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MK Yadav Sir

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THE HINDU Page 1

AGNIBAAN SORTED

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

Start-up Agnikul launches world's first rocket with fully 3D-printed engine

Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

The Chennai-headquartered space start-up Agnikul Cosmos Private Ltd. launched the world's first rocket – Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD) – with a single-piece 3D-printed engine from Sriharikota at 7.15 a.m. on Thursday.

Agnibaan SOrTeD is India's first launch from a private launchpad, called 'Dhanush', established by Agnikul. It is also India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket launch and the world's first single-piece 3D-printed engine designed and built indigenously.



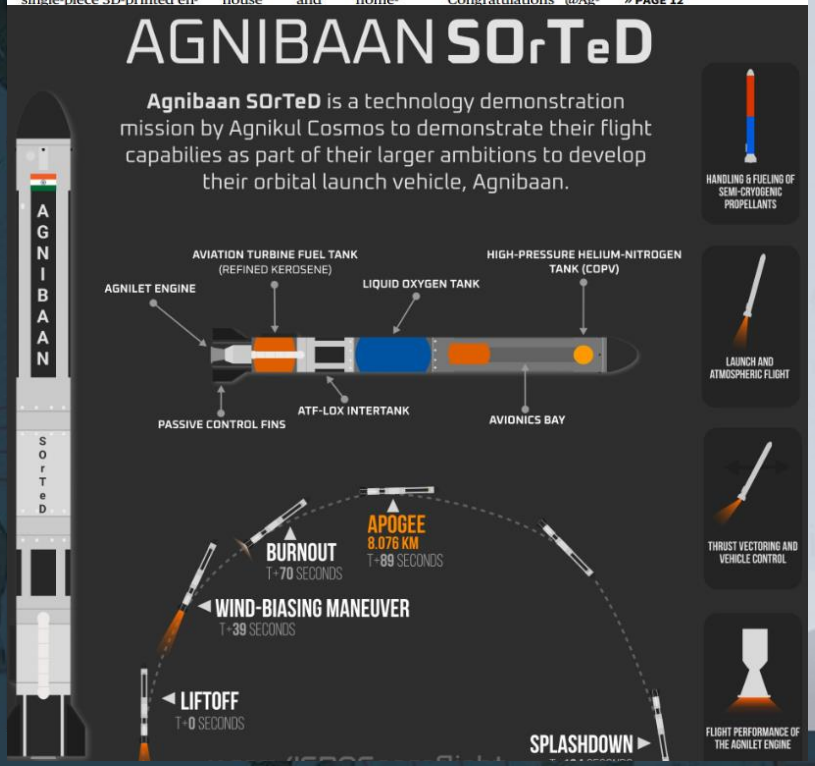
Agnibaan, powered by the the world's first single-piece 3D-printed rocket engine, launched from Sriharikota on Thursday. ANI

According to the start-up, the key purpose of this mission is to serve as a test flight, to demonstrate in-house and homegrown technologies, gather crucial flight data and ensure optimal functioning of systems for Agnikul's orbital launch vehicle, the 'Agnibaan'.

"Congratulations @AgnikulCosmos for the successful launch of the Agnibaan SoRTed-01 mission from their launch pad. A major milestone, as the first-ever controlled flight of a semi-cryogenic liquid engine realised through additive manufacturing," the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) posted on X, following the launch.

The IIT-Madras incubated start-up had originally planned the launch for April 7 but had to postpone it 129 seconds before the lift-off due to some technical glitches.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12



Context: IIT Madras-incubated startup Agnikul Cosmos test launched the indigenously designed and developed world's first rocket with a single-piece 3D printed engine from Sriharikota.

Agnibaan SOrTeD

- **About:** It is India's first launch from a private launchpad, called 'Dhanush', established by Agnikul.
  - It is also **India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered** rocket launch and the world's first single-piece 3D-printed engine designed and built indigenously.
  - It signals the ability to rapidly assemble rockets.
- **Payload capacity**: Agnibaan can be configured to accommodate payloads ranging from 30 kg to 300 kg.
- **Mission Purpose**: To serve as a test flight, to demonstrate in-house and homegrown technologies, gather crucial flight data, and ensure optimal functioning of systems for Agnikul's orbital launch vehicle, the 'Agnibaan'.
- **Use of Semi-Cryogenic Engine**: Agnibaan used India's first semi-cryogenic engine, which utilizes a mix of liquid and gas for propellant.
  - Semi-cryogenic engines help increase payload capacity, reduce launch costs, and improve the overall reliability and performance of launch vehicles.

INDIAN ARMY COMMEMORATES 76TH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS

Context: The Indian Army commemorated the 76th International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers.

International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers

- **Origins**: UN Peacekeeping began in 1948 when the UN Security Council authorized the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East.
- **Theme 2024**: "Fit for the Future: Building Better Together."
- **International Day of UN (United Nations) Peacekeepers:** 29th May every year. This is the day when in 1948 the first UN Peacekeeping Mission, "UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)" began operations in Palestine.
- **Mission:** It helps countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace.
- **Deployment and Integration**: It deploys troops and police from around the world, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to address a range of mandates set by the UN Security Council (UNSC) and the General Assembly.
- **Also called**: Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets
- **Contributed by**: Member states on a voluntary basis.
- **India's Contribution to UN Peacekeeping**
  - India has been among the largest troop-contributing countries to the UN peacekeeping missions.
  - Indian Army has established a **Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK)** in New Delhi to impart niche training in peacekeeping operations. This Centre trains more than 12,000 troops every year.
  - **Female peacekeeping forces from India**: India has deployed Female Engagement Teams (FETs) in Democratic Republic of Congo and Abyei (the second-largest Indian women contingent after Liberia). India has also deployed women military police in Golan Heights and women Staff Officers/ Military Observers in various missions.
  - **Major Radhika Sen** has been selected to be awarded with **"Military Gender Advocate of the Year 2023"** by the UN Headquarters, which is a testament to the positive contribution of the Indian Women in the UN peacekeeping initiatives.

DTE May 30

MENTAL HEALTH ACTION PLAN 2013-30

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Health)

World Health Assembly approves resolution that calls for mental health support to be included in emergency responses

Context: The World Health Assembly on May 29 approved a draft resolution advising member countries to incorporate mental health support in their response to humanitarian crises.

Mental Health Action Plan 2013-30

- **About:** It was developed in response to the growing burden of mental health disorders and the challenges that health systems around the world are facing to respond to the needs of people with mental health problems.
- **Adopted at:** 66th World Health Assembly
- **Aim**: To achieve universal health coverage for mental health.
- **Target**: Sustainable Development Goal target 3.4 – by 2030, reduce by one third premature deaths from noncommunicable diseases through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being.
- **Objectives of the action plan:**
  - Strengthen effective leadership and governance for mental health
  - Provide comprehensive, integrated and responsive mental health and social care services in community-based settings
  - Implement strategies for promotion and prevention in mental health
  - Strengthen information systems, evidence and research for mental health
- **Partners**: 135 countries, 60 WHO collaborating centres and academic centres, 76 nongovernmental organizations, and 17 other organizations and individual experts.

Mental Health Initiatives

- **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP):** Launched in 1982, to modernize mental health facilities and enhance psychiatric departments in medical institutions.
- **NMHP has 3 components:**
  - Treatment of Mentally ill
  - Rehabilitation
  - Prevention and promotion of positive mental health.
- **National Tele Mental Health Programme:** NTMHP was launched in October 2022 to enhance access to quality mental health counseling and care services across the country.
- **Tele MANAS initiative:** To provide universal access to equitable, accessible, affordable and quality mental health care through 24X7 tele-mental health services as across all Indian States and UTs with assured linkages.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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STATUTORY/DEFAULT BAIL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

STATUTORY BAIL

Sharjeel Imam has got bail in one case under Section 436A CrPC. But he remains in jail in another case

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

JNU SCHOLAR Sharjeel Imam got bail on Wednesday in a case of sedition and unlawful activity under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). But Imam will not be released because he remains in custody in another case involving the 2020 North East Delhi riots.

Several other cases are pending against him in at least four other states; however, he is not in custody in these cases, and does not need to apply for bail.

A Bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Manoj Jain granted statutory bail to Imam after he had spent almost four years in prison as an undertrial for an alleged inflammatory speech.

With no prospect of a speedy trial, statutory bail was the only viable option for Imam's release in this case. On merits, he has had his bail pleas rejected several times by trial courts and the High Court.

Charges against Imam

Charges under Section 13 of the UAPA ("Punishment for unlawful activities") carry a maximum sentence of seven years.

Sedition, under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. However, in 2021, the Supreme Court stayed the operation of Section 124A. Until the constitutional validity of this provision is determined, all trials on sedition, including Imam's, are effectively stayed.

Provision of statutory bail

This is bail granted on technical grounds under the statute – hence 'statutory' bail.

Under Section 436A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) ("Maximum period for which an undertrial prisoner can be detained"), an accused is granted bail if he has served half of the maximum period of jail prescribed for the offence.

Imam, who was arrested in January 2020, has already served half of the maximum sentence under UAPA Section 13. For a charge involving a life sentence, 10 years is considered as half the sentence for the purpose of granting statutory bail. However, the sedition charge is currently inoperative.



Sharjeel Imam in custody. PTI

The provision for statutory bail was introduced in 2005 in response to the problem of rising numbers of undertrials in prison. This is especially helpful for undertrials in offences that carry shorter sentences. National Crime Records Bureau data for 2022 show there were 63,502 undertrials across the country charged with offences that carry a sentence shorter than two years.

Other protections

In all bailable offences, courts must mandatorily grant bail under Section 436 CrPC to an accused who is willing to furnish a bail bond. In non-bailable offences, bail is granted at the court's discretion.

To shield from lengthy periods of incarceration without trial, courts also grant default bail. Under Section 167(2) CrPC, police have 60 days to complete the investigation and file a final report before the court. For offences that prescribe death sentence or life imprisonment, or a jail term of not less than 10 years, this period for investigation is 90 days.

If police are unable to finish the investigation and file a chargesheet within this period, default bail is granted. Default bail is only for IPC crimes. Stringent special legislation like the UAPA have relaxed timelines for police to investigate.

Context: Recently, the Delhi High Court granted **statutory bail** to a JNU scholar and student activist implicated in a 2020 communal riots case, which included allegations of sedition.

Statutory/Default Bail

- **Bail**: It is the temporary release of a person who has been arrested or charged with a crime, pending their trial or court appearance.
- **Statutory/Default Bail**: Also known as compulsive bail, is provided under Section 167(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code to accused against detention during inordinate delay in completion of investigation.
- **Conditions for the default bail**: Under Section 167(2) of the Code, a Magistrate can order an accused person to be detained in the custody of the police for 15 days. Beyond the police custody period of 15 days, the Magistrate can authorise the detention of the accused person in judicial custody i.e., jail if necessary. However, the accused cannot be detained for more than:
  - **90 days,** when an authority is investigating an offence punishable with death, life imprisonment or imprisonment for at least ten years; or
  - **60 days,** when the authority is investigating any other offence.
    - ✓ In this case, bail is granted because of the default of the investigating agency in not completing the investigation within the specified time, and it is referred to as 'default bail' or 'compulsive bail'.
  - After the period of 90/60 days, if the investigation has not been completed and charge-sheet not filed, the accused person has the right to be released on bail as long as he/she applies for bail and agrees to fulfil other bail conditions (such as providing the required bail amount).

Other Protections in Criminal Procedure

- **Mandatory Bail**: Courts are obligated to grant bail under Section 436 CrPC for bailable offences if the accused is willing to furnish a bail bond.
- **Discretionary Bail**: Bail in non-bailable offences is subject to the discretion of the court.

THE HINDU Page 3

ORGAN DONATION IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Health)

Non-related organ donor's consent must be accepted, says Madras HC

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

In a verdict that would have major implications for organ transplantation, the Madras High Court on Thursday held that the consent given by a donor, even if he/she is not related to the recipient, must be accepted by the authorisation committee at its face value unless there is evidence to prove money or money's worth having changed hands.

Shifting the burden of proof from the donor/recipient to the authorisation committee, Justice G.R. Swaminathan wrote that the donor and the recipient "can only assert that there is no commercial dealing. They cannot be called upon to prove the negative... Too much of burden cannot be laid on their shoulders."

In case of doubt, the authorisation committee could seek explanation from the applicants and if necessary, a verification could also be carried out through the government officials. "Unless there is definite material to establish financial dealings, permission must not be withheld or rejected," the judge said.

If the donor states that it was only out of love that he/she was making the organ donation, such an averment should not be doubted at all in the absence of any credible reason, the court said.

"Otherwise, the issue will be left to the arbitrary discretion of the authorisation committee. If the recipient is well placed and connected, the decision of the committee will swing in his favour. If the recipient is not all that influential, permission can be rejected by passing a template order," the judge said.

Parliament, by enacting the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act of 1994, never intended to rule out donation by non near relatives. Therefore, its intent must not be frustrated by adopting a rigid approach and taking a cynical view that a non near relative would not donate out of altruistic considerations, he said.

"All religions proclaim that love and charity are the highest virtues. Hundreds and thousands have given up their lives for larger and impersonal causes. It is not necessary that selfish consideration should underlie all human endeavour. Certain statements can be taken at their face value," the judge added.

The issue of granting authorisation must be looked into with the avowed object of saving the life of a person and not from a technical point of view. Further, since time was the essence in matters of such nature, the authorisation committees should take speedy decisions without sitting over the applications, the court said.

Further, disapproving the practice of considering the length of the association between a donor and a recipient as a factor before granting authorisation, the judge said: "This may not always be a sound approach. There is something called 'love at first sight.' Love and affection are intangible sentiments. On the other hand, time is measurable."

Context: In a recent ruling with significant implications for organ transplantation, the Madras High Court held that donor consent, even from unrelated individuals, must be accepted by the authorisation committee at face value unless there is evidence of financial transactions.

Madras High Court Ruling Organ Transplantation

- **Shifting the Burden:** Madras HC said that the donor and the recipient "can only assert that there is no commercial dealing. They cannot be called upon to prove the negative too much of burden cannot be laid on their shoulders."
- **Verification:** In case of doubt, the authorisation committee could seek explanation from the applicants and if necessary, a verification could also be carried out through the government officials.
- **Importance of Donor's Intentions**: The court emphasized that if the donor expresses altruistic motives for organ donation, such intentions should be unquestioned in the absence of valid reasons.
- **Risks of Arbitrary Decision-Making**: Without proper guidelines, the judge warned of the potential for arbitrary decisions by authorization committees.

Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA) 1994

- **Source of Transplants**: A transplant **can originate from a pool of organs** donated by deceased persons' relatives or from a living person known to the recipient.
- **Living Donations Under the Act**: The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 permits living donations, primarily from close relatives like parents, siblings, children, spouse, grandparents, and grandchildren.
    - Altruistic donations from distant relatives, in-laws, or long-time friends are allowed after additional scrutiny, ensuring no financial exchange.
- **Documentation for Living Donations**: In cases of living donations from close relatives, whether Indian or foreign, various documents including identity proofs, family tree, pictures, and documents proving the donor-recipient relationship must be submitted.
- **Legal Consequences**: Initiating or participating in transactions involving payment for organs, advertising such arrangements, seeking organ suppliers, and aiding in the creation of false documents are punishable offenses.
- **Penalties**: Imprisonment for up to 10 years and fines up to Rs 1 crore.

ECONOMIC TIMES

May 30

K-9 VAJRA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

India's Make-in-India defence projects, include K-9 Vajra Howitzers and fighter jet engines, await post-election approval

Context: Several key 'Made in India' defence projects, including proposals for acquiring more K-9 Vajra self-propelled howitzers and fighter aircraft engines, are awaiting final approval by the Centre after the elections.

K-9 Vajra

- **About:** It is a 155 mm, 52-calibre tracked self-propelled howitzer developed in India.
- **Developed by:** Larsen & Toubro (L&T), leveraging technology from South Korean defence major Hanwha Defense based on its K9 Thunder platform.
- Hanwha Aerospace, a South Korean defence and aerospace conglomerate, entered India with its flagship self-propelled howitzer (SPH) K-9 Vajra, in partnership with L&T.
- **Capability**: Capable of firing shells at great elevation angles to hit targets far away.
    - Initially intended for desert operations, the K9 Vajra was deployed in mountainous regions following the India-China standoff.
- **Aim:** To ensure optimal performance in extreme cold, the Army procured winterisation kits for the deployed regiments.
- **Features:**
    - **Main Weapon**: Features a 155mm / 52 caliber gun.
    - The gun weighs 50 tonnes and can fire 47kg bombs.
    - **Firepower:** Boasts a burst rate of fire of three rounds per 15 seconds and a maximum rate of fire of six to eight rounds per minute for three minutes.
    - **Range**: 50 kilometers.
    - **Mobility:** Able to turn around at zero radius, essentially in the same place where it is stationed.
    - **Fire Control System**: Utilizes a digital fire control system, enabling it to fire multiple rounds that can impact a given area simultaneously.

INDIAN EXPRESS Page 19

VIVEKANANDA ROCK MEMORIAL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Art and Culture)

Vivekananda connection: Why PM Modi chose to meditate in Kanyakumari

ANAGHA JAYAKUMAR
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi arrived in Kanyakumari on Thursday and, after praying at the Bhagavathi Amman temple, headed to the Vivekananda Rock Memorial. He will meditate there until the evening of June 1.

The Prime Minister had concluded his Lok Sabha election campaign in 2019 by meditating for 15 hours at Kedarnath.

EXPLAINED POLITICS

An ancient temple town

Located at the southern tip of mainland India, Kanyakumari is an ancient temple town named after the virgin goddess Devi Kanyakumari. It finds mention in the Graeco-Roman text *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* (c. 50 CE): "There is another place called Comori and a harbour, hither come those men who wish to consecrate themselves for the rest of their lives, and bath and dwell in celibacy and women also do the same; for it is told that a goddess once dwelt here and bathed" (according to Wilfred H Schoff's 1912 translation).

According to legend, the demon Banasura performed rigorous penance to convince Lord Brahma to grant him a boon that he could only be killed by a virgin. After this, he wreaked havoc across the universe, ousting the devas from heaven. To restore order, mother goddess Parashakti took the form of a young girl (Kumari). Banasura, attracted by Kumari's beauty, tried to woo her but was immediately slain by the virgin goddess.

The Bhagavathi Amman temple is dedicated to goddess Kanyakumari. It is one of 51 Shakti Peethas — shrines dedicated to various forms of Parashakti — across India.

Vivekananda's meditation

Some 500 m south of Kanyakumari's Vavathurai beach, at the confluence of the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, lies a tiny islet. Today, it can be accessed by a 15-minute ferry ride from the mainland.



Swami Vivekananda meditated at the site of this rock memorial in Kanyakumari in 1892. *Government of TN*

But in 1892, Swami Vivekananda, the revered Hindu philosopher-saint, is believed to have swum from the shore to the rock, and meditated for three days and three nights. This was the culmination of his travels across the length and breadth of India, when he attained enlightenment and finally formulated his philosophy.

Vivekananda wrote to Swami Ramkrishnananda (not to be confused with his guru, Sri Ramakrishna) in 1894: "At Cape Comorin sitting in Mother Kumari's temple, sitting on the last bit of Indian rock, I hit upon a plan: We are so many *Sannyasins* wandering about, and teaching the people metaphysics — it is all madness. Did not our Garudeva use to say, "An empty stomach is no good for religion?" That those poor people are leading the life of brutes is simply due to ignorance" (as quoted in S P Agarwal's *The Social Role of Gita*, 1993).

In 1963, Vivekananda's birth centenary year, RSS activist Eknath Ranade first conceived of a monument on the mid-sea rock where Vivekananda had meditated. Ranade formed the Vivekananda Rock Memorial Committee, whose efforts led to the inauguration of the present-day memorial by then President V V Giri in 1970.

Prime Minister's role model

Prime Minister Modi has always maintained that his governance principles and socio-political beliefs are inspired by Vivekananda's ideas about uplifting India's poor and marginalised.

Quoting Vivekananda, he has often appealed to people to do *jan seva* (service to the people) as *prabhu seva* (service to God). "Swami Vivekananda did not believe in sermonising... His ideas and idealism paved the way for an institutional framework through the Ramakrishna Mission," he said at a students' convention held in 2017 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Vivekananda's Chicago Address.

Eye on the South

The choice of Kanyakumari as the venue for his pre-result-day meditation also assumes political significance in the light of BJP's push to expand its footprint in the South this election. At the heart of this push has been the state of Tamil Nadu.

TN accounts for 39 of the 129 Lok Sabha seats across the five southern states — Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, TN, and Telangana. It is the fifth largest state in India, in terms of Lok Sabha seats, behind UP, Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Bihar. It is also the largest state in India where the BJP is yet to open its account in the Lok Sabha.

Tamil language and culture, and the state's Dravidian politics dominated almost every conversation the BJP had initiated in the early days of the campaign, before the state voted on April 19. During his Kanyakumari visit, the PM is expected to pay homage to a massive statue of Thiruvalluvar, the Tamil poet and scholar, who was invoked throughout the BJP's TN campaign. This is the PM's eighth trip to TN this year.

Context: The Prime Minister of India recently visited Kanyakumari, where he first prayed at the Bhagavathi Amman temple before proceeding to the Vivekananda Rock Memorial.

Swami Vivekananda

- **Born:** He was born in 1863 as Narendranath in a Bengali family.
- **Spiritual Journey**: He became a monk and was the chief disciple of the Indian mystic Ramakrishna.
- **Representation at World Stage**: In 1893, Vivekananda represented India and Hinduism in The Parliament of the World's Religion in Chicago.

Kanyakumari

- **Historical Significance**: It is an ancient temple town, holds historical significance as it is mentioned in the Graeco-Roman text Periplus of the Erythraean Sea (c. 50 CE), attesting to its antiquity.
- **Location**: Situated at the southern tip of mainland India.
- **Religious Heritage:** Named after the virgin goddess Devi Kanyakumari, the town is steeped in religious heritage, attracting pilgrims and devotees from far and wide to its revered temples and sacred sites.
- **Cultural Significance:** The town's rich cultural tapestry is woven with traditions, rituals, and festivals that celebrate its history and spirituality, making it a vibrant center of cultural activity.

Vivekananda Rock Memorial

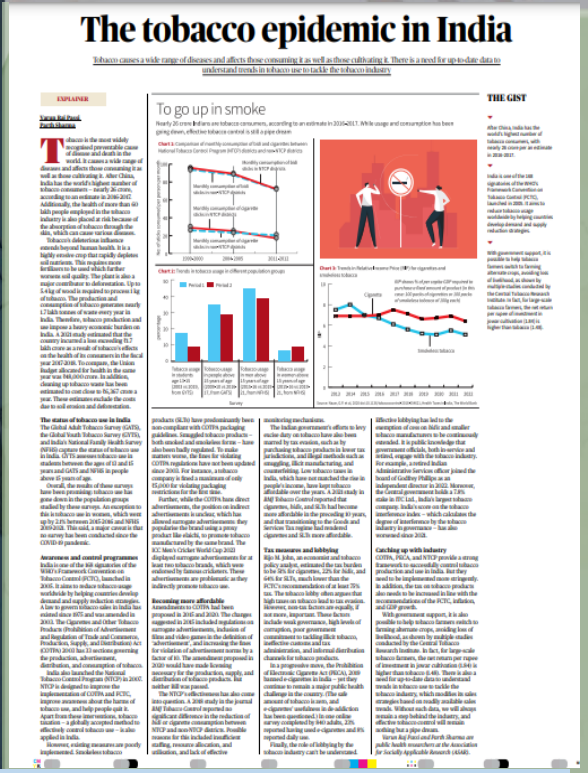
- **Location**: It is located on a small island near Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, approximately 500 meters from the Vavathurai mainland.
  - Positioned amidst the Laccadive Sea, it stands atop one of two rocks where the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean, and the Arabian Sea converge.
- **Historical Significance**: The memorial commemorates the spot where Swami Vivekananda attained enlightenment, believed to have occurred during his meditative retreat on the rock.
- **Constructed in**: 1970, it serves as a tribute to Swami Vivekananda's profound influence on Indian philosophy and spirituality.
- **Features:**
  - The memorial comprises two primary structures: the 'Shripada Mandapam' and the 'Vivekananda Mandapam', designed to honor Vivekananda's teachings and legacy.
  - A focal point is the life-sized bronze statue of Swami Vivekananda, enriching the memorial's spiritual and cultural essence.

THE HINDU

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TOBACCO EPIDEMIC IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Health)



The tobacco epidemic in India

Tobacco causes a wide range of diseases and affects those consuming it as well as those cultivating it. There is a need for up-to-date data to understand trends in tobacco use to tackle the tobacco industry

EXPLAINER

To go up in smoke

THE GIST

Context: Amidst the tobacco epidemic in India, concerns rise over its dual impact on consumers and cultivators, emphasizing the urgency for updated data to combat the industry's influence and address public health challenges effectively.

Tobacco

- **About**: It is derived from the leaves of the genus Nicotiana, a plant from the nightshade family indigenous to North and South America.
- **Global Production**: China, India, and Brazil.
- **Major Tobacco-Producing States in India**: Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Telangana, and Bihar are among the major tobacco-producing states in India.

The status of tobacco use in India

- The Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS), Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), and India's National Family Health Survey (NFHS) serve as crucial surveillance mechanisms for tobacco use in India.
- **Targeted Demographics**: GYTS focuses on students aged 13 to 15, while GATS and NFHS target individuals above 15 years old, providing comprehensive data on different age groups.
- **Positive Trends:** Overall, the surveys indicate a decline in tobacco use among the studied population segments, reflecting positive progress in tobacco control efforts.
- **Gender Discrepancy**: Despite the overall decline, there's a notable increase of 2.1% in tobacco use among women between 2015-2016 and NFHS 2019-2021, presenting a concerning trend.

Efforts By the Government

- **Director General's Special Recognition Awards**: Annually, the WHO acknowledges individuals or groups within its regions for their achievements in the field of tobacco control.
- **National Health Policy 2017**: The goal is to cut down tobacco usage by 30 percent by 2025, with this aim aligning with the targets for Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) control.
- **National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP)**: To increase understanding about the negative impacts of tobacco use and regulations related to tobacco control.

NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

May 30

EURASIAN WHIMBREL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Chhattisgarh gets a rare sighting of GPS-tagged long-distance migratory bird 'whimbrel'

Context: First the time, a long-distance migratory bird, the Eurasian or common whimbrel, tagged with a Global Positioning System (GPS) transmitter was captured on camera in the state of Chhattisgarh.

Eurasian Whimbrel



- **About:** it is a wader in the large family Scolopacidae. It is one of the most widespread of the curlews, breeding across much of subarctic Asia and Europe as far south as Scotland.
- **Scientific Name**: Numenius phaeopus
- **Distribution**: Antarctica, Europe, North America, Asia, South America, Africa.
- **Habitat**: Winters mainly along the coastline, coastal wetlands, mangroves, marshes and larger rivers.
- **Range**: Breeding in the sub-Arctic region of Asia and Europe. Winters in Africa, south Asia and into Australasia.
- **Characteristics:** It is mainly greyish brown, with a white back and rump (subspecies N. p. phaeopus and N. p. alboaxillaris only), and a long curved beak with a kink rather than a smooth curve.
- **Conservation IUCN Status**: Least Concern

PIB May 30

PRAGATI-2024
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences Launches "PRAGATI-2024", an initiative to shape the future of Ayurveda

Context: The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Ayush, launched "PRAGATI- 2024".

Pharma Research in Ayur Gyan and Techno Innovation (PRAGATI-2024)

- **About:** It focuses on exploring research opportunities and fostering collaboration between CCRAS and the Ayurveda drug industry.
  - Enhance networking and institutional linkages, ultimately benefiting Ayurvedic clinicians and patients.
- **Nodal ministry:** Ayush ministry.
- **Primary goal:** Utilize research outcomes and technologies developed by CCRAS, Establish robust networks for collaborative research in quality control, drug standardization, product development, and validation, Identify potential industrial partners with in-house R&D facilities, Explore opportunities for capacity building for researchers in drug manufacturing and product development, Assist Ayurveda professionals in initiating start-ups and incubating centres, promoting entrepreneurship in Ayurvedic pharmaceutics.

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS):

- **About:** It is an apex body in India for the formulation, coordination, development and promotion of research on scientific lines in Ayurveda and Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine.
- **Status:** An autonomous body of the Ministry of AYUSH.
- **Objectives:** The formulation of aims and patterns of research on scientific lines in Ayurvedic Sciences, to undertake any research or other programmes in Ayurvedic Sciences, to finance enquiries and researches for the furtherance of objects of the Central Council.

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