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CHHATTISGARH FOREST DEPARTMENT WITHDRAWS COMMUNITY FOREST RIGHTS ORDER

Context

- The Chhattisgarh Forest Department recently withdrew its May 2025 advisory that prohibited NGOs, private entities, and other departments from engaging in **Community Forest Resource (CFR)** management activities.
  - The directive was withdrawn following protests, as it was seen as violating the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.**

Background

- The May 2025 order cited a 2020 circular and the **National Working Plan Code (NWPC), 2023**, emphasizing the need for scientific forest management.
- The order conflicted with the 2023 guidelines of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which empower Gram Sabhas and their **CFR Management Committees (CFRMCs)** to independently prepare and approve CFR plans, consulting Forest Departments only afterward.

The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006

- The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 legally **recognizes the rights of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)** to manage, conserve, and use forest resources sustainably.
- **Key Provisions:**
  - **Section 3(1)(i):** Empowers forest-dwelling communities to protect, conserve, regenerate, and manage community forest resources.
  - **Section 5:** Grants Gram Sabhas the power to protect wildlife, biodiversity, and forests.
  - **Gram Sabha's Role:** The law puts Gram Sabhas at the core of forest governance.

Community Forest Resources (CFR)

- Community Forest Resources (CFR) refer to **forest areas traditionally used and conserved by Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)** for their livelihood, cultural, and ecological needs.
- The term is defined under **Section 2(a)** of the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.**

Significance of Community Forest Rights

- **Empowerment of Tribal Communities:** CFRR enables self-governance and recognition of traditional knowledge systems.

- **Forest Conservation:** Studies show that forests governed by local communities have higher biodiversity and regeneration rates.
- **Livelihood Security:** Provides legal access to forest produce and sustainable income.
- **Climate Co-Benefits:** Community-managed forests can aid carbon sequestration, aligning with India's climate goals.

What are the Key Issues?

- **Institutional Turf War:** It reflects a long-standing tension between the Forest Department's control-oriented approach and community-led forest governance.
- **Legal vs Executive Interpretation:** FRA places the Gram Sabha at the centre of forest governance.
  - The Forest Department's interpretation undermined statutory provisions, violating both spirit and letter of the FRA.
- **Delay in Central Guidelines:** The absence of model CFR plans and implementation modules from the Centre has created policy ambiguity.

Government Initiatives

- **Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan (DAJGUA):** The scheme aims to strengthen the implementation of community forest resource rights by providing financial and technical support to Gram Sabhas.
- **The National Working Plan Code, 2023 (NWPC, 2023)**, released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), provides updated scientific and technical guidelines for forest management in India.
- **The Digital India Van Mitra App**, currently in its pilot stage, facilitates the digital mapping of Community Forest Resource lands using GPS.
  - **The app assists Gram Sabhas** in defining and managing their recognized forest areas, promoting transparency and accountability in forest rights implementation.

Source: IE

HOW INDIA'S TOY INDUSTRY BECAME A GLOBAL EXPORTER?

In News

- India's toy industry has undergone a major transformation and is now manufacturing domestically and **exporting to 153 countries.**
  - Exports have grown by 40% from FY19 to FY24, while imports have dropped by 79% in the same period.

◆ The US, UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Australia account for more than 70% of Indian toy exports.

Toy Sector of India: Historical Linkages

- India's toy-making tradition dates back to the **Indus Valley Civilisation (c. 2500 BCE),** with early toys made from clay, wood, and cloth reflecting cultural and social values.

- Traditional toys like **Channapatna wooden toys** and Kondapalli figurines are known for their eco-friendly craftsmanship and regional themes.

- Toy-making in India is deeply rooted in **cultural customs** and varies by region, shaped by local folklore and artisanal practices.

Evolution

- India's toy industry has undergone a major transformation—from traditional handmade toys to organised manufacturing—driven by globalisation, technological advancements, and changing consumer preferences.

- The shift began during colonial times with the **introduction of automated production, and post-independence** saw the rise of small-scale units making metal and wooden toys.

- The **1980s** brought plastic toys and domestic brands like Funskool, while the **1990s** opened the market to global players due to liberalisation.

- The **2000s** saw growth in organised retail and rising demand for educational, tech-enabled toys.

- Indian startups are now focusing on eco-friendly, learning-based toys.

Present Status

- India's toy market is valued at US$ 1.9 billion in 2024 and is projected to grow at a CAGR of approximately 10%, reaching US$ 4.7 billion by 2033.

- Currently, around 90% of the market is dominated by the unorganised sector, comprising small-scale and cottage industries.

- However, the organised sector is expanding quickly, fueled by increasing brand awareness, urbanisation, and rising digital connectivity.

Various initiatives

- The government has launched several initiatives to strengthen the domestic toy industry, reduce reliance on imports, and promote local manufacturing.

- **Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat aim** to boost indigenous production and establish India as a global hub for toy manufacturing.

- The government raised **import duties on toys from 20% to 60%** to curb cheap imports and support local manufacturers

- **Quality Control Orders (QCOs):** Implementation of stringent quality and safety standards (BIS certification) has ensured compliance and enhanced consumer confidence in toys made in India.

- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme** offers financial incentives to manufacturers who focus on high-quality, innovative, and export-ready toy production.

Challenges

- The Indian toy industry, despite strong growth potential, faces key challenges such as **market fragmentation, outdated production methods**, and limited technological capabilities.

- The dominance of unorganised players affects quality and brand recognition.

- Traditional toy-making communities face obstacles related to sustainability, market accessibility, and competition from mass-produced plastic toys, despite their cultural value.

Conclusion and Way Forward

- The Indian toy industry is undergoing major transformation driven by demographics, shifting consumer preferences, policy support, and technology. With growing demand for educational, tech-enabled, and eco-friendly toys, there are vast opportunities for innovation and expansion.

- By improving product quality, using digital platforms, and incorporating cultural elements, India can emerge as a global toy leader.

Source :TH

PNGRB APPROVES REFORMS TO NATURAL GAS PIPELINE TARIFF REGULATIONS

In News

- The **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** has approved significant amendments to the **Natural Gas Pipeline Tariff Regulations, 2025**, aimed at simplifying tariffs, improving access, and supporting the government's vision of **"One Nation, One Grid, One Tariff."**

Key Amendments

- **Reduction of Unified Tariff Zones:** The number of unified tariff zones is reduced from three to two.

- This will simplify the tariff structure and streamline the natural gas transportation network.
- **Nationwide Extension of Lower Unified Tariff (Zone 1):** The benefit of the lower unified tariff under Zone 1 is now extended across India. Applies to both Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG), including domestic household consumers.
  - Expected to improve affordability and access to natural gas nationwide.
- **Mandatory Long-Term Contracts for System-Use Gas:** Pipeline operators are now required to procure at least 75% of their system-use gas through long-term contracts (minimum tenure of three years).
  - This will enhance supply efficiency and tariff stability.
- **Introduction of Pipeline Development Reserve:** Operators with more than 75% pipeline utilisation must allocate 50% of their post-tax earnings to infrastructure development (Pipeline Development Reserve).
  - The remaining 50% of post-tax earnings will be returned to consumers through tariff adjustments.
- **Alignment with "One Nation, One Grid, One Tariff":** All amendments are aligned with the government's policy to create a unified and accessible natural gas market across India.
  - Changes were made after stakeholder consultations to ensure broad support and effective implementation.

About Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)

- It is a statutory body established under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.
- Its primary mandate is to regulate downstream activities in India's petroleum and natural gas sector, excluding the production of crude oil and natural gas.
- The Board has powers similar to a civil court for settling disputes and maintains a data bank on sector activities.
- PNGRB has developed the National Hydrocarbon Infrastructure Monitoring System (NHIMS) for real-time monitoring of petroleum and natural gas transport infrastructure.

Source: ET

INDIAN DIASPORA IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Context

- **Thirty-five million members of the Indian diaspora** spread across the world are India's "pride", said Prime Minister Narendra Modi **at an event of the people of Indian origin in Trinidad and Tobago.**

About

- The PM announced that **sixth generation** Indian-origin citizens of Trinidad and Tobago will receive the **Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) card soon.**
  - The announcement is the first such outreach by India to the Caribbean nation which is marking the **180th anniversary of the arrival of the Girmitiyas — in 2025**.
- **Girmitiya Community:** "Girmitiyas" were Indian labourers who left India in the mid to late 19th century to work in British colonies, where many eventually settled.
  - The term "Girmit" is a mispronunciation of "Agreement," referring to the contract under which they migrated.
  - The labourers were taken to colonies like Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago, South Africa, etc.
  - They have strong links with **Bihar and Eastern UP and have a bhojpuri-speaking heritage.**
- **Trinidad and Tobago also became the first country in the Caribbean to adopt India's UPI (Unified Payments Interface) system** that would help in transfer of finance between the two sides.

Indian Diaspora

- The diaspora encompasses a group of people who can **either trace their origins to India or who are Indian citizens living abroad, either temporarily or permanently.**
- **As per the Indian Ministry of External Affairs [2024],** the global Indian diaspora numbers approximately 35.42 million, consisting of 15.85 million non-resident Indians (NRIs) and 19.57 million people of Indian origin (PIOs).
- **Top 5 countries where the Indian diaspora resides:** United States of America (USA): 5.4Mn, United Arab Emirates (UAE): 3.6Mn, Malaysia: 2.9Mn, Canada: 2.8Mn and Saudi Arabia: 2.4Mn.
- **India is the origin of the largest number of international migrants** in the world, touching nearly 18 million, according to the UN World Migration Report 2024.

Importance of the Diaspora

- **Remittances:** In 2024, India received an estimated $129.1 billion worth of remittances, the highest ever for a country in any year.
  - India's share in global remittances was 14.3% this year, the highest such share since the turn of the millennium for any country.
  - These contribute significantly to foreign exchange reserves and rural household incomes.
- **Investment & Trade:** NRIs and PIOs invest in Indian real estate, startups, and infrastructure, and act as trade facilitators between India and their countries of residence.
- **Tech & Innovation:** Indian-origin professionals in Silicon Valley, academia, and global corporations contribute to knowledge transfer, mentorship, and innovation linkages.
- **Cultural Ambassadors:** The diaspora promotes Indian languages, yoga, cuisine, Cinema, and festivals globally.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Diaspora communities often influence foreign policy decisions in host countries in favor of India.
- **Citizen Diplomacy:** Diaspora involvement helps India manage relations during bilateral tensions or negative media coverage.
- **Global Recognition:** Their achievements enhance India's image as a land of talent and opportunity.

Challenges Faced by the Indian Diaspora

- **No Dual Citizenship:** India does not allow dual citizenship, limiting political rights and emotional bonding with the homeland.
- **Racism & Xenophobia:** Rising racial attacks in countries like the USA, UK, Australia, and South Africa.
- **Religious or Cultural Prejudice:** Targeting due to visible religious symbols or dietary habits.
- **Unfair Legal Treatment:** Harsh labour laws and weak legal protections for migrant workers in West Asia.
- **Low-Wage Migrant Workers:** Many Indian workers in Gulf countries face exploitative contracts, wage delays, unsafe housing, and long hours.
- **Struggle to Preserve Identity:** Indian-origin youth in Western countries often face a crisis of identity and cultural alienation.
- **Anti-Immigrant Sentiment:** Rise of right-wing politics in the West has made immigrants targets of suspicion.

Government Initiatives to Engage Diaspora

- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (9 January)**: It is celebrated to mark Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa.
  - It recognizes the contributions of the Indian diaspora.
- **Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Card:** It offers lifelong visa-free entry, property rights (except agriculture), and economic privileges to eligible PIOs up to 4th generation (excluding Pakistan/Bangladesh origin).
- **Know India Programme (KIP):** Short-term orientation programme for diaspora youth (21-35 years) to connect with Indian culture, institutions, and states.
- **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR):** Promotes Indian culture abroad through cultural exchanges, academic chairs, and artist delegations.
- **e-Migrate System:** Online platform to protect Indian workers abroad by streamlining recruitment, employment contracts, and grievance redressal.
- **Bharatiya Pravasi Samman Award:** Highest honor given by the Indian government to eminent diaspora members for their outstanding contributions.
- **Madad Portal:** Online grievance redressal platform by MEA for Indians abroad seeking help with passports, consular services, and legal issues.
- **VAJRA Scheme:** Invites Indian-origin scientists abroad to collaborate with Indian institutions in advanced research projects.
- **Global Pravasi Rishta Portal & App:** A digital platform to connect diaspora with Indian missions for registration, communication, and outreach activities.

Source: TH

INDIA TELLS WTO IT MAY LEVY RETALIATORY TARIFFS ON U.S. IMPORTS

Context

- The Indian government has notified the **World Trade Organization (WTO) of its proposal to levy retaliatory tariffs amounting to nearly $724 million on the U.S.**.

About

- The move follows the **United States' decision to extend safeguard tariffs**—amounting to a **25% ad valorem increase**—on imports of passenger vehicles, light trucks, and certain automobile components from India.

- **The proposed suspension of concessions by India** or other obligations would take the form of an increase in tariffs on selected products originating in the US.

Background of U.S. Tariffs

- Originally imposed in **2018** under President Trump, these tariffs targeted steel **(25%) and aluminium (10%) on national security grounds.**

- In 2025, during Trump's second term, the U.S. eliminated country- and product-specific exemptions, affecting India directly.

- The U.S. **declined to hold consultations**, **claiming the tariffs were national security measures, not safeguards.**

WTO Safeguards Agreement

- **Article 12.3 of the WTO Safeguards Agreement** requires a country planning safeguard measures **to consult affected members in advance,** providing them an **opportunity to discuss** the proposed action and seek clarification.

- **Article 12.5 of the WTO Agreement** on Safeguards **allows a member country to notify its intention to suspend trade concessions** if another member imposes safeguard measures **without proper consultation.**

India's Position

- India maintains that the **measures taken by the United States are not consistent with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994** (GATT 1994) and Agreement on Safeguards (AoS).

- Further, it said that since the U.S. did not hold **mandatory consultations under Article 12.3 of the AoS, India had the right to retaliate.**

  - India reserves the right to suspend concessions or other obligations that are **substantially equivalent** to the adverse effects of the measure to India's trade.

- **WTO Monitoring:** India will inform the WTO's Council for Trade in Goods and Committee on Safeguards of its actions.

Implications

- **Bilateral Trade:** The estimated trade affected by the US action is valued at $2.9 billion, with India seeking to reciprocally recover $723.75 million annually through its proposed tariff measures.

- **Trade Deal:** The timing of India's notification is significant, it comes amid heightened expectations of a breakthrough in the ongoing India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) negotiations.

- The move could be seen as an attempt by India to build negotiating leverage, especially as it pushes for the removal of US safeguard duties as part of the final deal contours.

- **WTO Rules and Reform:** The disagreement over whether national security tariffs constitute safeguard measures adds to broader debates on WTO's relevance and enforcement capacity.

Conclusion

- The proposal assumes significance as both countries are **negotiating a bilateral trade agreement (BTA).**

- Trade analysts say that India's WTO notification is a legal and strategic step, signaling its readiness to retaliate against the US safeguard duties on automobiles and parts.

Source: TH

HAM RADIO COMMUNICATION

In News

- Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla interacted with the students using a ham radio from the **International Space Station (ISS)**.

Ham Radio

- Ham Radio is popularly known as Amateur radio.

- It is a licensed radio service that relies on **radio waves for establishing communication.**

- It is largely deployed for **educational and knowledge purposes, for emergency or SOS communication.**

  - Using a dedicated frequency, a transceiver and an antenna, communication can be set up between two licensed hams by trained ham operators.

- The communication can be **hyper-local, global, and in space.**

- In India, any individual above the age of 12 is permitted to operate a ham radio.

  - The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** issues these licences.

Uses in Space

- **Amateur radio** was first used on a space shuttle in **1983** for communication between space and Earth.

- The ISS also hosts an **Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS)** system, which facilitates astronaut-student interactions to inspire the younger generation.

  - ARISS project is supported by amateur radio organizations and space agencies from the U.S., Russia, Canada, Japan, and Europe

- ◆ It provides equipment and operational support.
  - ▪ Radio outages are scheduled during critical activities like docking to avoid interference.

How will the Axiom-4 crew use ham radio?

- During the Axiom-4 mission, astronauts from India, Poland, and Hungary will use ham radio to communicate with their home countries twice during their 14-day stay at the ISS.
  - ◆ The communication will occur when the ISS passes over the horizon for brief windows of 5-8 minutes.

Significance

- Ham radio remains a reliable and stable mode of communication, especially during emergencies.
- It has been crucial when traditional communication systems fail due to **conflicts or natural disasters.**
- In India, ham radio has been used during major events like the 2001 Bhuj earthquake, the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and the 2013 Uttarakhand floods, providing vital emergency contact when needed most.

Source :IE

═══ **NEWS IN SHORT** ═══

PESHWA BAJIRAO

Context

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation unveiled the statue of Shrimant Bajirao Peshwa I in Pune, Maharashtra.

About

- Peshwa Bajirao, also known as **Bajirao I,** was the **7th Peshwa** of the Maratha Empire. He was the son of **Balaji Vishwanath,** the first Peshwa.
- He served under **Chhatrapati Shahu I** and is renowned for his military campaigns and expansion of the Maratha kingdom.

Military Achievements

- Bajirao Peshwa fought **41 battles** in a span of 20 years and emerged victorious in all of them.
- **Major Campaigns:**
  - ◆ **Battle of Palkhed (1728):** Defeated the **Nizam of Hyderabad,** demonstrating swift cavalry movement and encirclement tactics.
  - ◆ **Battle of Dabhoi (1731):** It was a conflict between Peshwa Bajirao I and the Dabhade clan, led by **Trimbak Rao Dabhade**, over the

authority to collect revenue from the province of Gujarat.
  - ◆ **Invasion of Delhi (1737):** Successfully marched on the Mughal capital and forced the Mughals to cede territories without directly capturing Delhi.

Source: AIR

ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU

In News

- Union Defence Minister at the 128th birth anniversary celebrations of Alluri Sitarama Raju, praised his contributions to India's freedom struggle.

Who was Alluri Sitarama Raju?

- He was a prominent Indian revolutionary and freedom fighter who played a crucial role in the Indian independence movement, particularly by mobilizing tribal communities against British rule.

Role in the Freedom Struggle

- Revered as **"Manyam Veerudu" (Hero of the Jungle)** by local people for his courage and leadership.
- **Influenced by the Non-Cooperation Movement** and the revolutionaries of Bengal, he initially encouraged tribals to seek justice through local panchayats and boycott colonial courts.
- He organized and led **tribal people and other sympathizers in guerrilla campaigns against British forces** across the border regions of present-day Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- **Alluri Sitarama Raju** was captured and martyred on May 7, 1924.

Rampa Rebellion (1922–1924)

- Alluri Sitarama Raju is best known for leading the **Rampa Rebellion**, also known as the Manyam Rebellion.
- This was a tribal uprising against the British, largely fueled by the oppressive **Madras Forest Act of 1882.**
- This act restricted the free movement of Adivasis in their forest habitats and prevented them from practicing their traditional form of **agriculture called 'podu,'** which threatened their way of life.

Recognition

- His fearless resistance and sacrifice made him a legendary figure in Andhra Pradesh and Indian history. His birthday is celebrated as a state festival in Andhra Pradesh.

Source: AIR

CHAUTAL

In News

- During his visit to Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, the Prime Minister of India showcased a **Bhojpuri Chautal performance**, emphasizing the rich cultural ties between India and its diaspora.

About Chautal

- **Chautal (also spelled Chowtal or Chartal)** is a significant and ancient rhythmic cycle (tala) in Hindustani classical music.

- It is primarily associated with the **Dhrupad style**, the oldest surviving form of Indian classical music, and is traditionally **played on the pakhawaj,** a barrel-shaped percussion instrument that pre-dates the tabla.

- The name **"Chautal"** means "four claps," referring to its division structure.

- It consists of **12 beats (matras)**. There are two primary interpretations of its divisions:

    - Four divisions of 4, 4, 2, 2 beats (all claps, no waves).
    - Six divisions of 2 beats (clap-wave alternation), similar to Ektal.

- It emphasizes powerful, weighty playing, often using a more fluid, improvisational structure called **"thapi" rather than a fixed "theka."**

- It is strongly associated with the ancient Dhrupad tradition, reflecting spiritual depth, tradition, and power in its rhythmic expression.

Source: TH

ROLL CLOUD

Context

- A **rare "roll cloud,"** a **long, tube-shaped cloud formation,** was spotted rolling over the coastline of Póvoa do Varzim, **Portugal.**

About

- A roll cloud is a **low, horizontal, tube-shaped,** and relatively **rare type of arcus cloud.** They usually appear to be **"rolling" about a horizontal axis.**

- It is created by a **wave in the atmosphere** that causes a **rising and sinking motion over adjacent areas**, allowing the clouds to form and appear to roll forward.

- This type of roll cloud can **stretch many hundreds of miles long.**

- **Formation:** Cool, moist air from over the ocean rolls in to meet warm, dry air over land.

    - This rapid condensation, combined with air flowing in different directions above and below the cloud, shapes it into the distinctive cigar form, most commonly seen near coasts.
    - It often forms **ahead of a thunderstorm** due to outflow winds from the storm's downdraft interacting with warm, moist air.

- **Not Dangerous:** It looks dramatic but is not associated with severe weather or tornado activity.

- **Common Locations:** Roll clouds are unusual in Portugal, they are more common in places like Australia, where cold air from Tasmania meets warm mainland conditions.

- **Rarity:** Relatively rare and usually brief in duration.

Source: IE

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Context

- PM Modi was conferred with '**The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago'** - the country's highest civilian honour.

    - Trinidad and Tobago has become the **first country in the Caribbean region** to adopt India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**

About Trinidad and Tobago

- **Location:** Trinidad and Tobago is situated in the **Caribbean Sea**, off the northern edge of the South American mainland, just off the coast of Venezuela.

    - It is part of the Lesser Antilles in the West Indies, geographically positioned between the **Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.**
    - The islands lie close to the continent of **South America**, separated by the **Gulf of Paria.**

- **Physical Features:** Trinidad, the larger of the two islands, is mostly flat with some low mountain ranges and fertile plains.

- Tobago, the smaller island, is more rugged and mountainous.
- The region lies close to the **Orinoco River Delta** and experiences **tropical maritime climate.**

- **Capital:** Port of Spain
- **Demographic Aspects:** Over **35%** of the population is of Indian descent, largely tracing their roots to indentured labourers brought from India during British colonial rule.

Source: AIR

KARIYACHALLI ISLAND

In News

- The Tamil Nadu Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources (TNSHORE) project is expected to start in August 2025 to save Kariyachalli island.
    - It will try to restore the reefs with artificial modules, planting seagrass beds and reviving marine life.

Kariyachalli island

- It is one of the 21 islands in the **Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park region**.
    - The gulf is home to one of the four major coral reefs in India.
- It is located on the southeastern coast of India between Rameshwaram and Thhothukudi.
- It has shrunk by over 70% since 1969 due to erosion, rising sea levels, and coral reef degradation, and is at risk of submersion by 2036.

Source :DTE

SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION

In Context

- The **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of Electoral Rolls in Bihar is a large-scale, legally mandated exercise initiated by the Election Commission

of India (ECI) to ensure the accuracy and **inclusiveness of the state's voter list.**

About

- SIR is **authorized under Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.**
- The main aim is to ensure that every eligible citizen is included in the Electoral Roll (ER), and no ineligible voter remains, thereby upholding the integrity of the electoral process and enabling free and fair elections.
- **Booth Level Officers (BLOs)** conduct house-to-house verification to:
    - Enroll all eligible citizens.
    - Remove ineligible names (such as deceased persons or those who have moved away).
    - Update details for accuracy

Source: IE

INDIA'S FIRST GLOBALLY RECOGNISED EQUINE DISEASE-FREE COMPARTMENT

In News

- India has set up its **first Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC)** at the Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC) Centre & College in Meerut Cantonment, Uttar Pradesh.
    - The facility was officially recognised by the **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).**

About Equine Disease

- These are a wide **range of illnesses** that affect horses, ponies, donkeys, and their hybrids. These diseases can be caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites, or other factors, and may be either **contagious or non-contagious.**
- **Notable examples** include Equine Infectious Anemia, Influenza, Piroplasmosis, Glanders, and Surra.
- Additionally, India has remained free of **African Horse Sickness since 2014.**

Source: DD News

INDIA'S ALUMINIUM AND COPPER VISION DOCUMENT

In News

- India has launched two vision documents aimed at scaling aluminium and copper production to meet future demands and support the country's growth by 2047.

About the Documents

- The **Aluminium Vision Document** aims to **increase production** six fold by 2047, expanding bauxite production, doubling the aluminium recycling rate, and promoting low-carbon technologies.

  - It highlights the **role of aluminium in clean energy,** electric mobility, and modern infrastructure.

  - To meet demand, production must rise from 4.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 37 MTPA by 2047, requiring over 20 lakh crore in investment.

    - Aluminium will be critical in driving the country's journey towards becoming the third largest economy and a developed nation by 2047.

- The **Copper Vision Document** anticipates a sixfold increase in demand by 2047 and calls for a 5 million tonnes per annum increase in smelting and refining capacity by 2030.

  - The strategy focuses on increasing secondary refining, enhancing domestic recycling, and securing overseas mineral assets.

Do you know?

- **India is the 2nd largest Aluminium producer, among top-10 producers in refined copper** and 3rd largest iron ore producer in the world.

- In the non-ferrous metal sector, primary aluminium production in FY 2025-26 posted a growth of 1.5% over the corresponding period last year, increasing to 3.47 lakh ton (LT) in FY 2025-26 (April) from 3.42 LT in FY 2024-25 (April). During the same comparative period, refined copper production has grown by 15.6% from 0.45 LT to 0.52 LT.

Objectives

- Both documents are aligned with the vision of making India a global leader in the aluminium and copper industries, contributing to energy transition, green technologies, and infrastructure growth.

- These efforts are part of India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Source :TH

DURAND CUP TOURNAMENT

Context

- The President of India unveiled and flagged off the trophies of the **Durand Cup Tournament 2025** at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre.

  - The trophies unveiled include the Durand Cup, the President's Cup and Shimla Trophy.

About the Durand Cup Tournament

- Organized by the Indian Armed Forces, it is **Asia's oldest** and the world's third oldest football tournament.

- Inaugurated in Shimla in **1888** as an Army Cup and only open to British Indian Army troops in India, later opened up to civilian teams.

- It is named after its founder, **Sir Mortimer Durand**, Foreign Secretary of British India.

Source: PIB