

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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## SC TO 'CONSIDER' PLEA TO REVIVE NJAC: CJI

### In News

- The Chief Justice of India (CJI) recently stated that the Supreme Court would consider a plea seeking to revive the **National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)** and put an end to the **existing Collegium System**.

### What is NJAC?

- NJAC was envisaged as a **constitutional body** to handle appointments/transfers of judges to the higher judiciary (Supreme Court and High Courts).
- Under the **99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014** and the accompanying NJAC Act, 2014, new constitutional **Articles (124A–124C)** were inserted to establish NJAC.

- Composition of NJAC:** Chief Justice of India as the ex-officio Chairperson, the two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court, the Union Minister of Law and Justice, and two eminent persons.
  - The eminent persons were to be selected by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India, and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.
- In 2015, a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court (Fourth Judges Case) struck down the 99th Amendment and the NJAC Act by a 4:1 majority, **declaring them unconstitutional**.
  - The Court held that giving the executive (via Law Minister) and non-judicial persons veto or decisive role in judicial appointments compromised the independence of judiciary, which is part of the **“basic structure” of the Constitution**.

Aspect	Arguments Against NJAC (Favours Collegium)	Arguments For NJAC Revival (Against Collegium)
<b>Judicial Independence</b>	The NJAC compromises independence by giving the Executive influence. Judicial Primacy is essential for an impartial judiciary.	Judges appointing judges (Judicial Self-Appointment) is against democratic principles and the spirit of checks and balances.
<b>Political Influence</b>	The Law Minister and PM-nominated members introduce the risk of political bias and quid pro quo appointments.	The Executive (Government) is the largest litigant in courts; it must have a stake in who decides its cases to ensure basic scrutiny.
<b>Accountability &amp; Transparency</b>	The Collegium is a black box operating without a constitutional basis, formal Secretariat, or published criteria.	The NJAC, with diverse members, promotes transparency and accountability to the public. The 'Eminent Persons' bring a non-judicial, civil society perspective.
<b>Veto Power</b>	The two-member veto power in the NJAC could effectively empower the Executive to block any name, regardless of judicial merit.	The lack of any mechanism to veto controversial judicial appointments in the Collegium leads to non-accountable decisions and allegations of nepotism.
<b>Separation of Powers</b>	True separation requires each branch to control its own composition. The Executive appoints its ministers, Legislature its Speaker—judiciary must appoint its judges.	Absolute separation is a myth. Even in established democracies, judicial appointments involve multiple branches.
<b>Speed &amp; Efficiency</b>	The Collegium, despite delays, processes recommendations. The real bottleneck is government clearance, not judicial selection. NJAC would add more bureaucratic layers.	The Collegium's informal, secretive consultations cause massive delays. An institutional mechanism with timelines and procedures (like NJAC) would expedite appointments.

### Present System of Appointments in Higher Judiciary (Collegium System)

- Overview:**
  - The existing system for appointments in India's higher judiciary (Supreme Court and High Courts) is the Collegium System, evolved through judicial interpretations of Articles 124 and 217, rather than explicit constitutional text.
    - Under Article 124(2)**, Supreme Court judges are appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and other SC judges as needed.

- **Under Article 217(1)**, High Court judges are appointed by the President after consultation with CJI, the High Court Chief Justice (HC CJ), and state Governor.
- **Evolution via Judges Cases:**
  - ♦ **First Judges Case (1981):** "Consultation" means executive primacy; CJI opinion not binding.
  - ♦ **Second Judges Case (1993):** Overruled prior; CJI primacy in appointments, formed collegium of CJI + two senior SC judges.
  - ♦ **Third Judges Case (1998):** Expanded SC Collegium to CJI + four senior-most SC judges; binding if reiterated after government objections.
- **Appointment Process:**
  - ♦ **Supreme Court Judges:**
    - SC Collegium (CJI + 4 seniors) recommends names based on merit, integrity, diversity.
    - Sent to the Law Ministry; the government can object once, but must appoint if reiterated.
    - The President formally appoints.
  - ♦ **High Court Judges:**
    - HC Collegium (HC CJ + 2 seniors) initiates; sends to CJI/SC Collegium for approval.
    - Same government scrutiny; President appoints after Governor input.

Source: TH

## DIGITAL GENETICS THREATENS SEED SOVEREIGNTY AND FARMERS' RIGHTS

### In News

- The use of **Digital Sequence Information (DSI)** is a major point of contention at the 11th session of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) in Lima (Peru).

### Digital Sequence Information (DSI)

- It refers to genetic data derived from DNA, RNA, or proteins that are stored, shared, and analyzed digitally.
- It enables genome sequencing, bioinformatics, synthetic biology, and precision medicine,

allowing researchers to study biodiversity without physically accessing biological samples.

### Applications

- It facilitates genome mapping, drug discovery, and agricultural innovation.
- It Helps track pathogens (e.g., COVID-19 genome sequencing).
- It supports crop improvement and resilience through genome editing.
- It Assists in biodiversity monitoring and species preservation.

### Issues and Concerns

- Many countries fear that corporations use **DSI to bypass benefit-sharing obligations** under treaties like the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- UN experts warn that **DSI could undermine farmers' rights**, as companies claim intellectual property over digital genetic data without compensating source communities.
- Current treaties (CBD, Nagoya Protocol, ITPGRFA) struggle to address digital data, which is easily shared across borders.
- ♦ The Treaty's Multilateral System (MLS) has facilitated exchanges of millions of plant genetic resources, but benefit-sharing to farmers has been minimal.
- Concentration of genomic databases in a few countries or **corporations raises concerns of unequal access**.

### Way Ahead

- Digital Sequence Information (DSI) presents both opportunities and challenges, driving scientific progress while raising concerns of equity and sovereignty.
- There is a need to balance open access with fair benefit-sharing through inclusive governance under international treaties, building genomic infrastructure in developing nations, and ensuring recognition for communities that provide genetic resources.
- For biodiversity-rich countries like India, clear national policies linking DSI use with farmers' rights and conservation are vital, while global cooperation through a multilateral mechanism is essential to prevent monopolization and ensure DSI contributes to sustainable development.

Source :DTE



## DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

### Context

- Global power structures have shifted from control over physical assets (oil, chokepoints) to **Digital sovereignty**.
  - A nation's digital footprint is now the primary source of wealth and the most effective tool of diplomacy.

### Digital Sovereignty

- It involves creating **legal and regulatory structures** that ensure sovereign control over data exports and unhindered rights to regulate the national digital space.
- It is the physical layer (infrastructure, technology), the code layer (standards, rules and design) and the data layer (ownership, flows and use).
- Pillars of Digital Sovereignty:**
  - Data Sovereignty:** Data generated in India is stored, processed, and governed under Indian laws.
  - Technological Sovereignty:** Indigenous capacity in chips, networks, AI, cybersecurity, and cloud.
  - Platform Sovereignty:** Reducing reliance on foreign social media, e-commerce, and digital platforms.
  - Cyber Sovereignty:** Ability to secure cyberspace and enforce laws within national digital boundaries.
  - Regulatory Sovereignty:** Independent digital policy and rule-making.

### Why Does Digital Sovereignty Matters?

- India's Growing Economy:** India's digital economy is projected to reach \$1 trillion by 2025, making it one of the world's largest data generators.
  - With over 800 million internet users and growing, the volume of personal data being generated, processed, and stored is astronomical.
  - This has attracted global technology giants, but it has also raised questions about data sovereignty and national security.
- National Security:** When critical personal data of Indian citizens is stored in foreign jurisdictions, it becomes subject to foreign laws and potentially foreign surveillance, creating vulnerabilities in India's national security framework.

- Increasing Cyber Threats:** In an age where **data breaches and cyber warfare are real threats**, having critical data within national borders ensures better incident response and more control over security measures.
- Economic Interests:** It effectively creates a robust domestic data centre industry. This not only generates employment and technological expertise but also reduces dependency on foreign infrastructure.
- Improved Data Management:** By keeping data within the country, it can be more easily monitored and audited to prevent misuse or breaches.
- Global Power Dynamics:** Nations with strong digital capabilities emerge as rule-setters in global governance.

### Challenges to Digital Sovereignty

- Big Tech Dominance:** Over-reliance on U.S. and Chinese digital platforms.
- Global Interconnectedness:** Internet's borderless nature makes regulation difficult.
- Global Business Impact:** There are concerns that strict localisation requirements could increase operational costs for businesses, potentially hampering innovation and foreign investment.
- Compliance Burden:** Businesses may face legal and regulatory complexity in adhering to multiple localization laws, especially when dealing with cross-border data transfers.
- Technological Dependence:** India imports semiconductors, telecom equipment, operating systems, cloud architecture.
- Lack of Skilled Workforce:** Shortage in cybersecurity, chip design, quantum computing.

### Government Initiatives

- Digital Competition Bill (Draft, 2024):** It aims to prevent anti-competitive practices by Big Tech firms and seeks to curb self-preferencing, data misuse, and gatekeeping by large digital platforms.
- Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023:** It establishes data protection rights for users and mandates consent-based data processing and penalties for misuse.
- Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023:** It strengthens powers of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
  - Targets digital market monopolies and enables faster investigation into anti-competitive conduct.
- Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code)**

**Rules, 2021:** Mandates grievance redressal, traceability, and transparency in content moderation. It also ensures platform accountability for user harm or misinformation.

- **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC):** It is designed to democratize e-commerce by creating an open, interoperable network.
- **Digital India Initiative:** Focuses on inclusive digital access, cybersecurity, and digital literacy — empowering citizens to make informed digital choices.

### Way Ahead

- **Balancing Sovereignty with Openness:** Effective digital sovereignty frameworks must balance legitimate security and privacy concerns with the need for interoperability and global cooperation.
- **Privacy as a Human Right:** This framing empowers governments to establish higher protection standards based on citizens' dignity and constitutional traditions rather than market efficiency pressures.
- **Regulation of Big Tech** through transparent, democratically accountable mechanisms that prevent digital monopolies while protecting innovation.
- **International Cooperation on Security** with clear laws defining prohibited data transfers and conditions for exceptions, accompanied by transparency and oversight mechanisms to prevent surveillance abuse.

### Conclusion

- India must resolutely pursue the **path of digital sovereignty**—creating legal and regulatory structures that ensure sovereign control over data exports while maintaining unhindered rights to regulate the national digital space.
- India's approach to data protection and localisation reflects both its **sovereign aspirations** and the practical challenges of managing its vast digital footprint.

Source: IE

## SC ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE DEFINITION OF ARAVALLI HILLS

### Context

- The Supreme Court accepted the **recommendations of a Union Environment**

**Ministry panel on the definition of Aravalli Hills to restrict mining.**

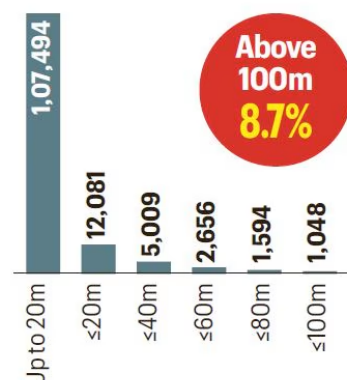
### About

- The Supreme Court has accepted the committee's recommendations relating to:
  - ♦ the uniform definition of the Aravalli Hills and Ranges;
  - ♦ prohibition of mining in core/ inviolate areas;
  - ♦ and measures for enabling sustainable mining and preventing illegal mining in the Aravalli Hills and Ranges.

### Background

- For decades, the Aravalli hills have been **under severe pressure from mining, both legal and illegal**, and other development activities such as construction.
- Last year, the SC had asked the government to **come up with an uniform definition of the Aravalli**.
- While the **FSI has been using a 3-degree slope yardstick** to define Aravalli Hills **since 2010**, a technical committee formed for the purpose in **2024 modified the benchmark**.
  - ♦ It defined any landform with a **slope of at least 4.57 degrees** and a height of at **least 30m** to identify as Aravalli Hills.
  - ♦ These yardsticks would effectively **cover up to 40% of the Aravallis**.

### • ARAVALLI HILLS IN RAJASTHAN



Source: FSI analyses of data, data from 15 districts

### New Definition by Panel

- Any landform that is at an **elevation of 100 m or more** above the local relief will be considered

as part of Aravalli Hills along with its slopes and adjacent land.

- ♦ By this definition **90% of the Aravali Hills** will not be counted as Aravalli anymore.
- **As per an internal assessment by the Forest Survey of India (FSI):** Barely 1,048, or **just 8.7%** spread across 15 districts in Rajasthan, are 100 m or more in height.
- ♦ The 20m height cut-off is crucial for a hill's function as a wind barrier.

#### The Aravalli Range

- The Aravalli Range, stretching over approximately 692 kilometres (430 miles) in a **northeastern direction**, traverses the Indian states of **Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Haryana** before culminating in Delhi, is the **oldest mountain range in India**.
- ♦ **Rajasthan** accounts for **nearly two-thirds** of the mountain range.
- The mountain range is characterised by **rugged hills, rocky outcrops, and sparse vegetation**, and it plays a crucial role in the region's ecology and hydrology.
- The Aravallis serve as a **natural barrier against desertification**, and helps regulate the climate, supports diverse ecosystems, and acts as a watershed for several rivers, including the **Sabarmati, Luni, and Banas**.
- Rich in biodiversity, the Aravallis are home to a variety of flora and fauna, including **dry deciduous forests, scrublands, and grasslands**, as well as numerous species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects.

#### Concerns with the New Definition

- By this definition, **more than 90% of the Aravali Hills** will not be counted as Aravalli anymore and be potentially **open to mining and construction with severe environmental ramifications**, including the quality of air in the NCR.
- **Area excluded:** The ministry's list of 34 Aravalli districts across four states left out many districts with an established presence of Aravalli.

#### Way Ahead

- Accepting the 100-m height definition, the SC has asked the ministry to develop a **Management Plan for Sustainable Mining** with the help of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) for the Aravalli Hills under the new definition.

Source: IE

## NEWS IN SHORT

### ARTICLE 141

#### In News

- The Supreme Court of India strongly criticized the rising trend of **"bench hunting,"** where litigants seek out subsequent benches to overturn or modify earlier rulings.

#### About Article 141

- **Article 141 is the constitutional provision** that mandates that the law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts within the territory of India.
- This establishes the Supreme Court as the highest authority, and its decisions are essential for maintaining the uniformity and certainty of the law throughout the country.
- This principle, meaning **"to stand by things decided,"** is the foundation of Article 141. It ensures that once a point of law has been authoritatively decided, it should be followed in future cases.

#### Why is Article 141 Important?

- Prevents different High Courts from interpreting laws differently.
- Provides stability in jurisprudence.
- Ensures lower courts follow established principles.
- Strengthens constitutional supremacy and judicial discipline.

Source: TH

## INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

#### In News

- Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar is going to assume the Chairship of the **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)** for the year 2026.

#### About International IDEA

- It was **founded in 1995**, is an **inter-governmental organisation**.
- It works to strengthen democratic institutions and electoral processes worldwide.
- It currently has **35 member countries**, with the United States and Japan as observers.

- India is a **founding member of International IDEA** and has played an active role in its governance and initiatives.

#### Significance

- The Chairship is seen as a recognition of the Election Commission of India's (ECI) credibility and innovation as one of the world's leading Election Management Bodies.

Source :DD

## PASSIVE EUTHANASIA

#### Context

- The Supreme Court asked the Noida district hospital **to constitute a primary board to explore passive euthanasia** for a 31-year-old man who has been in a vegetative state for over a decade.

#### Euthanasia

- Euthanasia is the **act of deliberately ending a person's life** to eliminate pain or suffering
  - Ethicists differentiate between **active and passive euthanasia**.
- Passive euthanasia** entails the deliberate **decision to withhold or withdraw medical interventions**, like life support, with the aim of permitting a person's natural death.
  - Active Euthanasia** is the intentional act of killing a terminally ill patient on voluntary request, by the direct intervention of a doctor for the purpose of the good of the patient. **It is illegal in India.**

#### Legal Stance

- The Supreme Court had in **2018 legalised passive euthanasia**, contingent upon the person having a "living will".
  - SC held that the **'right to die with dignity'** forms a part of the **right to life under Article 21** of the Constitution of India.
  - A **living will is a written document** that specifies the **actions to be taken if the person is** unable to make their own medical decisions in the future.
  - Goa is the first state that has formalised**, to some extent, the implementation of directives issued by the Supreme Court.

Source: TH

## REVISED GUIDELINES FOR 'TOP CLASS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR SC STUDENTS'

#### In News

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has released updated guidelines for the **'Top Class Scholarship Scheme for SC Students'** expanding financial support and tightening institutional accountability for the 2024–25 academic year.

#### About the Scheme

- The scheme aims to **promote quality higher education for Scheduled Caste (SC) students by covering full tuition fees** and providing academic allowances across India's premier institutions.
- The scholarship will be available to SC students with an annual family income of up to ₹8 lakh who secure admission in notified institutions, including IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, NITs, National Law Universities, NIFT, NID, IHMs and other accredited colleges.

#### Revised Financial Norms

- The Centre will directly transfer full tuition fees and non-refundable charges to students through DBT, capped at ₹2 lakh per year for private institutions.
- Students will also receive an academic allowance of ₹86,000 in the first year and ₹41,000 in subsequent years to cover living expenses, books and laptops.
- Beneficiaries will be barred from availing similar scholarships from other Central or State schemes.
- For 2024–25, 4,400 fresh slots are available within the overall cap of 21,500 (2021–26), with 30% reserved for SC girls.
- Only first-year students can apply, with renewals subject to performance, and benefits limited to two siblings per family.

Source :TH

## INTERNET RIGHTS GROUP CHALLENGES AUSTRALIA UNDER-16 SOCIAL MEDIA BAN

#### Context

- An internet rights group named the Digital Freedom Project launched a **legal challenge** to halt **world-first Australian laws** that will soon ban **under-16s from social media**.



**About**

- More than **one million accounts** held by teenagers under 16 are set to be **deactivated in Australia**.
- **The ban includes platforms** such as YouTube, TikTok, Snapchat and Meta's Facebook and Instagram.
  - ♦ Companies that fail to comply with the ban could **face penalties** of up to 49.5 million Australian dollars (\$32.22 million).
- The Digital Freedom Project had challenged these laws arguing they were an **"unfair" assault on freedom of speech**.
- Governments and tech firms around the world are closely watching Australia's effort to implement the ban, one of the most comprehensive efforts **to police minors' social media access**.

Source: ET

## UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (UPSC)

**Context**

- At the UPSC's 'Shatabdi Sammelan' (Centenary Conclave), the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Personnel praised UPSC as the **"Guardian of India's Steel Frame."**

**About the UPSC**

- Subsequent to the provisions of the **Government of India Act, 1919**, and the recommendations of the **Lee Commission (1924)**, the Public Service Commission was established in India on 1st October 1926.
- Later named the **Federal Public Service Commission (1937)**, it was renamed the Union Public Service Commission with the adoption of India's Constitution on **26th January 1950**.
- It conducts civil services examinations to select officers for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Forest Service (IFS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS), among others.
- **Members:** Besides the chairman, it can have a **maximum of 10 members**.
  - ♦ A UPSC chairman is appointed for a **term of six years** or until attaining **65 years of age**, all members have the same term.
- **Reappointment:** The UPSC Chairman is **not eligible for reappointment** after completing their term.

- **Removal (Article 317):** Deals with the removal and suspension of a member of a Public Service Commission by the President.

**Other Constitutional Provisions**

- **Article 309** empowers Parliament and State Legislatures to regulate recruitment and conditions of service.
- **Article 310** of the Constitution states that civil servants of the Union and the States hold office during the pleasure of the President or the Governor, respectively.
- **Article 311** provides safeguards for civil servants against arbitrary dismissal.
- **Article 312** outlines the process for creating All India Services, such as the IAS, IPS, and IFS.

Source: PIB

## JIANGMEN UNDERGROUND NEUTRINO OBSERVATORY (JUNO)

**In News**

- China has finished building its **Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO)**.

**About**

- It is the **world's largest underground neutrino detector**, operational since August 2025, designed to study elusive **"ghost particles" called neutrinos** with unprecedented precision.
- Located 700 meters underground in **Kaiping City, Guangdong Province**.
- JUNO primarily measures electron antineutrinos from nearby Yangjiang and Taishan nuclear power plants to determine neutrino mass hierarchy, test three-flavor oscillation, and probe physics beyond the Standard Model.

Source: TH

## SAFRAN'S MRO FOR LEAP ENGINES IN HYDERABAD

**In News**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Safran Aircraft Engine Services India-SAESI facility in Hyderabad, Telangana.
  - ♦ A LEAP engine is a modern, fuel-efficient engine that powers several narrow-body aircraft.



**SAESI**

- It is a dedicated facility for Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion- LEAP engines.
- It is developed at a cost of over 1300 crore rupees in 45 thousand square meters at the GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park-SEZ.
- It is designed to service up to **300 LEAP engines annually**.
- It will employ over thousand highly-skilled Indian technicians and engineers upon achieving full operational capacity by 2035.

**Importance**

- The establishment of this facility marks a significant milestone, as it is one of the largest global aircraft engine Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities.
- It is also the first time a global engine OEM (original equipment manufacturer) has set up an MRO operation in India.
- It is expected to be very helpful for the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy and play a key role in achieving self-reliance in the sector.

Source :TH

**CRATER ON MARS NAMED AFTER INDIAN GEOLOGIST****Context**

- A **3.5 billion-year-old crater on Mars** will be known after **M.S. Krishnan**, the **pioneering Indian geologist**.

**About**

- Apart from 'Krishnan,' the International Astronomical Union (IAU) has also accepted **several Kerala-based names for smaller landforms** associated with the crater.
  - ♦ These are '**Valiamala**,' '**Thumba**,' '**Bekal**,' '**Varkala**' and '**Periyar**' for smaller craters and a vallis (valley).
  - ♦ This means, these places in Kerala now have counterparts on Mars.

**Planetary nomenclature**

- Planetary nomenclature is like **naming places on Earth**.
- This list, created by the **International Astronomical Union (IAU)**, includes all the names given to different spots on planets, moons, and even some ring systems since **1919**.

- **IAU guidelines allow** large, significant Martian craters to be named after deceased scientists who have made foundational contributions to planetary science.
- **Smaller craters** can be named after towns or villages with populations under 1,00,000, provided the names are easy to pronounce and have historical or cultural relevance.

**Mars**

- Mars is the **fourth planet** from the sun and has a **distinct rusty red appearance and two unusual moons**.
  - ♦ Phobos: ~6000 km above Mars; Deimos: ~20 000 km above Mars.
- Mars also has the largest volcanoes in the solar system, **Olympus Mons** being one of them.
- **Atmosphere:** The temperature on Mars ranges between **20 degrees Celsius and -153 degrees Celsius**.
  - ♦ The planet has a rocky surface with **canyons, volcanoes, dry lake beds, and craters, all covered in red dust**.
  - ♦ It has about **one-third the gravity of Earth** and the atmosphere is much thinner than Earth's, containing more than **95% carbon dioxide and less than 1% oxygen**.
- The planet turns on its axis **more slowly than Earth**, and being farther from the Sun, takes longer to revolve around the Sun.
  - ♦ A day on Mars is 24.6 hours and a year is 687 Earth days long.

Source: TH

**FINN'S WEAVER****In News**

- The Finn's Weaver is silently disappearing from the marshy lowlands of the Terai.

**About Finn's Weaver**

- Finn's Weaver (Ploceus megarhynchus), also known as **Finn's Baya or Yellow Weaver**, is a **vulnerable weaver bird species native** to the grasslands of the **Ganges and Brahmaputra valleys in India and Nepal**.
- **Primary threats** include habitat loss from agricultural expansion, grassland reclamation, overgrazing, industrialization, and nest predation by crows on exposed nests.

Source: TH

## INDIA TO HOST 2030 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

### Context

- India has been officially awarded the **2030 Commonwealth Games (CWG)**, with Ahmedabad (Ahmedabad) declared the host city.
  - India last hosted the CWG in Delhi in 2010.

### About the Commonwealth Games (CWG)

- Started in **1930** (inaugural event in Hamilton, Canada) as the British Empire Games, the present-day Commonwealth Games is a **multi-sport international event, modeled on the Olympics**, involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations and their associated territories.

- The Commonwealth of Nations, or simply the Commonwealth, is a voluntary association of **54 sovereign countries**, most of which were former colonies of the British Empire.
- The membership has evolved over time due to political changes and voluntary withdrawals or additions.
- Today, the Commonwealth Games is the **world's second-largest multi-sport event** and the **fourth most-watched global broadcast sports event**, featuring athletes from **71 nations and territories**.

Source: TH

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