

FEBRUARY

15

CRUX 10

10 News. 10 Sources. One Place



MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

- 1 Resolution to Amend Wildlife Act
- 2 INSAT-3DS
- 3 ULPIN
- 4 Wholesale Price Index
- 5 World Government Summit
- 6 Small Satellite Launch Vehicle
- 7 AHIDF Scheme
- 8 Agatti and Minicoy Island
- 9 BAPS Swaminarayan Temple
- 10 Bubonic Plague

RESOLUTION TO AMEND WILDLIFE ACT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

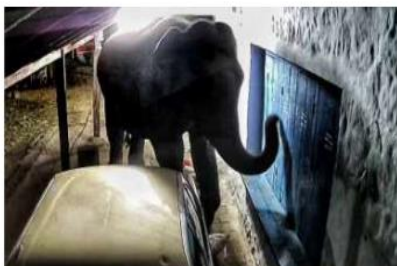
Kerala House requests Central govt. to amend wildlife Act to tackle human-animal conflict

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Assembly on Wednesday adopted a unanimous resolution urging the Centre to suitably amend the Wildlife Protection Act to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts.

Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran tabled the resolution for discussion as per rule 118 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business.

Members across the aisle supported the resolution aimed at eliminating wildlife that trespass on human habitations, imperilling the life and property of citizens, destroying crops and preying on livestock. UDF MLAs Manjilamkuzhi Ali, T. Siddique, Sunny Jo-



Mitigating conflict: A wild elephant attacking a grocery shop at Chokkanad in Idukki district of Kerala. FILE PHOTO

seph and I.C. Balakrishnan suggested certain amendments.

Wildlife intrusions in habitations abutting forests and lethal attacks on residents had impelled the government to request the Centre to make the law more contemporary. The resolution demanded that

the Central law empower Chief Forest Conservators to use lethal force to liquidate wild animals that trespass on residential localities and pose an imminent threat to human life. It also requested the Centre to initiate scientific and humane measures to control the wildlife population.

Context: The Kerala Legislative Assembly adopted a unanimous resolution urging the Central government to suitably amend the Wildlife Protection Act to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts.

The Resolution

- **About:** The resolution aimed at eliminating wildlife that trespasses on human habitations, imperilling the life and property of citizens, destroying crops, and preying on livestock.
- **Wildlife Intrusions and Lethal Threats:** The government's response to wildlife intrusions in areas adjacent to forests has led to lethal attacks on residents, prompting a call for legal updates.
- **Empowering Chief Forest Conservators:** The resolution urged the Central government to authorize Chief Forest Conservators to use lethal force against wild animals encroaching on residential areas and posing imminent danger to human lives.
- **Wild Pigs as Vermin:** The resolution advocated for wild pigs to be classified as vermin, emphasizing the need for the Central government to implement scientific and humane strategies to manage the wildlife population effectively.
- **Criticism and Protection of Settler Farmers:** The government faced opposition criticism for its alleged failure to safeguard the lives and property of approximately 50 lakh families, primarily settler farmers residing near forested regions in the State.
- **Significance of Forests in the State:** Given that forests encompass 30% of the State's geographical area, the resolution held paramount importance for addressing wildlife management and protection concerns.

Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

- **About:** It establishes a legislative framework for the preservation of various wild animal and plant species. It also encompasses the management of habitats, regulation of trade in species' parts, and control of products manufactured from them.
- **Classification under the Act:** The act includes schedules categorizing plants and animals, subjecting them to different levels of government protection and oversight.
- **India's Inclusion in CITES:** The Wildlife Act played a crucial role in India's admission to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- **Constitutional Provisions:** Article 48A of the Indian Constitution mandates the State to safeguard and improve the environment, including the protection of wildlife and forests. This provision was added by the 42nd Amendment in 1976.

ISRO to launch INSAT-3DS on Feb 17, will improve forecasts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 14

WEATHERMEN AND scientists tracking extreme climate affecting the country will soon be facilitated with improved satellite data and high resolution images of the Earth obtained from the soon-to-be launched INSAT-3DS.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch the INSAT-3DS from Sriharikota on February 17.

This new facility, weighing 2,274kgs and funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, will enable the development of newer satellite products that can be deployed while tracking cyclones, monsoon systems, thun-

derstorms and other natural disasters. INSAT-3DS shall further the observations of atmosphere, land and oceans.

The INSAT-3DS is a continuation to the Third Generation Meteorological Satellite series from the geostationary orbit. Presently, meteorologists make extensive use of data generated by satellites like the INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR (launched in September, 2016, still operational)

Since 2003, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been using INSAT data for its operational meteorology purposes. The advent of satellite-based products brought significant improvements in the forecast accuracy, monitoring of

atmosphere and ocean parameters and overall enhanced the meteorological services leading to reduction in loss to property, life and livelihood.

In all, INSAT-3DS comprises four payloads -- an Imager, a Sounder, a Data Relay Transponder and a Satellite aided Search and Rescue Transponder. The multi-spectral imager will generate images of the Earth across six wavelength bands aiding visualisation of colour-dependent atmospheric parameters like water vapour (humidity).

The sounder will contribute in generating vertical profiles of the atmosphere and provide information like temperature and humidity.

Context: Scientists tracking extreme climate affecting the country will soon be facilitated with improved satellite data and high-resolution images of the Earth obtained from the soon-to-be-launched INSAT-3DS.

INSAT-3DS

- **About:** INSAT-3DS Satellite represents a follow-on mission of the Third Generation Meteorological Satellite from Geostationary Orbit.
- **Orbit Adjustment:** Subsequent orbit-raising maneuvers will ensure that the satellite is positioned in a Geo-stationary Orbit, optimizing its functionality.
- **Funding and Support:** The GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission is fully funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), highlighting government support for advanced meteorological endeavors.
- **Enhanced Capabilities:** The mission is designed for enhanced meteorological observations and monitoring of land and ocean surfaces for weather forecasting and disaster warning.
- **Augmentation of Services:** The INSAT-3DS satellite will augment the Meteorological services alongside the presently operational INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR satellites, bolstering India's capabilities in weather monitoring.

The primary objectives of the mission are:

- To monitor Earth's surface, carry out Oceanic observations and its environment in various spectral channels of meteorological importance.
- To provide the vertical profile of various meteorological parameters of the Atmosphere.
- To provide the Data Collection and Data Dissemination capabilities from the Data Collection Platforms (DCPs).
- To provide Satellite Aided Search and Rescue services.

Secretary Smt. Nidhi Khare rolls out National Generic Document Registration System throughout Assam along with launch of Unique Land Parcel Identification Number

Context: Secretary, Department of Land Resources, rolled out **National Generic Document Registration System (NDGRS)** throughout Assam along with the launch of **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)** seeding of geo-referenced Cadastral Maps.

National Generic Document Registration System

- **About:** Initiated by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, the NGDRS is a significant project aimed at transforming property and document registration across the country.
- **One Nation One Software Initiative:** NGDRS serves as a common, generic application developed for registration departments nationwide, ensuring standardization and efficiency.
- **Developers and Features:**
- **Developed by:** National Informatics Centre Pune and is designed for use by sub registrars, citizens, and apex users in registration departments.
- **Customizability and User Interface:** NGDRS offers a highly configurable platform for states to create specific instances and customize the software according to their needs.
- **Information and Restrictions:** The ability to access circle rates for land, calculate property valuation, and understand land type.
- NGDRS also restricts transactions involving prohibited properties such as government land, tribal land, and mortgaged land, aiding buyers in making informed decisions.
- **Streamlined Process for Citizens:** With NGDRS, citizens can apply online for document submission, make instant payments, and schedule appointments, thereby minimizing the need for physical visits to the sub-registrar's office.

Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)

- **About:** ULPIN, likened to "Aadhaar for land," assigns a unique 14-digit alphanumeric code to each surveyed land parcel.
- This eliminates ambiguity and prevents land fraud, particularly in rural areas with outdated and disputed records.
- **Geo-Referencing:** The identification relies on precise longitude and latitude coordinates, requiring detailed surveys and geo-referenced cadastral maps.
- This accuracy streamlines land management and reduces disputes by pinpointing exact land boundaries.
- **Digitalization and Modernization:** ULPIN marks a significant step forward in the DILRMP, a project launched in 2008 to digitize land records.
- It aligns with the vision of an Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS), enabling efficient land governance.

Benefits of ULPIN

- Accurate land statistics and accounting facilitate the creation of land banks, fostering improved land use planning.
- Improved transparency and reduced fraud attract investments and promote economic development.
- Streamlined land transactions benefit landowners, businesses, and the government.

WPI inflation at 3-month low

Falls to 0.27% in Jan on moderation in prices of food, manufacturing products

SHIVA RAJORA

New Delhi, 14 February

India's wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation rate eased to a three-month low of 0.27 per cent (year-on-year) in January due to moderation in prices of food articles and manufacturing products, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Wednesday.

In December 2023, the factory gate inflation had stood at 0.73 per cent.

This is the third consecutive month that the wholesale inflation rate has remained in positive territory after recording deflation for the major part of 2023-24.

Inflation in food prices slowed to a three-month low of 6.85 per cent in January from 9.38 per cent in December, led by deceleration in the prices of



paddy (9.56 per cent), cereals (4.07 per cent), pulses (16.06 per cent), vegetables (19.71 per cent), onion (29.18 per cent), fruit (1.01 per cent), and milk (5.38 per cent).

Meanwhile, the prices of wheat (minus 3.14 per cent) and protein-rich items like eggs and meat (minus 0.88 per cent) con-

tracted for the second straight month.

Besides, the data showed that the deflation in prices of manufactured products (minus 1.13 per cent) continued for the eleventh consecutive month in January, led by a continuing contraction in the prices of manufactured food products

(minus 1.84 per cent), vegetable and animal oil (minus 15.71 per cent), textiles (minus 2.26 per cent), paper (minus 6.41 per cent), chemicals (minus 5.51 per cent), metals (minus 4.47 per cent), rubber (minus 0.78 per cent), and steel (minus 6.08 per cent).

Moreover, the contraction in fuel prices (minus 0.51 per cent) continued for the ninth consecutive month, led by the continuing contraction in prices of high-speed diesel (minus 5.29 per cent). The prices of petrol and cooking gas also decelerated slightly during the month.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA Ratings, says that the moderation in wholesale prices in December was largely led by food and core (manufactured non-food products) items, with the latter remaining in the deflationary zone for the eleventh straight month.

Index	Base Year Used	Compiled by
CPI -IW	2016	Labour Bureau (Ministry of Labour & Employment)
CPI-AL	1986-87	
CPI-RL	1986-87	
CPI-Combined	2012	National Statistical Office (NSO)

Context: India's wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation rate eased to a three-month low of 0.27 percent (year-on-year) in January due to moderation in prices of food articles and manufacturing products, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

- About:** The WPI is a gauge used to monitor and record fluctuations in the prices of bulk goods at the wholesale level within India.
- Published by:** Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Base year:** WPI has been revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017.
- Formula:** $WPI = \frac{\text{Total value of the basket of goods and services at current prices}}{\text{Total value of the basket of goods and services at base year prices}} \times 100$
- Component of WPI:** Manufactured products = 65% approx (64.2% now)
 - Primary articles = 20% approx (22.6% now)
 - Fuel and power = 15% approx (13.1% now).

Major Group / Group	Weight		No. of items		No. of Quotations	
	2004-05	2011-12	2004-05	2011-12	2004-05	2011-12
All Commodities	100.00	100.00	676	697	5482	8331
Primary Articles	20.12	22.62	102	117	579	983
Fuel & Power	14.91	13.15	19	16	72	442
Manufactured Products	64.97	64.23	555	564	4831	6906

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- CPI calculates the average change in prices of goods and services at the retail (consumer) level.

Prime Minister's participation in World Governments Summit 2024

Context: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address at the World Government Summit, Burj Khalifa in Dubai lit up with the words 'Guest of Honor - Republic of India.'

Significance Of World Governments Summit

World Government Summit

- **About:** An annual global gathering since 2013, uniting world leaders, policymakers, experts, and thought leaders.
- **Aim:** To anticipate future opportunities and challenges while addressing pressing global issues
- **Established:** Under the leadership of the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE.
- **Held:** Annually in Dubai, UAE.
- **Theme:** "Shaping Future Governments"
- **Six Main Themes:**
 - Government Acceleration and Transformation
 - Artificial Intelligence and The Next Frontiers
 - Reimagining Development and Future Economies
 - Future Societies and Education
 - Sustainability and The New Global Shifts
 - Urbanization and Global Health Priorities

Summit Objectives

- Explore the agenda of the next generation of governments.
- Focus on harnessing innovation and technology to address universal challenges.
- Champion the mission of shaping future governments and creating a better future for humanity.

- **Catalyzing Global Collaboration:** The summit functions as a premier forum for international governance actors to synergize efforts, exchange diverse viewpoints, and navigate complex global dynamics.
- **Humanitarian Conundrums:** It facilitates the crafting of efficacious interventions for pressing development and humanitarian challenges.
- **Forging Proactive Strategies for an Uncertain Future:** The summit serves as a global platform for constructing proactive strategies to surmount emergent challenges and fostering social stability through the exchange of best practices.

SMALL SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

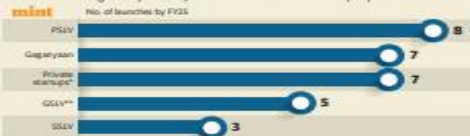
10, 9, 8, 7... Small rocket mission's going slow. Why?

BY SHOUVIK DAS

The Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), first proposed in 2016, was meant to be India's challenge to the dominance of the US in space launch services. But in the past two years, it has only seen two demonstrator launches. *Mint* finds out why things are going slow.

Small rocket, big hopes

India's SSLV is expected to be the next generation workhorse. However, weak demand globally is a key factor behind its slow ramp-up.



*Includes Skyroot Aerospace, Agnikul Cosmos. **Includes commercial ISL launches of ISRO

Source: ISRO, Space FY25 launch manifest

PRIMARY SOURCE: SPACE

1 What is the SSLV, and why is it important?

The SSLV is a small rocket, both in size and capacity, in comparison with other rockets that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) can carry up to 4.75 tonnes in satellite payload. The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-III (GSLV Mk-III) can carry up to 8 tonnes. But large-capacity rockets have long waitlists as they wait for a single large order—the 'primary' payload. Hence, private commercial firms often wait for years until they can launch their small satellites. This model helps cut satellite launch costs. The SSLV can help resolve this with faster, cheaper launch cycles.

2 What's holding things up?

While the first SSLV demo launch was a part-failure, the second was a success. Nodal agency In-Space's FY25 launch schedule shows only three scheduled launches in the next 12 months. A large part of this is due to engineering requirements: a key part of making small rockets successful is reliability, which often takes years in the space sector. However, apart from this, the space sector itself has been slow—with demand for commercial operators being limited. SpaceX, the most successful private space firm so far, has had only two non-SpaceX and non-Nasa missions this year, and 19 last year.

3 Who are its global competitors?

Elon Musk's SpaceX is the SSLV's biggest rival, thanks to the former's small satellite ride-share programmes. The next one is US-based Rocket Labs, which uses its small rocket 'Electron' for frequent launch missions. Others include French firm ArianeSpace's upcoming rockets. In India, startups Skyroot Aerospace and Agnikul Cosmos hope to grab a piece of the pie.

4 How will this impact India's space sector?

Slowing demand, particularly in the US, means firms that had plans for commercial small-satellite constellations are actively reconsidering their launch plans. This is leading to a revision in the projected demand for satellite launch services. Much of the SSLV's success will depend on this demand, which, at the moment, remains low. Experts believe that a chunk of the SSLV's demand will come from India itself, but a regularized commercial launch schedule for the small rocket may take up to another four years.

5 Is there an overlap with private startups?

No Indian private space firm has made an orbital launch with a satellite payload—leaving them largely untested. Add to that, space launches are capital-intensive, so startups have a tough job to not burn too much cash while proving their reliability to commercial clients. The SSLV, meanwhile, is backed by ISRO and operated by its commercial arm, NewSpace India Ltd—a recognized name in the global space industry. Commercial satellite clients that India would attract may go SSLV's way, rather than to startups.

Context: The Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), first proposed in 2016, was meant to be India's challenge to the dominance of the US in space launch services. But in the past two years, it has only seen two demonstrator launches.

Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)

- **Number of Stages:** Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is a 3 stage Launch Vehicle configured with three Solid Propulsion Stages and liquid propulsion-based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM) as a terminal stage.
- **Payload:** SSLV is capable of launching **500kg satellite in 500km planar orbit**.
- **Small in Stature, Big in Potential:** Compared to its ISRO siblings, the SSLV boasts a compact design and payload capacity. While the workhorse PSLV carries 1.75 tonnes, and the behemoth LVM3 manages a whopping 8 tonnes, the SSLV focuses on agility.
- **Key benefits of SSLV:** SSLV have Low cost, with low turn-around time, flexibility in accommodating multiple satellites, Launch on demand feasibility, minimal launch infrastructure requirements, etc.
 - The maiden flight of the SSLV in August last year was a failure due to vibration disturbance
 - The **SSLV injected the ISRO's EOS-07 satellite**, US-based firm Antaris' Janus-1 and Chennai-based space start-up Space Kidz's AzaadiSAT-2 satellites into a 450-km circular orbit.
- **Global Competitor:** Elon Musk's SpaceX is the SSLV's biggest rival.

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala launches the realigned AHIDF Scheme at New Delhi today

Posted On: 14 FEB 2024 5:51PM by PIB Delhi

Context: Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, recently launched the realigned AHIDF Scheme and released the Radio Jingle on AHIDF at New Delhi.

Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)

- **Launched:** On 24th June 2020.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.
- **Objectives:**
 - To help increasing of milk and meat processing capacity and product diversification thereby providing greater access for unorganized rural milk and meat producers to organized milk and meat market.
 - To make available increased price realization for the producer.
 - To make available quality milk and meat products for the domestic consumer.
 - To fulfill the objective of protein enriched quality food requirement of the growing population of the country and prevent malnutrition in one of the highest malnourished children population in the world.
 - Develop entrepreneurship and generate employment.
 - To promote exports and increase the export contribution in the milk and meat sector.
 - To make available quality concentrated animals feed to the cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, pig and poultry to provide balanced ration at affordable prices.
- **Eligibility:** Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), Private companies, Individual entrepreneurs, Section 8 companies, Micro Small and Medium Enterprises.

India set to establish new naval bases at Agatti, Minicoy islands

Shishir Gupta

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Lakshadweep, India has decided to expand its naval footprint by establishing naval bases in Agatti Island and Minicoy, along with upgraded airbases, in order to secure vital sea lines of communication, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

Agatti Island and Minicoy in Lakshadweep sit on the nine-degree channel through which billions of dollars worth of commercial trade passes through while en route to south-east Asia and north Asia. Minicoy Islands is just 524km from the Maldives.

India is set to make a major maritime security statement when defence minister Rajnath Singh goes on board the INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant carrier task forces, which include 14 warships, to travel to Minicoy along with the Navy brass to inaugurate naval base INS Jatayu on March 4-5, the people cited above said.

The Indian Navy plans to hold the first phase of the Combined Commanders' Conference on board Indian aircraft carriers with the two armadas travelling from Goa to Karwar to Minicoy to Kochi. The second phase of the commanders' conference will be held on March 6-7.



The carrier task forces of INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant

It is understood that the Modi government has decided to build a new airstrip at Minicoy and upgrade the air strip at Agatti Island with plans to station naval assets at INS Jatayu. This decision dovetails into the Modi government's strategy to use its island territories to project power in the Indo-Pacific in support of the maritime security of the region.

While India is already developing its force capability in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands with new facilities at Campbell Bay in Great Nicobar, the move to upgrade capabilities in Lakshadweep will not only protect commercial shipping but also

INDIA IS ALREADY DEVELOPING ITS FORCE CAPABILITY IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR WITH NEW FACILITIES AT CAMPBELL BAY IN GREAT NICOBAR

countering the challenge of a rapidly expanding Chinese Navy and its allies in the Indian Ocean.

The main commercial shipping route from the Suez Canal or Persian Gulf to South East Asia and beyond goes through the nine-degree channel (between Agatti Island and Minicoy) and the 10-degree channel (between the Andaman & Nicobar Islands). India dominates the trade route via Sunda and Lombok Straits of Indonesia.

The carrier task forces of INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant while en route to Minicoy will be accompanied by destroyers, frigates and submarines, the people cited above said.

MAP OF LAKSHADWEEP



INDIA

MANGALORE

CANNANORE

KERALA

CALICUT

COCHIN

ARABIAN SEA

CHETLAT

KILTAN

KADMAT

AMINI

ANDROTT

KAVARATTI

KALPENI

MINICOY

398 Kms

404 Kms

407 Kms

407 Kms

407 Kms

407 Kms

407 Kms

407 Kms

407 Kms

Context: After Prime Minister's visit to Lakshadweep, India has decided to firmly extend its naval footprint by establishing naval bases in Agatti and Minicoy Islands along with air bases in order to secure the vital sea lands of communication.

Agatti Island

- **About:** It is situated on a coral atoll called Agatti atoll in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
- **Location:** Situated 459 km (248 nautical miles) southwest of Kochi, Kerala, India.
- **Area:** 3.84 sq km.
- **Economic Activities:** Fishing, with Agatti and Minicoy being the only islands with surplus fish production.
- Coir (coconut fiber) and copra (dried coconut meat) processing.

Minicoy Islands

- **Location:** Minicoy Island, the southernmost tip of Lakshadweep, rests 398 kilometers (215 nautical miles) southwest of Kochi, India.
- **Dimensions and Proximity:** With a land area of 4.80 square kilometers, Minicoy boasts one of the largest lagoons in Lakshadweep.
- **Lies between:** The island neighbors the bustling 9° Channel, a crucial shipping route, and lies approximately 130 kilometers north of the Maldivian archipelago.

Lakshadweep

- **About:** It is a union territory of India.
- **Islands:** It is an archipelago of 36 islands serving as the maritime boundary between the Arabian Sea to the west and the Laccadive Sea to the east.
- **Located:** It is located 200 to 440 km (120 to 270 mi) off the Malabar Coast of India.
- **Largest island:** Minicoy Island (south of the nine-degree channel).
- **Some islands under the Lakshadweep Island:** Kavaratti ,Agatti ,Minicoy, Amindivi ,Androth,Kalpeni,Pitti ,Suheli Par ,Keltan, Chetlat, Kadmat, Bitra Perumul Par, Bangaram.
- **8 Degree Channel:** It separates the islands of Minicoy and Maldives.
- **9 Degree Channel:** It separates the island of Minicoy from the main Lakshadweep archipelago.

PM inaugurates Abu Dhabi's first Hindu stone temple

Press Trust of India
ABU DHABI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated Abu Dhabi's first Hindu stone temple, describing it as a symbol of the shared heritage of humanity and thanking the UAE for scripting a new golden chapter of human history.

Speaking at the inauguration of the temple built by the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS), the Prime Minister profusely thanked the President of UAE, Sheikh Mohammad Zayed Al Nahyan, for making the grand temple in Abu Dhabi a reality and said he has not only won the hearts of Indians living in the Gulf nation but also of 140 crore Indians.

"I hope that the BAPS Mandir will become a symbol of communal harmony and global unity for the whole world," Mr. Modi said, addressing a gathering that included UAE Tolerance Minister Sheikh Na-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the BAPS Temple in Abu Dhabi. ANI

hyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan and spiritual leaders from all faiths.

Recalling the consecration ceremony of the newly constructed Ram temple in Ayodhya last month, the Prime Minister said it was his good fortune to have witnessed the inauguration of the BAPS temple in Abu Dhabi. "Our immense pleasure in Ayodhya has been further enhanced by the wave of happiness received in Abu Dhabi today. It is my good fortune that I have been a witness to the

grand Shri Ram temple first in Ayodhya, and then to this temple in Abu Dhabi," he said.

The BAPS temple is built on a 27-acre site in Abu Mreikhah, near Al Rahba off the Dubai-Abu Dhabi Sheikh Zayed Highway, at a cost of around ₹700 crore.

He said the UAE, which till now was known for Burj Khalifa, Future Museum, Sheikh Zayed Mosque, and other hi-tech buildings, has now added another cultural chapter to its identity.

Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)

- **About:** It is a branch of the Swaminarayan Sampradaya, a Vaishnavite Hindu sect. BAPS has a global network of approximately 1,550 temples.

Context: Prime Minister of India to inaugurate the BAPS Swaminarayan temple in Abu Dhabi in UAE, the 1st Hindu temple in the Gulf nation.

BAPS Swaminarayan Temple

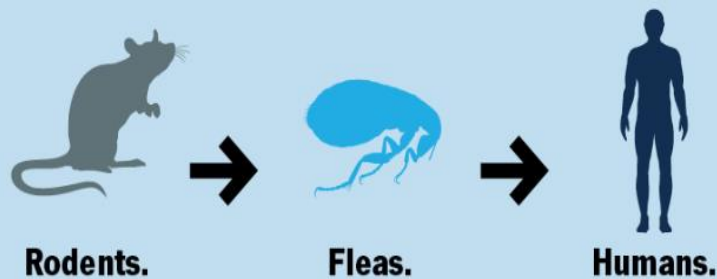
- **Architectural Style:** Nagara, reflecting India's rich heritage.
- **Materials:** Exterior adorned with pink sandstone from Rajasthan, contrasting with the elegance of Italian marble interiors.
- **Domes:** Two central domes, aptly named "Harmony" and "Peace," symbolize interfaith co-existence.
- **Wall of Harmony:** A unique 3D-printed wall showcases the temple's construction journey through a captivating video.
- **Seven Spires:** Each represents one of the seven Emirates, signifying unity with the local community.
- **Interfaith Bridge:** Open to all, fostering understanding and respect among communities. Notably, land was donated by a Muslim king, with contributions from prominent figures of Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Parsi, and Jain faiths.

Key Architectural Features

- **Conception:** A stone tableau portrays Pramukh Swami Maharaj's divine vision of the Abu Dhabi temple, conceived in 1997.
- **Pillars:** Both circular and hexagonal, a singular structure stands out as the "Pillar of Pillars," intricately carved with an astonishing 1,400 miniature pillars within its form.
- **Deities:** This multifaceted sanctuary enshrines revered deities from India's four corners, including Lord Ram, Shiva, Jagannath, Tirupati Balaji, and Lord Ayappa, fostering a spirit of universal devotion.
- **Holy River:** Encircling the temple, a sacred waterway carries the blessed waters of the Ganges and Yamuna, flowing serenely alongside a Varanasi-inspired ghat where devotees can perform ritual ablutions. The mystical river Saraswati is represented by an ethereal white light, adding to the spiritual dimension.

Bubonic plague of infamous 'Black Death' era strikes Oregon resident. Is there a climate change link?

How Plague is Transmitted



Types of Plague



Bubonic.

Most common.
Flea/rodent to human transmission.



Septicemic.

Secondary to bubonic or enters through break in your skin.



Pneumonic.

Most deadly.
Human to human via air droplets.

Context: The Oregon Health Authority recently confirmed a rare case of the bubonic plague infecting a resident.

Bubonic Plague

- **About:** It is an infection spread mostly to humans by infected fleas that travel on rodents.
 - Bubonic plague is one type of plague. It gets its name from the swollen lymph nodes (buboes) caused by the disease
- **Called:** Black Death, it killed millions of Europeans during the Middle Ages.
- **Caused by:** A specific type of bacterium called *Yersinia pestis*. *Y. pestis* can affect humans and animals and is spread mainly by fleas.
- **Symptoms:** Fever, headaches, and vomiting,[1] as well as swollen and painful lymph nodes occurring in the area closest to where the bacteria entered the skin.
- **The three most endemic countries:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Peru.
- Presently, human plague infections continue to occur in rural areas in the western United States, but significantly more cases occur in parts of Africa and Asia.

The other types of plague are:

- **Septicemic plague**, which happens when the infection goes all through the body.
- **Pneumonic plague**, which happens when lungs are infected.

FREE



Download PDF



Login to theiashub.com



**Aaj Ka
Quality Enrichment**
(Toppers' Favourite PDF)



News-CRUX-10
(10 News. 10 Sources. One Place)



Monthly Editorials
(The Hindu & Indian Express)



Daily Quiz (Prelims)



**Government Schemes &
Ministry Wise Year End
Review**



Free Enrichment PDFs
(Tailor Made Crisp Study Material)

FREE

**India's Best Answer Writing Sessions
with**



Ritika Jindal



Simi Karan



Gaurav Budania



Mridul Shivhare

IAS OFFICERS

Log On To Our Unique
Free Answer Writing Sessions with Toppers (FAST) Portal
& Start Practicing!



**SCAN
HERE**



9560082909



t.me/theiashub



www.theiashub.com



/mkyadav



www.theiashub.com