

NEWS TODAY

Demand of restoring 'Education' to the State list

Presently, education is under **concurrent list of Schedule 7** of the Constitution enabling both the Centre as well as the States to enact laws.

Background about listing of Education:

- Under the **Government of India Act, of 1935** -Education was kept under the Provincial Legislative List.
- **After independence**, education was on the State list of seventh schedule.
- The **42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976)** moved it to the **Concurrent list**, following the **Swaran Singh Committee's** recommendation.
 - ⊖ There was **no explicit reason** given for the change.
- **Benefits of bringing education under concurrent list**
 - ⊖ To evolve **all-India policies** on education as a subject.
 - ⊖ Lack of **professionalism and corruption** in state run universities.

International Practices

- **U.S.:** State and local governments set the overall educational standards, and supervise colleges and universities. The federal education department's functions primarily focus on policies for financial aid.
- **Canada:** education is managed by the provinces.
- **Germany:** Legislative powers for education reside with states.
- **South Africa:** national departments for school and higher education, with provinces implementing national policies and addressing local educational needs.

Reasons for demand to shift education in State List

- **One size fits all:** Approach is neither feasible nor desirable for a diverse country like India.
- **Revenue expenditure on Education:** As per 'Analysis of Budgeted expenditure on Education' 2022, 24 % is spent by the Centre while 76% is spent by the States.
- The **syllabus can be tailored** according to the requirements of each state.

NITI Aayog launched 'Sampoornata Abhiyan'

It is a **3-month campaign** to achieve saturation of 6 key indicators in Aspirational Districts and **6 key indicators** in Aspirational Blocks.

- Districts and blocks are under the **Aspirational Districts Programme** and **Aspirational Blocks Programme** respectively.
- **Key indicators across aspirational districts include** number of Soil Health Cards distributed, percentage of schools with functional electricity at the secondary level, percentage of children fully immunized, etc.
- **Key indicators across aspirational blocks include** percentage of persons screened for Diabetes and hypertension, Percentage of SHGs that have received a Revolving Fund, etc.

Aspirational Districts Programme	Aspirational Blocks Programme
Launched in 2018 under NITI Aayog.	Launched in 2023 under NITI Aayog.
Aims to quickly and effectively transform 112 districts across the country.	Aims for saturation of essential government services in 500 Blocks (329 Districts) across the country
Focuses on five themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Health & Nutrition ◆ Education ◆ Agriculture & Water Resources ◆ Financial Inclusion & Skill Development ◆ Infrastructure 	Focuses on five themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Health & Nutrition ◆ Education ◆ Agriculture and Allied Services ◆ Basic Infrastructure ◆ Social Development
Progress is measured on 81 indicators of development.	Progress is measured on 40 indicators of development.

Aditya-L1 completes its first halo orbit

Aditya-L1 was inserted in its **halo orbit** in early 2024 and taken 178 days to complete a revolution around the **Lagrange L1** point.

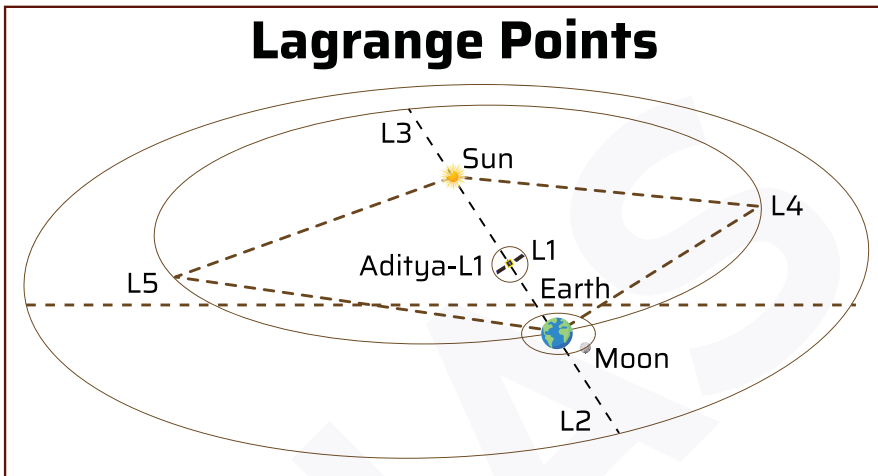
- At **Lagrange point**, the **gravitational pull** of the **two large bodies** equals the necessary **centripetal force** required for a small object to move with them.
- For two body gravitational systems, there are a total five **Lagrange points** denoted as L1, L2, L3, L4 and L5.

What are halo orbits?

- These are **periodic** and **three-dimensional orbits** resulting from an interaction between the **gravitational pull** of the two planetary bodies and **centrifugal force** on a spacecraft.
- ⊕ Halo orbits exist in any **3-body system**. E.g., **Earth-Moon orbiting satellite system**.
- ⊕ Mainly linked to L1, L2 or L3.

Benefits of placing Aditya-L1 in Halo Orbit

- Ensuring a mission lifetime of 5 years
- **Reducing fuel consumption** (minimising station-keeping manoeuvres)
- Ensuring an **unobstructed view of the sun**



About Aditya-L1 Mission (2023)

- **First Indian space mission** to study the Sun.
- **Objectives:** Study the **Sun's corona, solar emissions**, solar winds and flares, and **Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)**, and will carry out round-the-clock imaging of the Sun.
- **Payload:** Carries 7 payloads (Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC), Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) etc.)

Bretton Woods Conference celebrates its 80th Anniversary

The Bretton Woods Conference, officially known as the **United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference** was organised in 1944 at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire (USA).

About Bretton Woods Conference

- **Purpose:** To agree upon a series of new rules for the **post-World War II** international monetary system.
- ⊕ Delegates from **44 nations** participated in it.

Key Outcomes:

- ⊕ **Creation of the Bretton Woods Institutions:** **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, now referred as **World Bank (WB)**.

- ⊕ **Fixed exchange rate regime:** In it, each member country have fixed their currency in terms of **gold** or **US dollar**.

- ◆ However, after the crisis of dollar exchange crises of 1971 (when USA suspended the dollar's convertibility into gold) and 1973, floating exchange rates was promoted.

- ⊕ **Promotion of Free Trade:** To ensues international prosperity and international peace.

Sphere	IMF	World Bank
Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Promotes global macroeconomic and financial stability. ◆ Also provides short- and medium-term loans to help countries that are experiencing balance of payments problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Promotes long-term economic development and poverty reduction by providing technical and financial support to help countries implement reforms or projects, such as building schools, etc.
Membership and headquarter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 190 Countries ◆ Both organisation have their headquarter in Washington, D.C (USA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 189 Countries (India is member of both the organisations) ◆ However, India is not member of WB International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. ◆ Countries must first join the IMF to be eligible to join the World Bank Group.

Centre Developing National Indicators to Measure Extreme Poverty

The government in 'National Indicator Framework (NIF) 2024', revealed that it is developing a national indicator to measure "extreme poverty".

- NIF tracks India's progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aims to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030.

Need for National Indicator

- **Lack of updated official poverty line:** India's official poverty line is based on the **Suresh Tendulkar Committee's report in 2009**.
 - ⊖ Committees led by **D T Lakdawala (1993)**, and **C Rangarajan (2014)** also suggested criteria for "poverty line".
 - ◆ However, C. Rangarajan committee's report was not adopted by the Centre.
- **Varying global indicators:** According to **IMF less than 1% of Indians** lived in extreme poverty in 2021, whereas according to the **World Bank**, it was **12.92% in 2021**.
- **Policymaking and tracking progress:** A reliable poverty estimate is critical for designing, implementing and monitoring **anti-poverty programmes**.

Measurement of Poverty in India

- The Official Poverty line is based on **consumption expenditure** (stated in rupees).
 - ⊖ **Consumption Expenditure Surveys (CES)** are conducted **every five years by the National Sample Survey Office**.
- NITI Aayog has launched **National Multidimensional Poverty Index (NMPI)** according to which poverty reduced to **14.96% in 2019-21** from **24.85% in 2015-16**.

Calculation of Poverty by Suresh Tendulkar Committee

- A person living on a monthly expenditure of Rs 1,000 per month or **Rs 33 or less per day in cities**, and **Rs 816 per month or Rs 27 or less per day in villages** is considered poor.
 - ⊖ Rangarajan Committee raised this limit and set an **income of Rs. 32 for rural India, and Rs. 47 for urban India as the Poverty line limit**.

6th meeting of the GPAI Ministerial Council held in New Delhi

It led to **consensus on commitment to the future vision of the GPAI** and agreed to strengthen synergies to harness the **potential of human-centric and trustworthy AI** for the good of all.

- **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)** is an integrated partnership that brings **together OECD members and GPAI countries**.
 - ⊖ GPAI has **29 member countries** including India.
- It aims to bridge the gap between **theory and practice on AI** by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
- India is the **lead chair of GPAI in 2024**.
 - ⊖ Consensus reached on the future of GPAI underscores **India's leadership in the global AI discourse**.

Key takeaways from the meeting

- **Recognised the potential of artificial intelligence (AI)** in shaping the future of our societies and economies.
- Acknowledged the **emerging risks and challenges posed by AI systems** like disinformation; harmful biases leading to discrimination, etc.
- Commitment to ensuring a **safe, secure, trustworthy and human-centric AI** through an inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach.
- **Welcomed** the election by GPAI members of **Serbia as Lead Chair of GPAI for 2024-25**.

Related news

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) released **"WIPO Patent Landscape Report on Generative AI"**.

Key findings

- India has emerged as the **fifth biggest location for GenAI invention**.
 - ⊖ **India filed 1,350 GenAI patents** with the highest growth rate (56% per year) over the period 2014-2023.
- **China leads the ranking followed by the US**.

Also in News



Speedy Trial

The Supreme Court affirmed that the **constitutional right** of a **speedy trial, as enshrined in Article 21**, applies to all cases regardless of the crime's gravity.

Speedy Trial as Constitutional Right

- It emphasizes that defendant should be tried for their alleged crimes within a reasonable time period.
- In **Kartar Singh Vs State of Punjab (1994)**, a Constitution bench of the Supreme Court unequivocally construed the right of speedy trial as a fundamental right.
 - ⊖ **Other Important Judgement:** Abdul Rehman Antulay vs RS Nayak
- **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)**, the new code that has replaced Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), has sought to address delayed justice



Zika Virus

In response to Zika virus cases reported in Maharashtra, the Union Health Ministry has issued an advisory to state governments to stop its spread.

About Zika Virus

- **Transmitted:** Primarily transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito **Aedes aegypti**.
 - ⊖ It bites during the **day**. It is also responsible for transmitting **dengue**.
- **Health Concerns: Non-fatal in nature but** associated with **microcephaly** (reduced head size) of babies born to affected pregnant women.
 - ⊖ It can also trigger **Guillain-Barré syndrome, neuropathy and myelitis etc**.
- **Vaccine:** No vaccine available to prevent or medicine for it.



Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

New Zealand has denied India's request for a certification trademark equivalent to a geographical indication (GI) tag on basmati rice as it is grown outside of India also.

➤ Earlier, On the same ground rejected by Australia.

About APEDA

- Established under the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985.**
- Promotes exports and takes care of **GI registration for Indian products abroad**, filing the certification of trademark applications.
- Serves as the Secretariat to the **National Accreditation Board**, overseeing the accreditation of Certification Bodies for **organic exports under the National Programme for Organic Production.**



Pachathuruthu Project

Recently, Kerala's Chief Minister asserted that the **Pachathuruthu initiative** will play a key role in achieving **ambitious Net Zero Carbon target of State.**

About Pachathuruthu project

- Aims to create man-made mini-forests.
- Initiative will help in protecting **natural forest biodiversity** by planting a variety of indigenous plants in barren lands.
 - ⊕ Also, it will aid in **carbon sequestration**, mitigating the impact of **urban heat island etc.**
- These projects are planned by mobilizing the masses through participatory campaigns and through coordination and leadership of the Local Self-Government Institutions.



Air pollution

A multi-city study examining the **short-term health impacts of air pollution** in India has been published in the **Lancet Planetary Health.**

Key Observations:

- Approximately **33,000 annual deaths** can be attributed to **PM 2.5 pollution** in 10 cities of India.
- Deaths are higher in **Delhi, Varanasi, Kolkata** etc because of higher average exposure, possibly the nature of sources and population.
- **WHO Guidelines:** 24-hour average exposures should not exceed 15 µg/m³ (micrograms per cubic metre).
 - ⊕ Indian air quality standards prescribe **60 µg/m³ of PM2.5 over a 24-hour period.**



WHO tobacco cessation guideline

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released its **first-ever clinical treatment guideline for tobacco cessation in adults.**

- It is expected to help more than **750 million tobacco users who want to quit all forms of tobacco** but find it difficult to do so.
- **More than 60 per cent of the world's 1.25 billion tobacco users** want to quit, yet 70 per cent lack access to effective cessation services.
 - ⊕ **Reasons:** inefficient health systems, lack of resources, etc.
- Recommendations combine **medication and behavioural interventions.**



Cabinet Committees

The Union government constituted eight Cabinet committees.

About Cabinet committees

- These are constituted under the **Transaction of Business Rules, 1961.**
- The cabinet makes use of the committee system to **facilitate decision-making in specific areas.**
- **These include cabinet committees on:**
 - ⊕ Appointments
 - ⊕ Accommodation
 - ⊕ Economic Affairs
 - ⊕ Parliamentary Affairs
 - ⊕ Political Affairs
 - ⊕ Security
 - ⊕ Investment and Growth
 - ⊕ Skill, employment and livelihood



National Medical Commission (NMC)

New Chairperson of **National Medical Commission (NMC)** has been appointed.

About NMC

- **Genesis:** It is a **statutory body** constituted by an act of Parliament known as National Medical Commission Act, 2019.
- **Aim:** Improve access to quality and affordable medical education
- **Functions:**
 - ⊕ Lay down policies for regulating medical institutions, medical researchers and medical professionals.
 - ⊕ Ensure coordination among the **Autonomous Boards, etc.**



Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs)

Researchers have carried out an analysis of the **mechanisms underlying the flexibility of crystals of MOFs.**

- They attributed the flexibility to **large structural rearrangements associated** with soft and hard vibrations within a crystal.

About MOFs

- Large class of crystalline materials which has **ability to absorb gases**, such as carbon dioxide, and store them as well as act as **filters for crude oil purification.**
 - ⊕ It is due to the **presence of nanopores.**
- **Limited stability and mechanical weakness** have hindered their broader applications.



Apatani Tribe

Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have recorded a new species of forest-dwelling horned frog from the **Talle Wildlife Sanctuary** (Arunachal Pradesh).

- New species has been named after the dominant Apatani community in Arunachal Pradesh.

About Apatani Tribe

- The tribe Found in **Ziro valley** and known for their effective traditional village council called bulyañ.
- Region of tribe has been included in **UNESCO's Tentative List** as living Cultural Landscape (where man and environment have harmoniously existed together in a state of interdependence).
- **Major Festival:** Dree and Myok
- **Key Dance:** Daminda, and Pree dance



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI