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By saurabh Pandey



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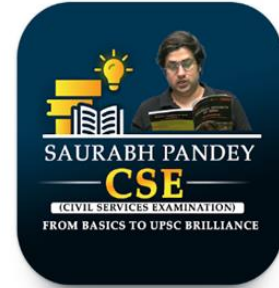
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NSAs of India, U.S. review progress on iCET, silent on Pannun investigation

Ajit Doval and Jake Sullivan resolve to prevent the 'leakage' of sensitive technologies to countries of 'concern'; they welcome the discussions on India's planned acquisition of MQ-9B drones, announce launch of a new semiconductor partnership between General Atomics and Indian firm 3rdiTech

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and his U.S. counterpart, Jake Sullivan, who is on a two-day visit to India, on Monday resolved to prevent the "leakage" of sensitive and dual-use technologies to countries of "concern" as they chaired the second meeting of the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET).

Mr. Sullivan arrived just hours after reports confirmed that Indian national Nikhil Gupta was extradited to the U.S. for alleged links to a plot to assassinate Sikh separatist Gurbhagat Singh Pannun. While neither side confirmed if the Pannun case was discussed, it was expected to be high on the agenda.

During the second iCET meeting, the two NSAs set the vision for the next chapter of the strategic technology partnership,

according to a joint fact sheet issued after the dialogue.

"They underscored their commitment to orienting our cooperation around breakthrough achievements in priority critical and emerging-technology areas, by focusing our efforts on co-production, co-development, and research and development opportunities to ensure we stay at the leading edge of innovation and enhancing coordination with like-minded nations to deliver secure, reliable, and cost-competitive technology solutions for the Indian and American people and our partners around the world," the fact sheet said.

Mr. Sullivan also held talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and later called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Met US NSA Jake Sullivan.

India is committed to further strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership for global good," Mr.



Cementing ties: U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan calls on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Modi said on X.

On Tuesday, both the NSAs are scheduled to address the India-U.S. iCET roundtable with industry heads, organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Mr. Sullivan's India visit was cancelled twice earlier due to geopolitical developments.

India and the U.S. are currently in advanced stages of talks for the purchase of 31 MQ-9B unmanned aerial vehicles and licensed

manufacture of General Electric GE-414 jet engines as well as the Stryker infantry vehicles.

"We welcome the discussions on India's planned acquisition of the MQ-9B platforms, the possible co-production of land warfare systems, and progress on other co-production initiatives outlined in the India-U.S. Roadmap for Defense Industrial Cooperation," the fact sheet said in this regard.

On semiconductors, a

priority area for both countries, the fact sheet announced the launch of a new strategic semiconductor partnership between General Atomics and Indian firm 3rdiTech to co-develop semiconductor design and manufacture of "precision-guided ammunition and other national security-focused electronics platforms".

The fact sheet also outlined several steps both countries would take in new and emerging areas which in a large way would also address dependency on China.

For instance, on rare-earth minerals, it said, "Promoting India's vital role in the Mineral Security Partnership, including through co-investing in a lithium resource project in South America and a rare earths deposit in Africa, to responsibly and sustainably diversify critical mineral supply chains."

The ambitious iCET was announced by Mr. Modi and U.S. President Joseph

Biden on the sidelines of the Quad Summit in Tokyo in May 2022 and was launched by the NSAs in January 2023 comprising key technology sectors including space, semiconductors, advanced telecommunications, artificial intelligence, quantum science, biotechnology, and clean energy.

Subsequently, new areas were included including biotechnology, critical minerals and rare earths processing technologies, digital connectivity, digital public infrastructure and advanced materials.

Pannun investigation

Indian national Mr. Gupta, 52, was arrested in the Czech Republic last year at the request of the U.S. government over the plot against Pannun.

India, which has come under intense pressure from the U.S. and other countries, has instituted a high-level investigation into the matter.

What is iCET??

What is iCET?

- The Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies is a framework agreed upon by India and the U.S. for cooperation on critical and emerging technologies in areas including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors and wireless telecommunication.
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- It was launched in January 2023 to strengthen their strategic partnership and drive technology and defence cooperation.
 - Mr. Modi and Mr. Biden first announced the framework on the sidelines of the Quad meeting in Tokyo in May 2022.
 - “The United States and India affirm that the ways in which technology is designed, developed, governed, and used should be shaped by our shared democratic values and respect for universal human rights
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What are the focus areas of the initiative?

- **Primarily, the iCET seeks to position New Delhi and Washington D.C. as “trusted technology partners” to build supply chains and support the coproduction and codevelopment of item**
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- **Key takeaways include setting up a research agency partnership to drive collaboration in areas like AI; developing a new defence industrial cooperation roadmap to accelerate technological cooperation for joint development and production; developing common standards in AI;**
 - **developing a roadmap to accelerate defence technological cooperation and ‘innovation bridge’ to connect defence startups;**
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- **supporting the development of a semiconductor ecosystem; strengthening cooperation on human spaceflight; advancing cooperation on development in 5G and 6G; and adopting OpenRAN network technology in India.**
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- , a new initiative to advance cutting edge technology cooperation, known as the India U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUSX), is set to be launched during the visit.
 - India and the U.S. have also concluded a roadmap for 'Defence Industrial Cooperation' to guide the policy direction for the next few years.
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- **The two countries have also established a Strategic Trade Dialogue to remove regulatory “barriers” and review existing export control norms to take forward strategic technology and trade collaborations envisaged under iCET**
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The Titan submersible, operated by OceanGate Expeditions, imploded on its way to explore the wreck of the Titanic on June 18, 2023. AP

One year after Titan's fatal dive, explorers vow to pursue ocean's secrets

Associated Press

The deadly implosion of an experimental submersible en route to the deep-sea grave of the Titanic last June has not dulled the desire for further ocean exploration, despite lingering questions about the disaster.

June 19 marks one year since the Titan vanished on its way to the historic wreckage site in the North Atlantic Ocean. After a five-day search that captured attention around the world, authorities said the vessel had been destroyed and all five people on board had died.

Concerns have been raised about whether the Titan was destined for disaster because of its unconventional design and its creator's refusal to submit to independent checks that are standard in the industry.

The US Coast Guard convened a high-level investigation into what happened, but officials said the inquiry is taking longer than the initial 12-month time frame, and a planned public hearing to discuss their findings won't happen for at least another two months.

Meanwhile, deep-sea exploration continues undeterred. Numerous ocean explorers have said they are confident undersea exploration can continue safely in a post-Titan world.

"It's been a desire of the scientific community to get down into the ocean," said Greg Stone, a veteran ocean explorer and friend of Titan operator Stockton Rush, who died in the implosion. "I have not noticed any difference in the desire to

Deep-sea exploration continues undeterred. Numerous ocean explorers have said they are confident undersea exploration can continue safely in a post-Titan world.

go into the ocean, exploring," OceanGate, a company co-founded by Rush that owned the submersible, suspended operations in early July. A company spokesperson declined to comment.

David Concannon, a former adviser to OceanGate, said he will mark the anniversary privately with a group of people who were involved with the company or the submersible's expeditions over the years, including scientists, volunteers and mission specialists.

The Titan had been chronicling the Titanic's decay and the underwater ecosystem around the sunken ocean liner in yearly voyages since 2017.

The craft made its last dive on June 18, 2023, a Sunday morning, and lost contact with its support vessel about two hours later. When it was reported overdue that afternoon, rescuers rushed blimps, planes and other equipment to the area.

All hope was extinguished on June 22, when the Coast Guard announced that debris had been found near the Titanic on the ocean floor. Authorities have since recovered the submersible's intact endcap, debris, and presumed human remains from the site.

In addition to Rush, the implosion killed two members of a prominent Pilseener family, Shalanda Dawood and his son Sukman Dawood, British adventurer Hamish Harding, and Titanic expert Paul Henri Nargeot.

The group's president Richard Garriot believes the world is in a new golden age of exploration thanks to technological advances that have opened frontiers and provided new tools to more thoroughly study already visited places. The Titanic



How did the submersible (Titan) implode?

- There is no definitive proof of what happened, but experts assume the implosion happened on Sunday — the first day of the dive.
- The Titan was made of carbon fiber and titanium, materials thought to withstand the pressure at depths of up to 4,000 meters. The craft's hull was designed to protect the crew from the water pressure.
- The water pressure 3,800 meters down at the site of the Titanic wreck is roughly 400 atmospheres (6,000 PSI) — about the same as having 35 elephants on your shoulders.
- "Any deep divers know how unforgiving the abyssal plain is: going undersea is as, if not more, challenging than going into space from an engineering perspective,"



- **Experts have questioned the use of titanium and carbon fiber for deep diving, as they have different properties.**
- **Titanium is elastic and can adapt to ranges of stresses and pressures without permanent strain on the material. Carbon fiber on the other hand is stiffer and non-elastic, often prone to cracking.**
- **the differences in the materials could have created a defect in the hull, triggering “an instantaneous implosion due to the underwater pressure.”**

Constitutional respect should not be reduced to optics



Prime Minister Narendra Modi never stops surprising the nation with optics. On June 7, 2024, at the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance meeting of newly elected Members of Parliament, Mr. Modi, upon his arrival, paid his respects to the Constitution of India by touching the book to his forehead. Interestingly, the setting of the meeting was the Samvidhan Sadan of the newly built Parliament.

But does Mr. Modi respect the Constitution of India in letter and spirit? His actions so far as the Prime Minister since 2014, or for that matter as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, show otherwise.

In a parliamentary democracy, the Prime Minister is only the head of the Council of Ministers. Article 74 of the Constitution mandates: "There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice."

Pitching for 'responsibility'

B.R. Ambedkar and his fellow framers wisely chose the parliamentary system over the presidential system because "Looking at it from the point of view of responsibility, a non-Parliamentary Executive being independent of Parliament tends to be less responsible to the Legislature, while a Parliamentary Executive being more dependent upon a majority in Parliament become more responsible." It was hoped that the assessment of responsibility of the executive is both daily and periodic; the daily assessment is done by Members of Parliament in the form of questions, resolutions, no-confidence motions, adjournment motions and debates on addresses. Periodic assessment is done by the electorate every five years. Thus, the framers preferred "more responsibility to more stability".

On June 9, 2024, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers were administered the oath of office and secrecy by the President of India. But it was only after the first cabinet meeting on the evening of June 10 that the portfolios of Ministers were announced. Yet, on the same day, the Prime Minister cleared the file that sanctioned the release of the seventeenth instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, the farmers' welfare scheme, for ₹20,000 crore. Could the Prime Minister at all have done so? And was it within his purview under the Rules of Business? Such a scheme will be under the Ministry of Agriculture with its working regulated by the Ministry of Finance, Department of



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B.R. Ambedkar seems to have predicted today's complete political disregard for

pre-emptive and perhaps unauthorised action? It is optics.

The first cabinet, which met without the allocation of portfolios, also took the decision "to provide assistance to three crore additional rural and urban households for the Construction of houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana". Could this at all have been done by a cabinet sans portfolios? Which was the Ministry that had initiated the proposal? Was the agenda circulated? Were Ministers aware of the details? Why this hurry? Optics.

Yet again, without reconstituting the Cabinet Committee after the formation of the new government, the Prime Minister extended the tenures of the National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and P.K. Mishra as the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. This was done under the garb of the old "Appointments Committee of the Cabinet", which, incidentally, comprises the Prime Minister and the Home Minister.

On constitutional morality

So, what happens to coalition dharma?

These events show a complete disregard for the Constitution by the Prime Minister. Regrettably, not one Minister or bureaucrat who is bound by constitutional details and controls raised any objections. Why?

B.R. Ambedkar was aware of these problems. On November 4, 1948, before the Constituent Assembly, he said that "Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated. We must realize that our people have yet to learn it. Democracy in India is only a top-dressing on an Indian soil, which is essentially undemocratic."

So how did this Great Son of India predict today's Modi? Because, to him, constitutional morality meant "a paramount reverence for the forms of the Constitution" and those forms of the Constitution must be sacred in the eyes of both those who are in power and his opponents. To ensure this, the framers provided administrative details in the Constitution of India.

Article 77, thereupon, provides that "The President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business".

In recent times, the functioning of the Government of India shows a complete negation of the cabinet system and collective responsibility to the President and Parliament. There is an extraordinary amassing of power in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) which is destroying the

(Allocation of Business) Rules, as they stand today, allocate only business to the PMO – "To provide Secretarial Assistance to the PM". On the contrary, they provide that "The business of the Government of India shall be transacted in the Ministries, Departments, Secretariats and Offices specified in the First Schedule to these Rules". Also, the distribution of subjects is provided in the Second Schedule. Even the Cabinet Secretariat is only to provide "Secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees" and enforce the "Rules of Business".

So, why is there a complete breakdown of the constitutional framework and ethos? Bhakti.

The advent of constitutional dictatorship

B.R. Ambedkar did warn that Bhakti in life is good for the salvation of the soul. But in politics, it is the sure path to dictatorship. What we are witnessing is constitutional dictatorship, something that the framers were strongly against.

Manipur has been burning for over a year. Yet the Prime Minister has not found the time to visit the State much less resolve the existential threat to the State. Had there been an Opposition government in power in Manipur, President's Rule would have been foisted on the State under Article 356 long back. Does the Prime Minister show any urgency to solve serious challenges such as poverty, ever increasing unemployment, inflation (actual) or even resolving the Kashmir situation? No. Why? These are thorny issues and do not provide instant optics.

The Prime Minister's campaign in the recently concluded general election is living proof of a complete disregard for constitutional morality. While on the campaign trail, he repeatedly attacked the largest minority community in the country, forgetting that secularism runs through the foundation of the Constitution. He belittled the Opposition in every speech forgetting that under our democracy, the Opposition has a place of honour. Yet, not one institution or its guardian stood up to remind him, much less stop him. The Prime Minister, as election laws stand today, is liable to be disqualified from Parliament. But who has courage in a nation where there is fear stalking in every nook and corner? So much for democracy.

So, will the government's coalition partners and the newly rejuvenated Opposition remind the Prime Minister of the need to adhere to constitutional morality? So far, they have failed us: the people, for whom the Constitution created the government of the people, by the

Constitutional morality

- **Constitutional morality entails the adherence to constitutional norms within a democratic system.**
- **It goes beyond the literal interpretation to encompass a commitment to values such as sovereignty, social justice, and equality in constitutional adjudication.**
- **The term was first coined by British historian George Grote in his twelve-volume work, *A History of Greece*. Grote discussed the reforms of the Athenian Constitution by Cleisthenes – a statesman regarded as the founder of Athenian democracy.**

- **defines constitutional morality as the norms and procedures guiding decision-making in cases where the constitution is silent or grants discretionary power.**
- **But constitutional morality is now commonly used to refer to the substance of a constitution itself. According to this perspective, being subject to constitutional morality means being subject to the substantial moral implications inherent in a constitution.**



Though the term constitutional morality is not explicitly used in the Indian Constitution, it is deeply embedded in several of its sections:

- 1. Preamble:** It outlines the principles that underpin our democracy, including justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.
- 2. Fundamental Rights:** It safeguards individuals' rights against the arbitrary use of state power. Notably, the Supreme Court allows for the enforcement of these rights under Article 32.
- 3. Directive Principles:** They provide guidelines for the state to pursue the goals set by the constitution's framers, drawing from Gandhian, socialist, and liberal intellectual philosophies.
- 4. Fundamental Duties:** Alongside their rights, citizens also have responsibilities to the nation.



5. Checks and Balances: It includes judicial review of legislative and executive actions, legislative oversight of the executive, etc.

SC VIEW

- 1. In the 2015 Krishnamoorthy case, the court emphasised that constitutional morality is essential for good governance.**
- 2. In the case of Union of India vs. Government of the NCT of Delhi, it was ruled that high-ranking officials must adhere to constitutional morality and uphold the ideals outlined in the Constitution to prevent the arbitrary use of authority.**
- 3. The Court, in the Government of NCT of Delhi case (2018), likened constitutional morality to a “second basic structure doctrine”, emphasising its role in curbing arbitrary authority.**

The last continent must remain a pristine wilderness



The 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM-46), that was held in Kochi, Kerala last month, highlighted the ongoing debate on Antarctic tourism. While the meeting sought to bring in a regulatory framework, it ultimately fell short of a definitive solution. This reflects the complex challenges of managing tourism in a region governed by international consensus and where the environment is rapidly changing.

Since the early 1990s, Antarctic tourism has witnessed a dramatic surge in tourist numbers, which have exploded from a few thousand to over 1,00,000 in the 2022-23 season. The International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) estimates a figure of 1,18,089 tourists in 2023-2024. The United States and China account for more than 40% of tourists to the Antarctic. This growth is attributed to increased global interest in adventure travel and a desire to experience Antarctica's unique landscapes and wildlife. Tourists typically embark on multi-day expeditions on small to medium-sized ships, with some opting for larger cruises or fly-sail operations. Activities range from wildlife observation and photography to mountain climbing and skiing.

Antarctic tourism offers educational and economic benefits but also raises significant environmental concerns. Increased human presence disrupts wildlife, damages fragile ecosystems, and risks introducing invasive species. Ship traffic pollutes pristine waters, and tourism adds to the global carbon footprint. Climate change exacerbates these issues by opening new areas for tourism while increasing ecosystem vulnerability. The balance between scientific research, responsible tourism, and environmental protection is under intense pressure.

Gaps in the regulatory framework

The current governance framework for Antarctic tourism is fragmented and lacks clear regulations. The Antarctic Treaty, that came into force in 1961, prioritises peaceful use and scientific research. While the Madrid Protocol offers broad



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Prioritising science-based decision-making will enable a sustainable future for Antarctic tourism

environmental guidelines, it lacks specific tourism regulations. The responsibility for day-to-day management falls largely on the IAATO, a self-regulatory industry body. Many believe IAATO's guidelines are inadequate to address the growing environmental pressures.

The ATCM is the primary platform for international cooperation on Antarctic issues. Despite recognising the need for a comprehensive tourism regulatory framework, the ATCM-46 failed to reach a consensus. Unanimous agreement from all consultative parties is required for decisions, often slowing action and allowing national interests to impede progress. While some countries push for strong regulations, others prioritise economic benefits or interpret Antarctic principles differently. The current geopolitical climate further complicates international cooperation on Antarctic governance.

Despite the limitations, the ATCM-46 made some progress. The meeting focused on developing a "comprehensive, flexible, and dynamic" framework for regulating tourism and non-governmental activities. A newly established working group will lead this effort over the next year. This signifies a renewed commitment to address the challenges of the Antarctic. Antarctica needs stronger measures to mitigate tourism impacts, as there are gaps in the current governance frameworks. The Antarctic Treaty System and the Madrid Protocol offer broad guidelines, but daily management relies heavily on self-regulation by IAATO, which many believe is inadequate for protecting wildlife and ecosystems.

A historical perspective on the evolution of discussions around tourism regulation is also valuable. Discussions on tourism regulation have been a point of debate at ATCM meetings since the 1960s. A proposed tourism annex introduced in 1991 failed to gain consensus, leading to the current reliance on IAATO's self-regulation. Since a 2004 expert meeting on tourism, discussions have grown more frequent, with concerns encompassing environmental impacts, disruption of research programmes, and safety issues.

However, the ATCM's fragmented approach has led to non-binding guidelines rather than comprehensive regulation.

The limitations of the consensus rule are a recurring theme. The requirement for unanimous approval from all consultative parties has often hindered action. Proposals such as banning permanent tourism facilities have failed due to a lack of consensus, with objections emerging from conflicts with domestic laws, sovereignty issues, and differing views on Antarctic principles.

Understanding the true reasons for objections and finding flexible compromises are essential. The consensus rule's limitations mean activities are permitted if they comply with the Antarctic Treaty and Protocol, leading to "decision making by non-decision making". This essentially allows unregulated activities to continue in the absence of a clear framework.

India's line

At the ATCM 44 (2022), concerns about tourism's impact on Antarctic research, conservation, and the environment were raised. The importance of monitoring the impacts of tourism was emphasised, and India was emphatic on addressing tourism issues. Resolution 5 (2022) advised against building tourism-related structures with significant environmental impacts. Calls for a comprehensive debate on Antarctic tourism continued between ATCM 44 and ATCM 45, with a 2023 workshop highlighting the need for governance action. Despite the lack of international consensus, India enacted its own Antarctic Law in 2022.

Finding a sustainable future for Antarctic tourism requires a multi-pronged approach. Strengthening environmental protection, implementing robust monitoring programmes, and fostering international cooperation are crucial. The recent efforts at ATCM-46 offer a glimmer of hope. By prioritising science-based decision-making and having engagement with all stakeholders, we can ensure that Antarctica remains a pristine wilderness for generations to come, while also recognising the potential benefits of responsible tourism.

The 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM-46)

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- **While the meeting sought to bring in a regulatory framework, it ultimately fell short of a definitive solution. This reflects the complex challenges of managing tourism in a region governed by international consensus and where the environment is rapidly changing**

- **Antarctic tourism offers educational and economic benefits but also raises significant environmental concerns.**
- **Increased human presence disrupts wildlife, damages fragile ecosystems, and risks introducing invasive species.**
- **Ship traffic pollutes pristine waters, and tourism adds to the global carbon footprint.**
- **Climate change exacerbates these issues by opening new areas for tourism while increasing ecosystem vulnerability**

Gaps in the regulatory framework



- **The current governance framework for Antarctic tourism is fragmented and lacks clear regulations.**
- **The Antarctic Treaty, that came into force in 1961, prioritises peaceful use and scientific research.**
- **While the Madrid Protocol offers broad environmental guidelines, it lacks specific tourism regulations.**
- **The responsibility for day-to-day management falls largely on the IAATO, (The International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) ‘) a self-regulatory industry body**

ATCM



- **The ATCM is the primary platform for international cooperation on Antarctic issues. Despite recognising the need for a comprehensive tourism regulatory framework, the ATCM-46 failed to reach a consensus.**
- **Despite the limitations, the ATCM-46 made some progress.**
- **The meeting focused on developing a “comprehensive, flexible, and dynamic” framework for regulating tourism and non-governmental activities.**
- **A newly established working group will lead this effort over the next year.**



- **This signifies a renewed commitment to address the challenges of the Antarctic. Antarctica needs stronger measures to mitigate tourism impacts, as there are gaps in the current governance frameworks.**
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SAWS ON MERCENARIES IN WAR ZONES

Indian nationals tricked by the promise of lucrative jobs in Russia have died fighting on the frontlines. As states are increasingly hiring private military companies to operate in conflict zones – can they qualify as mercenaries under international law? How can India secure the interests of its overseas migrant workers?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

In June 11, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) acknowledged the tragic loss of two Indian nationals who were recruited by the Russian Army amidst the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The MEA in a press statement said that the Indian Embassy in Moscow has strongly raised this issue with the Russian Ambassador in New Delhi and authorities in Moscow, seeking the swift release and return of all Indian nationals currently serving in the Russian Army.

In February, *The Hindu* reported for the first time that Indians were getting killed while fighting on behalf of Russia in the Ukraine war. Over the past year, nearly 100 Indians have been recruited by the Russian Army after being reportedly duped by agents with the lure of money and a Russian passport. Contracts signed by these recruits stipulate a "no leave or exit policy" before six months of service, with salaries amounting to ₹1.5 lakh to ₹2 lakh per month. In January, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree simplifying the process of obtaining Russian citizenship for foreigners who sign a minimum of one-year contract with the Army.

At least 30 Indians have so far contacted the MEA and the Indian Embassy in Moscow, seeking help to return. The deaths of two Indian nationals highlight a disturbing reality – Indians are increasingly falling prey to labour trafficking rackets after being unable to secure jobs domestically leading to their recruitment as mercenaries in international armed conflicts.

What has been the MEA's response?

The MEA has issued a press note advising Indians to exercise caution while seeking employment opportunities in Russia. In March, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said that it had filed a first information report (FIR) booking 15 individuals and four companies for their alleged role in the "trafficking of gullible Indian nationals to Russia and duping them for better employment and high paying jobs". In May, the central agency divulged that it had made four arrests in the case.

Who are mercenaries?

The distinction between conventional combatants and mercenaries is a fundamental cornerstone of international humanitarian law (IHL). A combatant is typically a member of the armed forces of a party to the conflict, whereas a mercenary is recruited from a third-party state unrelated to the conflict. Mercenaries usually engage in hostilities motivated primarily by personal gain as opposed to virtues of patriotism associated with regular combatants.

Article 47 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions (AP1) envisages six cumulative conditions for a person to qualify as a mercenary. The person (i) should be specially recruited locally or abroad in order to fight in an armed conflict, (ii) has taken a direct part in the hostilities, (iii) is motivated to take part in the hostilities essentially by the desire for private gain and, in fact, is promised, by or on behalf of a party to the conflict, material compensation substantially in excess of that promised or paid to combatants of similar ranks and functions



Mercenaries qualify for humane treatment in accordance with the fundamental guarantees of humanitarian law as outlined under Article 75 Article 47 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions.

in the armed forces of that party, (iv) is neither a national of a party to the conflict nor a resident of territory controlled by a party to the conflict, (v) is not a member of the armed forces of a party to the conflict, (vi) has not been sent by a state which is not a party to the conflict on official duty as a member of its armed forces.

Under customary IHL, being a mercenary itself does not constitute a specific crime. However, if captured, they are not entitled to prisoner-of-war status or any protected categories under the Geneva Conventions. This allows for their prosecution for war crimes or other grave breaches of humanitarian law.

They may also face charges under the domestic laws of the detaining nation. Nevertheless, mercenaries qualify for humane treatment in accordance with the fundamental guarantees of humanitarian law, as outlined under Article 75 of the AP1.

However, over time, African states began expressing reservations about this definition, as it only addressed international armed conflicts and overlooked civil wars, where mercenary activities were most prevalent. This led to the adoption of the Organization of African Unity Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism in Africa in 1977 which included a more expansive definition of mercenaries.

Similarly, in 1989, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries and also promoted inter-State cooperation in this regard.

The Charter also widened the prevailing definition of mercenaries as provided under the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions to include "persons recruited for the purpose of participating in a concerted act of violence aimed at overthrowing a government or otherwise undermining the constitutional order of a State, or at

undermining the territorial integrity of a State.

What are the limitations of the existing regime?

One of the major challenges of the existing regulatory regime is the lack of a clear, unequivocal, and comprehensive legal definition of what constitutes a mercenary. This is compounded by the fact that the domestic laws of most states do not criminalise mercenary activity.

Additionally, the definition outlined under Article 47 of the AP1 does not include within its ambit foreign military personnel integrated into the armed forces of another state – such as the Gurkhas (soldiers from Nepal who have served in the British Army since the 1900s). It also fails to establish mechanisms for holding accountable foreigners employed as advisors and trainers.

Dr. Shubha Prasad, Assistant Professor of International Relations at the Hertie School, Berlin highlighted the emerging trend of private military and security companies (PMSCs) gradually taking over roles previously associated with mercenaries. "These for-profit companies provide a range of services from combat to food supplies for troops. The legal framework surrounding the operations of PMSCs is more loosely defined and relies heavily on a country's domestic legal capacity," she said.

For instance, the operations of the controversial Wagner Group in Russia have been increasingly subjected to international scrutiny. Despite being registered as a private entity, it reportedly includes Russian Army veterans among its ranks. While the direct participation of the Wagner Group has been evident in the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the Kremlin had never formally acknowledged its connections with it. This has posed challenges in calling for accountability and assessing whether the group qualifies as a mercenary organisation. However, following the military corporation's aborted attempt at a coup last year,

President Vladimir Putin acknowledged that it had received tens of billions of rubles in public money from the government.

"Signatories to the Montreux Doctrine have committed to stronger state oversight of private military and security actors. States are obliged to check whether PMSCs comply with international humanitarian and human rights laws. However, neither India nor Russia is a signatory to this document. That does not preclude India from imposing tighter restrictions on the recruitment of Indian nationals for such enterprises. Furthermore, we need stronger international legal frameworks to safeguard individuals who are coerced or misled into contracting with PMSCs", Dr. Prasad added.

What is the way forward

According to Dr. Prasad, the Indian government should develop a robust policy framework to address distress migration and implement strict measures against human trafficking. "India should adopt a two-pronged approach," she suggested. "Long term preventive measures should target the underlying economic factors that are driving people to leave the country, while immediate measures should prioritise educating the public and ensuring strong pre-travel vetting for Indians going to Russia or other conflict zones".

For instance, she pointed out that pre-travel approval from the MEA for travel to Russia could be another measure to check if there are suspicious cases of human trafficking. This will also enable the identification of companies that are exploiting Indians, she added.

In 2012, Bangladesh implemented the Dhaka Principles for Migration with Dignity for ethical overseas recruitment of migrants. The Nepal government in January banned its citizens from travelling to Russia or Ukraine for employment after 10 young men were killed and dozens following the military while fighting's predominantly in the Russian military.

THE GIST

Over the past year, nearly 100 Indians have been recruited by the Russian Army after being reportedly duped by agents with the lure of money and a Russian passport.

The distinction between conventional combatants and mercenaries is a fundamental cornerstone of international humanitarian law (IHL). A combatant is typically a member of the armed forces of a party to the conflict, whereas a mercenary is recruited from a third-party state unrelated to the conflict. Mercenaries usually engage in hostilities motivated primarily by personal gain as opposed to virtues of patriotism associated with regular combatants.

One of the major challenges of the existing regulatory regime is the lack of a clear, unequivocal, and comprehensive legal definition of what constitutes a mercenary. This is compounded by the fact that the domestic laws of most states do not criminalise mercenary activity. The Indian government should develop a robust policy framework to address distress migration and implement strict measures against human trafficking.



Laws on mercenaries in war zones

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- **One of the major challenges of the existing regulatory regime is the lack of a clear, unequivocal, and comprehensive legal definition of what constitutes a mercenary.**
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- **The Indian government should develop a robust policy framework to address distress migration and implement strict measures against human trafficking.**

- **Article 47 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions (API) envisages six cumulative conditions for a person to qualify as a mercenary.**
- **The person i) should be specially recruited locally or abroad in order to fight in an armed conflict,**
- **ii) has taken a direct part in the hostilities, iii) is motivated to take part in the hostilities essentially by the desire for private gain and, in fact, is promised, by or on behalf of a party to the conflict, material compensation substantially in excess of that promised or paid to combatants of similar ranks and functions in the armed forces of that party,**

iv) is neither a national of a party to the conflict nor a resident of territory controlled by a party to the conflict,

v) is not a member of the armed forces of a party to the conflict,

vi) has not been sent by a state which is not a party to the conflict on official duty as a member of its armed forces.

Under customary IHL, being a mercenary itself does not constitute a specific crime.

However, if captured, they are not entitled to prisoner-of-war status or any protected categories under the Geneva Conventions.

This allows for their prosecution for war crimes or other grave breaches of humanitarian law.



- **They may also face charges under the domestic laws of the detaining nation.**
- **Nevertheless, mercenaries qualify for humane treatment in accordance with the fundamental guarantees of humanitarian law, as outlined under Article 75 of the API.**
- **However, over time, African states began expressing reservations about this definition, as it only addressed international armed conflicts and overlooked civil wars, where mercenary activities were most prevalent.**
- **This led to the adoption of the Organization of African Unity Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism in Africa in 1977**

- **Similarly, in 1989, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries that criminalised the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries and also promoted inter-State cooperation in this regard.**

- **The charter also widened the prevailing definition of mercenaries as provided under the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions to include “persons recruited for the purpose of participating in a concerted act of violence aimed at overthrowing a government or otherwise undermining the constitutional order of a State, or at undermining the territorial integrity of a State**

Negotiating for peace

India's decision to attend but not vote at the Swiss conference was right

The two-day "Summit on Peace", that ended on Sunday in Burgenstock, met with mixed outcomes. Switzerland was able to bring together more than 90 countries, at least 56 were represented by leaders, and the final joint communiqué was signed by about 82 countries and organisations, with the exception of a few including India. The document made a strong call for an end to the "ongoing war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine" and a pitch for sovereignty, territorial integrity and adherence to international law. It cited three areas of broad understanding: nuclear safety, food security and the exchange of all prisoners of war, displaced and detained Ukrainians. The statement was not very ambitious in its scope, as the organisers were keen to bring as many countries, particularly from the 'Global South' on board – which they managed to do to some extent. However, despite all these areas where Ukrainian President Zelenskyy hailed a "historic victory", there were shortcomings. Switzerland's decision not to invite Russia, and to build their negotiations on the basis of the Ukraine Peace Formula along with UN resolutions, made the event appear one-sided. The failure in convincing China, which arguably holds the most sway over Moscow, to even send a delegation was another blow. That no BRICS member, current and future, signed on to the statement indicates that it was a non-starter among the emerging economies.

Switzerland, Ukraine and other western countries had made a special attempt to win India's favour for the conference, including a last minute appeal by Mr. Zelenskyy when he met PM Modi at the G-7 outreach summit in Italy. As a close partner of Russia, a key Global South player, and a country that has kept a balance in the conflict, India's presence would have been a major win for the organisers. However, while New Delhi sent the NSA and Deputy NSA to two preparatory conferences in Jeddah and Davos, the Indian delegation here was led by the Secretary (West) in the External Affairs Ministry. India has consistently abstained from every resolution at the UN, Security Council, IAEA, Human Rights Council and other multilateral fora that seeks to criticise Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. While India may share concerns over much of the text released at the conference, it could not have gone ahead with its overtly anti-Russian slant. In its presence, however, New Delhi showed that it is willing to be part of the process, especially if it leads to a more inclusive future conference, with Russia and Ukraine at the table. As a result, India's decision to attend the conference, but not endorse its outcome, was probably a foregone conclusion.





Swiss conference (ukraine peace conference)

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‘EU carbon border tax will penalise British green energy’

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters

LONDON/BRUSSELS

British wind and solar farms exporting power to continental Europe could face CO2 fees from 2026—even though they don’t produce any emissions—unless the United Kingdom (UK) and European Union (EU) can agree to changes around the EU’s carbon border tax.

The charges, set out in a little-noticed clause of the CO2 levy law, could hit revenues of renewable energy projects in the UK, add to already-high EU power prices and even lead to higher emissions, industry sources and analysts told *Reuters*.

“It’s a problem on both sides,” said Adam Berman, deputy director of industry group Energy UK.

“(It) disincentivises clean power in the UK at the moment in which we’re trying to ramp up provision of clean power, and it’s going to increase (power) prices in northern Europe.”

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will impose a CO2 emissions fee on imports to the EU of steel, cement, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity and hydrogen, unless the exporting nation has equal CO2 pricing policies.

Under its current design, the CO2 fee for power would be calculated using a default value based on average and historic power



Green penalty: EU charges can make it uneconomical to export excess clean power to Europe. REUTERS

generation emissions. The British energy industry says that will unfairly penalise renewables.

“It is an issue that we are conscious of and one that we have raised, that the UK

has raised, with the EU,” Catherine Stewart, the UK Treasury’s deputy director for trade policy, told an event in Brussels last month.

A European Commis-

sion spokesperson said it would continue talks with all countries, including the UK, on the design of the carbon levy before finalising its application from 2026.

The extra cost could make it uneconomical to export excess clean power from Britain to Europe at certain times when demand is weaker, renewables generation is high, and power prices are low, analysts said.

Analysis from Aurora Energy Research, shared with *Reuters*, showed as much as 3 gigawatt hours (GWh) of renewable power generation, enough to power up to 2,000 homes a year, could be curtailed by 2030 if the fee proves a disincentive to exporters.

“You are adding a tax on exporting, so this essentially reduces the profit margin every time you want to export,” said Pranav Menon, GB Power & Renewables Lead at Aurora.

In 2030, the carbon bor-

der fee could knock 5% off the price British renewable projects can earn for their power, Aurora said.

Higher prices

Reduced access to cheap British electricity could increase wholesale power prices by up to 4% in markets like Ireland and Northern Ireland’s Integrated Electricity Market which import a lot of power from the UK, the Aurora analysis showed.

If European countries boost coal and gas power generation to make up the shortfall, CO2 emissions could even rise—by as much as 13 million tonnes a year, equivalent to emissions of 8 million cars, an earlier analysis by AFRY suggested.

A European Commis-

sion spokesperson said renewable power exports will be able to avoid the CO2 fee if they can comply with certain criteria and prove their origin.

But industry figures say that could be tough.

“Most of the electricity (across interconnectors) is traded anonymously ... so it’s almost impossible to demonstrate what that carbon content is,” said Pieter-Jan Marsboom, products and services manager at UK-Belgian power interconnector Nemo Link.

British and EU diplomats have quietly begun discussing the issue, but the highly political nature of any post-Brexit deals between the two means no progress is expected before the UK general election on July 4.

EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

- **The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is the EU's tool to put a fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon intensive goods that are entering the EU, and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries.**
- **By confirming that a price has been paid for the embedded carbon emissions generated in the production of certain goods imported into the EU, the CBAM will ensure the carbon price of imports is equivalent to the carbon price of domestic production, and that the EU's climate objectives are not undermined. The CBAM is designed to be compatible with WTO-rules.**
- **CBAM will apply in its definitive regime from 2026, while the current transitional phase lasts between 2023 and 2025.**

Carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) own resource





Why in news ??

- **British wind and solar farms exporting power to continental Europe could face CO2 fees from 2026— even though they don't produce any emissions— unless the United Kingdom (UK) and European Union (EU) can agree to changes around the EU's carbon border tax**



Inuit hunters look for seals in Ittoqqortoormiit on the frozen Scoresbysund Fjord on April 25. AFP

Greenland's Inuit polar bear hunters live on very thin ice

Agence France-Presse

ITTOQQORTOORMIIT (DENMARK)

Inuit hunter Hjelmer Hammeken, 66, spotted a ringed seal near its breathing hole on the Greenland ice. In his white camouflage, he slowly crept towards it then lay down in the snow and waited.

When the right moment came, he tapped his feet together. The seal lifted its head to look where the noise was coming from and the hunter fired. He butchered the animal there and then, eating some of its liver while it was still warm, as his ancestors have done for centuries – the hunter's reward. Such scenes are common around the hugely isolated Inuit community of Ittoqqortoormiit, the world's biggest fjord on the frozen east coast of Greenland.

But for the last two decades climate change and hunting quotas have been threatening the livelihood on which Inuit families have long survived.

Mr. Hammeken made his reputation in the 1980s. He would go out alone for several weeks at a time, to bring back up to three polar bears.

That ended in 2005 when quotas were put in place to slow the fall in polar bear numbers. Climate change has also turned the lives of the Inuit upside down – with the Arctic warming four times faster than the global average.

"Before we could hunt all year," said Mr. Hammeken. "In winter the ice was harder... and the fjord never melted."

"In August, all the ice sheet will have melted. There will be just the sea, a rough sea," which will make hunting difficult, he said. With little ice on which to hunt seals, he wondered how the polar bears, stuck on land and starving now in the summers, would survive.

Inuit



- Inuit are a group of culturally and historically similar Indigenous peoples traditionally inhabiting the Arctic and subarctic regions of North America, including Greenland, Labrador, Quebec, Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Alaska, and Chukotsky District of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Russia



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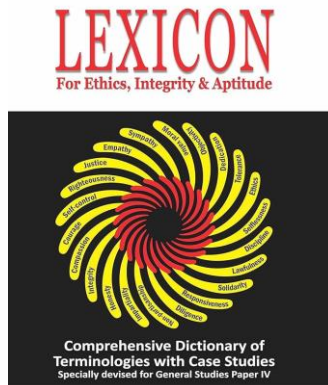
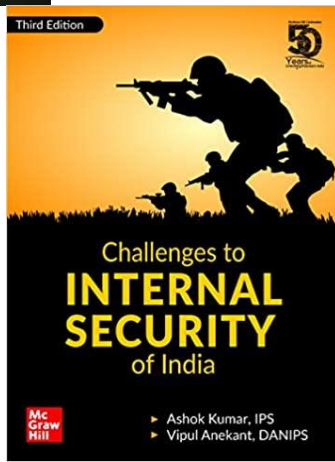
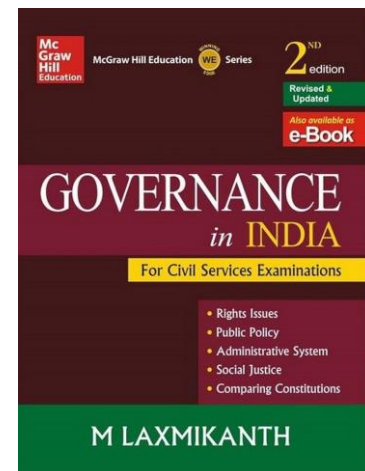
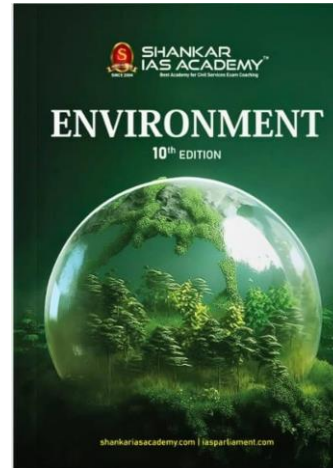
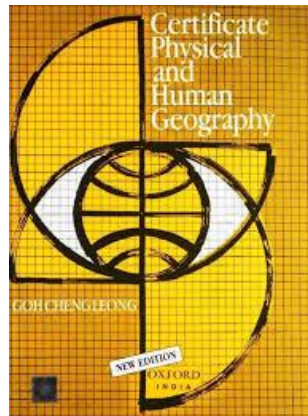
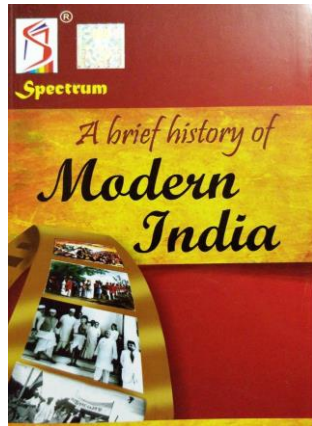
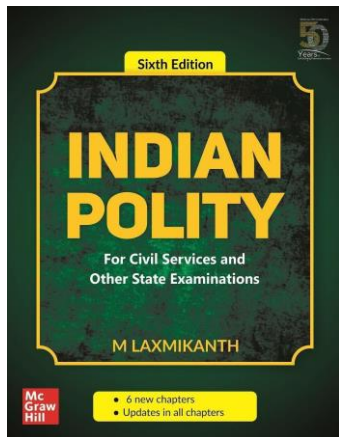
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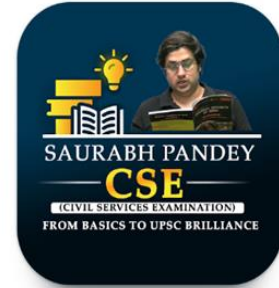
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X 22nd october 2...



Periodical cicada emergence disrupts food webs

The periodical mass emergence of cicadas in eastern North American forests can "rewire" forest food webs and initiate a cascade of impacts that propagates throughout the food chain, as per a study that quantified effects of the 2021 brood X cicada emergence. The study found that when insect-eating birds have prey in the form of cicadas and thus shift their focus away from their usual prey - leaf-eating caterpillars - the caterpillars feast more heavily upon the leaves of oak saplings, doubling insect leaf damage.

- The periodical mass emergence of cicadas in eastern North American forests can "rewire" forest food webs and initiate a cascade of impacts that propagates throughout the food chain, as per a study that quantified effects of the 2021 Brood X cicada emergence.

The cicadas are a superfamily, the Cicadoidea, of insects in the order

Hemiptera.



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X 10th october 2...



States as per Article 244(2).

What are Scheduled Areas?

- Scheduled Areas cover 11.3% of India's land area, and have been notified in 10 States: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Himachal Pradesh

How are Scheduled Areas governed?

- The President of India notifies India's Scheduled Areas. States with Scheduled Areas need to constitute a Tribal Advisory Council with up to 20 ST members.
- They will advise the Governor on matters referred to them regarding ST welfare.
- The Governor will then submit a report every year to the President regarding the administration of Scheduled Areas.

- The national government can give directions to the State regarding the administration of Scheduled Areas.
- The Governor can repeal or amend any law enacted by Parliament and the State Legislative Assembly in its application to the Scheduled Area of that State.



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X 7TH DECEMBE...



Garba dance of Gujarat makes it to UNESCO list

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Gujarat's traditional dance form "Garba" was on Wednesday included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The popular dance form is the 15th cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list. Kolkata's Durga Puja was the last one added two years ago.

The inclusion has been made under the provisions of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The international cultural body described the 'Garba' as a ritualistic and devotional dance performed in India.

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- The international cultural body described the 'Garba' as a **ritualistic and devotional dance performed in India.**



Garba
Heritage
is
making
the
world
sick

Garba, a traditional dance form of Gujarat, has been included in the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The dance is performed in a circular pattern and is a blend of music and dance. It is a popular form of entertainment in Gujarat and is also performed in other parts of India. The dance is performed in a circular pattern and is a blend of music and dance. It is a popular form of entertainment in Gujarat and is also performed in other parts of India.



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WION
 Russia loads 'Avangard' missile into launch Silo, fears of nuclear warfare on rise | World DNA

Que-3 With reference to exercise 'Mitra Shakti', consider the following statements

- Between India and Nepal.
- The aim of the exercise is to jointly rehearse sub-conventional operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which authorises the Security Council to take enforcement measures, including the use of military force, to address threats to international peace and security.
- "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" recently commenced in Goa.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Ans 3- (a)

- "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" recently commenced in Aunah (Pune).
- Between India and Sri Lanka.

The Constituent Assembly debated whether fundamental rights including this one could be suspended or limited during an Emergency. The Article cannot be suspended except during the period of Emergency.

Can High Courts be approached in cases of violation of fundamental rights?

- Both the High Courts and the Supreme Court can be approached for violation or enactment of fundamental rights through five kinds of writs:
- Habeas corpus (related to personal liberty in cases of illegal detentions and wrongful arrests)
- Mandamus — directing public officials, governments, courts to perform a statutory duty;
- Quo warrant — to show by what warrant is a person holding public office;

- Prohibition — directing judicial or quasi-judicial authorities to stop proceedings which it has no jurisdiction for; and
- Certiorari — re-examination of an order given by judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative authorities.
- In civil or criminal matters, the first remedy available to an aggrieved person is that of trial courts, followed by an appeal in the High Court and then the Supreme Court.
- When it comes to violation of fundamental rights, an individual can approach the High Court under Article 226 or the Supreme Court directly under Article 32.
- Article 226, however, is not a fundamental right like Article 32.

IE

- 12th BRICS...

1023 Nobel Prize In Economic Sciences Awarded To Claudia Gold...
 ...awarded to ... of women's

Que-2 Consider the following statements

- Article 244, pertaining to the administration of Scheduled and Tribal Areas, is the single most important constitutional provision for STs.
- Articles 244(1) provides for the application of Fifth Schedule provisions to Scheduled Areas notified in any State other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram, the Sixth Schedule applies to these states as per Article 244(2).
- The Prime Minister of India notifies India's Scheduled Areas.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Ans (b)

The President of India notifies India's Scheduled Areas.

Scheduled Areas cover 11.3% of India's land area, and have been notified in 10 States: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh. In 2015, Kerala proposed to notify 2,133 habitations, five gram panchayats and two wards in five districts. It awaits the Indian government's approval.

- The President of India notifies India's Scheduled Areas. States with Scheduled Areas need to constitute a Tribal Advisory Council with up to 20 ST members. They will advise the Governor on matters referred to them regarding ST welfare. The Governor will then submit a report every year to the President regarding the administration of Scheduled Areas.
- The national government can give directions to the State regarding the administration of Scheduled Areas. The Governor can repeal or amend any law enacted by Parliament and the State Legislative Assembly in its application to the Scheduled Area of that State. The Governor can also make regulations for a Scheduled Area, especially to prohibit or restrict the transfer of land by or among members of the STs, and regulate the allotment of land to STs and money-lending to STs.



Ethics vs privilege committee

- Objective: It oversees the moral and ethical conduct of members and examines cases of misconduct referred to it.
- Appointment of members in Lok Sabha: The members of the Ethics Committee are appointed by the Speaker for a period of one year.

Procedure for complaints

- Any person can complain against a Member through another Lok Sabha MP, along with evidence of the alleged misconduct, and an affidavit stating that the complaint is not "false, frivolous, or vexatious".
- If the Member himself complains, the affidavit is not needed.
- The Speaker can refer to the Committee any complaint against an MP.
- The Committee does not entertain complaints based only on media reports or on matters that are sub-judice.
- The Committee makes a prima facie inquiry before deciding to examine a complaint. It makes its recommendations after evaluating the complaint.

- The Rules (for example, the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha) applicable to the Committee of Privileges also apply to the ethics panel.
- An allegation of corruption against an MP can be sent to either body, but usually more serious accusations go to the Privileges Committee.
- The mandate of the Privileges Committee is to safeguard the "freedom, authority, and dignity of Parliament".
- These privileges are enjoyed by individual Members as well as the

House as a whole.

- An MP can be examined for breach of privilege; a non-MP too can be accused of breach of privilege for actions that attack the authority and

Santiniketan finds its place on UNESCO's World Heritage List

World body under announcement on Sunday. Manifesto was narrated by Tagore, has been reinterpreted by Bengal Cultural Mission serve exhibits important message in human values



Santiniketan, a town established by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, made it to the UNESCO's World Heritage List on Sunday. Located in West Bengal's Birbhum district, Santiniketan, which means "abode of peace", started taking shape in 1901 and is the place where Tagore laid the foundations of Visva-Bharati University.

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EU chief promises a plan of action as migrants flock to island

Yves Leterme, along with Italian PM Giorgia Meloni, visits Lampedusa where more than 2000 people have arrived this week. EU-Lithuania program have arrived in July this year, almost double the figure for the corresponding period in 2022.



ceramics and glasses, greases, metallurgical powders, polymers and other uses.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Que-2 With reference to Parliaments special sessions, consider the following statements

- 1- There is specific provision in the Constitution that deals with special sessions.
- 2- Article 352, which deals with the proclamation of Emergency, refers to a "special sitting" of the House, this clause was added through the 44th Amendment Act in 1978, which included safeguards against the Emergency.
- 3- The Question Hour was suspended during the session.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None



Que-3 Consider the following statements about Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala

- 1- This includes five temples in Karnataka, has been recently inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List.
- 2- The Hoysala Temples, built in the 12th and 13th centuries by the Hoysala kings, are dedicated to Shiva and Vishnu.
- 3- The temples became targets of plundered and destruction by the Delhi Sultanate army of Ala-ud-din Khilji in the early 14th century and another Delhi Sultanate army of Sultan Muhammad bin Tughluq in 1326 AD.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None



Que-4 Consider the following statements about SHREYAS scheme

- 1- It comprises 4 central sector sub-schemes.
- 2- The objective of the Scheme is to provide coaching of good quality for economically disadvantaged Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) candidates to enable them appear in competitive and entrance examinations.
- 3- The ceiling of the total family income under the scheme is 2 lakhs per annum and 3500 slots are allotted per annum.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Que-5 Consider the following statements about Women's Reservation Bill

- 1- The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, seeking to reserve 33% of seats in Lok Sabha and state Assemblies for women





Que-5 With reference to Shumang Leela, consider the following statements

- Shumang Leela is a traditional form of theatre in Tripura.
- In this the roles of women are all played by men, called Nupi Shabis.
- It is performed in an open courtyard surrounded by spectators on all four sides.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 1 and 2 only b) 1 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 and 3 only

Ans: (d)

- Shumang Leela is a traditional form of theatre in Manipur.
- In the case of women's theatre groups, the roles of men are played by women.
- Shumang Leela translates to "courtyard performance".
- Today, Shumang Leela is of two types: Nupa Shumang Leela, performed only by men, and Nupi Shumang Leela, performed only by women.

Que-6 Consider the following statements about Red Sanders also called Red Sandalwood

- It is a species found in the southern tropical dry deciduous forest of Telangana.
- The tree reaches an average height of 10 to 15 metres.
- The species is listed as 'Endangered' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature and falls in Appendix II of CITES.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 1 only b) 1 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 and 3 only

Ans: (d)

- It is a species found in the southern tropical dry deciduous forest of Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- CITES (shorter name for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention).
- In India, it has been enlisted under Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The heartwood of Red Sanders is in demand in the domestic and international markets for making

furniture, handicrafts and musical instruments in China and Japan. The red dye obtained from the wood is used as a colouring agent in the textiles, medicine and food industries.

Que-7 Consider the following statements about Compressed Biogas (CBG) and compressed natural gas (CNG)

- Chemically, CBG is the same as CNG — both are compressed methane — and has the same calorific value.
- CNG is a by-product of petroleum, CBG can be produced from any biomass, be it crop residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, municipal wet waste or effluents from a sewage treatment plant.
- CBG cannot be transported through cylinders or pipelines to retail outlets.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 1 and 2 only b) 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 and 3 only

Que-8 Finance Minister announced 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan scheme (GOBARdhan) in the Union Budget 2023. Consider the following statements about this

- The new GOBARdhan scheme is an upgrade and an expansion of the old one of the same name, launched in 2018 by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- This scheme limited itself to cluster or community-level biogas plants, for instance, for Anganwadis or farms.
- Compressed biogas (CBG) was never a part of the initial scheme launched in 2018 because it is very different from biogas in terms of utilisation and constituents.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 2 only b) 1 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 and 3 only



c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 3 only

Ans: (b)

- In the union budget of FY 2023-24, it is announced to launch a mission to eliminate sickle cell anemia by 2047.

Que-7 Lamu Archipelago, recently in News, belongs to which country

- a) Somalia
b) Malaysia
c) Indonesia
d) Kenya

Ans: (d)

- The Lamu Archipelago is located in the Indian Ocean close to the northern coast of Kenya, to which it belongs. The islands lie between the towns of Lamu and Kiunga, near the Coast Province. It is a part of Lamu District.

Que-8 Consider the following statements about "Operation Sadbhavana", recently in News

- Launched by an Indian Army.
- For development of Jammu and Kashmir.

- Some of the objectives achieved through Operation Sadbhavana are national integration, tourism, women's empowerment, employment generation, education, and

development activities geared towards nation-building.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 1 and 2 only b) 1 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 only

Ans: (b)

- For development of Ladakh.
- The Indian Army is organising multiple welfare activities, such as running schools and infrastructure development projects, as part of "Operation Sadbhavana" in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Que-1 Consider the following statements

- A spy balloon is literally a gas-filled balloon that is flying quite high in the sky, more or less where we fly commercial airplanes.
- Disadvantage that low Earth orbit satellites have is that they are continually moving around the Earth.
- Geosynchronous orbit satellite has the disadvantage that it's harder to see things clearly when you're very, very far away.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 1 and 2 only b) 1 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 3 only

Ans: (c)

- The disadvantage these low Earth orbit satellites have is that they are continually moving around the Earth.

of what we call persistence, allowing satellites to capture images continuously.

Que-2 With reference to Paris Club, consider the following statements

- The Paris Club is a group of mostly western creditor countries.
- It grew from a 1956 meeting in which Brazil agreed to meet its public creditors in Paris.
- Their objective is to find sustainable debt-relief solutions for countries that are unable to repay their bilateral loans.

Which of the following given above is/are correct

- a) 2 only b) 1 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 and 3 only

Ans: (b)

- It grew from a 1956 meeting in which



Exchange traded fund

- An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a pooled investment security that can be bought and sold like an individual stock.
- ETFs can be structured to track anything from the price of a commodity to a large and diverse collection of securities.
- ETFs can even be designed to track specific investment strategies.

- ETF share prices fluctuate all day as the ETF is bought and sold; this is different from mutual funds, which only trade once a day after the market closes.
- ETFs offer low expense ratios and fewer broker commissions than buying the stocks individually.
- An ETF must be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Pros and Cons of Exchange-Traded Funds

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower costs Diversification and risk management Tax benefits Easy to trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potentially higher costs Limited control Tracking error
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BIMSTEC

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Stands for The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

7 MEMBER COUNTRIES

Importance of BIMSTEC

- Accounts for 24% of the world population
- Estimated GDP of \$2.7 trillion
- One of the world's fastest growing trade blocs over the last few years
- Focuses on economic trade, technology, energy, transport,





DELIMITATION COMMISSION

- Delimitation literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body. The job of delimitation is assigned to a high power body. Such a body is known as Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission
- In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted 4 times - in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, in 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, in 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972 and in 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002.

- The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court. These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India in this behalf.
- The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them.

productivity, uphold good health and prevent poverty.

- The second set consists of policies to reduce inequality and promote economic security at older ages in a fiscally sustainable manner, considering pensions and health care.
- While many older persons are in excellent health or economically active stages, others live with ailments or are in poverty. Public spending in most countries has not been sufficient to cover the growing demand for long-term care, the analysis points out.

CURRENT AFFAIRS BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

Question 5 With reference to Doppler radar network, consider the following statements

- It is named after Christian Doppler, the physicist who first proposed the concept of the Doppler effect.
 - It is a system of multiple radar stations that work together to provide comprehensive coverage of a specific area.
 - The entire stretch of India will be covered under the Doppler Weather Radar Network to better predict extreme weather events more accurately.
- Which of the following given above is/are correct
- a) 1 and 2 only b) 1 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 and 3 only

CURRENT AFFAIRS BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

- It is named after Christian Doppler, the physicist who first proposed the concept of the Doppler effect. The Doppler effect is the change in frequency or wavelength of a wave (such as sound or light) as it approaches or moves away from an observer.
 - A Doppler radar network is a system of multiple radar stations that work together to provide comprehensive coverage of a specific area. The system uses the Doppler effect to detect and track moving objects, such as weather systems, aircraft, and vehicles.

How does a Doppler radar network work?

 - Each station in the network includes a radar transmitter, which sends out a microwave signal, and a radar receiver, which detects the reflected signal. The transmitter and receiver are typically located at the same site, but they can also be separated by a significant distance. The radar signal reflects off any moving objects in its path and the change in frequency of the signal due to the Doppler effect is used to determine the speed and direction of the moving object.

What are the uses of a Doppler radar network?

 - Doppler radar networks are widely used for weather forecasting and severe weather warning, tracking of aircraft and vehicles, and also used in meteorology and atmospheric sciences. These radar networks provide detailed information about storm systems, including the location, size, and movement of thunderstorms, tornadoes, and other severe weather events.

CURRENT AFFAIRS BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

Question 6 Consider the following statements about Army Day

- India celebrates Army Day on January 15 every year.
 - The Army Day is celebrated every year to honour Cariappa and the defence forces.
 - 75th Army Day was held in Hyderabad this year.
- Which of the following given above is/are correct
- a) 1 and 2 only b) 1 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 2 and 3 only

CURRENT AFFAIRS BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

- In 1997 Bangkok Declaration launched a modest grouping (of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand), with the acronym, BIST-EC.
 - Originally formed as BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation) in 1997, it became BIMST-EC after Myanmar joined, and BIMSTEC in 2004, with the inclusion of Nepal and Bhutan. This unique set of five countries from South Asia and two from Southeast Asia are parents to an institution with an unwieldy name but lofty ambitions.



6-

- The portal ensures end-to-end coverage of all the linked schemes.
 - Anyone can apply for a loan.

7-

- Any serving or retired three-star officer from either of the three services, below 62 years on the date of projected appointment, would be eligible to be elevated as the CDS and will superannuate at the age of 65. Earlier, the post was only open for four-star generals.

8-

- The Chief of Defence Staff is principally responsible for getting the armed forces better integrated rather than operating in silos as has been the case for decades.
 - The job includes the creation of new military commands which integrate the Army, Air Force, and Navy to fight together.
 - According to the government, the CDS acts as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister only on tri-services matters. The three service chiefs will continue to advise the Defence Minister exclusively on the matters concerning their respective services.
 - The CDS will not hold any military command, including over the three service chiefs.
 - As the Permanent Chairman of the Chief of Staff Committee, the CDS brings about jointness in operation, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance of the three services.

Target Mains -2024/25 -

Q Constitutional morality to b 'situational based not just 'constitutional provision based'. Examine

Q संवैधानिक नैतिकता केवल 'संवैधानिक प्रावधान आधारित' नहीं, बल्कि परिस्थितिजन्य आधारित है।
परीक्षण करना

Connect with sir
9057921649

send your answer - Saurabh pandey
upsc telegram channel





