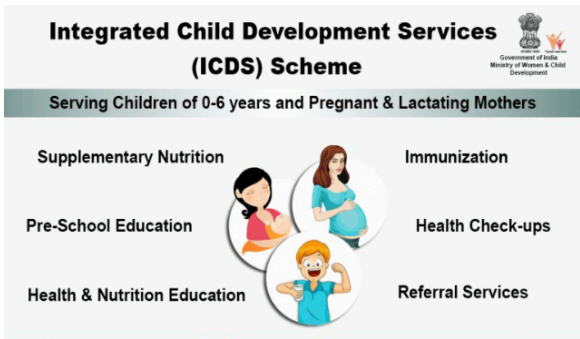




06 February 2024

National and International News

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| <p>Uttar Pradesh Model for Tackling Malnutrition</p>  <p>Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme Serving Children of 0-6 years and Pregnant & Lactating Mothers</p> <p>Supplementary Nutrition Immunization Pre-School Education Health Check-ups Health & Nutrition Education Referral Services</p> | <p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uttar Pradesh demonstrates the effectiveness of women's empowerment in combating malnutrition through community-based micro enterprises. Self-help groups produce fortified and nutritious foods for pregnant/breastfeeding mothers and children, distributed through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme. <p>ICDS Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Umbrella scheme - Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is a centrally sponsored scheme initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 1975. <p>Schemes under ICDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anganwadi Services Scheme Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana National Creche Scheme Scheme for Adolescent Girls Child Protection Scheme POSHAN Abhiyaan <p>Major Objectives of ICDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the nutritional and health status of children aged 0-6 years. Ensure proper psychological, physical, and social development of the child. Reduce mortality, morbidity, malnutrition, and school dropout rates. Coordinate policy and implementation across departments. Enhance the capability of mothers to meet the health and nutritional needs of their children. Educate and empower adolescent girls for self-reliance and awareness. |
| <p>1st BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships</p> | <p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anurag Singh Thakur initiated the BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships 2024 in New Delhi's Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Swimming Pool Complex which will be held from February 6th to 9th, 2024. |



BIMSTEC

Stands for **The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation**

Founded in 1997 through **Bangkok Declaration**

7 MEMBER COUNTRIES

Importance of BIMSTEC

- Accounts for **22%** of the world's population
- Combined GDP of **\$2.7 trillion**
- One-fourth of the world's traded goods cross the Bay every year
- Six focus areas- trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries

First summit held in Thailand

Sri Lanka is the current Chair

- The championship marks the first of its kind within the **BIMSTEC region**.

Vision and Background

- Narendra Modi announced the **BIMSTEC Youth Water Sports competition during the 4th BIMSTEC Summit in 2018**.
- Initially planned for 2021, the event was rescheduled to 2024 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Competitions include Swimming, Water Polo, and Diving events for the Under 20 age category.

BIMSTEC:

- **BIMSTEC (The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)** constitutes a unique link between South and South-East Asian countries with five members from **South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka)** and two members from **South-East Asia (Myanmar & Thailand)**.
- BIMSTEC It is an economic bloc that came into being in **June 1997** through the **Bangkok Declaration**.
- BIMSTEC was initially formed with four member states- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand on June 6, 1997.
- Nepal became an observer state in 1998 and became a full-time member of the bloc along with Bhutan in February 2004.

Myanmar's Civil Unrest

Context:

- Myanmar's internal conflict intensifies as opposition to military rule strengthens, with **Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) gaining control in various regions**.
- The recent capture of **Paletwa by the Arakan Army**, a town with strategic importance on the **western border**, underscores the growing complexity of the situation.
- The fall of Paletwa shifts the dynamics between the Chin and Arakan ethnic groups, sparking tensions over historical territorial claims.

Impact on Kaladan Project:

- The developments in Paletwa affect **India's Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)**, aimed at providing **northeast**



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| | <p>India with an alternative trade route.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays in the Kaladan project are attributed to various challenges, including security concerns and local attitudes toward the project. <p>China's Economic Expansion and Geopolitical Influence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China's investments in Myanmar, particularly in the Rakhine State, include oil and gas pipelines and plans for a deep-sea port and economic zone. • The China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) aims to further enhance connectivity between the two countries, potentially altering regional power dynamics. • China's influence in Myanmar poses challenges for India's connectivity and development projects, necessitating a nuanced approach to regional diplomacy. |
| <p>CBSE Urges Schools for National Credit Framework Preparation</p> | <p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBSE has requested affiliated schools to plan credit allocation patterns in line with the National Credit Framework (NCrF). • Draft guidelines have been proposed by CBSE, currently open for feedback. <p>Credit Allocation and Subject Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBSE plans to introduce a new credit framework for Classes 9 to 12, emphasizing the allocation of credits to subjects. • Students are required to clear five subjects, with additional hours allocated for internal assessments in subjects like Physical Education, Health, Art Education, and a third language. <p>Expansion of Subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal suggests an expansion of compulsory subjects from 5 to 10 for Classes 9 and 10. • Additional subjects include a compulsory third language, interdisciplinary studies, physical education, art education, and a skill-related subject. <p>Schools are encouraged to adopt the credit system internally to ensure preparedness for official implementation next year.</p> |



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Dusted Apollo



Context:

- The Dusted Apollo, a rare high-altitude butterfly, has been sighted and photographed in **Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district**.
- Previously undocumented in Himachal Pradesh, this species inhabits altitudes ranging from **3,500 to 4,800 meters in the inner Himalayas**.

Key points:

- The Dusted Apollo bears a strong resemblance to the **Ladakh Banded Apollo**.
- Apollo butterflies face threats from poaching due to their commercial significance, highlighting the urgent need for conservation efforts to protect endangered species.

Kerala Regional News

Kerala Budget



Key points:

- The Kerala budget emphasizes investment in **transportation infrastructure, including the Silver Line project (K-rail) and metro projects in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode**.
- Upgrading industrial parks and approving new private industrial parks are also priorities to attract business investments.

Special Economic Zones and Port Development

- Plans for a special development zone in **Vizhinjam** are announced, with considerations regarding the Chinese model's implications.
- Financial support is allocated for the **development of ports like Azhikkal, Kollam, and Beypore** to enhance cargo movement, public transport, and tourism.


Tourism Revitalization

- The budget introduces various schemes to rejuvenate Kerala's tourism sector, including **initiatives like safari parks, light and sound shows, and eco-tourism**.
- There's a focus on developing new tourist circuits, such as the **Beypore-Lakshadweep-Kochi circuit, to meet evolving travel preferences**.

Technology and Education Investment



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant allocations are made for science, technology, and digital education, aiming to strengthen research and innovation. • The budget also outlines plans for private investment in higher education, including incentives for foreign universities to establish campuses in Kerala, aiming to reverse brain drain and foster an innovation-driven economy. |
| <p>International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Day of Zero Tolerance for female genital mutilation (FGM) is observed annually on 6 February. • This provides an opportunity for all stakeholders involved in ending FGM to celebrate achievements, advocate for abandonment of the practice and raise awareness. • 2024 Theme: Her Voice. Her Future • This year marks the 13th anniversary of this international day. • In 2024, nearly 4.4 million girls - or more than 12,000 each day - are at risk of FGM around the world. |
| <p>Policy Shift: Sandalwood as a Tree Crop</p> | <p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking away from stringent regulations, the forest department in Kerala proposes to promote sandalwood cultivation as a viable tree crop. • This shift aims to bolster farmers' revenues by tapping into the high demand for sandalwood. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed changes include allowing sandalwood cultivation in various regions except wet areas, revising size requirements for sandalwood trees, and facilitating sales to the forest department. • Sandalwood trees present a lucrative opportunity for farmers, with potential earnings ranging from Rs 2-3 lakh per tree over 30 years, far surpassing the returns from other crops like rubber. |
| <p>India Innovation Centre for Graphene (ICG)</p> | <p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state government of Kerala is prioritizing the establishment of the India Innovation Centre for Graphene (ICG) in Kochi. • This initiative aims to enhance the city's technological capabilities, particularly in the realm of electronics. |



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project, with an estimated cost of Rs 86 crore, is a collaborative effort involving the ministry of electronics & information technology, Tata Steel, and the state government, which has allocated Rs 5 crore towards it. <p>Key findings: Kochi is already recognized for its innovation hubs such as the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), Maker Village, and KINFRA. The introduction of IICG is expected to further elevate the city's status as a hub for innovation and technological advancement.</p> |
| <p>Infrastructure Development and School Modernization</p> | <p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government higher secondary schools are prioritized in the budget for infrastructure development. Proposals include upgrading one school in each district as a model school and introducing a grading system based on school performance. Residential training for teachers every six months and evaluation of teacher and senior education official performance are part of the plan. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major schemes such as free uniform distribution and providing noon meals in schools receive a higher allocation this year. The focus remains on infrastructure development and modernization. Finance Minister K N Balagopal announces a new scheme to financially support institutions caring for intellectually challenged children. <p>Budget Allocation for Education Sector - 2024-25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total outlay: Rs 1,032.62 crore Free uniform scheme: Rs 155.34 crore Mid-day meal scheme: Rs 382.14 crore |

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