing species' conservation statuses worldwide.
- Species are classified into nine categories: Not evaluated, Data deficient, Least concern, Near threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically endangered, Extinct in the wild and Extinct.
- Classification is based on criteria related to population size, decline rate, geographic range and other factors impacting the species' survival.
- It encompasses a vast array of species, currently listing 134,425 species, with 37,480 species under threat of extinction.

Piezoelectricity



- Piezoelectricity refers to the phenomenon where certain materials, such as quartz or ceramics like lead zirconate titanate (PZT), produce electric charges in response to mechanical stress.
- This property stems from the asymmetry of charges within molecules due to the unique crystal structures of these materials, resulting in the generation of electric current when stress is applied.
- Some materials exhibit an inverse effect, where applying an electric current leads to mechanical deformation in these materials.
- Piezoelectricity finds application in pressure sensors, accelerometers and acoustic devices, playing a crucial role in converting mechanical signals into electrical ones.

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Place in News

Lesbos Island

Recently, a cargo ship sank off the Greek island of Lesbos in stormy seas.

Location: Lesbos, also known as Lesvos, is a Greek island in the northeastern Aegean Sea. It is the third largest island in Greece.

Boundaries: Lesbos borders the Turkish coast to the north and east, separated by the Mytilini Strait from Asia Minor, with intruding gulfs of Kalloni and Gera along its southern coast.

Physical Features:

- Mount Lepetymnos (968 m / 3,176 ft) and Mount Olympus (967 m / 3,173 ft) are notable peaks dominating the island's northern and central areas.
- It is connected to numerous waterways including the straits of Bosphorus and Dardanelles as well as the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara.
- The island was connected to the Anatolian mainland during late Palaeolithic/Mesolithic times before the end of the Last Glacial Period.

Aegean Sea:

- The Aegean Sea is an elongated embayment situated between Europe and Asia.
- It serves as a crucial maritime connection linking the Balkans and Anatolia.
- In the northern region, the Aegean is connected to the Marmara Sea and the Black Sea.



Personality in News

Guru Nanak Dev

Recently, the President of India has greeted fellow-citizens on the eve of birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Guru Nanak Dev (1469-1538 AD)

- Guru Nanak Dev was born at Talwandi Rai Bhoi, near Lahore in Pakistan.
- He was the first of the 10 Sikh Gurus and the founder of Sikhism in the 15th century.
- He composed the Guru Granth Sahib having 974 hymns.
- He advocated for a casteless society, introducing practices like Langar, Pangat and Sangat.
- He promoted equality of all humans regardless of religion or caste, emphasizing the universal nature of humanity.
- He emphasized honest labor, sharing earnings with the needy and the importance of selfless service (Seva).
- He stressed women's equality, highlighting their significance in society.
- His teachings on equality, peace, and dialogue remain relevant for global leaders in fostering harmony and cooperation.
- Kartarpur Corridor was built to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev.



POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ Which state has received Geographical Indication (GI) tag for which cashews? - **Goa**
- ❖ Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform has been developed by? - **Stock Exchanges**
- ❖ The National Stock Exchange (NSE) signed MoU with which state to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) raise funds through the capital market? - **West Bengal**
- ❖ Which state has announced the ghol species as the state fish? - **Gujarat**
- ❖ Noa-Dihing music frog is a newly discovered species found in which state? - **Arunachal Pradesh**

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