

Manthan HEADLINES



English

Weekly Compilation
[13th - 18th October, 2025]



Historic Launch of First Commercial Coal Mine in Arunachal Pradesh at Namchik-Namphuk

Context

- **Arunachal Pradesh** launched its first **commercial coal mining project** at the Namchik-Namphuk coal block in **Changlang district**.

About Namchik-Namphuk Coal Block

- **Location:** Changlang district, southeastern Arunachal Pradesh; part of the Upper Assam coal belt region.
- **Reserves:** Around 1.5 crore tonnes of coal – ensuring long-term production viability.
- **Economic Impact:** Expected to earn about ₹100 crore annually for the state.
- **Environmental Features:**
 - Operates under Mission Green Coal Regions.
 - Focus on land reclamation, afforestation, and eco-responsible mining.
- **Social Impact:**
 - Promotes local employment.
 - Helps curb illegal mining.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Supports PM EAST Vision – Empower, Act, Strengthen, Transform – for balanced Northeast development.



Leprosy in India: The Road to a Disease-Free Future

Context

- **India's leprosy prevalence rate** has declined from 57.2 per 10,000 (1981) to 0.57 per 10,000 (2025), a major public health achievement.

What is Leprosy?

- It is also known as **Hansen's Disease**.
- It is caused by the **bacterium Mycobacterium leprae**.
- A **chronic infectious disease** mainly affecting the **skin, peripheral nerves, mucosa, and eyes**.

Symptoms

- Discoloured **skin patches** and **loss of sensation** (touch, pain, temperature).
- **Muscle weakness** and **non-healing ulcers**.
- **Deformities** in hands, feet, and face.
- Inability to **close eyes** and **poor vision**.

Transmission

- Spread through droplets from nose and mouth during close, frequent contact with untreated cases.

Types of Leprosy

- **Paucibacillary (PB):**
 - Few or no bacilli on slit-skin smear.
 - Milder form.
- **Multibacillary (MB):**
 - High density of bacilli on slit-skin smear.
 - More severe and contagious form.

Treatment and Control

- **Multidrug Therapy (MDT)** introduced in 1983 revolutionized leprosy treatment.
- **Early diagnosis and MDT** can prevent disabilities and deformities.
- **Continued** focus on awareness, stigma reduction, and rehabilitation is vital for complete eradication.



Union Health Secretary Chairs High-Level Meeting with States/UTs on Quality and Rational Use of Cough Syrups

In News

- The **Union Health Ministry** has made compliance with revised **Schedule M norms** mandatory after **DEG contamination in cough syrups**.

What is Schedule M?

- Part of the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.
- Prescribes **Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)** for pharmaceuticals in India.
- Sets **minimum standards** for **plant, equipment, hygiene, and processes** to ensure **drug safety and quality**.

About Diethylene Glycol (DEG)

- **Chemical Formula:** $C_4H_{10}O_3$
- **Properties:** Colorless, odorless, syrupy **industrial solvent** used in **antifreeze** and **plastics**.
- **Not approved** for pharmaceutical or food use.
- **Cause of Contamination:**
 - Industrial-grade DEG **substituted** for **pharmaceutical-grade glycerine/propylene glycol**.
 - Occurs due to **poor quality control** or **cost-cutting**.
- **Impact:**
 - Linked to **fatal poisoning** incidents from **adulterated cough syrups** such as **Coldrif**.



Khaled El-Enany nominated by UNESCO's Executive Board for the post of Director-General

In News

- **Khaled el-Enany**, former Egyptian minister of antiquities and tourism, appointed as the next **Director-General of UNESCO**.

About UNESCO

- **Full Form:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- **Established:** 1945 (Constitution came into force in 1946).
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France.
- **Members:**
 - 194 Member States
 - 12 Associate Members (*as of July 2025*)
- **India:**
 - **Founding member since 1948**
 - **Hosts two UNESCO offices**

Mandate and Objectives

- **Promote peace and security through international cooperation in:**
 - Education, Science, Culture, Communication

Recent Development

- USA announced withdrawal from UNESCO in July 2025, effective December 2026.

Key Publications

- **Global Education Monitoring Report**
- **United Nations World Water Development Report**
- **UNESCO Science Report: Towards 2030**
- **Global Ocean Science Report**



HOME

Can a third party be liable for marital disruption? | Explained

Context

- **Delhi High Court (HC)** in **Shelly Mahajan vs MS Bhanushree Bahl & Anr** opened the door for civil damages against third parties in cases of **Alienation of Affection (AoA)**.

What is Alienation of Affection (AoA)?

- A common law tort also known as a “**heart-balm**” action.
- It allows a spouse to sue a third party (usually a lover) for wilfully interfering in the marriage.
- It involves the loss of affection, companionship, and consortium due to the third party's actions.

Status in Indian Law

- Not codified under Indian law.
- Not explicitly prohibited either.
- Civil action possible, if intentional interference is proved.

Judicial Precedents

- **Pinakin Mahipatray Rawal vs State of Gujarat (2013):**
 - Supreme Court recognised AoA as an intentional tort, if proven.
- **Indra Sarma vs V.K.V. Sarma:**
 - SC observed that children may also claim damages for alienation of a parent.



HOME

Supreme Court decides to examine constitutional validity of Securities Transaction Tax

In News

- **The Supreme Court of India** agreed to examine a plea challenging the constitutional validity of the **Securities Transaction Tax (STT)**.

What is Securities Transaction Tax (STT)?

- **A direct tax** levied on securities transactions made through recognized **stock exchanges**.
- It was introduced under the **Finance Act, 2004**.
- Aimed at curbing tax evasion in the **stock market**.

Scope and Coverage

- Levied on transaction value (not profit/loss).
- **Applies to:**
 - Shares, Derivatives, Equity-oriented mutual funds
- Imposed on both buying and selling of securities.

Key Features

- Charged per transaction, irrespective of gains or losses.
- Collected at source by stock exchanges.
- Separate from capital gains tax or income tax.

Criticism

- **Double taxation:** Traders pay both capital gains tax and STT on the same transaction.
- **Violates fundamental rights (Article 14, 19, 21):**
 - Right to equality, Freedom of trade, Right to dignity.
- Not refundable or adjustable like TDS.
- Imposes tax even when traders incur losses.

Source: TH



Stay Tuned!