## **Topics**

SAURABH PANDEY CSE ENTERNISTER SHERE

- caecilian (lchthyophis spp)
- What is the alcohol in liquor?
- Changes in china's fiscal revenue system.
- Strategic Alliance Agreement (SAA)
- Russia and north korea
- Mains







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## Limbless amphibian found in Kaziranga for first time



### The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI

A limbless amphibian has been added to the fauna in the 1,307.49 sq. km Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.

Assam's wildlife officials said a team of herpetologists recorded the striped caecilian (*Ichthyophis spp*) in the tiger reserve for the first time during a rapid herpetofauna survey conducted from June 14-17.

The survey was conducted with support from Saibal Sengupta of Assam Don Bosco University; Abhijit Das of the Wildlife Institute of India; Rajeev Basumatary and Samrat Sengupta of D.R. College in eastern Assam's Golaghat; Jaydev Mandal of Madhab Choudhury College in western Assam's Barpeta; Javaditya Purkayastha of Help Guwahati-based Earth; Jayanta Kumar Roy of Aaranyak; and Sushmita Kar of the Turtle Survival Alliance.

Reptiles and amphibians, collectively called



The striped caecilian. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

herpetofauna, are the least studied but most vulnerable to climate change. "Caecilians are limbless amphibians that spend most of their lives burrowed under soil. They are, therefore, the least studied of the amphibian species. As they are an ancient species, their presence holds critical linkages to evolution and intercontinental speciation," a statement issued by the Kaziranga authorities said.

The diverse ecosystem of Kaziranga, comprising flood plains, wetlands, grasslands, and hill tracts on the periphery, provides an ideal habitat for herpetofauna. The tiger reserve houses 24 species of amphibians and 74 species of reptiles. It is also home to 21 of the 29 species of tortoises and freshwater turtles found in India.

Kaziranga's Director, Sonali Ghosh, said, "a training and sensitisation programme was held to enhance the skills of forest personnel in herpetofauna identification and conservation for ensuring better management and protection of these vital species."



## caecilian (Ichthyophis spp)

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URABH PANDEY

The strined caecilian SPECIAL APPANGEMENT



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## How dangerous is methanol poisoning

What happened in the Kallakurichi district of Tamil Nadu? How is spurious liquor made and why does it have deadly effects? Why is methanol added to liquor and how is it processed by the body if ingested? Is treatment effective?

#### EXPLAINER

#### Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far: s of 9.30 p.m. on June 20, at least 38 people had died after consuming spurious liquor in the Kallakurichi district of Tamil Nadu while as many as 82 others were receiving treatment in hospitals. Immediately after news of the deaths broke, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had the Collector transferred and the district superintendent of police suspended. The State has also deployed 2,000 police personnel around the district. The tragedy echoes a similar incident a year ago in the State's Chengalpattu and Villupuram districts, in which more than 20 people died after consuming spurious liquor Liquor sales in Tamil Nadu are controlled by the State, through around 5.000 outlets.

#### What is the alcohol in liquor?

Liquor is differentiated by its alcohol content - from the 5% or so of beer to the 12% or so of wine to the 40% or so of distilled spirits (all by volume). In the beverages consumed for recreational purposes, the alcohol in question is almost always ethanol. In this context ethanol is technically a psychoactive drug that, in low doses, reduces the level of neurotransmission in the body, leading to its typical intoxicating effects.

Contrary to popular belief, the World Health Organisation has found "no level of [its] consumption is safe for our health". Long-term use leads to dependence, heightens the risk of some cancers and heart disease, and may eventually cause death Ethanol (C2H5OH) is one carbon atom

bonded to three hydrogen atoms and one more carbon atom: the second carbon atom is also bonded to two hydrogen atoms and the hydroxyl group, also known as the ion OH-, Inside the body ethanol is metabolised in the liver and the stomach by alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH) enzymes to acetaldehyde. Then, acetaldehvde is transformed into acetate by aldehyde dehydrogenase (ALDH) enzymes. The adverse effects of alcohol consumption, from the hangover to a cancer, are due to acetaldehyde.

#### What is spurious liquor?

Spurious liquor is characterised by the liquid mixture containing methanol as well. The police were able to determine last year that the spurious liquor in both the Chengalpattu and Villupuram incidents arose from the same source and that arrack sellers had purchased methanol from factories and sold it to the victims (Arrack is distilled from the fermented san of the nalm tree). Following the Kallakurichi incident, Mr. Stalin constituted a one-man commission headed by former High Court judge B. Gokuldas to inquire into the tragedy. In many older cases, spurious liquor has typically been a homemade liquor to which methanol was added to strengthen the intoxicating effects (in colloquial parlance, its 'kick') and/or to increase its bulk volume. The Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations 2018 stipulate the maximum permissible quantity of methanol in

different liquors. These values span a wide range, including "absent" in coconut fenny, 50 grams per 100 litres of country liquor, and 300 grams per 100 litres of pot-distilled spirits.

What is methanol? The methanol molecule (CH3OH) consists



Tracic event: The bodies of victims who died after consuming sourious liquor being cremated at Karunapuram in Kallakurichi on June 20. KUMAR S.S.

lactic acid and contributing to acidosis

serious condition that may result in

impairment or even blindness [due to]

damage and loss of function of the optic

nerve and retina". This consequence

"shows a tendency to occur as mass

predilection for poor societies in

Methanol-poisoning can also cause

developing countries," it added.

long-term or irreversible visual

of one carbon atom bonded with three hydrogen atoms and one hydroxyl group. Schedule I of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 includes methanol. The Indian Standard IS 517 applies to how the quality of methanol is to be ascertained and, together with the Tamil Nadu Denatured Spirit, Methyl Alcohol, and Varnish (French Polish) Rules 1959, what signage methanol packaging should carry. The most common way to produce methanol is to combine carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the presence of copper and zinc oxides as catalysts at 50-100 atm of pressure and 250° C. In the pre-industrial era, going back to ancient Egypt, people made methanol (together with several other byproducts) by heating wood to a very high temperature. Methanol has several industrial

applications, including as a precursor to acetic acid, formaldehyde, and aromatic hydrocarbons. It is also used as a solvent and as antifreeze. In Tamil Nadu, the manufacture, trade, storage, and sale of methanol requires licences under the 1959 Rules.

How does spurious liquor kill? The deadliness of spurious liquor arises from methanol. James Manor, emeritus professor of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London, wrote in December 2022, "In every booch tragedy in the history of India - and of the world since 1945 - the poison has been methanol." The human body contains infinitesimal quantities of methanol (4.5 ppm in the breath of healthy individuals, per a 2006 study) as a result of eating some fruits. But even for an adult, more than 0.1 ml of pure methanol per

devastating

How can methanol-poisoning be treated? Once methanol is ingested, the body takes some time to completely eliminate it. One estimate suggests as much as 33% is still kilogram of body-weight can be left behind after 48 hours. It is completely absorbed via the gastrointestinal tract.

Once ingested, ADH enzymes And blood methanol level can reach its metabolise methanol in the liver to form maximum value within 90 minutes. formaldehyde (H-CHO). Then ALDH There are two immediate ways to treat enzymes convert formaldehyde to formic methanol poisoning. One is to administer acid (HCOOH). The accumulation of pharmaceutical-grade ethanol. This may formic acid over time leads to a condition sound counter-intuitive but ethanol called metabolic acidosis, which can lead competes very well with methanol for the to acidaemia: when the blood's pH drops ADH enzymes, which metabolise ethanol below its normal value of 7.35, becoming around 10x faster. As a result, the increasingly acidic. The blood's pH is methanol is kept from being metabolised to formaldehyde normally maintained by a balance between an acid, like carbon dioxide The other option is to administer an (CO2), and a base, like the bicarbonate antidote called fomepizole, which has a ion (HCO3-). The 'metabolic' in similar mechanism: it slows the action of 'metabolic acidosis' means the the ADH enzymes, causing the body to concentration of the bicarbonate ion is produce formaldehyde at a rate the body dropping, leading to the acid gaining the can quickly excrete, preventing the upper hand. Formic acid also interferes deadlier effects from kicking in. with an enzyme called cytochrome Both courses of action are limited by oxidase, disrupting cells' ability to use availability: fomepizole is expensive oxygen and leading to the build-up of

whereas pharmaceutical-grade ethanol needs to be administered under expert According to a paper published by the journal Archives of Toxicology in January supervision. Healthcare workers may also have the individual undergo a dialysis to 2022, consuming methanol also leads to remove methanol and formic acid salts "methanol-induced optic neuropathy ..., a from the blood, and mitigate damage to the kidneys and the retina. They may also administer folinic acid, which encourages the formic acid to break up into carbon dioxide and water. Both fomepizole and folinic acid are in the WHO's list of essential medicines. poisonings around the world with a clear The formic acid would have begun accumulating in dangerous amounts around 18-24 hours after ingestion. affecting the ontic nerve kidneys the cerebral edema, haemorrhage, and death. heart, and the brain. Ophthalmic effects have been observed in 50% of those who have consumed methanol, and they become apparent within 24 hours. If the individual consumed ethanol along with the methanol, the damage ma

not be evident until after a few days, further delaying treatment and increasing mortality

THE GIST

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More than 0.1 ml of pure methanol per kilogram of body-weight can be devastating. Methanol-poisoning can also cause cerebral edema haemorrhage, and death.



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- Methanol has several industrial applications, including as a precursor to acetic acid, formaldehyde, and aromatic hydrocarbons.



- There are two immediate ways to treat methanol poisoning.
- One is to administer pharmaceutical-grade ethanol.
- This may sound counter-intuitive but ethanol competes very well with methanol for the ADH enzymes, which metabolise ethanol around 10x faster.
- As a result, the methanol is kept from being metabolised to formaldehyde.
- The other option is to administer an antidote called fomepizole, which has a similar mechanism: it slows the action of the ADH enzymes, causing the body to produce formaldehyde at a rate the body can quickly excrete, preventing the deadlier effects from kicking in



- also administer folinic acid, which encourages the formic acid to break up into carbon dioxide and water.
- Both fomepizole and folinic acid are in the WHO's list of essential medicines.

## China's key plenum aims to fix decades-old tax revenue imbalance



The plenum is set to discuss the biggest changes to China's fiscal system in three decades, hoping to ease concerns over a \$13 trn. local government debt pile: in 2023, local governments' own fiscal revenues accounted for 54% of the nation's total, but their expenditures accounted for 86%

#### NEWS ANALYSIS

#### Reuters BEIJING

ong-touted changes to China's tax system will focus on allowing local governments to retain more fiscal revenues, say policy advisers, widely seen by markets as an important step towards removing an immediate threat to financial stability.

Measures that redistribute income from central authorities to municipalities, curbing an addiction to land sales laid bare by China's property crisis, will top the agenda of a leadership gathering in July, known as the third plenum, they said.

"Pressure is high to push reforms to bolster local government revenue after the end of the land finance phase," said one of four policy advisers who spoke to Reuters.

#### **Big changes**

The plenum is set to discuss the biggest changes to China's fiscal system in three decades, with policymakers hoping to ease concerns over a \$13 trillionand-growing local government debt pile that poses risks to financial institutions and growth. In 2023, local governments' own fiscal revenues

accounted for 54% of the

nation's total, but their ex-



Tough choice: Taxing household income is difficult as top earners are already taxed at 45%

penditures accounted for 86%, data from the finance ministry showed.

This imbalance stems from the fiscal reforms of 1994, when China aimed to limit localities' capacity to independently raise money, following a surge in local spending and inflation in the late 1980s.

But local governments got around those limitations by creating off-budget financing vehicles and by auctioning land for residential development, fuelling a giant housing bubble. Land sales' contribution to local budgets rose from a fifth to almost a third in the decade leading up to 2021, when China entered a severe property market downturn. It is no longer a

Local governments' spending should be based on their fiscal capacity, A mature society no longer needs to find special ways to build more infrastructure - A Chinese policy advisor

comes shrank to 5.8 trillion vuan in 2023 from a 2021 peak of 8.7 trillion.

Chinese leaders flagged plans for fiscal reforms at an annual meeting in December, without offering details. Policy advisers said the main changes are likely to revolve around how much revenue local goreliable cash cow: such invernments retain, rather than adding or hiking taxes. Municipalities currently get half of value-added tax revenue and 40% of personal income tax, while the central government gets most corporate income tax and all of what China calls

a consumption tax, currently levied on producers and importers. The advisers did not give figures on the future

division of tax income between central and local governments. But they said local go-

vernments may be allowed to keep most of the consumption tax - which accounts for almost a tenth of China's total tax revenues and more of the value-added tax - which accounts for more than a third.

Proposals also include

Beijing taking over growing commitments on pensions and healthcare as the population ages. The aim is to stop municipal debt accumulation by balancing revenues with expenditure, the advisers said.

"Local governments' spending should be based on their fiscal capacity," said a second adviser. "A mature society no longer needs to find special ways build to more infrastructure."

#### Still imbalanced

The fiscal overhaul will likely stop short of addressing other structural imbalances, such as an over-reliance on investment and exports and weak household consumption, analysts say.

China taxes capital gains at 20%. While subject to many exemptions, it is also lower than the 30% in India and 37% in the U.S. But investment yields

dwindling returns, as evidenced by debt significantly outgrowing China's GDP for the past 15 years. Therefore, tax revenue

is also low. The IMF calculates China's tax-to-GDP ratio at 14%, versus a 23% average for G7 economies.

This makes social spending difficult to fund without raising taxes on capital or businesses. Taxing households more is a difficult proposition as China's upper personal income tax band is among the world's steepest, at 45%. The difference between how capital and labour are taxed encourages low wages and high investment.

But reversing that runs counter to Beijing's strategic goals of global industrial and technological leadership, which channel resources to factories and science laboratories, rather than consumers.

support industrial development," said policy adviser Jia Kang, founding president of the China Academy of New Supply-Side Economics. China still needed to "grow the pie," he added.

Still, one seed for a longer-term tilt towards consumption may vet be planted at the plenum.

Chinese media said policymakers may shift the point of charging the consumption tax to wholesalers and retailers.

This tax currently only applies to 15 types of goods. Domestic demand for these items has limited impact on China's productivity.

Goldman Sachs analysts say charging consumers shifts incentives for local officials from growing their manufacturing base to growing their consumer base. But that would require a broader application of the tax at a time when consumption remains weak.

"Tax reforms should



## Changes in china's fiscal revenue system.

- Long-touted changes to China's tax system will focus on allowing local governments to retain more fiscal revenues.
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## *The U.S.-Saudi agreement, from fist-bump to embrace*

ver eight decades of eventful ties between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have had their ups and downs - from the oil embargo of 1973 to the Jamal Khashoggi assassination in 2018. However, two images of this relationship remain iconic: the first is of the meeting between the U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the King of Saudi Arabia, Abdul Aziz Al-Saud on Valentine's Day 1945 aboard a U.S. cruiser beginning seven decades of an unbroken bilateral bromance. It was underpinned by an understated but seminal "oil-for-security" symbiosis. The second iconic frame is the fist-bump of July 15, 2022 in Rivadh between U.S. President Joe Biden and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS), symbolising a more equal and largely transactional partnership.

If the buzz around is to be believed, Riyadh and Washington are on the verge of a new and enhanced relationship, tentatively titled Strategic Alliance Agreement (SAA). This 'Grand Bargain' between them being negotiated for the past year is designed to match the domestic and regional ambitions of Al-Saud under MbS with the keenness of the White House to score a diplomatic success big enough to ensure Mr. Biden's re-dection.

#### The layers to the agreement

Reading between the lines of the U.S. media's episodic coverage, the SAA could have three interlinked components: bilateral, regional and global. At a bilateral level, it would codify the current implicit bilateral alliance into a strategic defence pact modelled on the U.S.-Japan treaty committing the Pentagon to come to the Kingdom's rescue in case of an attack. The U.S. would also equip Riyadh with means to defend itself which would include the state-of-art F-35 stealth fighters. More surprisingly, Washington, a non-proliferation hawk, seems to be agreeable to providing Saudi Arabia with nuclear technology for peaceful use. At a regional level, Riyadh wants a ceasefire in Gaza and some movement towards a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine problem. As a *auid pro auo* for Rivadh's maximalist demands, Washington reportedly has put forth a daunting wish list of its own. It wants Rivadh to recognise Israel and have full normal diplomatic relations. It also wants the Kingdom to ring-fence its foreign policy to avoid getting too close to Washington's rivals, specifically, Beijing and Moscow.

While the precise economic underpinnings of the incipient SAA are not known, they are likely to be quite substantive. Although the U.S. is no longer dependent on Saudi oil supplies, the two sides are unlikely to abandon their long-standing coordination to balance the global market between the U.S. need for cheaper energy with a Saudi quest for higher oil revenue. The SAA is



Mahesh Sachdev a former Indian Ambassador

The proposed

Agreement may

Strategic

Alliance

have been

forced by

fear of

Washington's

losing Rivadh

likely to ensure that the lion's share of the projects under MbS's Vision 2030 goes to American companies.

It was apparently China's President Xi Jinping's epochal State visit to Riyadh in December 2022, with triple summits, which forced Washington to revamp its ties with Saudi Arabia. Slowly, a U.S. diplomatic counter-offensive to forestall "losing Saudi Arabia" began to take shape. To U.S. strategists, a decline in the oil-for-security paradigm notwithstanding, Saudi Arabia retains much of its importance. As the custodian of Islam's two holy shrines, the Kingdom has been the most important determinant of the Ummah. the 1.4 billion Muslims all over the world. So, if Saudi Arabia agrees to become the fifth Abraham Accord Arab state to recognise Israel's right to exist, this could geopolitically reconfigure not only West Asia but also push much of the Islamic world to follow Riyadh's lead. Second, Saudi Arabia remains the largest economy in both the Arab and Islamic world and an ambitious Vision 2030 offered very lucrative pickings. Last but not least, during his decade at the helm, MbS has not only consolidated power but also taken bold and often controversial reforms. If any Grand Bargain is to be implemented, young and dynamic MbS would be the right person to carry it through.

#### The hurdles

The SAA project faces two formidable odds on its way to realisation. First, the past decade has seen a rise in the bilateral trust deficit. In 1990-91, the U.S. deployed troops to evict Saddam Hussein's forces from Kuwait poised to threaten Saudi Arabia. However, when Saudi Arabia's largest oil processing facility at Abgaig and Khurais was attacked in 2019, the U.S. did practically nothing. Moreover, the U.S. banned the supply of some weapons during the Yemeni war, citing their possible misuse. The U.S. perceived ambivalence towards Iran in general and the signing of the nuclear agreement (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) in particular, was also seen as a sign of U.S. unreliability. On the other hand, the decline of the bilateral oil underpinning emboldened many U.S. politicians and opinion makers to criticise Saudi Arabia, which in turn, drifted closer to China and Russia over the last decade and even reconciled with Iran. Beijing became Rivadh's top trading partner and Mr. Xi visited Rivadh. Saudi Arabia has been collaborating with Russia under the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Plus (OPEC+) rubric to steer the global crude market.

The second major obstacle that the SAA faces is the ongoing Gaza conflict which has made it politically inopportune for Ryadh to agree to any reconciliation with Israel. This is also important from the Biden administration's perspective as the SAA would require the U.S. Senate approval by two-thirds which can only follow a Riyadh-Ted Awiv détente. But if any progress is to be made in this direction, the wanton bloodletting of Palestinian Arabs and destruction in Gaza need to be stopped, and a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine problem put back on the table. However, persistent U.S. efforts to end this conflict and move towards a semblance of normalcy in the region have been hitherto unsuccessful. Meanwhile, the clock ticks away towards the U.S. Presidential elections in November when ascendant Donald Trump faces Mr. Biden.

Incidentally, many of the recent regional events can be explained by looking through the SAA prism: Some analysts even believe that the October 7 surprise attack on Israel by Hamas was to forestall the SAA. Other signs include Saudi demurral in joining BRICS, MbS not going to the China-Arab Forum last month despite a prior commitment, the Saudi Foreign Minister participating in Ukraine Peace Conference, Mr. Biden personally unveiling a Gaza Peace Plan and his administration's piloting the UN Security Council resolution, increasingly strident American disapproval of Israeli attack on Rafah, fissures in Israeli war cabinet, a Republican-inspired invitation to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a hardliner, to address a joint session of the U.S. Congress, looming Israel-Hezbollah conflict and Israeli national security adviser's statement that the Gaza war could last till the end of 2024.

The quest for the SAA has become a time-bound contest between an irresistible force and an immovable object. We can only speculate on the likely impact of the likely scenarios. In case a fully formatted SAA is signed, it would reimpose unipolarity (Pax Americana) onto the Gulf and much of West Asia. Pro-West regimes will gain more confidence and the Palestinian cause would be given a facile burial. If the quest for the SAA fails, the region will stay in turmoil and the non-state actors promoted by Iran will keep disrupting the regional equilibrium. The region would remain a chessboard for outside powers. There is also a possibility that if Gaza peace remains elusive, having come this far, Rivadh and Washington may reluctantly agree to a truncated piecemeal agreement, bringing in other friendly countries to fill it up.

#### India's stakes

India, a large neighbour of the region with well-known stakes in the region, needs to watch the emerging Grand Bargain carefully. An SAA would be in India's overall interest as it would hopefully enhance regional stability, create economic opportunities, promote the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and free the U.S. to follow its Indo-Pacific Strategy more vigorously. At the same time, India needs to pursue its own "Act West" policy without waiting for a third iconic image of Israeli and Saudi leaders shaking hands at Camp David.





## **Strategic Alliance Agreement (SAA)**

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- At a regional level, Riyadh wants a ceasefire in Gaza and some movement towards a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine problem.
- As a quid pro quo for Riyadh's maximalist demands, Washington reportedly has put forth a daunting wish list of its own.
- It wants Riyadh to recognise Israel and have full normal diplomatic relations.
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## In security pact, Russia, N. Korea seek to expand partnership, challenge West

The agreement requires both countries to use all means to provide immediate military assistance in the event of war, according to North Korean state media; Kim claimed that deal elevated bilateral ties to the level of an alliance, while Putin was more understated and did not call it an alliance

## Associated Press

the state of the s

The pact requires both countries to use all available means to provide immediate military assistance in the event of war, according to North Korean state media. While the agreement, inked on Wednesday at a summit in Pyongyang, could represent the countries' strongest deal signed after the Cold War, there are differing opinions on how strong the security commitment is.

Mr. Kim claimed that the deal elevated bilateral relations to the level of an alliance, while Mr. Putin was more understated and did not call it an alliance.

North Korean state media released the text of the agreement, which also includes broader cooperation in military, foreign policy and trade. Russia has not published its version of the text.

Relations between sprawling Russia and smalt, isolated North Korea – both of them nuclear powers – have warmed significantly in recent years amid Russia's growing acrimony with the West over



Strengthening ties: North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un (right) with Russian President Vladimir Putin after a signing ceremony at the Kumsusan State guest house in Pyongyang, AFP

war, the other must deploy

"all means at its disposal

without delay" to provide

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But it also says that such

assistance."

the invasion of Ukraine and suppression of all domestic opposition. One of the first knockon effects of the agreement came on Thursday, when South Korea's government said it would reconsider its policy of limiting its support to Ukraine to nonlethal supplies. South Korea, a growing arms exporter. has provided humanitarian aid to Ukraine, but it has not directly provided weapons to Kviv.

#### Mutual aid

Most of the debate over the partnership agreement revolves around the article that pledges mutual aid. US.-South Korea mutual According to North Korea

state media, the section states that if one of the countries gets invaded and is pushed into a state of Other experts were

Other experts were more cautious, saying the section is carefully worded to avoid implying automatic interventions and strictly limits the circumstances in which either country would be obligated to step in.

dance with the laws of both countries and Article 51 of And the language of the the UN Charter, which reagreement is much less imcognises a UN member portant than what each nastate's right to self-defence. tion is actually capable of Cheong Seong Chang. and willing to do. Du Hvean analyst at South Korea's ogn Cha, an analyst at Se-Sejong Institute, said the oul's Asan Institute for Polagreement echoes the lanicy Studies, said.

While it's rare for any defence treaty to spell out specifically that a country is required to automatically intervene to defend a partner under attack, the strength of the commitment can be signalled in other ways, such as how the U.S. stations thousands of troops in South Korea and closely coordinates with its ally over training and weapons systems. Cha said. But Russia, for instance, doesn't have a troop presence in North Korea and the countries have no established track record in joint military activities and coordination, aside from the North's alleged munitions transfers to Russia.

The fact that the article invokes the countries' domestic laws and the U.N. Charter could reflect that Russia tried to limit its defence obligation to very narrow conditions: when it's clear North Korea did not instigate the aggression, the attack on the North is legally recognised in Russia as war, and Russia's defence of the North is justified by the U.N., Cha said.

#### **Biggest concern**

"The agreement is a symbolic statement rowing the expansion of cooperation, but it leaves a lot of room for interpretation when we get into practice," Cha said. "The biggest concern about the summit isn't whether [Russia] committed to an automatic military intervention or not, but the possible expansion of North Korean weapons transfers to Russia and the transfers of Russian military technologies to the North."

Mr. Putin said he would not "exclude the development of military-technical cooperation with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in accordance with the document signed today."

That statement in effect formalises something Western countries claim is already happening.

The U.S. and other allies allege that Russia has received ballistic missiles and ammunition from North Korea as the Ukraine war depletes Moscow's inventory, and that Russia has made technology transfers to Pyongyang that could enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile program.

The agreement also calls for the countries to actively cooperate in efforts to establish a "just and multipolar new world order," the North's Korean Central News Agency said, underscoring how the countries are aligning as they face separate, escalating confrontations with the United States and its allies. The partnership also

calls for developing economic ties, an especially important issue for North Korea as it suffers under an array of international sanctions.





## Russia and north korea

- B oth Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un say a new strategic partnership is a "breakthrough", but what it means for their relationship is still uncertain.
- The pact requires both countries to use all available means to provide immediate military assistance in the event of war, according to North Korean state media.
- North Korean state media released the text of the agreement, which also includes broader cooperation in military, foreign policy and trade



- The U.S. and other allies allege that Russia has received ballistic missiles and ammunition from North Korea as the Ukraine war depletes Moscow's inventory, and that Russia has made technology transfers to Pyongyang that could enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile program.
- The agreement also calls for the countries to actively cooperate in efforts to establish a "just and multipolar new

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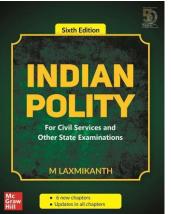
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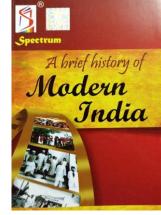


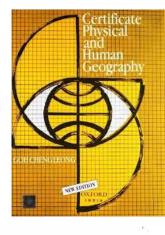
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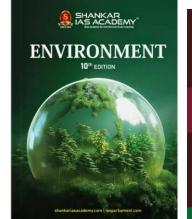
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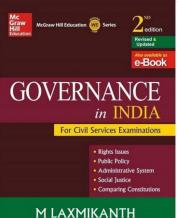


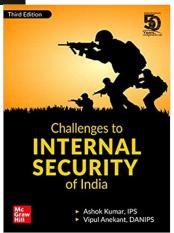
















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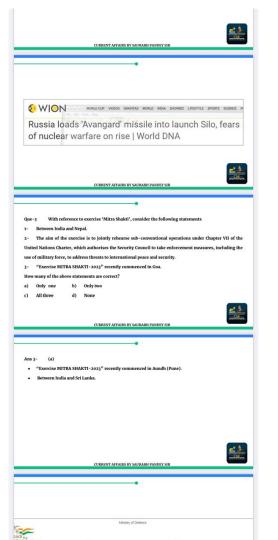
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×	10th october 2 Q	Garba dance of Gujarat makes it to UNESCO list <u>Steepara Chakrabert</u> Nov 0044 Gujarat's fraditoral dance meday included in the list tage by the United Nations bigge by the United Nations of Constraints and Constraints and						
	<ul> <li>What are Scheduled Areas?</li> <li>Scheduled Areas cover 11.3% of India's land area, and have been notified in 10 States: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya</li> </ul>				is the 18 <sup>s</sup> cultural item UNESCO list. Kolkata's Dur- ga Piqa vas the last me ad- temported to the second second made under the provisions the inclusion has been made under the provisions the Safeguarding of intra- the Safeguarding of intra- body descripted the 'Safeguarding to the Safeguarding of the Safeguarding to the Safeguarding of the Safeguarding the			
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	<ul> <li>How are Scheduled Areas governed?</li> <li>The President of India notif Scheduled Areas. States with Areas need to constitute a T Advisory Council with up to 2 members.</li> <li>They will advise the Governoi referred to them regarding S<sup>2</sup></li> <li>The Governor will then submin every year to the President the administration of Schedul</li> </ul>							
	<ul> <li>The national government directions to the State the administration of So Areas.</li> <li>The Governor can repeal any law enacted by Parlithe State Legislative As its application to the State.</li> <li>Che a of that State.</li> <li>Edit in Google Slides</li> </ul>	regard chedule or ame iament ssembly	ing d nd and in		Edit in Google	Slides		

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coul	Constituent Assembly debated whether funda d be suspended or limited during an Emergency pt during the period of Emergency.					
	Courts be approached in cases of violation of fu n the High Courts and the Supreme Court can			ation or		
	ttment of fundamental rights through five kinds eas corpus (related to personal liberty in cases sts)		entions and v	vrongful		Conside icle 244, j
• Man duty	damus — directing public officials, governmen ;	nts, courts t	o perform a s	atutory	2- Art	t constitu icles 244(: other tha e 244(2).
• Quo	warranto — to show by what warrant is a perso	n holding pu	blic office;		3- The How mar a) Onl	Prime Mi y of the ab y one three

Prohibition - directing judicia or guasi-judicial authorities to stop proceedings which it has no jurisdiction for; a Certiorari — re-examination o 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.

en 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.

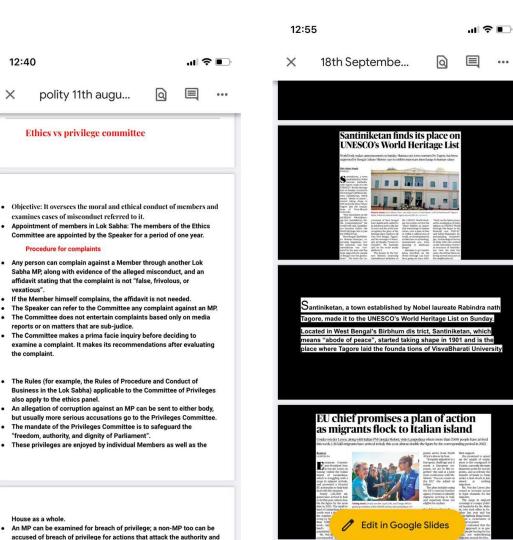


8th october 2... ... \* US Pakistan South Asia UK Europe China Middle East Mad, Mad World Photos Vide 1023 Nobel Prize In Economic Sciences Awarded To Claudia Gold. Imran Cipher Case He Jinbi Missing Israel Hamas War 🤇 ~s awarded to of women's CURRENT AFFAIRS BY SAURARH PANDEY SIR er the following statements pertaining to the administration of Scheduled and Tribal Areas, is the single most tional provision for STs. 1) provides for the application of Fifth Schedule provisions to Scheduled Areas notified in n Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram, the Sixth Schedule applies to these states as inister of India notifies India's Scheduled Areas. bove statements are correct? b) Only two d) None e 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 Pr and Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharash and Himachal Pradesh. In 2015, Kerala proposed to notify 2,133 habitations, five gram panchay 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 co a Tribal Advisory Council with up to 20 ST members. They will advise the Governor on referred to them regarding ST welfare. The Governor will then submit a report every y o the President regarding the administration of Scheduled Areas. The national government can give directions to the State regarding the administration of Areas. The Governor can repeal or amend any law enacted by Parliament and the Sta gislative Assembly in its application to the Scheduled Area of that State. The Governor lso make regulations for a Scheduled Area, especially to prohibit or restrict the transfer of among members of the STs, and regulate the allotment of land to STs and money-leg land by or to STs. CURRENT AFFAIRS BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

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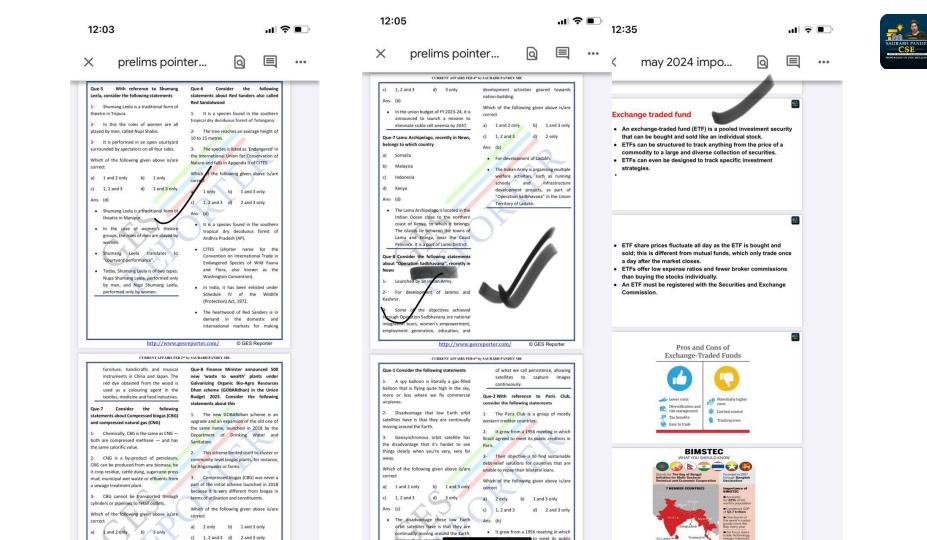


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a) Only one	b)	ements are correct? Only two				
c) All three	d)	None				
		CURRENT AFFAIRS	S BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR			
			-			
Que-2 With ref	ference to	o Parliaments special	sessions, consider the following statements			
			on that deals with special sessions.			
			tion of Emergency, refers to a 'special sitting' of the			
House, this clause	was adde	ed through the 44th	Amendment Act in 1978, which included safeguards			
against the Emerger	ncy.					
3- The Question	Hour wa	s suspended during th	he session.			
How many of the ab	ove state	ments are correct?	***			
a) Only one	b)	Only two				
c) All three	d)	None				
		CURRENT I				
		CURRENT AFFAIRS	S BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR			
Que-3 Conside	r the foll	owing statements abo	out Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala			
1- This includes	five ten	nples in Karnataka, h	has been recently inscribed on the UNESCO's World			
Heritage List.						
2- The Hoysala Temples, built in the 12th and 13 centuries by the Hoysala kings, are dedicated to						
			a ry centaries by the risysma tangs, are generated to			
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Shiva and Vishnu. 3- The temples	became		d and destruction by the Delhi sultanate army of			
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## 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 guestion 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.

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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 1

#### effect

2 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 3

#### predict extreme weather events more accurately

#### Which of the following given above is/are correct

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

#### 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. What is a Doppler radar network?
- · 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, alrcraft, and vehicles. How does a Doppler radar network work?
- 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. 2
- 75th Army Day was held in Hyderabad this year. 3
- 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

## Edit in Google Slides CURRENT AFFAIRS BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

#### 5- (d)

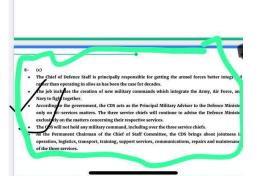
6- (a)

Anyone can apply for a loan.

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- · 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.





- 7- (b)
- · 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

· The portal ensures end-to-end coverage of all the linked schemes

Target Mains -2024/25 -

Q "India's interest in west asia has moved beyond energy security " Discuss

प्रश्न "पश्चिम एशिया में भारत की रुचि ऊर्जा सुरक्षा से आगे बढ़ गई है" चर्चा करें

Connect with sir 9057921649 send your answer - Saurabh pandey upsc telegram channel

