



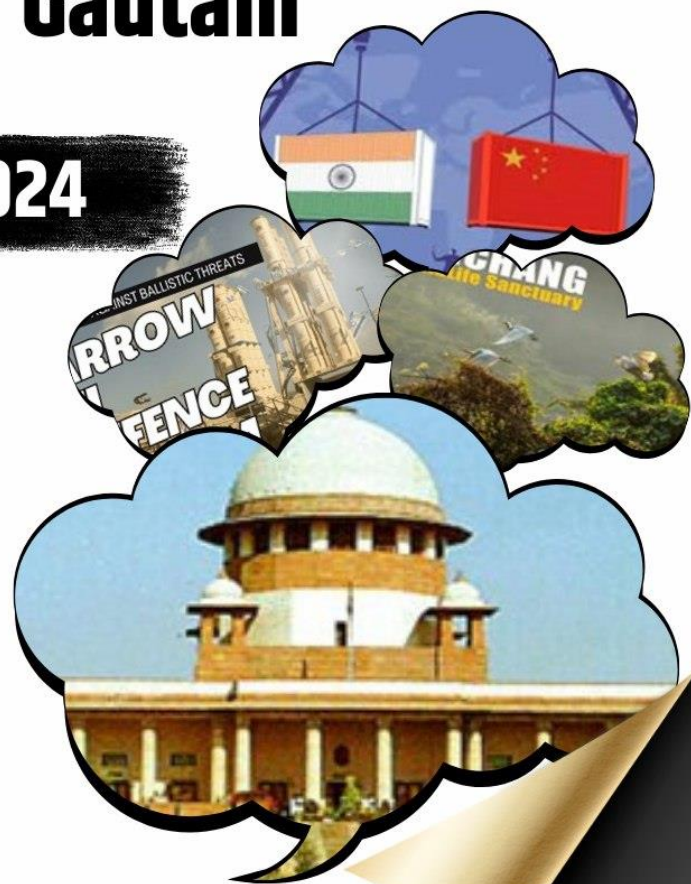
Daily Current Affairs



To The Point by Dhananjay Gautam

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1 Arrow-3 Missile Defense System: The Cutting-Edge Shield Against Ballistic Threats

Context: In a significant move, **Israel's Defence Ministry** is coordinating with the **German Federal Ministry of Defence** for the initial deployment of the **Arrow-3 missile defense system** on German soil, set for **2025**. This collaboration is part of a broader strategy to enhance missile defense capabilities across Europe, ensuring the protection of allied nations against potential threats.

About the Arrow-3 Missile Defense System:

What is Arrow-3?

The **Arrow-3 Missile Defense System** is an **exo-atmospheric anti-ballistic missile defense** solution designed to intercept long-range ballistic threats outside of the earth's atmosphere. It is part of Israel's advanced **Arrow Weapon System (AWS)**, recognized as the world's first **national, operational, and stand-alone Anti Tactical Ballistic Missiles (ATBM)** defense system.

Key Features and Capabilities:

- **Exo-atmospheric Interception:** Arrow-3 is specifically engineered to engage **ballistic missiles** while they are still outside of the **atmosphere**, offering an extra layer of defense to protect against long-range threats.
- **Advanced Hypersonic Speed:** The system uses **hypersonic technology**, allowing the interceptor to travel at **five times the speed of sound**, ensuring rapid response times to intercept incoming missiles.
- **Long-Range Capability:** With a range of up to **2,400 km**, Arrow-3 can target threats from great distances, providing Israel and its allies with broad defense coverage.
- **Altitude and Tracking:** The interceptor is capable of targeting threats at an altitude of **100 km**, and is equipped with **early-warning radar** and **multi-target tracking capabilities**, ensuring high accuracy and effectiveness in complex combat environments.

How Does the Arrow-3 Work?

- **Hit-to-Kill Technology:** Arrow-3 employs **hit-to-kill technology**, which ensures the destruction of incoming missiles by physically colliding with them, rather than relying on explosives.
- **Vertical Launch and Interception:** The missile is launched **vertically** before its direction is adjusted towards the predicted interception point, guided by **high-resolution electro-optical sensors** that provide precise targeting.
- **Integrated Defense System:** Arrow-3 is part of Israel's broader **multi-layered defense network**, complementing other systems like **Arrow 2**, **David's Sling**, and the **Iron Dome**, to provide a comprehensive defense against all types of aerial threats.

A Global Strategic Asset:

The deployment of the **Arrow-3** missile defense system in **Germany** signals a deepening of defense collaboration between Israel and Europe. As part of Israel's robust defense strategy, the Arrow-3 stands as a testament to its leadership in missile defense technology, offering an advanced shield against emerging threats. With its capability to intercept missiles at extreme altitudes and speeds, Arrow-3 represents a pivotal advancement in global defense systems, safeguarding nations from a new generation of missile warfare.



2 Kayakalp Scheme: Revitalizing Healthcare through Cleanliness and Hygiene

Context: In a move to promote cleanliness and aesthetic improvements, the **Rajasthan College Education Commissionerate** has instructed 20 government colleges to paint the **front facades** of their buildings and entry halls **orange** under the **Kayakalp Scheme**. This initiative, which began in the healthcare sector, is now extending to educational institutions, reinforcing the importance of cleanliness and visual appeal.

What is the Kayakalp Scheme?

An Initiative for Cleaner Healthcare Facilities:

The **Kayakalp Scheme** was launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** on **May 15, 2015**, as part of the larger **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** (Clean India Mission). It aims to enhance the cleanliness, hygiene, and overall quality of **Public Health Facilities (PHFs)** across India.

Objectives of the Kayakalp Scheme:

- **Promoting Cleanliness and Hygiene:** The scheme seeks to improve sanitation standards, infection control, and the use of **environment-friendly practices** in healthcare settings, ensuring safer spaces for patients and staff.
- **Incentivizing Excellence:** PHFs that demonstrate outstanding efforts in maintaining cleanliness and infection control are recognized and rewarded, fostering a competitive spirit among healthcare facilities.
- **Building a Culture of Ongoing Improvement:** The scheme encourages **continuous assessment**, peer reviews, and ongoing enhancements to hygiene, cleanliness, and sanitation practices within healthcare centers.
- **Sustainable Practices:** It focuses on sharing **sustainable, health-enhancing practices** related to cleanliness that can lead to improved public health outcomes.

Assessment and Recognition Process:

The **Kayakalp Scheme** follows a **three-tier assessment process**:

1. **Internal Assessment:** Healthcare facilities are evaluated based on their self-reported cleanliness practices.
2. **Peer Review:** Other healthcare centers review the facility's performance.
3. **External Evaluation:** An external body assesses the facility's adherence to cleanliness and hygiene protocols.

At the start of each financial year, facilities are scored and documented using a pre-defined assessment tool.

Performance Parameters for Evaluation:

- **Hospital/Facility Upkeep**
- **Sanitation and Hygiene**
- **Waste Management**
- **Infection Control**
- **Support Services**
- **Hygiene Promotion**

Awards and Recognition under the Kayakalp Scheme:

To acknowledge the exceptional efforts of healthcare facilities, **five awards** are given each year under the **Kayakalp Scheme**:

- **Two Best District Hospitals**
- **Two Best Community Health Centres/Sub-District Hospitals**
- **One Primary Health Centre in each district**

Awards Include:

- **Cash prizes**
- **Citations**

These awards are granted based on the performance of the healthcare centers, as assessed by the established criteria.

Significance of the Kayakalp Scheme:

The **Kayakalp Scheme** has played a pivotal role in transforming the cleanliness standards of India's public health facilities, resulting in healthier and more welcoming environments for patients and healthcare workers alike. By incentivizing **sustained cleanliness practices**, it supports the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan's** broader goals of hygiene, health, and environmental sustainability across the nation.



3

Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary: A Rich Habitat in Assam

Context: Recently, a **highly decomposed elephant carcass** was discovered in the **Khanapara range** of the **Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary**, raising concerns about the sanctuary's wildlife conservation efforts.

About Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary:

Location and Geography:

Situated in the **state of Assam**, the **Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary** is a vital ecological reserve. It is made up of three major **reserve forests: Khanapara, Amchang, and South Amchang**. This sanctuary spans from the **Brahmaputra River** in the north to the **hilly forests of Meghalaya** in the south, forming a continuous forest belt that extends through **Meghalaya's Maradakdola Reserve Forests**.

Flora: A Rich Biodiversity

The sanctuary hosts a variety of plant life, contributing to its lush ecosystem:

- **Khasi Hill Sal Forests**
- **East Himalayan Mixed Deciduous Forest**
- **Eastern Alluvial Secondary Semi-evergreen Forests**
- **East Himalayan Sal Forests**

These forest types support a rich diversity of wildlife, making the sanctuary a key area for conservation in Assam.

Fauna: Home to Unique Species:

The **Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary** is a habitat for several unique and endangered species. Among the notable animals are:

- **Flying fox**
- **Slow loris**
- **Assamese macaque**
- **Rhesus macaque**
- **Hoolock gibbon**
- **Porcupine**
- **White-backed vulture**
- **Slender-billed vulture**

Additionally, **Tree yellow butterflies (Gancana harina)** are found in this sanctuary, which are indigenous to **Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and northeast India**.

Significance of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary

The **Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary** is an important conservation area, providing a refuge for both flora and fauna unique to the region. It plays a crucial role in maintaining biodiversity, particularly in the face of growing threats to wildlife populations. The sanctuary's location, stretching from the **Brahmaputra River** to the forests of **Meghalaya**, underscores its significance in maintaining ecological continuity between the two regions.



4

India's Missed Trade Opportunities: Rethinking RCEP, CPTPP, and the China-Plus-One Strategy

Context: India's trade strategy is at a crossroads. With global investments and export opportunities shifting away from China, many Asian nations have seized the "China-plus-one" strategy, but India has yet to capitalize on this opportunity. Meanwhile, the resurgence of **Donald Trump** in US politics adds further uncertainty, particularly regarding American trade policies. The growing debate on whether India should join **multilateral trade agreements** like **RCEP** and **CPTPP** underscores the urgency for a strategic shift.

**India's Trade Dilemma: Balancing Protectionism and Global Integration:**

India's trade policies are grappling with a delicate balance. On one hand, **protectionism** has driven India to avoid free trade agreements like **RCEP**, fearing the opening of markets to **China** and the risk of cheap imports flooding the country. On the other hand, countries like **Vietnam** and **Indonesia** have significantly benefited from integration into global trade agreements.

Risks and Rewards of RCEP:

In **September 2024**, **Piyush Goyal**, India's Commerce Minister, warned that joining **RCEP**—the **China-led** trade pact—could exacerbate India's **trade deficit** with China, which had been growing at an alarming rate from 2004 to 2014. He expressed concerns over **manufacturing** being weakened further by increased imports from China, potentially undermining the **Make in India** initiative.

India Missing the China-Plus-One Opportunity:**The China-Plus-One Strategy:**

The **China-plus-one strategy** aims to diversify manufacturing and sourcing away from **China** to reduce dependency on the nation. This strategy gained momentum due to several factors:

- **COVID-19 pandemic**
- **US-China trade war**
- **Rising labor costs in China**
- **Geopolitical tensions**

Countries like **Vietnam** and **Thailand** have been quick to capitalize on this shift, but **India** has lagged behind.

Missed Growth in US-China Trade Shift:

Despite **India's** manufacturing potential, it has not gained much from the **US-China trade shift**. An **Oxford Economics** report highlighted that while **India's exports** surged, the country failed to increase **domestic value addition** in high-growth sectors. For instance, in the **electronics sector**, India's share of **US imports** increased from **0.2%** in 2017 to **2.1%** in 2023. However, rivals like **Vietnam** and **Taiwan** still dominate the market, limiting India's growth potential.

Attracting Chinese FDI: Pros and Cons**Chinese Investment Surge Amid Protectionism:**

With rising protectionism, **Chinese companies** have increased their overseas investments. However, India's share of Chinese **outward direct investment** has significantly dropped, from **2.6%** in 2019 to **1%** in 2021. This is primarily due to ongoing **border tensions**.

Strategic Concerns:

While Chinese investments could boost trade in the short term, they also pose risks to India's **long-term economic security**. Experts warn that excessive reliance on Chinese firms could weaken **India's strategic independence** and expose the country to **supply chain vulnerabilities**. Chinese firms may prioritize their interests, reducing benefits for **Indian workers** and stalling growth in **domestic industries**.

Uncertainty with Trump's Trade Policies:**Potential Impact of Trump's Return:**

With **Donald Trump** possibly returning to the presidency, there are growing concerns over **future tariffs** and stricter trade conditions for India. During his first term, Trump's **trade tariffs** harmed India's **exports**



by removing India's **duty-free benefits** under the **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)** program, impacting **\$5.7 billion** worth of Indian goods.

Concerns Over Tariff Hikes:

Trade analysts predict that a second Trump term could extend tariffs to sectors critical to **India's exports**, including **automobiles**, **textiles**, and **pharmaceuticals**. This could significantly impact **India's market access** in the **US**, reducing competitiveness in key sectors.

New Opportunities for Indian Exporters:

As the **US** intensifies its actions against **China**, **India** could seize the opportunity to fill the gaps left by restricted Chinese imports. This shift may allow **Indian exporters** to benefit from increased demand for goods once supplied by China.

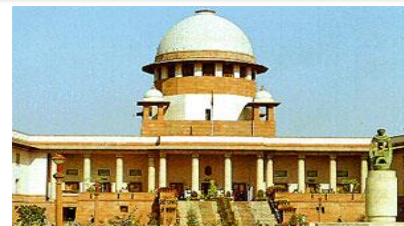
Conclusion: Rethinking India's Trade Strategies

India must rethink its trade strategy to better navigate the shifting global landscape. While protectionism may have served India in the short term, joining **multilateral trade agreements** like **RCEP** and **CPTPP**, combined with leveraging the **China-plus-one strategy**, may offer more long-term benefits. Furthermore, attracting **foreign direct investment** and fostering domestic industries will be crucial in ensuring India remains a competitive player in the global economy.



5 Supreme Court Ruling on Property Rights and State Acquisition of Private Property

Context: The **Supreme Court of India (SC)** recently delivered a landmark judgment in the **Property Owners Association & Ors v State of Maharashtra** case, marking a significant shift in how the state can acquire **private property** for public purposes. The judgment has sparked debates on the balance between **property rights** and the **state's welfare objectives**.

**Background of the Property Owners Association & Ors v State of Maharashtra Case:**

The case revolved around a **Maharashtra law** that allowed the **state** to acquire certain privately owned **dilapidated buildings** in Mumbai. The law claimed to be in line with **Article 39(b)** of the **Indian Constitution**, which aims to redistribute the **material resources** of the community for the common good. In 1991, the **Bombay High Court** upheld the law, asserting that it was protected under **Article 31C**, which was originally introduced to promote **socialist objectives** under the **Indira Gandhi government**.

Understanding Articles 39(b) & 31C

Article 39(b):

This article mandates that the **state** ensure the **ownership** and **control** of the material resources of the community are distributed in a way that benefits the common good.

Article 31C:

Article 31C has two parts:

1. **Exemption:** Laws aimed at promoting **Article 39(b)** or (c) cannot be challenged for inconsistency with **Articles 14, 19, or 31**.
2. **Protection:** It shields these laws from **judicial scrutiny**, provided they claim to support **Article 39(b)** or (c). However, this second part was **struck down** in the **Kesavananda Bharti case (1973)**. Later, the **42nd Amendment (1976)** expanded its scope, though it was partially invalidated in the **Minerva Mills case (1980)**.

The Property Owners Association & Ors v State of Maharashtra Case:**The Judgment:**

The **9-judge bench** of the **Supreme Court**, chaired by the **Chief Justice of India**, addressed two key issues:

1. The **status** of **Article 31C** and whether it still stands despite previous amendments being struck down.
2. The scope of **Article 39(b)** and whether it permits the state to acquire **private property** as part of the community's **material resources**.

Status of Article 31C:

The case challenged the **Bombay High Court's** interpretation, which argued that the **Minerva Mills** ruling invalidated **Article 31C**. The Supreme Court clarified that only the expanded scope was removed, but the original version of **Article 31C** remains valid, ensuring that laws promoting **socialist principles** still have **constitutional protection**.

Interpretation of Article 39(b):

The court then examined whether **Article 39(b)** justifies the acquisition of all **private property** as community resources. Referring to **Justice Krishna Iyer's** views, the court clarified that not all private property is considered part of the **community's material resources**. The court outlined four criteria to determine whether **private property** could be designated as a community resource:

1. **Nature** of the resource: What inherent characteristics make it vital for the community?
2. **Impact on the community:** How does the resource benefit society at large?
3. **Scarcity** of the resource: Is it in short supply, making it critical for communal welfare?
4. **Concentration of ownership:** What are the consequences of wealth or resource concentration in a few hands?

**Diverging Opinions in the Property Owners Association & Ors v State of Maharashtra Case:**

- **Majority Opinion:** The majority of the bench emphasized the **shift** from a **public-investment economy** to one with a mix of **public** and **private investments**. They argued that not all **private property** qualifies as a **community resource**, and acquisition must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- **Justice Nagarathna's Concurrence:** Justice Nagarathna concurred with the majority but advocated for a **broader interpretation** of **Article 39(b)**, stressing that **changing socio-economic policies** shouldn't alter its original intent to promote public welfare.
- **Justice Dhulia's Dissent:** In contrast, **Justice Dhulia** dissented, arguing for the inclusion of **all private resources** as community resources to address the growing wealth inequality in India. He believed the state should have broader authority to acquire private property for the **common good**.

Conclusion:

The Supreme Court's ruling in the **Property Owners Association & Ors v State of Maharashtra** case has redefined the interpretation of **Article 39(b)** while preserving the **original scope** of **Article 31C**. This decision represents a balancing act between the **state's welfare objectives** and the **protection of private property rights**. It reflects India's evolving socio-economic needs and provides a framework for **future property acquisitions**, ensuring that private property is only acquired for the **greater good** and when the conditions warrant such an intervention.

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6 National Education Day 2024: Theme, Date, Significance, and History

Context: National Education Day is celebrated every year on **November 11** in India to honor the birth anniversary of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, a revered freedom fighter, scholar, and India's first Minister of Education. This day was officially recognized in **2008** by the **Ministry of Human Resource Development** (now the Ministry of Education) to commemorate Azad's monumental contributions to the Indian education system. National Education Day serves as a reminder of the vital role that **education** plays in empowering individuals and fostering a **progressive society**. The year **2024** offers a fresh opportunity to reflect on the nation's educational progress and future goals.

**When is National Education Day?**

National Education Day is observed annually on **November 11**, marking the birthday of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. This day serves as a symbol of India's dedication to improving its education system and addressing the challenges faced in the sector. Across the country, **schools, colleges, universities**, and government institutions organize events to raise awareness about the importance of education and its role in shaping a **forward-thinking society**.

National Education Day History

The **origins** of National Education Day are deeply rooted in the **educational reforms** led by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first **Minister of Education**. Azad was instrumental in the establishment of key educational institutions like the **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)** and the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**. He focused on making education accessible to all, aiming to bridge gaps in quality and availability.

In recognition of his efforts, the Government of India declared **November 11** as National Education Day in **2008**. Azad's advocacy for **universal primary education**, along with his emphasis on **scientific education**, continues to influence India's educational framework today.

Contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's contributions were transformative in shaping India's modern education system. As the country's first Education Minister, Azad pushed for **universal primary education** and worked towards ensuring that quality education was accessible to all, regardless of social or economic background. His leadership led to the foundation of iconic institutions such as the **IITs** and the **UGC**, which remain cornerstones of India's educational and technological progress.

Azad also advocated for the integration of **science, technology**, and **cultural heritage** within the education system, founding institutions like the **Sahitya Akademi** and the **Lalit Kala Akademi** to preserve and promote Indian culture. His balanced approach to education — integrating modernity with tradition — remains a guiding principle in India's educational policies today.

Theme of National Education Day 2024:

The theme for **National Education Day 2024** is "**Learning for Lasting Peace**." This theme highlights the role of education in fostering a **peaceful, inclusive society**. It emphasizes that education not only empowers individuals but also contributes to building social cohesion and harmony in the nation.

Importance of National Education Day:

National Education Day serves as a reminder of the **transformative power of education** and its key role in the **personal and national development** of a country. Here's why this day holds significance:

- **Honoring Azad's Legacy:** Azad's leadership in shaping India's education system laid the foundation for many of the institutions and policies we benefit from today, such as the IITs and the UGC.



- **Promoting Literacy and Awareness:** National Education Day spreads awareness about the importance of **literacy**, especially in **rural** and **underserved areas**, reinforcing that **education is a fundamental right**.
- **Emphasizing Equal Access:** The day underscores the need for **equitable education** for all, ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has access to quality education. The **Right to Education (RTE)** Act further enforces this principle by guaranteeing free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14.
- **Encouraging Educational Reforms:** The day offers an opportunity to review and discuss **educational reforms**, such as the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, and assess their progress in reshaping the education system.
- **Celebrating Progress:** National Education Day acknowledges the strides India has made toward **universal education**, including the expansion of schools, colleges, and **digital learning platforms**.

National Education Day 2024 Celebrations:

National Education Day 2024 will be celebrated with a range of activities designed to engage both students and educators:

- **Essay Writing and Debates:** Schools and colleges often hold competitions on themes related to **education**, encouraging students to reflect on its importance.
- **Workshops:** Educational workshops focusing on innovative teaching methods, **digital literacy**, and **student mental health** will be organized to improve the learning experience.
- **Honoring Teachers and Scholars:** The day also provides an opportunity to recognize the **contributions** of educators and scholars who have made a lasting impact on their students and the education system.
- **Community Outreach:** Universities and **NGOs** will participate in activities such as promoting **literacy** in rural areas, distributing books, and conducting study sessions to reach underserved communities.
- **Social Media Campaigns:** Various **social media platforms** will run campaigns to spread awareness about the importance of education, showcasing inspiring stories and motivating individuals to embrace **lifelong learning**.

Government Initiatives on National Education Day:

On National Education Day, the **Government of India** often launches new policies and initiatives aimed at addressing the challenges within the education sector:

- **NEP 2020:** The **National Education Policy** of 2020 aims to bring about a comprehensive transformation in the education system, promoting **multidisciplinary learning**, **critical thinking**, and **technological integration**.
- **Digital Education Platforms:** Initiatives like **DIKSHA**, **SWAYAM**, and **PM eVidya** have been rolled out to provide **online learning resources** to students, especially in remote areas, thereby bridging the digital divide.
- **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan:** This initiative aims to provide **inclusive and equitable** education across all levels, targeting disadvantaged and marginalized groups.
- **Skill Development:** Programs like **Skill India** offer **vocational training**, equipping students with practical skills that align with **industry demands**, thus ensuring better employment prospects.

Conclusion:

National Education Day 2024 serves not only as a tribute to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's vision for education but also as a reminder of the ongoing need for **reforms**, **inclusive practices**, and **innovations** in the Indian education system. This day highlights the importance of **quality education** in building a strong, inclusive, and prosperous nation. As India moves forward, it is crucial to continue addressing the evolving educational challenges and ensure that every individual, regardless of background, has access to the tools they need to succeed.