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FRANCE RECOGNISED PALESTINE AS A STATE

Context

- France and several other Western nations formally declared their **recognition of a Palestinian state at the United Nations**.

About

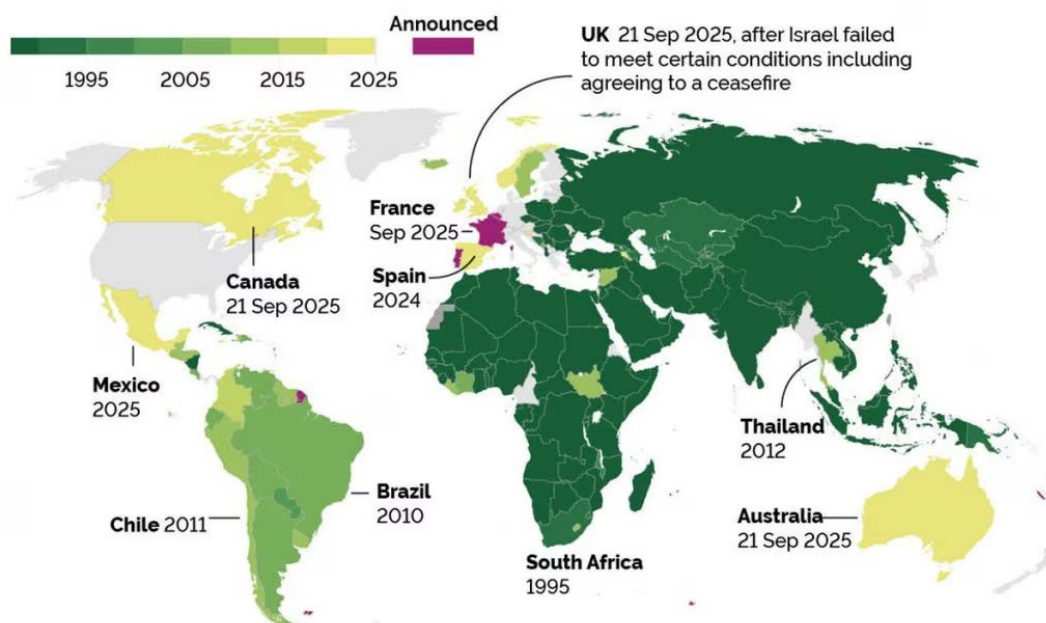
- France's announcement comes as the **United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Portugal** declared recognition recently.
 - ♦ The move, however, is largely symbolic **without support from the United States**, which has the **power to veto membership**.
- The Israeli Prime Minister reiterated his position that **there would be no Palestinian state and vowed to accelerate the creation of new settlements**.

Attempt for Recognition of Palestine

- **Earlier Attempts:** Palestinian attempts for UN recognition as a full member state began in 2011.

- ♦ They are currently a non-member observer state, a status that was granted in 2012.
- **Recognition at UN:** The path to becoming a member-state requires at least **nine of the 15 members of the Security Council to vote in favor**, and none of its five permanent members – the US, France, China, Britain and Russia – to veto it.
 - ♦ The US has frequently wielded its veto power in line with Israel's foreign policy, blocking a Security Council resolution.
- **More than 145 UN member states** had already recognized Palestinian statehood.
 - ♦ **Algeria** became the **first country** to officially recognise a Palestinian state on November 15, 1988.
 - ♦ India formally recognised Palestinian statehood in 1988.
 - ♦ At least **45 countries** including the United States reject the idea of Palestinian State.

Which countries recognise or will recognise the State of Palestine?



Source: UN, Palestinian mofa. Note: overseas territories are grouped with sovereign countries, territories unrecognized by the UN appear in dark grey

Criteria to be Recognised as a Sovereign State

- **Under the Montevideo Convention of 1933**, officially the Convention on the Rights and Duties of States, there are several criteria before Palestine can be recognised as a sovereign state under international law. The process requires the state to have:
 - ♦ A permanent population.
 - ♦ A defined territory.
 - ♦ An effective government and international relations.
 - ♦ Formal diplomatic processes including embassies, ambassadors and treaties.

Current Status of Palestine

- Palestine has **international recognition**, diplomatic missions abroad and teams that compete in sporting competitions, including the Olympics.
- But because of its long-standing dispute with Israel, **Palestine has no internationally agreed boundaries, no capital and no army.**
- Also, because of Israel's military occupation in the West Bank, the Palestinian Authority (PA) which was set up in the wake of peace agreements in the 1990s **does not have full control of its land or people.**

What is the two-state solution?

- **UN 1947 Partition Plan:** When the British mandate over Palestine ended, the UN partition plan in 1947 envisioned **dividing the territory into Jewish and Arab states.**
- **Arab War:** Upon Israel's declaration of independence the following year, **war erupted with its Arab neighbours** and the plan was **never implemented.**
 - ♦ More than half of the Palestinian population fled or were forced to flee.
 - ♦ Under a 1949 armistice, Jordan held control over the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and Egypt over Gaza.
 - ♦ Israel captured the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza in the **1967 six-day war.**



- **Two State Solution:** The Palestinians seek these lands for a future independent state, and the idea of a two-state solution based on **Israel's pre-1967 boundaries** has been the basis of peace talks dating back to the 1990s.
 - ♦ The two-state solution has wide international support, but there is disagreement about how it would be implemented.
 - ♦ Israel's creation and expansion of settlements in the Occupied West Bank, which are illegal under international law, are seen as a major obstacle to this.

What Does Recognition as a State Means?

- **Diplomatic Meaning:** Countries that recognize Palestine agree it has the right to exist as an independent state, separate from Israel.
 - ♦ They may establish formal diplomatic relations i.e. embassies, ambassadors, treaties.
 - ♦ Recognition strengthens Palestine's claim to sovereignty and self-determination.
- **Legal & International Law Aspect:** Recognition affirms Palestine as a subject of international law, not just a territory under dispute.
- **UN and Multilateral Forums:** Palestine already has "non-member observer state" status at the UN since 2012.
 - ♦ Recognition by more countries gives Palestine greater legitimacy in multilateral negotiations.
- **Political Significance:** Recognition is often seen as a symbolic but powerful statement of support for the two-state solution.
 - ♦ It puts pressure on Israel to negotiate seriously.

Conclusion

- Recognition of Palestine means the international community treating it as a legitimate, independent country.
- However, without control over land, borders, and full UN membership, it remains merely a political and diplomatic step.
- Thus, recognition is a necessity but true legitimacy and stability can only emerge through a negotiated settlement and lasting solution to the conflict.

Source: TH

NEED TO DECRIMINALISE DEFACTION

Context

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India has remarked that it is 'high time' to reconsider the criminalisation of defamation.

About Defamation in India

- It refers to any spoken, written, or published statement that harms the reputation of an individual or group.
- It can be **directed at both living persons and the deceased**, where harm to the family or immediate relatives is considered relevant.
- **Two Forms:**
 - ♦ **Libel (written):** Defamatory statements in a permanent form (e.g., writing, images, publications);
 - ♦ **Slander (spoken):** Spoken or transient defamatory statements.
- **Legal Status:**
 - ♦ **Civil Defamation:** It is **governed by tort law**, allowing the aggrieved party to **seek monetary compensation** for reputational harm.
 - ♦ **Criminal Defamation:** It is codified under **Section 356 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023**. It prescribes up to two years of imprisonment, a fine, or both.

Arguments for Decriminalisation

- **Freedom of Speech & Expression (Article 19(1)(a)):** Criminal defamation chills free expression and press freedom.
 - ♦ Writers, journalists, and critics risk imprisonment merely for voicing dissent.
 - ♦ **Criminal defamation** was introduced by the British in the 19th century **to curb nationalist voices**.
- **22nd Law Commission of India (2023 Report):** It recommended retaining criminal defamation, arguing that reputation is a lifelong asset that deserves legal protection.
- **Disproportionate Punishment:** Imprisonment for speech-related offences is excessive when civil remedies exist.
 - ♦ It can discourage investigative journalism and whistleblowing.
- **Misuse by Political Class:** Cases often target dissenters, media, and whistleblowers.
- **International Standards:** The **UN Human Rights Committee** and global free speech bodies recommend decriminalisation.
 - ♦ Criminal penalties for speech are inconsistent with **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) standards** (to which **India is a signatory**).

Arguments Against Decriminalisation

- **Protection of Reputation (Article 21):** The Supreme Court (2016, *Subramanian Swamy v. Union of India*) upheld criminal defamation,

holding that reputation is an integral part of the right to life.

- ♦ Hence, balancing free speech with dignity requires a deterrent mechanism.
- **Civil Remedies May Be Inadequate:** Lengthy and expensive litigation and compensation claims may not offer effective protection, especially for ordinary citizens without resources.
 - ♦ Criminal prosecution provides quicker relief and stronger deterrence.
- **Protection Against Irresponsible Speech:** In the digital era, defamatory content spreads rapidly and irreversibly.
 - ♦ Criminal law acts as a stronger deterrent against malicious falsehoods.
- **Checks on Media & Political Speech:** While press freedom is vital, **unchecked allegations and slander** could damage reputations beyond repair.
 - ♦ The government's stance emphasizes safeguarding individuals from reckless media trials.
- **Indian Social Context:** In a society where reputation directly impacts livelihood, marriages, and community standing, criminal defamation is seen as necessary for protection.

Way Forward

- **Gradual Decriminalisation:** Replace imprisonment with fines or community service.
- **Civil Law Strengthening:** Fast-track civil defamation cases and provide reasonable caps on damages.
- **Safeguards for Reputation:** Introduce mediation and apology mechanisms before litigation.
- **Community Service:** It was introduced by **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023** as an **alternative punishment** aiming to **reduce the punitive burden** while safeguarding victims' rights.

Source: TH

THREE WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO QUIT INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

In News

- **Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger** have announced they will immediately withdraw from the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**, labelling it an "instrument of neo-colonialist repression".

About International Criminal Court (ICC)

- The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** is an independent, permanent international tribunal established in **2002 under the Rome Statute**.

- It is based in **The Hague, Netherlands**, and is the world's only court with a mandate to prosecute individuals (not states) for the gravest international crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression.
- The ICC's jurisdiction applies to crimes committed on the territory of member states, by nationals of member states, or those referred to by the UN Security Council. As of early 2025, it has 125 state parties (members).
- Major powers** like the United States, China, Russia, and India are not members and do not recognize its jurisdiction.

Issues and Criticisms of the ICC

- Perception of African Bias and Selective Justice:** Critics (including African Union leaders) argue that this represents "selective justice" or neo-colonialism, especially since there are grave atrocity crimes reported in other parts of the world that have not led to ICC prosecutions.
- Effectiveness and Enforcement Problems:** The ICC does not have its own police force and relies on member states for arrests and enforcement.
- Lack of Universal Jurisdiction:** Major nations (US, China, Russia, India, Israel, etc.) are not parties to the Rome Statute. Their absence undermines the universality and reach of the ICC.
- Slow Proceedings and High Costs:** The ICC has been criticised for the length and expense of its proceedings, with only a small number of convictions since 2002 despite years of investigations.

Source: TH

THE GROWING RELEVANCE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

Context

- The World Health Organization (WHO)** reports that **traditional medicine is practised in 88%** of its member-states — **170 out of 194 countries**.

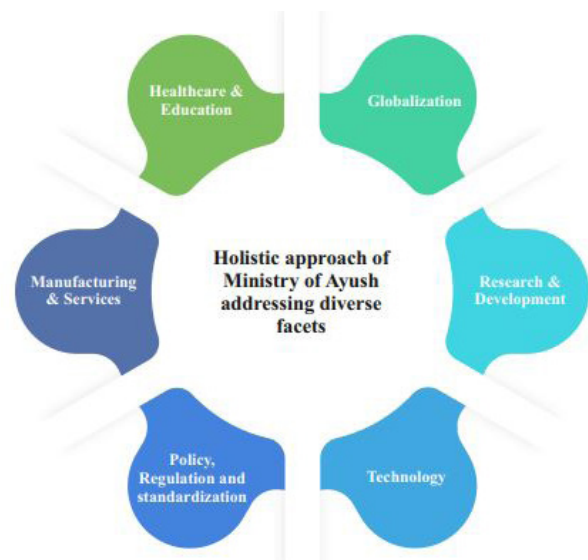
About

- Growing Acceptance:** Analysts estimate that the global traditional medicine market will reach \$583 billion by 2025, with annual growth rates of 10%-20%.
- Countrywise Market:** China's traditional Chinese medicine sector is valued at \$122.4 billion, Australia's herbal medicine industry at \$3.97 billion, and India's Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) sector at \$43.4 billion.

- Shift in Healthcare:** This expansion reflects a fundamental shift in health-care philosophy — from reactive treatment models to proactive, preventive approaches that address root causes rather than symptoms alone.

Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy)

- The **key aim of the AYUSH Department** is to provide **health services under the AYUSH stream to the people**.
- The AYUSH stream includes** Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy systems of healthcare and treatment.
- The Government promotes these systems through various initiatives aimed at **integrating traditional medicine with modern healthcare**.



Key Features of the Ayush System:

- Ayurveda:** Focuses on holistic healing using herbs, diet, and lifestyle changes. It emphasizes balance in body, mind, and spirit.
- Yoga and Naturopathy:** Yoga promotes physical and mental well-being through postures, breathing exercises, and meditation. Naturopathy emphasizes natural treatments and lifestyle changes.
- Unani:** Originating from Greek medicine, it uses herbal remedies and emphasizes balance among the body's elements.
- Siddha:** A traditional healing system from South India, focusing on alchemy and herbal medicine.
- Homoeopathy:** Based on the principle of "like cures like," it uses highly diluted substances to treat various ailments.

India's Ayurvedic Transformation

- **The AYUSH industry**, comprising over **92,000 micro, small and medium enterprises**, has expanded nearly **eight-fold in less than a decade**.
- **India now exports AYUSH and herbal products** worth **\$1.54 billion** to more than **150 countries**.
- Presently, Ayurveda is recognized as a system of **Traditional Medicine in more than 30 countries**.
- **Ayush Visa**: The Ministry of Home Affairs incorporated a new visa category, "Ayush Visa" for foreign nationals seeking medical treatment like therapeutic care, wellness and yoga in India.
- So far, **more than 50 products (Unani and Ayurveda)** have been **registered in 08 countries** namely Kenya, USA, Russia, Latvia, Canada, Oman, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka under the International Cooperation (IC) scheme of the Ministry.
- **Global Recognition**: The Ministry of Ayush and the World Health Organization has established the **World's first and the only Global Traditional Medicine Centre (WHO GTMC)** in Jamnagar, India.
 - ♦ The UN General Assembly in 2014, unanimously adopted a resolution for observing **21st June every year as the International Day of Yoga**.

Government Initiatives

- **Global Expansion**: India has signed 25 bilateral agreements and 52 institutional partnerships, established 43 AYUSH Information Cells across 39 countries.
- **Ministry of Ayush**: Established in **2014**, this ministry is dedicated to promoting traditional medicine, ensuring quality control, and regulating practices.
- **NAM**: Government is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) in the country through State and UT governments for promotion and development of AYUSH systems.
 - ♦ Under the concept of AYUSH Gram, AYUSH based lifestyles are promoted through behavioral change communication, training of village health workers towards identification and use of local medicinal herbs and provision of AYUSH health services.
- **Ayush Export Promotion Council (AYUSHEXCIL)**: It has been established to promote Ayush products and services globally by the Ministry of Ayush and supported by the Ministry of Commerce.

- **Scientific Validation**: India has invested significantly in research through institutions including the All India Institute of Ayurveda, the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, the National Institute of Ayurveda, and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences.
 - ♦ These institutions focus on clinical validation, drug standardisation and developing integrative care models that combine traditional knowledge with modern medical practices.
- **Information, Education and Communication (IEC) in AYUSH**: Under the scheme, the Ministry undertakes promotional activities like organization of AROGYA fairs at State and National level; multimedia campaigns; preparation and distribution of publicity material including audio visual material, etc.
- **Promotion of International Cooperation**: The Ministry deputed AYUSH experts to foreign countries to participate in international meetings, conferences, training programmes, for promotion and propagation of AYUSH Systems.

Source: TH

SUPREME COURT JUDGE FLAGS NEED FOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION MECHANISM FOR JUDGES

In News

- Recently, Supreme Court judge Justice Surya Kant emphasized the need for a performance evaluation system for judges with clear parameters to **improve judicial efficiency**.

Present status

- India's judiciary, though respected for its independence, is grappling with rising case backlogs and inconsistent performance.
- Justice Surya Kant has highlighted the urgent need for a structured performance evaluation system to enhance efficiency and rebuild public trust.

Need and Benefits of Performance Evaluation System

- **High Pendency**: Over 88,000 cases pending in the Supreme Court alone; lakhs more across High Courts and subordinate courts.
 - ♦ Clear metrics can help track and optimize case disposal rates across jurisdictions.
- **Inconsistent Productivity**: Some judges exhibit exemplary disposal rates, while others lag due to unclear benchmarks or systemic inertia.

- **Public Expectation:** Citizens expect timely justice, and delays erode trust in the judiciary.
 - ♦ Objective parameters reduce opacity and foster public trust.
- Performance Evaluation System can prevent overburdening efficient judges while addressing underperformance.

Issues and Concerns

- Key concerns about implementing a judicial performance evaluation system include the **risk of undermining judicial independence** if metrics are misused.
- The **challenge of defining fair and objective criteria for evaluation.**
- The **lack of existing precedents in India's higher judiciary**, and the potential for the **system to devolve into a ranking or reprimanding tool**, which could foster unhealthy competition and impact judicial quality.
- Evaluation can compromise autonomy or invite executive overreach.

Conclusion and Way Forward

- A performance evaluation system for judges can revitalize the judiciary, not punish individuals.
- As Chief Justice B.R. Gavai emphasized, judges hold great power and must exercise it with humility and accountability.
- There are calls for institutionalized introspection through transparent metrics, to make the judiciary more efficient, responsive, and a trusted pillar of democracy.

Source: TH

NEWS IN SHORT

ROSH HASHANAH

In News

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has greeted the warmest Rosh Hashanah to the Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu.

Rosh Hashanah

- Rosh Hashanah is a Jewish holiday celebrating the creation of the world and the start of a new year.
- It is a holy which focuses on reflection, forgiveness, and setting priorities for the year ahead.
- Jewish people believe that during this time, God judges their actions from the past year to determine their fate for the next.

Source :PIB

INDIA-ADB SIGN \$125 MILLION LOAN TO ASSAM

Context

- The Government of India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a 125 million dollar loan agreement to enhance urban livability and bolster climate resilience in six district headquarters and Guwahati, in the State of Assam.

About Asian Development Bank

- ADB is a regional development bank established in **1966** for Social and Economic Development. It has **69 members**. India is a **founding member of ADB**.
- Modeled on the World Bank, ADB uses a weighted voting system based on members' capital subscriptions.
 - ♦ India is the **fourth-largest shareholder** in the bank (Japan (15.6%), United States (15.6%), People's Republic of China (6.4%) & India (6.3%).)
- It is a **multilateral development bank**, which seeks to help its developing member countries to reduce poverty and improve their people's quality of life through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth and regional integration.
- ADB supports India in robust, climate-resilient, and inclusive growth through alignment with ADB's Strategy 2030 and the India Country Partnership Strategy (2023–2027).
- **Headquarters:** Manila, Philippines.

Source: AIR

MAITRI 2.0 CROSS-INCUBATION PROGRAMME

In News

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched the second edition of the Brazil–India Cross-Incubation Programme in Agritech (Maitri 2.0) in New Delhi.

Maitri 2.0

- It is a two-way learning platform for co-creation between Indian and Brazilian innovators to build a stronger, innovative, and inclusive agri-food ecosystem for global food security.
- It aims to connect incubators, promote co-incubation, and foster collaboration in sustainable agriculture, digital tech, and value chains, helping build resilient food systems and empowering farmers through Indo-Brazilian innovation.

Importance

- Maitri 2.0 is a strategic step aligned with both nations' goals in agriculture, technology, and food security.

Source : PIB

INDIA AND MOROCCO SIGN DEFENCE COOPERATION

About

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Morocco's Defence Minister signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation.**

Morocco

- Morocco is a mountainous country of **western North Africa** that lies directly across the **Strait of Gibraltar from Spain.**



- **Morocco borders** Algeria to the east and southeast, Western Sahara to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north.
- It is the **only African country** with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

Source: AIR

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR E-GOVERNANCE (NAEG) 2025.

Context

- **Gram Panchayats** were conferred with the **National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2025.**

About

- **NAeG** are under a **newly instituted category** dedicated to **grassroots-level initiatives in digital service delivery.**
- **Each award includes a trophy, certificate, and financial incentives** of Rs.10 lakh (Gold) and Rs.5

lakh (Silver), to be reinvested in strengthening citizen-centric initiatives.

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPPGP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).
- **This first-of-its-kind recognition** highlights the Government's vision that Good Governance is best delivered through Digital Governance.
- **Rohini Gram Panchayat, Maharashtra** has become the first Gram Panchayat in the State to adopt a fully paperless e-Office system.

Source: PIB

25 LAKH ADDITIONAL LPG CONNECTIONS UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA

Context

- The Government has decided to provide **25 lakh** additional LPG connections under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana during the current Financial Year.
 - ♦ With this expansion, the total number of PMUY connections will rise to **10.58 crore.**

About Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

- The scheme was launched by the Government of India on 1st May 2016 and is implemented by the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.**
- **The objective** of the scheme is to **replace harmful cooking fuels** such as coal and firewood with clean LPG to protect women & children's health by reducing indoor smoke pollution.
- The scheme provides a completely free LPG connection, including the first refill and a stove.
 - ♦ The scheme also offers a targeted subsidy of **₹300 per 14.2 kg** cylinder for up to **12 refills** per year (pro-rated for 5 kg connections) to all PMUY consumers.
- PMUY initially aimed to provide 8 crore free LPG connections to poor households, achieving this target in September **2019.**
 - ♦ To reach more families, PMUY 2.0 was launched in August 2021, distributing an additional 1.6 crore connections by **January 2022.**

Source: AIR

SPARSH

Context

- The System for Pension Administration – Raksha (SPARSH) has resolved **5.60 lakh** out of **6.43 lakh legacy discrepancy cases (87%)**, safeguarding the entitlements of defence pensioners.

About

- SPARSH is the world's largest pension system for defence personnel.
- **The System for Pension Administration (Raksha) – SPARSH** is an initiative of the Ministry of Defence aimed at providing a comprehensive digital solution for the administration of defence pensions.
- The system seeks to **replace fragmented pension management with a centralized, transparent, and interactive platform**, thereby reducing grievances and ensuring dignity for defence pensioners.
- At present, 202 Defence Accounts Department (DAD) offices, 4.63 lakh Common Service Centers, 5200+ bank branches functioning as SPARSH Service Centers.

SPARSH Seva Kendras

- The SPARSH Seva Kendras are points of contacts for the pensioners to avail the services that are available through the portal.
- These centres will provide interface and assistance to the Pensioner in the event of non-availability to portal access.

Source: PIB

HQ IDS ORGANISES THE COMBINED OPERATIONAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION (CORE) PROGRAMME

Context

- The Combined Operational Review and Evaluation (CORE) Programme is being organised by Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) at the United Service Institution of India, New Delhi.

About

- The initiative serves as a **unique platform for civil-military engagement on national security, bringing together senior officers of the Indian Armed Forces** along with officers from the ministries of Defence, External Affairs, and Home Affairs.
- The programme is designed to **enhance strategic awareness and equip participating officers with fresh perspectives**, enabling them to make pragmatic, well-informed, and balanced decisions in their future leadership roles.
- **The Themes of CORE include:**
 - ♦ Evolving regional and global security challenges,

- ♦ the impact of technological transformation on the nature of warfare,
- ♦ the importance of strategic communication, and
- ♦ the growing need for enhanced synergy between civil and military stakeholders in addressing complex and multidimensional threats.

Source: PIB

51ST FOUNDATION DAY OF CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

In News

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) celebrated its **51st Foundation Day**.

About Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- It is a **statutory organization** established in September 1974 under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**, and later empowered under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- It also supports the **Ministry of Environment under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- CPCB's primary functions include promoting the **cleanliness of water bodies** and **improving air quality** by preventing and controlling pollution.
- To manage air quality, CPCB runs the National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP) to track pollution trends and support planning and industrial regulation.
- It also operates an **automated air quality monitoring station** at ITO, New Delhi, regularly measuring pollutants

Source :PIB

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES

Context

- The **International Day of Sign Languages** is observed on 23rd September every year to highlight the importance of sign language in ensuring the human rights of Deaf people worldwide.
- **23rd September** marks the **International Day of Sign Languages** for promoting Deaf rights.
 - ♦ The UN defines sign languages as full natural languages, different from spoken ones. In India, Indian Sign Language (ISL) is used by both Deaf and hearing communities.

About International Day of Sign Languages

- The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), **adopted in 2006**, recognizes sign languages as equal to spoken languages and requires states to promote the linguistic identity of the **Deaf community**.
- **India ratified this Convention in 2007**, showing its commitment to upholding Deaf people's rights and promoting Indian Sign Language.
- The day was first celebrated in **2018** as part of the **International Week of the Deaf**. The date also commemorates the establishment of the **World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)** in 1951.

- This year's theme, "**No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights**," emphasizes that the recognition and use of sign languages are essential for ensuring human rights for Deaf people.

Do you know?

- According to the WFD, there are over **70 million Deaf people** worldwide, and more than 80% of them live in developing countries.
- In India, the **2011 Census** recorded about **50 lakh Deaf persons**.

Source: AIR

