

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP NOT ILLEGAL: ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT

In News

- Allahabad High Court categorically held that **live-in relationships are not illegal** and that consenting adults have the **constitutional right to live together with dignity and safety, irrespective of marital status.**

Key Observations of the Allahabad High Court

- Live-in relationship is not an offence:** Living together without marriage does not violate any law in India if both partners are adults and give free consent.
- Right to life and personal liberty:** The Court emphasized that Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees the right to life, dignity, and personal


freedom to all individuals, including those in live-in relationships.

- State's duty to protect:** Once adults choose to live together, the State is duty-bound to ensure their safety, even against threats from family or society.
- Social Morality vs Constitutional Morality:** The Court clearly prioritised constitutional morality over social morality.
- Evidentiary Presumption of Marriage:** The Court referred to Section 114 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and Section 119(1) of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023.
 - These provisions state that if a man and woman cohabit for a significant period in the nature of husband and wife, the law may presume them to be married.

IMPACT OF LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIPS ON THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE


POSITIVE IMPACTS

(Strengthening Individual Choice & Evolution)




1. Strengthening Individual Choice
Recognises autonomy, consent, and compatibility *before* marriage.

Autonomy Consent Compatibility



2. Reduction in Forced Marriages
Particularly relevant in cases of caste, religion, or social pressure.

Caste Religion Social Pressure



3. Legal Evolution with Social Change
Law adapts to urbanization, education, and changing family structures.

Urbanisation Education Changing Family Structures

CONCERNS & CRITICISMS

(Perceived Risks & Legal Gaps)



1. Perceived Dilution of Marriage
Critics argue it weakens the social sanctity of marriage.

FRAGILE



2. Lack of Clear Legal Framework
No comprehensive law governing:

- Property rights ?
- Maintenance standards ?
- Separation norms ?



3. Social Insecurity for Women
Short-term or informal relationships may still leave women vulnerable.

Vulnerability Financial Risk

Key Supreme Court Judgments on Live-in Relationships

- Tulsa v. Durghatiya (2008):** Children born from prolonged live-in relationships cannot be treated as illegitimate.
 - Ensures inheritance and dignity of children.
- D. Velusamy v. D. Patchaiammal (2010):** The Court clarified the concept of "relationship in the nature of marriage" under the Domestic Violence Act.
 - Conditions laid down like a couple must hold themselves out as husband and wife, must be of legal age & must be otherwise qualified to marry.
- Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma (2013):** Recognised that live-in relationships may be morally debated, but courts must deal with social realities.
- Shafin Jahan v. Asokan K.M. (2018):** The Court held that the right to marry a person of one's choice is an integral part of Article 21.

Source: TOI

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) INHERENTLY INCLUDES ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY: SC

In News

- Recently, the Supreme Court ruled that **corporate social responsibility (CSR)** inherently includes environmental responsibility.

Key Observations by the Court

- Corporations as Constitutional Actors:** The Court held that corporations are not merely profit-making entities, but constitutional actors within society.
 - As legal persons, corporations are bound by Fundamental Duties, particularly **Article 51A(g) of the Constitution**.
 - Article 51A(g) mandates** protection and improvement of the natural environment, conservation of forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife & compassion for living creatures.
- CSR Is a Constitutional Obligation, Not Charity:** The Court clarified that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), especially in environmental matters, cannot be treated as voluntary philanthropy.
- Polluter Pays Principle Applied to Wildlife Conservation:** The Court invoked the Polluter Pays Principle in cases where corporate activities threaten or damage endangered species or habitats & corporations must bear the financial burden of restoration.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- It is a management framework that integrates social and environmental considerations into business operations and stakeholder interactions, reflecting a long-term commitment to societal welfare.
- The concept of CSR in India was first introduced through the 2009 Voluntary Guidelines by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and later refined in the 2011 National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental, and Economic Responsibilities of Business.
- The 21st Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance highlighted the need for statutory CSR provisions, noting that annual disclosures would ensure compliance.
- Consequently, the Companies Act, 2013 made it mandatory for certain large companies, both listed and unlisted, to spend at least 2% of their average net profit on CSR activities.

Criteria for CSR Eligibility

- According to the section 135(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014, companies with **net worth of Rs 500 crore** and above or **turnover of Rs 1,000 crore** and above or **net profit of Rs 5 crore** and above have to **spend two per cent of average net profits** of last three years.
- Notably, a holding or subsidiary of a company is not required to comply with the CSR provisions unless the holding or subsidiary itself fulfils the eligibility criteria prescribed under section 135(1) stated above.

Activities Permitted under CSR

- The Schedule VII of the Companies Act lists out a set of activities that firms can include within their CSR activity.
- These include Eradicating hunger, poverty, malnutrition, Promoting health care including preventive health and sanitation, Promoting education, Promoting gender equality, empowering women, Ensuring environmental sustainability, ecological balance, Protection of national heritage, art and culture, Measures for the benefit of armed forces veterans, war widows and their dependents, Project on rural development and ensuring environmental sustainability etc.
- They can also contribute to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund or any other fund set up by the Central government for socio-economic development.

Importance of CSR

- It promotes equitable development by addressing social inequalities.
- It encourages environmentally responsible practices, including conservation and renewable energy.
- It ensures disclosure of CSR spending in annual reports.
- It supports education, healthcare, sanitation, and livelihood initiatives.
- It aligns corporate efforts with government campaigns like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, and Digital India.

Emerging Issues

- While CSR spending has surged but concerns remain about the impact and monitoring of projects.
- There are Greenwashing Risks because some companies focus on optics rather than genuine impact.
- CSR funds often cluster in urban or industrial areas, leaving rural regions underserved.

- Smaller firms struggle with reporting and regulatory requirements.

Conclusion

- CSR in India has evolved from voluntary charity to a legal and moral responsibility, linking corporate profits with public welfare.
- To address challenges like environmental sustainability, equitable distribution, and accountability, CSR must move beyond compliance and become a strategic tool for inclusive and sustainable national development.

Source :TH

SECOND WHO GLOBAL SUMMIT ON TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

Context

- India hosted the **2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine** in New Delhi.
 - ♦ The theme of the summit is **“Restoring Balance for People and Planet: The Science and Practice of Well-Being.”**

Key Outcomes of the summit

- **Initiatives Launched:**
 - ♦ **My Ayush Integrated Services Portal (MAISP):** A master digital portal for services, research and governance in the Ayush sector.
 - ♦ **Ayush Mark:** Envisioned as a global quality benchmark for Ayush products and services.

- ♦ **Traditional Medicine Global Library (TMGL)**, the world's largest digital repository on traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.

- The initiative is grounded in the **Gujarat Declaration (2023)** and aligned with **WHO's Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034**.

- Announcement of international collaborations, including a **Centre of Excellence for BIMSTEC countries** and an **India–Japan partnership in traditional medicine**.
- The summit stressed the use of **digital health tools and AI for research**, data generation and wider access to traditional medicine.

What are Traditional Medicines?

- Traditional medicine refers to **codified or non-codified systems** for health care and well-being, comprising **practices, skills, knowledge and philosophies** originating in different historical and cultural contexts, which are distinct from and pre-date biomedicine, evolving with science for current use from an experience-based origin.
- Traditional medicine emphasizes **nature-based remedies** and holistic, personalized approaches to restore balance of mind, body and environment.
- The WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**.
- **Traditional Medicine system in India:**

Ayurveda

Ayurveda is India's ancient system of holistic healing that focuses on balancing the body, mind and spirit through natural principles.

Unani

Unani is a holistic healing system based on maintaining balance in the body through diet, lifestyle and natural remedies.

Sowa-Rig-pa (Amchi Medicine)

Sowa-Rigpa, or Amchi medicine, is a Himalayan healing tradition rooted in Buddhist principles and Ayurvedic fundamentals.

Yoga and Naturopathy

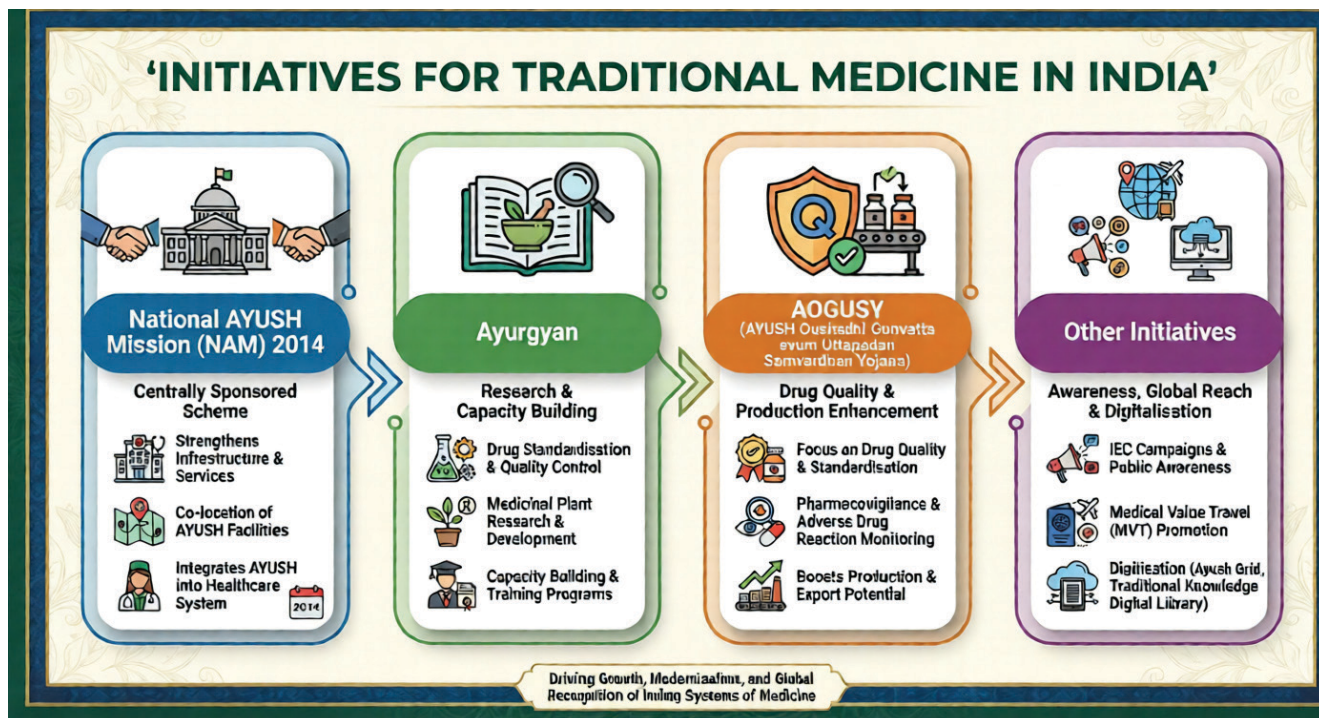
Yoga is a mind-body discipline that combines postures, breathwork, and meditation to achieve physical strength, mental calm, and inner balance. Naturopathy is a natural healing system that uses diet, and lifestyle practices to help the body heal itself.

Siddha

Siddha is one of India's oldest healing systems, offering highly personalised treatments using herbs, minerals, specialized formulations, and diagnostic methods like pulse and tongue examination.

Homeopathy

Homeopathy is a scientific system of medicine that relies on gentle, individualized remedies to stimulate the body's natural healing response.



1st WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

- India hosted the 1st WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine in 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- It adopted the **Gujarat Declaration**, which;
 - Reaffirmed global commitment to evidence-based **traditional, complementary and integrative medicine (TCIM)**,
 - Called for improved data and regulatory frameworks, and
 - Acknowledged India's leadership in shaping a holistic, culturally rooted and scientifically aligned global health agenda.

Source: TH

CHILD TRAFFICKING AND COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Context

- Calling child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation a "**deeply disturbing reality**" in India, the Supreme Court laid down guidelines on how courts must sensitively appreciate the evidence of minor victims of trafficking and prostitution.

Guidelines on Appreciation of Evidence

- Courts must **not disbelieve a trafficked child's testimony** due to minor inconsistencies, especially given the trauma involved.
- The **sole testimony of the victim is sufficient** if it is credible and convincing.
- A trafficked child must be treated as an injured witness, not as an accomplice.

- Judicial scrutiny must avoid rejecting a victim's account as "against normal human conduct," especially where delayed resistance or protest is involved.

Reasons for Human/Sex Trafficking

- Poverty:** Individuals and families living in poverty are more susceptible to the false promises of traffickers who offer better opportunities and livelihoods.
- Lack of Awareness:** Low literacy levels and limited awareness make people, especially in rural areas, more vulnerable to deception and exploitation.
- Migration:** Unregulated migration, both domestic and international, creates opportunities for traffickers to target individuals who are disconnected from their support networks.
- Inadequate training of law enforcement agencies,** and corruption exacerbate the challenges of effectively addressing trafficking.

Implications of Sex Trafficking

- **Human Rights Violations:** Victims of sex trafficking suffer severe violations of their fundamental human rights, including freedom, dignity, and bodily autonomy.
- **Perpetuation of Inequality:** Sex trafficking reinforces existing social inequalities, especially against women and marginalized groups, perpetuating cycles of poverty and discrimination.
- **Economic Costs:** Trafficking undermines workforce potential and economic growth.

Constitutional Safeguards in India

- **Article 23:** Prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labor.
- **Article 21:** Ensures the right to life and personal liberty, which has been interpreted to include the right to live with dignity.
- **Article 39(e):** The state should ensure that the health and strength of workers and children are not abused, and that citizens are not forced to take jobs that are not suitable for their age or strength.

Laws governing anti-trafficking crimes

- **The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956** is targeted at stopping immoral trafficking and sex work. It went through two amendments, in 1978 and 1986.
- **The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986**, prevents children from partaking in certain employments and regulates the conditions of work for children in other fields.
- **The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976**, prohibits systems of labour where people, including children, work under conditions of servitude to pay off debt, and also provides a framework for rehabilitating released labourers.
- **The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015**, which governs laws relating to children alleged and found to be in conflict with law.
- **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**, which seeks to prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- India set up **Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs)** in 2007. AHTUs are tasked with;
 - ♦ Addressing the existing gaps in the law enforcement response,
 - ♦ Ensuring a victim-centric approach which ensures the 'best interest of the victim/survivor,

- ♦ Prevents secondary victimization/ re-victimisation of the victim, and developing databases on traffickers.
- **The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013**, revised Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code, which deals with buying and selling of any person as a slave, to include the concept of human trafficking.

Way Ahead

- **Economic Empowerment:** Providing sustainable livelihood opportunities and skill development programs for vulnerable populations reduce the economic pressures that lead to trafficking.
- **Victim Rehabilitation and Support:** Developing comprehensive rehabilitation schemes that provide physical, psychological, and economic support is essential for survivors.
- **International Cooperation:** Strengthening **cross-border partnerships** and **sharing intelligence** can help dismantle trafficking networks that operate transnationally.

Source: TH

GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE RESERVATION FOR AGNIVEERS IN CAPFS TO 50%

Context

- The Union Home Ministry has decided to enhance reservation for ex-Agniveers in the Group C posts of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) from the existing 10% to 50%.

Agnipath Scheme

- The Government launched Agnipath scheme in **2022** to recruit both male and female aspirants into '**below the officer's rank**' cadre of the three services for a period of **four years as Agniveers**.
- **Eligibility:** Candidates between the age group of **17.5 to 21 years** are eligible to apply for the scheme.
- **Training:** These Agniveers would undergo **optimised basic military training** and specialised trade training followed by up-skilling courses, as required.
- **Enrolment into Permanent Cadre:** Based on organisational requirement and policies promulgated by the Armed Forces, Agniveers after completing their engagement period will be offered an opportunity to apply for enrolment in the permanent cadre.
 - ♦ Of these up to **25% of Agniveers** will be selected to be enrolled in the Armed Forces as a regular cadre.

Key Features of the Scheme

- Agniveers receive a customized monthly package with applicable risk and hardship allowances, with **30%** contributed to the **Agniveer Corpus Fund**, matched by the Government.
- After four years, they are paid a **tax-free SevaNidhi package** (including accrued interest), totaling around **₹11.71 lakh**.
- Agniveers will be provided non-contributory Life Insurance Cover of **₹48 lakh** for the duration of their engagement period in the Indian Armed Forces.
- There shall be **no entitlement to gratuity and pensionary benefits**.

Significance of the Decision

- **Employment Assurance:** Strengthens post-service employment pathways for Agniveers, addressing a core concern of the scheme.
- **Operational Readiness:** CAPFs benefit from young, trained, and disciplined personnel with prior military exposure.
- **Institutional Integration:** Enhances convergence between the armed forces and CAPFs in manpower planning.

Concerns and Challenges

- **Impact on Open Competition:** A steep increase to 50% reservation may raise concerns among civilian aspirants.
- **Uniformity Across CAPFs:** Amendments are to be notified gradually, raising questions on consistency and timelines.

- **Training and Role Adaptation:** CAPF duties differ from military roles, requiring careful induction and retraining.

Way Ahead

- Ensure **uniform implementation across all CAPFs**, including CRPF, CISF, ITBP, SSB and Assam Rifles.
- Balance **employment security for ex-Agniveers** with fairness in civilian recruitment.
- Strengthen **bridge training modules** to align military skills with internal security and policing roles.
- Periodically review the policy based on **recruitment outcomes and operational effectiveness**.

Source: TH

NEWS IN SHORT

DOPPLER WEATHER RADARS

In News


- The Government of India informed Parliament that 47 **Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs)** are currently operational across the country, covering about 87% of India's geographical area.

What is a Doppler Weather Radar (DWR)?


- Named after the Doppler Effect, discovered by Christian Doppler.
- Similar to how a train whistle sounds higher when approaching and lower when moving away.

TYPES OF DOPPLER WEATHER RADARS USED IN INDIA (IMD)

India Meteorological Department primarily operates three radar bands for atmospheric monitoring.




S-BAND RADAR
(Long-Range Detection)



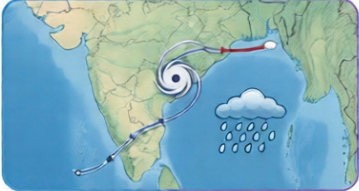
KEY USE: Long-range detection, cyclones and widespread rainfall.

- Longest wavelength (3-15 cm), lowest frequency.
- Penetrates heavy rain, less attenuation.
- Ideal for large scale weather systems, severe storms, and cyclone tracking over vast areas.

250-400+ km




C-BAND RADAR
(Cyclone Tracking & Rainfall)




KEY USE: Cyclone tracking, heavy rainfall monitoring.

- Medium wavelength (4-8 cm), medium frequency.
- Balances range and resolution.
- Effective for cyclone analysis, heavy rainfall intensity, and regional weather patterns.

150-250 km



X-BAND RADAR
(Short-Range, High-Resolution)



KEY USE: Short-range, high-resolution detection of thunderstorms and lightning.

- Shortest wavelength (2.5-4 cm), highest frequency.
- High attenuation in heavy rain, limited range.
- Provides detailed data for microbursts, urban flooding, lightning strikes, and localized severe weather.

50-100 km

Source: India Meteorological Department (IMD). Note: Ranges are approximate and vary by specific radar model and conditions.

- In DWRs, the frequency/phase change of radio waves helps determine motion of weather systems.
- A Doppler Weather Radar is an advanced meteorological instrument used to:
 - ◆ Detect precipitation (rain, snow, hail)
 - ◆ Track movement of clouds and storms
 - ◆ Estimate rainfall intensity
 - ◆ Provide short-term forecasts (nowcasting) for extreme weather events

How Does a Doppler Weather Radar Work?

- The radar emits radio wave pulses from an antenna.
- When these waves hit atmospheric particles (raindrops, snowflakes, hail), part of the energy is reflected back to the radar.
- The time taken for the signal to return helps calculate the distance of precipitation.

Source: TH

NETHERLANDS

Context

- The Defence Minister of India met the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands reaffirming the strong and steadily expanding defence partnership between the two nations.

Netherlands

- **Location:** Northwestern Europe, bordering Germany and Belgium; North Sea coast.



- The name Netherlands means “**low countries**.”
- **Political system:** Constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy.
- **Ports:** **Port of Rotterdam** located in the Netherlands is Europe’s largest port and a global trade gateway.

Source: TH

AUTOPHAGY

Context

- Researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), discovered a critical protein complex (exocyst complex) involved in the early stages of autophagy.

What is Autophagy?

- Autophagy is a fundamental cellular process through which **cells degrade** and **recycle damaged organelles, misfolded proteins, and pathogens**.
- Often described as “**self-eating**,” it helps maintain cellular homeostasis, especially in long-lived cells such as neurons.
- The process involves the formation of **double-membraned vesicles** called **autophagosomes**, which **engulf cellular waste** and **deliver it to lysosomes** for degradation.

Autophagy and Disease Linkages

- **Neurodegenerative diseases:** Disruption of autophagy is linked to Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and Huntington’s diseases, where waste clearance mechanisms fail.
- **Cancer:** In early stages, autophagy acts as a tumor suppressor by maintaining genome integrity and cellular balance.
 - ◆ In advanced cancers, tumor cells may hijack autophagy to survive stress and promote growth, making it a double-edged sword.

Source: PIB

‘SUPPORT TO POOR PRISONERS’ SCHEME

In News

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) revised the guidelines of the ‘**Support to Poor Prisoners’ scheme** due to sub-optimal implementation by several States and Union Territories.
- The Scheme aims to provide **financial assistance to States/UTs** for extending relief to poor prisoners who are unable to secure bail or release from prison due to non-payment of fine, on account of financial constraints.

Revised framework

- The revised framework introduces **fixed timelines and mandates** the involvement of senior officials to strengthen institutional mechanisms and ensure swift execution.

- District-level Empowered Committees, including a nominee of the District Collector and the judge in-charge of the prison, will scrutinize and approve eligible cases.
- Jail Superintendents must report cases to the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Secretary, who verifies financial status and recommends assistance of up to 25,000 to facilitate release; similar provisions apply to eligible undertrial prisoners.
- **Exemptions:** the scheme excludes persons accused of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and any other laws that may be notified later.
 - ♦ The benefit is also denied to those accused of heinous crimes, including dowry deaths, rape, human trafficking, and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Source :TH

GI-TAGGED INDI LIME FROM KARNATAKA ENTERS OMAN MARKET

In News

- India's agricultural exports received a boost with the export of 3 metric tonnes of **GI-tagged Indi Lime** from Vijayapura, Karnataka, to Oman.

Indi Lime

- Indi Lime is known for its distinctive aroma, high juice content and longer shelf life.
- It represents the agricultural heritage of northern Karnataka.
- The GI status of Indi Lime has played a crucial role in positioning the fruit competitively in global markets.
- The export of GI-tagged Indi Lime to Oman gains significance under the India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) / Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which aims to strengthen economic ties and expand market access for Indian products.

Do you know?

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has been actively supporting the promotion, branding and export of GI-tagged agricultural products, recognising the importance of promoting region-specific produce in international markets while ensuring compliance with global quality and phytosanitary standards.

Source :PIB

TUNDRA BIOME

In News

- A recent scientific study from Arctic Alaska reveals that **wildfires in the tundra biome** have become more frequent in the last century than at any time in the past 3,000 years.

About Tundra Biome

Overview:

- ♦ The tundra is a cold, treeless biome found in high-latitude (Arctic) and high-altitude (Alpine) regions. The word tundra comes from a Finnish term meaning "treeless plain."

Types of Tundra:

- ♦ **Arctic Tundra:** Found in northern Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Siberia
- ♦ **Alpine Tundra:** Found at high altitudes on mountains (Himalayas, Andes, Rockies). No permafrost, but very cold conditions

Climatic Characteristics:

- ♦ **Temperature:** Extremely low; winters can reach -30°C to -50°C
- ♦ **Precipitation:** Very low (150–250 mm/year).

Source: TH

BUREAU OF PORT SECURITY (BOPS)

In News

- The Union Home Minister convened a high-level meeting to initiate the constitution of a **dedicated Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)** to enhance the security of vessels and port facilities across the country.
- Under the revamped security framework, the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** has been designated as a Recognised Security Organisation for ports.

Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)

- It will be established as a **statutory body** under Section 13 of the newly promulgated **Merchant Shipping Act, 2025**.
- It will function under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- It will be headed by a Director General of the rank of an IPS officer at Pay Level-15 and will be modelled on the lines of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
- During the initial transition period of one year, the Director General of Shipping will function as the Director General of the Bureau of Port Security.
- It will be responsible for regulatory oversight and coordination related to the security of ships and port infrastructure.
- It will focus on timely collection, analysis, and exchange of security-related information, with a special emphasis on cybersecurity.

Source:TH