

DAILY PT POINTERS

21st October, 2023



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS 2-IR(Page 1)

Did not violate diplomatic norms, India tells Canada

MEA issues statement after Canada hits out at India for seeking reduction in number of diplomats; it says the move was necessitated by Canada's 'continued interference' in country's internal affairs



- The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations is an international treaty signed by 61 countries in 1961.
- It puts forth a framework for diplomatic interactions between independent nations and aims to ensure the 'development of friendly relations among nations'.
 - At present 113 countries are party to the document.
- The Vienna Convention provides a complete framework for the establishment, maintenance and termination of diplomatic relations on a basis of consent between independent sovereign States.
- Under the Vienna Convention a diplomatic agent enjoys immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving State. Such individuals are also provided with immunity from its civil and administrative jurisdiction – with a few exceptions.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu :GS 3- Infrastructure (Page 1)

PM flags off country's first Regional Rapid Transit System 'Namo Bharat'



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the country's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), calling the Namo Bharat train a glimpse of India's promising future.
- The RRTS is a new rail-based, semi-high-speed, high-frequency commuter transit system.
- With a design speed of 180 kmph, it is a regional development initiative, which is designed to provide high-speed trains for intercity commuting every 15 minutes, going up to a frequency of every five minutes when required.
- Developed at a cost of more than ₹30,000 crore, the train will allow a commuter to travel between Delhi and Meerut in less than an hour.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS 2/Issues related to development (Page 4)

Eradicate manual scavenging, SC tells Centre, States



THE HINDU BUREAU

- Manual scavenging is the practice of removing human excreta by hand from sewers or septic tanks.
- India banned the practice under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (PEMSR).
 - The Act bans the use of any individual for manually cleaning, carrying, disposing of or otherwise handling in any manner, human excreta till its disposal.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : GS 1/GS 2/Art and Culture
/Governance(Page 5)

Forcing children to recite any prayer against free thought: HC



A child being initiated into the world of letters as part of the Vidyarambham ritual in Kollam in 2022. - Photo: C. Sureshkumar

- The Kerala High Court observed that forcing or inducing children to write or recite any prayer contrary to their parents' choice at the Vidyarambham ceremony will be in contrast to free thought and freedom of belief.
- Vidya' meaning knowledge and 'arambham' meaning beginning is observed on Vijayadashami.
- It is an old age tradition where children are introduced to reading and writing.
- The 'Vidyarambham' ceremony mainly involves a *guru* (teacher) inscribing the invocation to Lord Ganapati on the tongue of the child with a golden ring and making them write with the right index finger the invocation, on a bed of raw rice.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : Environment (Page 6)

From Nov. 1, only electric, CNG, BS-VI diesel buses to run in NCR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI



- From November 1, only electric, CNG, and BS-VI-compliant diesel buses will be allowed to operate between Delhi and parts of the National Capital Region that fall in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.
- The decision was announced by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) and is aimed at curbing air pollution caused by diesel-powered buses operating in the NCR.

Do you know ?

- To reduce pollution levels and with the ultimate goal of transitioning to electric vehicles, the Centre had announced in April 2020 that all vehicles sold in the country must comply with Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) emission standards.
- Bharat Stage emission standards set legal limits on the emission of air pollutants, such as carbon monoxide and particulate matter.
- These standards focus on improving emission control, fuel efficiency, and engine design.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : Indian Architecture(GS1)-Page 7

Mehrauli park structures get facelift as Delhi digs deeper into its history

₹2.6-crore project to restore and conserve 55 monuments at Mehrauli Archaeological Park was started in March; BJP MP Lekhi calls the park historically significant and a gift to Delhi's people



- ₹2.6-crore project to restore and conserve 55 monuments at Mehrauli Archaeological Park was started in March; BJP MP Lekhi calls the park historically significant and a gift to Delhi's people
- Spread over 200 acres, Mehrauli Archaeological Park is adjacent to Qutub Minar, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- It is home to 55 historic structures built by various empires — including the Khaljis, Tughlaqs, Lodhis, Mughals, and the British — and many have now been revamped.
- These include the Jamali Kamali Mosque, Metcalfe House, Rajon ki Baoli, as well as the tombs of Mamluk king Ghiyas-ud-din Balban and Mughal governor Shah Quli Khan.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu :Polity and Governance(Page 10)

As part of 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh', Railways plans special trains to



The Indian Railways will operate special trains to transport volunteers carrying *mitti* (soil) from State capitals and other major stations across the country to reach New Delhi on October 29.

- The initiative is part of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' [My soil, my country] campaign being organised by the Ministry of Culture as "a tribute to the Veers and Veeranganas [bravehearts] who have made the supreme sacrifice for the country". Around 20,000 volunteers with *kalash* (urn) containing the soil in their possession will reach Delhi to participate in events culminating in the year-long *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu :Space (GS 3)Page 12)

Gaganyaan Mission: ISRO is set for first test flight today

The space agency will conduct a crew module test as part of its Gaganyaan programme, which aims at sending humans into space; beginning next year, one unnamed flight will carry humanoid



- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on October 21 will conduct the Gaganyaan's first Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1), which will demonstrate the performance of the Crew Escape System.
- The TV-D1 will lift off at 8 a.m. from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- Gaganyaan project envisages a demonstration of the human spaceflight capability by launching a human crew to an orbit of 400 km and bringing them safely back to earth.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Indian Express :Polity and Governance (GS 2)Page 5)

Summons to Mahua Moitra: LS panel to decide after Oct 26

The panel will examine the evidence and then decide who else to summon for examination, The Indian Express has learnt.

- The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha consists of 15 Members nominated by the Speaker.
- The term of the Committee is one year. Its function is to examine every complaint relating to unethical conduct of a Member of Lok Sabha referred to it by the Speaker and make such recommendations as it may deem fit and formulate a code of conduct for Members and suggest amendments or additions to the code of conduct from time to time.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express :Polity and Governance (GS 2)Page 15)

Mahua Moitra and ‘cash for query’ row: How MPs ask questions in Lok Sabha

MPs raise questions during Question Hour to hold the government accountable for its policies and actions. What is the procedure for asking the questions? What is the importance of the exercise?

Written by [Alind Chauhan](#)

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- The procedure for raising questions is governed by Rules 32 to 54 of the “Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha” and Directions 10 to 18 of the “Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha”.
- When in session, Lok Sabha generally starts with Question Hour — a one hour time period provided to MPs to ask questions of ministers and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express :Space (GS 3)Page 15)

Scientists spot most distant 'fast radio burst' recorded in history

A new study that documented the most distant "fast radio burst" in history says that FRBs can be used to measure the mass of the universe.



- In a paper published in Nature, astronomers **have reported a fast radio burst (FRB)** whose characteristics are different from almost all other FRBs previously detected, except one.
- FRBs are bright flashes of light that appear for a few milliseconds and then vanish

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express :Economy (GS 3)Page 15)

Proxy advisory firms oppose Anant's appointment on RIL board: What are these firms, and how should investors react?

Why are two proxy firms opposing Anant Ambani's appointment on the RIL board, and what role do proxy advisory boards play regarding companies? We explain.



Proxy advisory firms closely look at listed companies, their performance and resolutions, and advise shareholders about their rights.

They work in the interest of shareholders who might not always be able to analyse the impact of any resolution adopted by a company. These firms suggest investors vote for or against any corporate decisions.

Proxy advisory firms also work with companies to improve their corporate governance practices.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Environment (GS 3)

Vice President inaugurates exhibition “Roaring Revival: Tigers of India” by Ms. Charumati Nirwan

Posted On: 20 OCT 2023 6:49PM by PIB Delhi



- The exhibition - ‘Roaring Revival’ celebrates the success of 50 years of Project Tiger, which was launched in 1973.
- From 9 Tiger Reserves in the beginning of Project Tiger, the habitat has expanded to 75000 Sq Km under 54 Tiger Reserves, which is 2.3% of total land area of India. The country today is the home of 75% of the global tiger population.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Miscellaneous

PM hails Gujarat's Dhordo for being awarded as Best Tourism Village by UNWTO

Posted On: 20 OCT 2023 3:34PM by PIB Delhi



- Dhordo village in Kutch district of Gujarat has gained global recognition as one of the Best Tourism Villages awarded by the United Nations World Tourism Organization.
- **Do you know ?**
The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has announced its list of Best Tourism Villages 2023.
- The accolade recognizes villages that are leading in nurturing rural areas and preserving landscapes, cultural diversity, local values, and culinary traditions.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Miscellaneous

Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and Skill Council for Persons with Disability (SCPWD) sign MoU for 'Job Coach for Inclusivity Programmes'

Posted On: 20 OCT 2023 6:41PM by PIB Delhi



About Skill Council for Persons with Disability (SCPwD)

- Skill Council for Persons with Disability (SCPwD) is a 'not for profit' organisation, registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. In compliance with a specific provision of the National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015, Skill Council for Persons with Disability (SCPwD) was incepted in October, 2015 jointly by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and Confederation of India Industry (CII) under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Govt of India to fulfil the mission of mainstreaming 'Persons with Disability' (PwD).

About IICA

- IICA is an institution established by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India as an autonomous body to act as a think-tank and a Centre of Excellence to support the growth of the corporate sector in India through an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Defence

MID-PLANNING CONFERENCE FOR MULTILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE (MILAN) - 24

Posted On: 20 OCT 2023 6:31PM by PIB Delhi



- The Mid Planning Conference (MPC) of MILAN 24 (Multilateral Naval Exercise - 2024), to be hosted by the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam **from 19 - 27 Feb 24**, was conducted by the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) with participating friendly foreign Navies over video conference on 17 Oct 23
- The Flagship event, MILAN is a biennial multilateral naval exercise, which was incepted by the *Indian Navy* in 1995. Originally conceived in consonance with India's 'Look East Policy, MILAN expanded in ensuing years with the Govt of India's 'Act East policy' and Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi's Security And Growth for All in the Region (**SAGAR**) initiative, to include participation from other Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs).
- MILAN 22 was conducted at/ off Visakhapatnam from 25 Feb - 04 Mar 22 and witnessed participation from 39 countries.