



Daily Current Affairs



To The Point by Dhananjay Gautam

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1 Adoption of Kazan Declaration at 16th BRICS Summit

Context: The **Kazan Declaration**, adopted at the **16th BRICS Summit** held in Kazan, Russia, encapsulates the bloc's commitment to multilateralism, global development, and security.

- The summit focused on "**Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security**," highlighting the importance of cooperative efforts among member countries in addressing global challenges.

Key Points of the Kazan Declaration:

- The declaration emphasizes:
 - Enhanced cooperation among BRICS nations.
 - A unified stance on critical global issues, including the promotion of peace and sustainable development.
- **BRICS Payment System:** Russia advocated for a BRICS-led payment system as an alternative to **SWIFT**, particularly in light of the restrictions placed on Russian banks since 2022.
- **Regional Issues:** Discussion on escalating situations in West Asia was a significant focus.
- **Initiatives:**
 - Proposal of a **BRICS Grain Exchange** and a **BRICS (Re)Insurance Company** to bolster food security and insurance mechanisms among member nations.
 - Introduction of a **BRICS Partner Country** category to allow non-member countries to collaborate on various projects.
 - Announcement of a **BRICS R&D Vaccine Center** to promote vaccine research and development.
- Recognition of **India's initiative** for an **International Big Cats Alliance**, showcasing India's commitment to wildlife conservation.



Overview of BRICS

- **Formation:** The term BRIC was first used by economist **Jim O'Neill** in 2001, representing emerging economies. The group transitioned to BRICS with South Africa's induction in 2010.
- **Expansion:** Recent additions include **Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE**, broadening the bloc's influence.
- **Economic Significance:** BRICS nations collectively represent about **41%** of the global population, **24%** of the global GDP, and **16%** of global trade.

Significance of BRICS for India:

1. **Strengthening South-South Cooperation:** It serves as a platform for developing countries to collaborate and voice their concerns in global institutions.
2. **Balancing Global Power:** BRICS provides a counterweight to Western alliances like the G7, diversifying India's foreign relations.
3. **Trade Diversification:** Encourages economic cooperation and investment among member states.
4. **New Development Bank (NDB):** Offers funding for infrastructure and sustainable development projects aligning with India's growth strategies.

Challenges Faced by BRICS:

- **Varying Agendas:** Differences in priorities, especially concerning issues like terrorism and regional security.
- **Geopolitical Rivalry:** China's growing influence raises concerns about the bloc becoming pro-China, especially with the inclusion of nations with strong ties to China.
- **Middle Eastern Alliances:** New members from the Middle East complicate India's regional relationships.
- **Trade Barriers:** Existing tariffs and regulatory differences limit intra-BRICS trade potential.

Future Directions:

- **Strategic Engagement:** India must leverage its position within BRICS to enhance its national interests and contribute to global governance.
- **Resource Utilization:** Effective use of the NDB's resources can facilitate critical infrastructure projects in India.
- **Trade Networks:** India should aim to diversify its trade networks and attract investments through BRICS initiatives.

Conclusion: The Kazan Declaration and the summit's outcomes reflect BRICS' commitment to multilateralism and collaborative development. India's role as a founding member positions it to influence the group's trajectory, ensuring it remains a viable platform for emerging economies to assert their global influence while navigating the challenges of geopolitical dynamics and intra-bloc cooperation.

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SC Upholds State's Power to Regulate Industrial Alcohol

Context: The **Supreme Court** upheld the power of **states** to tax and regulate **industrial alcohol**, which is not intended for human consumption. The case centered on the interpretation of "intoxicating liquor" to determine if it includes industrial alcohol and whether states or the Centre have regulatory authority over it.

Dispute:

- The dispute arises from overlapping entries in the **Seventh Schedule** of the Indian Constitution, which allocates law-making powers.
 - Entry 8 of List II (State List):** Empowers states to regulate the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase, and sale of intoxicating liquors.
 - Entry 52 of List I (Union List):** Grants the Centre the authority to regulate industries.
- The **Centre** argued that it had exclusive control over industrial alcohol, while **states** contended that they needed to regulate it to prevent illegal production of consumable alcohol.

**Industrial Alcohol:**

- Definition:** Industrial alcohol is denatured alcohol mixed with chemicals (like benzene and gasoline) to make it unfit for human consumption, significantly reducing its price.
- Uses:** It is used in pharmaceuticals, perfumes, cosmetics, and cleaning products but can also be misused to create illicit liquor, which poses health risks.

Supreme Court Ruling:

- The Court emphasized that taxation on alcohol is vital for state revenue, often supplemented by excise duties.
- It clarified the Centre-state relationship regarding industry control, affirming that states can legislate on matters in the **State List**, despite the Centre's broad powers.
- The ruling overturned a previous 1990 judgment that limited the definition of intoxicating liquor to potable alcohol only, preventing states from taxing industrial alcohol.
- The Court stated that when faced with multiple interpretations of constitutional entries, the one that upholds federal balance should be chosen.

Seventh Schedule Overview:

- Article 246:** Defines the distribution of powers between the Union and State governments, preventing overlapping legislation.
- Lists:**
 - Union List:** Subjects exclusively for Parliament (e.g., defence, foreign affairs).
 - State List:** Subjects exclusively for State Legislatures (e.g., police, public health).
 - Concurrent List:** Subjects for both (e.g., education, marriage), where Union law prevails in case of conflict.

Conclusion: The Supreme Court's ruling represents a significant shift in how industrial alcohol is regulated in India, reaffirming the authority of states to legislate on this issue. It underscores the importance of maintaining a federal balance in governance and addresses the complexities of taxation and regulation of substances that can impact public health and safety.

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3 Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Amendment) Rules, 2024

Context: The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Amendment) Rules, 2024 have been notified by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Key Highlights of the Amended Rules



1. Application for Disability Certificate: Required Documents:

Applicants must provide proof of identity, a recent photograph (not older than six months), and an Aadhaar card to apply for a disability certificate.

2. **Issuance Authority:** Only a **medical authority** or a **notified competent medical authority** at the district level is authorized to issue disability certificates, which must be done in the applicant's district of residence.

3. **Processing Time:** The time frame for processing applications has been extended from **one month to three months**.

4. **Application Lapse Clause:** Applications will lapse or become "inactive" if not decided within **two years**. Applicants will need to reapply or contact the authority to reactivate their applications.

5. New Colour-Coded UDID Cards:

- **White Card:** For disabilities below 40%.
- **Yellow Card:** For disabilities between 40% and 80%.
- **Blue Card:** For disabilities of 80% or above.

Concerns with the Amended Rules

1. **Exclusion of Persons without Aadhaar:** The requirement of an Aadhaar card may exclude persons with disabilities who do not possess one, particularly affecting those in rural areas or marginalized communities.

2. **Longer Processing Time:** The extension of processing time to three months may hinder access to essential services and entitlements for individuals with disabilities, delaying their identification and support.

Overview of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

- **Definition of Disability:** The Act defines a person with a disability as one who has a physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment.
- **Recognition of Disabilities:** It recognizes **21 categories of disabilities**, promoting inclusivity.
- **Prohibition of Discrimination:** The Act prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities across various sectors, including **employment, education, and healthcare**.

Conclusion: While the amendments aim to streamline the process of obtaining disability certificates and enhance the identification system through colour-coded UDID cards, concerns regarding the exclusion of individuals without Aadhaar and extended processing times need to be addressed. The focus should remain on ensuring that all persons with disabilities have equitable access to certification and the rights and entitlements afforded to them under the law.

4 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index 2024

Context: The **Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index 2024**, released by Oxfam and Development Finance International, evaluates the commitment of 164 countries and regions to combating inequality.

Key Highlights of the CRI Index 20241. **Ranking:**

- **Top Performers:** Norway, Canada, and Australia topped the index, demonstrating strong commitments to reducing inequality.
- **Worst Performers:** South Sudan and Nigeria ranked among the lowest, indicating significant challenges in addressing inequality.
- **India's Rank:** India ranked **127** out of 164 countries. Other South Asian nations performed better, with Nepal at **115** and Sri Lanka at **118**.

2. **Rising Inequality:**

- The gap between the **Global South** and the **Global North** has widened more rapidly than at any time since World War II.
- Many people are facing severe hardships due to rising food prices and hunger, while the number of billionaires has doubled in the past decade.
- Key driving factors include conflict, debt crises, and climate shocks, which are limiting spending in low- and lower-middle-income countries. Notably, **84%** of countries have reduced spending on education, health, and social protection.

Key Recommendations to Reduce Inequality

1. **National Inequality Reduction Plans (NIRPs):** Countries should implement realistic and timebound plans to reduce inequality, with regular monitoring to ensure progress.
2. **Public Spending Targets:** Governments should allocate at least **15% of total public expenditure** to health and **20% to education**.
3. **Progressive Taxation:** Increase progressive taxation by targeting the income of the richest **1%** to redistribute wealth more effectively.

Measures Taken to Reduce Inequality in India:

1. **Job Creation:** The **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** provides a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of unskilled wage employment in a financial year to every rural household.
2. **Financial Inclusion:** The **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** aims to provide affordable access to financial services, including banking, savings, and insurance.
3. **Education and Skilling:** The **Right to Education Act, 2009** mandates free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years, aiming to improve literacy and educational outcomes.
4. **Other Initiatives:** Programs like **Startup India** promote entrepreneurship and job creation, contributing to economic empowerment and inclusion.

Conclusion: The CRI Index 2024 underscores the urgent need for countries to prioritize inequality reduction through effective policies and initiatives. While India has made strides in certain areas, there is still significant work to be done to enhance commitment to equality and ensure equitable growth for all citizens. The recommendations from the index provide a roadmap for achieving these goals.

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5 Emissions Gap Report 2024

Context: The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has released the **Emissions Gap Report 2024**, highlighting critical insights into global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, future projections, and necessary actions for achieving the long-term temperature goals set by the **Paris Agreement**.

Key Observations:

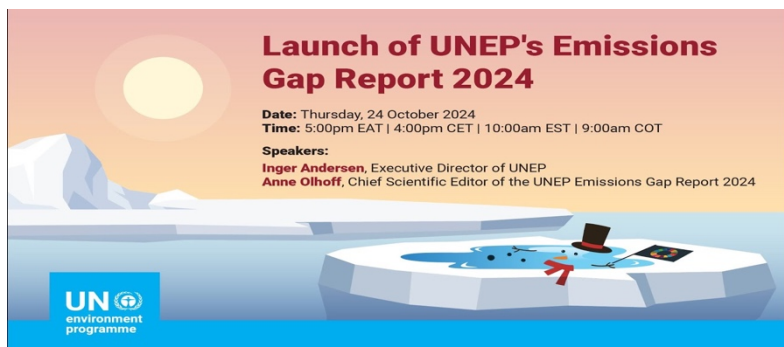
- Record Emissions:** GHG emissions reached a new high of **57 gigatons (Gt)** of CO₂ equivalent in 2023, reflecting a **1.3% increase** from 2022.
- Emission Rankings:** India ranks **3rd** in total GHG emissions, contributing **4,140 MtCO₂e**. The top two emitters are:
 - **China** (1st)
 - **United States** (2nd)
- Disparities in Emissions:**
 - The six largest GHG emitters account for **63%** of global emissions, while least developed countries contribute only **3%**.
 - Historical context shows that India's total CO₂ emissions from 1850 to 2022 were significantly lower at **83 GtCO₂** compared to China's **300 GtCO₂** and the U.S.'s **527 GtCO₂**.
- NDC Targets:** There is a pressing need for more stringent policies globally to meet the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets for **2030**.

Recommendations for Limiting Global Warming

- Collective Emission Reductions:** Nations must commit to reducing annual GHG emissions by **42% by 2030** and **57% by 2035** in their next NDCs.
- Comprehensive NDCs:** NDCs should encompass all gases listed in the **Kyoto Protocol**, cover all relevant sectors, and set specific and measurable targets.
- Renewable Energy Deployment:** Increasing the use of solar photovoltaic technologies and wind energy is crucial, as these could contribute to **38%** of the total emission reduction potential by **2035**.

About Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

- **NDCs** are national climate action plans submitted by countries, outlining their strategies to reduce GHG emissions.
- Under the **Paris Agreement**, countries are required to update their NDCs every five years with increasing ambition, considering their respective capacities.
- After the initial NDCs in **2015** and the second round in **2020/2021**, the next set of NDCs, termed "NDCs 3.0", is expected to be due in early **2025**.



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** plays a pivotal role as the leading global authority on environmental matters. Here's a summary of its mission and key functions:

- **Mission:** UNEP aims to **inspire, inform, and enable** nations and communities to enhance their quality of life while ensuring the sustainability of future generations.
- **Support for Sustainable Development:** Through advanced science, coordination, and advocacy, UNEP supports its **193 Member States** in achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and promoting a harmonious relationship with nature.
- **History and Collaboration:** For over **50 years**, UNEP has collaborated with various stakeholders, including:
 - **Governments**
 - **Civil society**
 - **Private sector**
 - **Other UN entities**
- Its initiatives have tackled some of humanity's most critical environmental challenges, such as:
 - **Restoring the ozone layer**
 - **Protecting marine ecosystems**
 - **Promoting a green and inclusive economy**
- **Focus Areas:** UNEP is dedicated to driving **transformational change** by addressing the root causes of the **triple planetary crisis**:
 1. **Climate Change**
 2. **Nature and Biodiversity Loss**
 3. **Pollution**
- **Objectives:** The organization focuses on:
 - Assisting countries in transitioning to **low-carbon and resource-efficient economies**.
 - Strengthening **environmental governance** and legal frameworks.
 - Safeguarding **ecosystems**.
 - Providing **evidence-based data** to inform policy-making.
- **Urgency of Work:** The urgency of UNEP's work has intensified as global environmental challenges escalate, making their mission and initiatives crucial for current and future generations.



Conclusion: The **Emissions Gap Report 2024** emphasizes the urgency for countries to strengthen their climate commitments and implement effective policies to significantly reduce emissions. The report underscores the disparities in contributions to global emissions and the need for equitable and ambitious action from all nations, especially in light of the upcoming NDC updates. The recommended focus on renewable energy technologies highlights a pathway for substantial emissions reductions while addressing climate change impacts.

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6 Gram Panchayat-Level Weather Forecasting Initiative

Context: The **Gram Panchayat-Level Weather Forecasting Initiative** has been launched to enhance climate resilience in rural areas of India.

About the Initiative:

- **Ministries Involved:** This initiative is a collaborative effort between the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, and the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.

Features:

- **Coverage:** The initiative will provide localized weather forecasts to **2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats** across India.
- **Data Accessibility:** Real-time data on:
 - **Current temperature**
 - **Wind speed**
 - **Cloud cover**
 - **Rainfall**
 - **Relative humidity**
- **Digital Platforms:** Weather forecasts will be accessible through platforms like:
 - **e-GramSwaraj**
 - **Gram Manchitra**
 - **Meri Panchayat**
- **Forecast Types:** Provides **5-day** and **hourly** weather forecasts.
- **Alert System:** SMS alerts will be sent to panchayat representatives regarding extreme weather events, such as cyclones and heavy rainfall.



Significance of Localized Weather Forecasts:

- **Agricultural Support:** Enables farmers to make informed decisions regarding sowing, irrigation, and harvesting, thereby safeguarding agricultural livelihoods.
- **Grassroots Governance:** Strengthens rural governance by equipping communities to better address environmental challenges and enhance climate resilience.
- **Disaster Preparedness:** Improves rural readiness for extreme weather events, contributing to reduced mortality and damage from disasters.
- **Global Role:** Highlights India's leadership in global climate resilience, with IMD acting as a UN Early Warning for All advisor to five developing nations.

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Advancements in Weather Forecasting:

- **Forecasting Capabilities:** IMD can now provide forecasts for areas as small as **12 km x 12 km**, representing a **40% improvement** in accuracy over the last decade.
- **Future Goals:** Experimental forecasts are being developed for **3 km x 3 km** grids, with plans to achieve **hyper-local** forecasts for **1 km x 1 km** areas.
- **Weather Information Network:** A new system, **WINDS**, has been launched to generate long-term, hyper-local weather data.
- **Other Initiatives:** The initiative complements existing programs like **Agro Advisory Services (AAS)** and **Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS)**.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj

- **Role:** Oversees decentralization and local governance in Indian states.
- **Structure:** India has a three-tier government system due to the 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts, 1993.

Government Structure:

- **Federation:** Powers are divided between the Union Government and State Governments.
- **Local Self Governments:** Introduced Panchayati Raj (village level) and Urban Local Bodies (municipalities and municipal corporations).

Establishment:

- **Creation:** The Ministry was established in May 2004.
- **Leadership:** Currently headed by **Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh**.

Vision: Attain decentralized and participatory local self-government through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Mission: Focus Areas

- **Empowerment:** Strengthening the capacity of PRIs.
- **Enablement:** Providing resources and support for effective functioning.
- **Accountability:** Ensuring transparency and responsiveness of PRIs.
- **Inclusive Development:** Promoting social justice and equitable service delivery.

Functions:

- **Oversight:** Manages all matters related to Panchayati Raj and its institutions.
- **Policy Implementation:** Facilitates the effective execution of programs aimed at local governance

Conclusion: This initiative aims to empower rural communities by providing critical weather information that enhances agricultural practices, strengthens governance, and builds resilience against climate-related challenges. Through improved forecasting and timely alerts, it plays a vital role in preparing communities for the impacts of extreme weather events.

7 Urbanisation and industries draining groundwater reserves in 5 Hotspots: Study

Context: The study on urbanization and its impact on groundwater reserves highlights significant concerns regarding the depletion of these vital resources in five hotspots across India.

Key Findings of the Study

• Hotspot Areas:

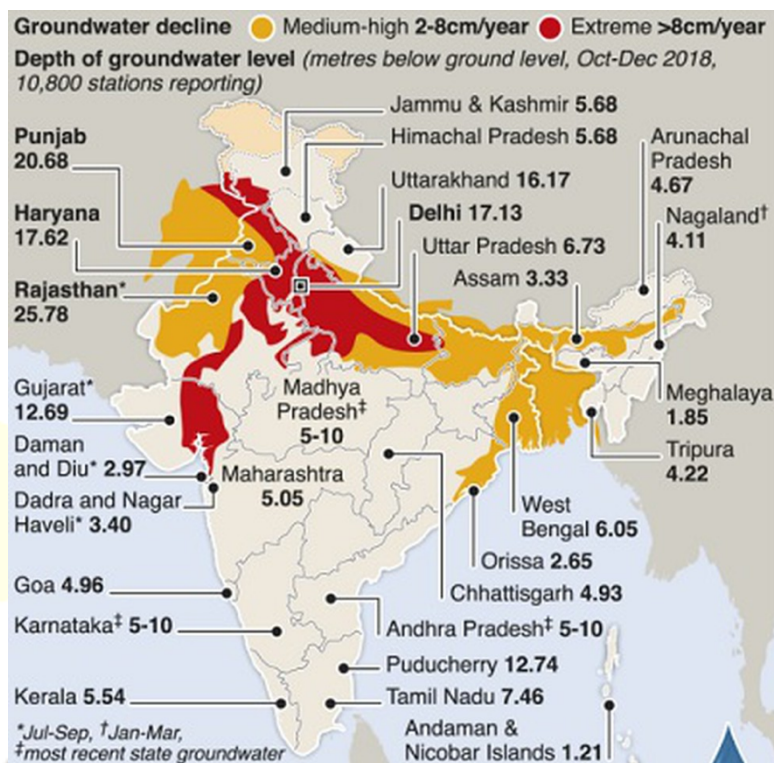
- Punjab and Haryana (Hotspot I)
- Uttar Pradesh (Hotspot II)
- West Bengal (Hotspot III)
- Chhattisgarh (Hotspot IV)
- Kerala (Hotspot V)

• Groundwater Usage:

- India is the largest user of groundwater, accounting for over 25% of the global total.

• Water Loss:

- The northern and north-western hotspots (Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh) have lost approximately **64.6 billion cubic meters** of water over the past two decades.
- **Punjab and Haryana** are identified as the most affected regions with the highest decline in groundwater levels.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has shifted water usage from agricultural to domestic needs due to urban expansion.
- **Chhattisgarh** faces reduced groundwater availability due to increased irrigation, domestic, and industrial usage.
- In **West Bengal and Kerala**, domestic and industrial water use surged by **24%** and **34%**, respectively.



Proposed Solutions for Depleting Groundwater Resources

1. User Rights:

- Establish formalized groundwater rights that are detached from land ownership to manage resources more equitably.

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2. Community Rights:

- Granting community rights would promote collective responsibility and ensure equal access to groundwater resources, helping mitigate exploitative tendencies often seen under private ownership.

Artificial Groundwater Recharge Techniques

• Direct Surface Techniques:

- Flooding, basins or percolation tanks, and stream augmentation.

• Direct Subsurface Techniques:

- Injection wells, recharge wells, and recharge pits and shafts.

Government Initiatives:

• Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL):

- Aims to improve groundwater management in seven states: Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

• Jal Shakti Abhiyan - "Catch The Rain":

- Promotes rainwater harvesting and water conservation.

• Master Plan for Artificial Recharge (2020):

- Plans to create **1.42 crore** rainwater harvesting structures to enhance groundwater recharge.

• Financial Assistance to States:

- Financial aid under the **15th Finance Commission** is available for rainwater harvesting initiatives.

Conclusion: The findings underscore the urgent need for sustainable groundwater management practices, particularly in the highlighted hotspots. Implementing community-based solutions, enhancing artificial recharge techniques, and leveraging government initiatives can significantly contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of groundwater resources in India.

8 Caspian Sea

Context: The Caspian Sea has been shrinking since the mid-1990s, with the rate of disappearance accelerating since 2005.

Geographic and Physical Characteristics:

- **Size:** It is the world's largest inland body of water, covering approximately **386,400 square kilometres**.
- **Location:** The Caspian Sea is situated between **Asia and Europe**, bordered by the **Caucasus Mountains** to the east and the vast **steppe of Central Asia** to the west.
- **Bordering Countries:**
 - **West:** Russia and Azerbaijan
 - **North and East:** Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan
 - **South:** Iran
- **Name Origin:** Named after the ancient **Kaspi** people who once lived on its western shores.

**Formation:**

- Despite being called a sea, it is technically a **lake** as it is an enclosed water body without a direct outlet to the ocean.
- It was once part of the **ancient Parathethys Sea** (from the Tethys Ocean) around **5.5 million years ago**, becoming landlocked due to tectonic uplift and sea-level fall.
- The seafloor consists of **oceanic basalt** rather than continental granite.
- Water composition varies, being nearly fresh in the northern parts and increasingly saline towards the south, with a mean salinity about **one-third** that of ocean water.

Major Rivers: Volga, Ural, Terek

Major Cities:

- **Baku:** The capital of Azerbaijan and the largest city along the Caspian.
- **Nowshera:** An important city in Iran located along the sea's coast.

Economic Significance

- The Caspian Sea is rich in **energy resources**, including **oil and natural gas** reserves found in offshore fields and along its coast.
- It is a major source of **caviar**, known for its luxurious status and culinary significance.

What is Caviar?

- **Definition:** Caviar is a delicacy made from the salt-cured eggs (roe) of sturgeon fish.
- **Source Regions:** Traditionally sourced from the **Caspian** and **Black Sea** regions.
- **Characteristics:** Caviar is prized for its distinctive taste and comes in various colours, commonly black, grey, or golden. Each type has a unique texture and flavour, making it highly sought after in gourmet cuisine.

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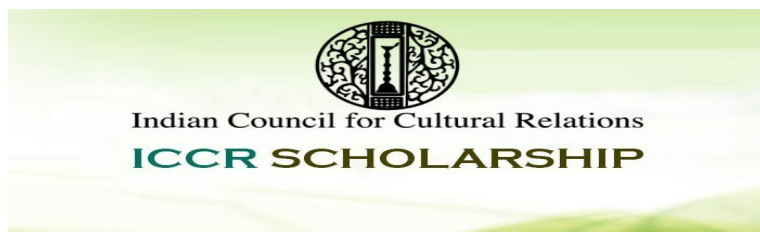
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9 Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

Context: The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) recently held a conference of Buddhist monks and scholars in Colombo to discuss granting the **Pali language** the status of a classical language in India.

**About ICCR:**

- **Established:** Founded in 1950 by **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, India's first Education Minister.
- **Affiliation:** An autonomous body under the **Ministry of External Affairs**, Government of India.
- **Mandate:** Focused on enhancing India's **external cultural relations** through cultural exchange and fostering people-to-people connections worldwide.
- **Cultural Centres:** Operates a network of cultural centres worldwide, promoting **Indian culture** abroad.

Objectives:

- **Policy Involvement:** Participates in creating and implementing policies related to India's cultural diplomacy.
- **Cultural Relations:** Aims to build mutual understanding and strengthen cultural ties between **India and other nations**.
- **Cultural Exchanges:** Promotes and facilitates cultural exchanges, fostering deeper connections with other countries.

Scholarships and Educational Exchange Programs:

- **Scholarships:** ICCR awards around **3000+ scholarships annually** under 21 different schemes, benefiting foreign students from over 180 countries.
- **Funding:** Six schemes are directly funded by ICCR, while others are managed on behalf of the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and the **Ministry of Ayush**.
- **Programs Offered:** Scholarships cover a broad range of courses, from undergraduate to postdoctoral levels, across leading Indian universities and educational institutions.

Pali Language

- **Language Family:** Pali belongs to the **Indo-European family**, alongside many European, Iranian, and North Indian languages.
- **Classification:** It is a **Middle Indo-Aryan language**, part of the Prakrit group.
- **Historical Significance:** Pali is one of the oldest surviving Prakrits and serves as the **liturgical language of Theravāda Buddhism**, preserving its sacred texts.

10 Exercise SIMBEX

Context: The 31st edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) is being held from 23 to 29 October 2024 at the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam, India.



About SIMBEX

- **Origins and Evolution:** Established in 1994 as *Exercise Lion King*, SIMBEX has evolved into one of the most enduring and significant maritime collaborations between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).
- **Historic Significance:** It is the longest continuous naval exercise conducted by the Indian Navy with any nation.
- **Structure:** This year's exercise is divided into:
 - **Harbour Phase (at Visakhapatnam):** Includes Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs), cross-deck visits, sports events, and pre-sail briefings.
 - **Sea Phase (in the Bay of Bengal):** Involves advanced naval drills such as live weapon firings, anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training, anti-surface and anti-air operations, seamanship exercises, and tactical manoeuvres.

Objectives: SIMBEX aims to:

- Strengthen the **strategic partnership** between India and Singapore.
- Enhance **interoperability** between the two navies.
- Improve **maritime domain awareness**.
- Foster **cooperation to address shared maritime challenges**.

Submarines: An Overview

- **Definition:** Submarines are **specialized watercraft** capable of independent underwater operations, using onboard power and systems to remain submerged for extended periods.
- **Role in Naval Warfare:** They are critical for their **stealth** and **agility**, providing advantages in intelligence gathering, surveillance, and anti-submarine operations.
- **Functions:** Submarines contribute to **maritime defence, intelligence gathering, anti-submarine warfare**, and **patrol** missions, significantly bolstering a nation's naval capabilities.

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