



Daily Current Affairs



To The Point by Dhananjay Gautam

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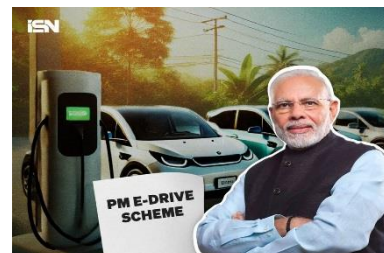
1 Union Government Notifies Second Phase of PM E-DRIVE Scheme

Context: The Union Ministry of Heavy Industries has introduced modifications to the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme, extending **subsidy benefits** to L5 category electric 3-wheelers.

Key Highlights of the Notification:

Incentives for Electric Vehicles:

- April 1, 2024 – November 7, 2024: 5,000/kWh, capped at 50,000 per vehicle.
- November 8, 2024 – March 31, 2026: 2,500/kWh, capped at 25,000 per vehicle.
- Maximum ex-factory price to avail incentive: 5 lakh.



Fund Allocation

- A total of 715 crore allocated for the scheme.

About the PM E-DRIVE Scheme:

Objective:

- To **accelerate EV adoption** by offering **upfront incentives** for purchases and enabling the establishment of a robust **charging infrastructure**.

Duration:

- The scheme spans from 2024 to 2026.

Primary Goals:

- Support for **electric 2-wheelers (e-2Ws)**, **3-wheelers (e-3Ws)**, and **buses (e-buses)**.
- Deployment of **fast chargers** for electric 4-wheelers (e-4Ws), e-buses, and e-2Ws/3Ws.

Nodal Ministry:

- Implemented by the **Union Ministry of Heavy Industries**.

Three Core Components of the Scheme:

1. **Subsidies:**

- **Demand incentives** for e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks, and other **emerging EV categories**.

2. **Grants for Infrastructure Development:**

- Support for **e-buses**, creation of a **charging network**, and **upgradation of testing facilities** under the ministry.

3. **Administrative Support:**

- Includes **Information, Education & Communication (IEC)** activities and management by a **Project Management Agency (PMA)**.

Significance:

The second phase of the PM E-DRIVE Scheme reflects India's commitment to fostering **sustainable mobility** by bridging the gap between **EV adoption** and **infrastructure development**. This initiative is a vital step towards achieving a **greener, energy-efficient future**.

2 'Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat' Campaign: A Step Towards Eradicating Child Marriage

Context: The Union Minister for Women and Child Development has launched the 'Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat' Campaign, aimed at eliminating the practice of child marriage across India.

Key Features of the Campaign**Objective:**

- To **unite stakeholders** in a nationwide effort to **eradicate child marriage** and promote awareness.

Target Regions:

- Focus on **seven high-burden states:** West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Tripura, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh.
- Nearly **300 districts** with **child marriage rates higher** than the national average are prioritized.

Action Plan:

- All **States and Union Territories** will create an **action plan** to reduce child marriage rates to **below 5% by 2029**.
- A significant drop in child marriage rates has already been observed, declining from **47.4% in 2006** to **23.3% in 2019-21**.

Child Marriage Free Bharat Portal:**A Digital Solution:**

- Child Marriage Free Bharat Portal** introduced as part of the campaign.
 - A platform to:
 - Raise awareness.**
 - Report child marriage cases.**
 - Monitor progress.**

Enhanced Monitoring:

- The portal ensures efficient tracking of **Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs)** through:
 - Real-time case monitoring.**
 - Supervision and evaluation** mechanisms.

Complaint Registration:

- Public can **file complaints** about child marriage, which are automatically directed to the concerned **CMPOs**.

Central Oversight:

- Nodal officers** will oversee the portal's operations at the **national level**, ensuring effective monitoring.

Call to Action:

The 'Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat' Campaign urges citizens, organizations, and government bodies to:

- Work collectively to ensure a **brighter, child marriage-free future**.
- Enhance **public access to information**, enabling seamless **communication and support**.

This campaign underscores India's commitment to creating a society where every child can **live free of exploitation** and **achieve their full potential**.



3

ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024: Advancing Cooperation for Prosperity

Context: For the first time in its **130-year history**, India hosted the **ICA Global Cooperative Conference** in **New Delhi**, marking a significant milestone for the global cooperative movement.

At the event, the **United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2025** was officially launched, showcasing India's leadership in promoting cooperative initiatives worldwide.

**Key Highlights of the ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024:****About the Conference**

- The conference serves as a **platform for dialogue** among leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to address challenges, share best practices, and shape strategies for strengthening the **cooperative movement**.
- **Organized by:** The **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)**, a body established in **1895** to advance the cooperative model globally.

Theme:

- **“Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All”** This aligns with India's vision of **“Sahkar Se Samridhhi”** (Prosperity through Cooperation), emphasizing the transformative power of cooperatives in achieving inclusive growth.

Collaborating Organizations:

- The event was organized by **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)** in partnership with:
 - **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)**
 - **AMUL**
 - **KRIBHCO**
 - **Government of India**

Launch of UN International Year of Cooperatives 2025:

- India's **Prime Minister** officially launched the **UN International Year of Cooperatives 2025** with the theme: **“Cooperatives Build a Better World”**, reflecting the global commitment to sustainable and equitable development.

Commemorative Postal Stamp:

- A special **postal stamp** featuring a **lotus** was unveiled.
 - The **five petals** of the lotus symbolize the **Panchatatva** (earth, water, fire, air, and space), emphasizing cooperatives' dedication to **environmental, social, and economic sustainability**.

The Role of Cooperatives in India:**Constitutional Provisions:**

- **97th Constitutional Amendment, 2011:**
 - Granted **constitutional status** and protection to cooperatives.
 - Added **Part IX B** (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT), addressing the functioning and governance of cooperative societies.
 - Recognized the **right to form cooperatives** as a **fundamental right** under **Article 19(1)**.
 - Introduced **Article 43-B** as a Directive Principle of State Policy, encouraging the promotion of cooperatives.

Promotion and Development:

- **Ministry of Cooperation:**



- Established in **2021** to **strengthen the cooperative movement** and extend its reach to grassroots levels.
- **Future Plans:**
 - Establishing a **cooperative university**.
 - Launching a **new cooperative policy** to guide and expand the sector.

Contributions of Cooperatives:

- India has **over 8 lakh cooperatives**, covering **98% of rural areas**.
- Approximately **300 million people** are associated with cooperatives in India, showcasing their critical role in socioeconomic development.

The **ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024** highlighted the transformative potential of cooperatives to **build prosperity, ensure inclusivity, and create a sustainable future** for all. With India's leadership, the cooperative movement is poised to achieve new milestones on the global stage.



4

India Successfully Tests K-4 Missile from INS Arighaat

Context: India has achieved a significant milestone in its strategic defence capabilities with the successful test of the **nuclear-capable K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM)** from the recently commissioned **INS Arighaat**, a nuclear-powered submarine. The test was conducted off the coast of **Visakhapatnam** in the **Bay of Bengal**.

Key Highlights of the K-4 Missile Test (2024):**Significance of the Test:**

- The **K-4 missile** was tested as part of an operational exercise, marking its first launch from a functioning **nuclear-powered submarine**.
- Previously, the missile was tested using **submersible pontoons**, making this test a crucial step in enhancing India's **naval strike capabilities**.
- The test followed public area warnings and a **Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)** issued for an intermediate-range missile test scheduled between **November 27 and 30**.

Test Analysis:

- Results from the test will be thoroughly analyzed to determine whether the missile met its **intended performance parameters**.
- This development highlights India's continuous efforts to enhance its **strategic deterrence** in the Indo-Pacific region.

K-4 Missile: An Overview:

The **K-4 SLBM** is an advanced missile developed by India's **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, designed to enhance the **submarine-launched nuclear deterrent**.

Key Specifications:

- **Range:** 3,500 km, capable of reaching targets across **Pakistan** and parts of **China**.
- **Size:** 10 meters in length, weighing **20 tonnes**, with a diameter of **1.3 meters**.
- **Payload:** Carries a **2-tonne payload** for delivering nuclear warheads.
- **Guidance System:** Equipped with an **inertial navigation system**, supplemented by **GPS/NavIC satellite guidance** for mid-course and **terrain contour matching** for terminal guidance.
- **Propulsion:** Powered by a **two-stage solid rocket motor** using solid rocket propellant.

Strategic Importance of INS Arighaat:**India's Second Nuclear-Powered Submarine**

- **INS Arighaat** strengthens India's **nuclear triad** by providing a formidable sea-based nuclear deterrent.
- It represents an upgrade over **INS Arihant**, India's first nuclear-powered submarine.

Advanced Capabilities:

- While **INS Arihant** is equipped with **K-15 missiles** (range: 750 km), **INS Arighaat** can deploy the **K-4 SLBM**, allowing it to strike targets up to **3,500 km away**.
- Designed to carry **nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles**, **INS Arighaat** enhances India's ability to maintain a credible **second-strike capability**.

Why It Matters:

The successful test of the K-4 missile underscores India's growing focus on **self-reliance in defence technology** and its commitment to maintaining **strategic stability** in the region. The operational readiness of **INS Arighaat** and its integration with advanced missiles like the K-4 solidifies India's position as a key player in global defence.



5 Israel-Hezbollah Ceasefire: Key Developments and UNSC Resolution 1701

Context: Israel and Lebanon have reached a **ceasefire agreement** after a 13-month-long conflict that escalated in September. This truce follows Israel's **security cabinet approval** of a US-backed proposal to end hostilities. The agreement builds on the framework of **UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1701**, originally crafted to end the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah conflict.

What is UNSC Resolution 1701?

Overview:

Adopted on **August 11, 2006**, **UNSC Resolution 1701** aims to:

- **End hostilities** between Israel and Hezbollah.
- Establish a **buffer zone**.
- Pave the way for a **permanent ceasefire**.

Historical Context:

- The resolution followed Israel's **partial withdrawal** from southern Lebanon in 2000 along the **Blue Line** and **Golan Heights**.
- Triggered by a **Hezbollah attack** in July 2006, the conflict resulted in over **1,000 Lebanese** and **170 Israeli casualties**.

Key Provisions:

1. Disarmament and Sovereignty:

- Disarm all **non-state armed groups** in Lebanon.
- Ensure **exclusive control** of weapons by the Lebanese government.

2. Arms Control: Ban unauthorized arms transfers to Lebanon.

3. Landmine Maps: Require Israel to hand over **landmine maps** to the UN.

4. Buffer Zone:

- Create a **demilitarized zone** between the **Blue Line** and **Litani River**.
- Exclude armed groups except for **Lebanese forces** and **UNIFIL**.

UNIFIL's Role

- **Strengthened Mandate:** Deploy up to **15,000 UN peacekeepers**.
- **Responsibilities:** Monitor hostilities, secure the buffer zone, and ensure displaced populations return safely.

Key Takeaways from the Israel-Lebanon Ceasefire

1. Temporary Cessation of Hostilities

- A **60-day ceasefire** is set to lay the groundwork for a **long-term peace** between Israel and Hezbollah.

2. Withdrawal of Forces

- **Hezbollah:** Retreat **40 kilometers** (25 miles) from the Israel-Lebanon border.
- **Israel:** Withdraw ground troops from Lebanese territory.

3. Enhanced Monitoring Mechanisms

- **Lebanon** will intensify its oversight of Hezbollah's activities south of the Litani River.
- **Supervision** will involve:
 - United Nations Peacekeepers.
 - Lebanese Military.
 - A **multinational committee** including the **U.S., France**, Lebanon, Israel, and UNIFIL.

4. Israel's Conditions

- **Military Action Warning:** Israel reserves the right to resume operations if the ceasefire terms are violated.
- **Hezbollah's Disarmament:** The agreement does not enforce full disarmament of Hezbollah in northern Lebanon.





Why Did Israel Agree to a Ceasefire?

1. **Strategic Focus on Iran:** Israel aims to shift its attention to counter **Iran**, a key supporter of Hezbollah.
2. **Military Resource Management:** The ceasefire provides an opportunity for **replenishing Israeli forces** and regrouping.
3. **Separation of Fronts:** By ending the conflict with Hezbollah, Israel can focus on its military operations against **Hamas**.
4. **Challenges in Lebanon**
 - **Prolonged Presence:** Remaining in Lebanon could deplete the **IDF** and bolster Hezbollah's domestic support.
 - **Hezbollah's Resilience:** Despite heavy losses, Hezbollah retained its capability to strike, launching **250 rockets** just two days before the ceasefire.

Key Factors Behind the Decision:

Civil-Military Dynamics in Israel

- Former Defence Minister and IDF Chief of Staff questioned the **government's military strategy**, advocating for a truce.

Strategic Limitations:

- Although Israel achieved a **symbolic advance to the Litani River**, continuing the conflict risked escalating costs without decisive gains.

This ceasefire serves as a **critical step** in addressing one of the most volatile conflicts in the region, while also reflecting the broader geopolitical considerations driving both nations' strategies.

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TOGETHER WE SCALE HEIGHTS

6 Norway Issues Apology for Historical "Norwegianisation" Assimilation Policies

Context: On November 11, 2023, Norway's Parliament issued an **unreserved apology** for its century-long **assimilation policies** targeting the **Sami, Kven, and Forest Finn** communities. This apology follows the recommendations outlined in the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 2023 report** and marks a significant step towards acknowledging and addressing past wrongs committed against these indigenous and minority groups.



Who Are the Sami, Kvens, and Forest Finns?

The Sami People:

The **Sami** are the **indigenous people** of northern Europe, with a significant presence in **Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia**. With an estimated population of **100,000**, Norway is home to the largest Sami community.

- **Cultural Practices:** Known for their **reindeer herding**, a practice **protected** as an exclusive Sami right in Norway.
- **Languages:** The Sami speak three languages—**North Sami, East Sami, and South Sami**—which belong to the **Uralic language family**.

The Kvens:

The **Kvens** are descendants of **Finnish migrants** who came from the **Torne River Valley**.

- **Traditional Practices:** Historically, they engaged in **slash-and-burn farming, fishing, and blacksmithing**.
- **Kven Language:** The **Kven language**, a **Finnic tongue**, was officially recognized as an independent language in Norway in **2005**.

The Forest Finns:

The **Forest Finns** are descendants of **Finnish immigrants** who settled in Norway in the **1600s**, migrating through **Sweden**.

- **Cultural Heritage:** They practiced **slash-and-burn agriculture** and maintained distinct cultural practices passed down through generations.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

Launched in **2018**, the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission** was established to investigate the historical injustices faced by the **Sami, Kven, and Forest Finn** communities under Norway's **Norwegianisation** policies.

The Commission's objectives were to:

- Investigate the impact of assimilation policies on **indigenous and minority communities**.
- Propose measures to address **socio-economic disparities, cultural suppression, and the loss of language**.
- Recommend ways to preserve **cultural heritage** and promote **inclusivity**.

Key Findings and Recommendations:

The **Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 2023 report** identified the devastating consequences of **Norwegianisation**, including the **suppression of language and cultural identity** within the targeted communities. To rectify this, the Commission made several key recommendations:

- **Create a Centre for Reconciliation Work** to foster dialogue and healing.
- **Preserve Indigenous Languages:** Initiate language training programs and integrate indigenous languages into **education**.
- **Combat Prejudice and Harassment:** Implement measures to prevent ongoing discrimination and ensure equal rights for these communities.

Steps Toward Reconciliation:



In response to the findings, Norway's **Parliament** adopted **17 resolutions** to address the long-standing challenges faced by the **Sami, Kven, and Forest Finn** communities. These measures aim to:

- Ensure **cultural preservation** and **socio-economic inclusion** for these marginalized groups.
- **Foster a more inclusive** society that recognizes and celebrates the diverse cultural heritage of all its citizens.

International Context:

The **Truth and Reconciliation Commission's** work is part of a broader effort across the **Nordic countries**, with similar commissions underway in **Sweden** and **Finland**. These countries are also investigating the historical experiences of the **Sami people**, with reports expected soon.

