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MK Yadav Sir

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BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

ICT TARIFF DISPUTE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

WTO panel rules against India in ICT tariff dispute

SHREYA NANDI & ASIT RANJAN MISHRA
New Delhi, 17 April

The dispute settlement panel of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Monday ruled that India's imposition of tariffs on mobile phones and electronic components violates its commitment under the Information Technology (IT) Act under the multilateral trade body.

"We recommend India bring such measures into conformity with its obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994," the panel ruled.

The rulings in three separate but similar disputes raised by the European Union (EU), Chinese Taipei, and Japan will put pressure on India to withdraw the tariffs at a time it is seeking to be a leader in electronics manufacturing through a production-linked incentive scheme.

However, an Indian commerce ministry official said since the appellate body of WTO — its highest adjudicating authority — is dysfunctional due to the absence of judges, the adverse report of the dispute settlement panel will not have any immediate impact.

"India will be appealing against this judgment. Since the appellate body at the WTO is dysfunctional, it will be a void appeal. That is why there will not be any substantial impact on India," said a government official.

India, which is signatory to the 1996 Information Technology Agreement (ITA), is required to eliminate tariffs on a range of products, including mobile handsets. However, starting 2007-08 Union Budget, India imposed tariffs on a clutch of electronic items to curb cheap electronic imports from China and promote India's home-grown manufacturing.

Many countries had complained that the imposition of tariffs on IT products by India was against the principles agreed upon under ITA. However, India argued that at the time of signing the ITA, products such as smartphones did not exist and hence, it was not bound to eliminate tariffs on such items. Turn to Page 6

CASE FILE



- **The EU, Chinese Taipei and Japan dragged India to the WTO dispute in 2019** on imposing tariffs on certain information and communications technology goods
- **Products include mobile phones, microphones, transmission apparatus** for radio broadcasting, parts used in television cameras, electronic integrated circuits, insulated wire, oscilloscopes and measuring or checking instruments
- **India's high tariffs on such ICT items have led to substantial increase** in investments and exports of such items

Context: The dispute settlement panel of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** ruled that India's imposition of tariffs on mobile phones and electronic components violates its commitment under the **Information Technology (IT) Act** under the multilateral trade body.

- They recommend India bring such measures into conformity with its obligations under the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994.**

Key Points

- India, which is signatory to the **1996 Information Technology Agreement (ITA),** is required to eliminate tariffs on a range of products, including mobile handsets.
- However, starting 2007-08 Union Budget, **India imposed tariffs** on a clutch of electronic items to curb cheap electronic imports from China and promote India´s homegrown manufacturing.
- Many countries had complained that the **imposition of tariffs on IT products by India** was against the principles agreed upon under ITA.
- However, India argued that at the time of signing the ITA, products such as smartphones did not exist and hence, it was **not bound to eliminate tariffs on such items.**
- The rulings in three separate but similar **disputes raised by the European Union (EU), Chinese Taipei, and Japan** will put pressure on India to withdraw the tariffs at a time it is seeking to be a leader in electronics manufacturing through a production linked incentive scheme.
- Since the **appellate body of WTO** - its highest adjudicating authority - is dysfunctional due to the absence of judges, the adverse report of the dispute settlement panel will not have any immediate impact.

ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 1

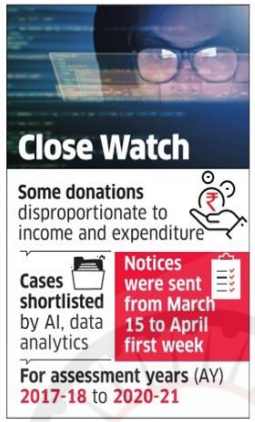
TRUSTS IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

I-T Sends Notices Over Donations to Charitable Trusts

Salaried, self-employed, cos among 8k handed notices; tax pros who helped also under lens

Anuradha.Shukla
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New Delhi: The income tax department has sent notices to about 8,000 taxpayers who have made large donations to charitable trusts, suspecting them to be attempts at tax evasion. Data analytics suggested these taxpayers were making donations disproportionate to their income and expenditure, officials told ET.

Those served notices include salaried and self-employed individuals, apart from companies.

The IT department is also looking into independent tax professionals who facilitated these transactions.

"In all 8,000 odd cases, the donation was exactly the amount required to lower the tax slab or get a full exemption and was paid by cash," a tax official said. "Also, an exceptionally high amount was paid to tax professionals, even by a straight salaried person."

The notices were sent over three weeks from mid-March to early April and were for the assessment years 2017-18 to 2020-21. More notices are likely in the coming weeks.

In the case of businesses, mostly small ones, the amount paid to charitable trusts was out of sync with income, the officials said.

In these transactions, cash contributions are returned to the taxpayer along with a donation receipt after deducting a commission, helping the assessee evade tax, they said.

The department is also tracking charitable trusts that are offering fake bills to taxpayers. While no action has been initiated against them so far, they may lose their tax exemption status if there is wrongdoing.

Data Analytics Being Used ▸▸ 11

Context: The income tax department has sent notices to about 8,000 taxpayers who have made large donations to **charitable trusts,** suspecting them to be attempts at **tax evasion.**

Trusts in India

- **About**: Trust as defined in **section 3 of the Indian Trust Act, 1882** means the transfer of property by one person (the settlor) to another (the trustee) who manages that property for the benefit of someone else (the beneficiary).
  - **'Charitable purpose'** as defined under Section 2(15) of the Income Tax Act includes relief to the poor in the form of education, medical aid, or through any other object of public utility.
- **Types**: There are two types of trusts in India: private trusts and public trusts:
  - **Private trusts** are governed by the **Indian trusts Act, 1882.**
  - **Public trusts** which include charitable and religious trusts are governed by statutes like **The Charitable and Religious Trust Act, 1920, The Religious Endowments Act, 1863, The Charitable Endowments Act, 1890, The Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950.**

PIB

April 18

PTP-NER SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Shri Arjun Munda to launch "Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North -Eastern Region (PTP-NER)" scheme at Manipur tomorrow

Context: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India has introduced a new scheme **"Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North -Eastern Region (PTP-NER)"** for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes of Northeastern Region.

Key Points

- The scheme has the vision to **strengthen livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans** through increased efficiency in procurement, logistics and marketing of tribal products from North Eastern States.
- The scheme will apply to the states of **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.**
- The scheme PTP-NER will facilitate tribal artisans to **avail opportunities of enhancing income** through the provision of backward and forward linkages through incubation support, aggregation, skill and entrepreneurship development, sourcing and procurement, marketing, transportation and publicity.
- As a part of this scheme, it is planned to initiate empanelment of tribal artisans from North Eastern Region by **organizing 68 Tribal Artisan Melas (TAMs)** w.e.f. 18.04.2023 onwards during the month of April –May, 2023 at various districts of North eastern Region.
- **TRIFED, the nodal agency** under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, continues to strive in endeavors to improving the quality of the life of the tribal people, while preserving their age-old traditions.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 1

RECUSAL OF JUDGES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)



Justice Joseph recuses from case on EC appt

Supreme Court judge Justice K M Joseph, who had authored the verdict for putting in place a new mechanism for appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and ECs by a panel comprising the PM, CJI and Leader of Opposition of LS, recused from hearing a plea seeking quashing of appointment of EC Arun Goel.

But before recusal, the bench, also comprising Justice B V Nagarathana, asked how the appointment of Goel could be quashed on the basis of the judgment, which was delivered after the Centre appointed him. It asked the petitioner to point out the law that was violated. P17

Context: Supreme Court judge, who had authored the verdict for putting in place a new mechanism for appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and ECs by a panel comprising the PM, CJI and Leader of Opposition of LS, **recused from hearing a plea seeking quashing of appointment of EC Arun Goel.**

Recusal of Judges

- **About**: Recusal, referred to as **Judicial disqualification,** is the **act of abstaining** from participation in an official action such as a legal proceeding due to a conflict of interest of the presiding court official or administrative officer.
- **Based on Principle of natural Justice:** The genesis of the concept of recusal of judges can be traced from the principle that implies fairness, reasonableness, equity and equality i.e., **Natural Justice.**
  - According to this principle, the judge must **not have any interest in the subject-matter of the case.**
- **Reasons**: When **there is a conflict of interest**, a judge can withdraw from hearing a case to prevent creating a perception that she carried a bias while deciding the case.
  - The conflict of interest can be in many ways - from **holding shares** in a company that is a litigant to having a **prior or personal association** with a party involved in the case.
  - Another instance for recusal is when an appeal is filed in the Supreme Court against a judgement of a High Court that may have been **delivered by the SC judge when she was in the HC**.
- **Process for recusal:** There are **no formal rules governing recusals**, although several Supreme Court judgments have dealt with the issue.
  - The **decision to recuse generally comes from the judge herself** as it rests on the conscience and discretion of the judge to disclose any potential conflict of interest.
  - In some circumstances, lawyers or parties in the case bring it up before the judge.
  - If a judge recuses, the case is listed before the Chief Justice for allotment to a **fresh Bench.**
- **Record of reasons for recusal**: Since there are no formal rules governing the process, it is **often left to individual judges to record reasons for recusal.**
  - Some judges disclose the reasons in open court; in some cases, the reasons are apparent.
- **Limitations:** Once a request is made for recusal, the **decision to recuse or not rests with the judge.**
  - While there are some instances where judges have recused even if they do not see a conflict but only because such an apprehension was cast, there have also been several cases where judges have refused to withdraw from a case.

PIB April 18

SRIJANA
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health)

AIIA organises 'Srijana': A National Conference on Female Infertility

Context: A two days **national conference on female infertility 'Srijana'** is being organized by **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**, under the Ministry of AYUSH at New Delhi.

Key Points

- According to WHO reports, in 37% of the infertile couple, **female infertility was the cause.**
- In India, the cases of female infertility are rising and affect approximately 15% of couple.
- To overcome the issue, **AIIA is organizing an exchange of clinical research**, and knowledge through a National Conference, followed by panel discussions for which more than 100 delegates have registered.

All India Institute of Ayurveda

- It is a **public Ayurveda medicine and research institution** located in New Delhi, India.
- In 2014, the Government of India established the **Ministry of Ayush** and AIIA Delhi, an autonomous institute under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- AIIA is the publisher of the **Journal of Ayurveda Case Reports (AyuCaRe)**, a quarterly peer-reviewed journal.

LIVE MINT

Page 2

IBSA FORUM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Organisations)

Members keen to revitalize India-Brazil-SA forum

Shashank Mattoo
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NEW DELHI



IBSA forum aims to strengthen cooperation among the three developing nations. BLOOMBERG

The trilateral India-Brazil-South Africa forum is likely to receive increased diplomatic focus, according to persons aware of the matter. The IBSA forum, which was established in the early 2000s as a means to strengthen cooperation among three key emerging economies, is seen to have become dormant in recent years.

Between 2011 and 2022, the forum has held only four trilateral ministerial commission meetings. The latest took place in September 2022, when senior ministers of the three countries met in New York. India was represented by external affairs minister S. Jaishankar.

However, a meeting of their heads of state or government has not taken place since 2011. The IBSAMAR military exercise, which brings together the navies of the three countries, was held in October 2022 after a gap of over four years. A novel format, bringing together the national security advisers of the three countries, has only seen one meeting, in 2021.

ority. Brazil holds the rotating chair of the grouping, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year.

"The Brazilian presidency will seek to strengthen IBSA in its three pillars: political coordination, trilateral cooperation and cooperation with other developing countries, through the IBSA Fund," according to the IBSA forum website.

The matter was raised during Brazilian foreign minister Mauro Vieira's bilateral meeting with Jaishankar during the G20 foreign ministers meeting in March.

According to the persons cited above, New Delhi responded positively to Bra-

Context: The **trilateral India-Brazil-South Africa forum** is likely to receive increased diplomatic focus, according to persons aware of the matter.

- Between 2011 and 2022, the forum has held only four trilateral ministerial commission meetings.

IBSA Forum

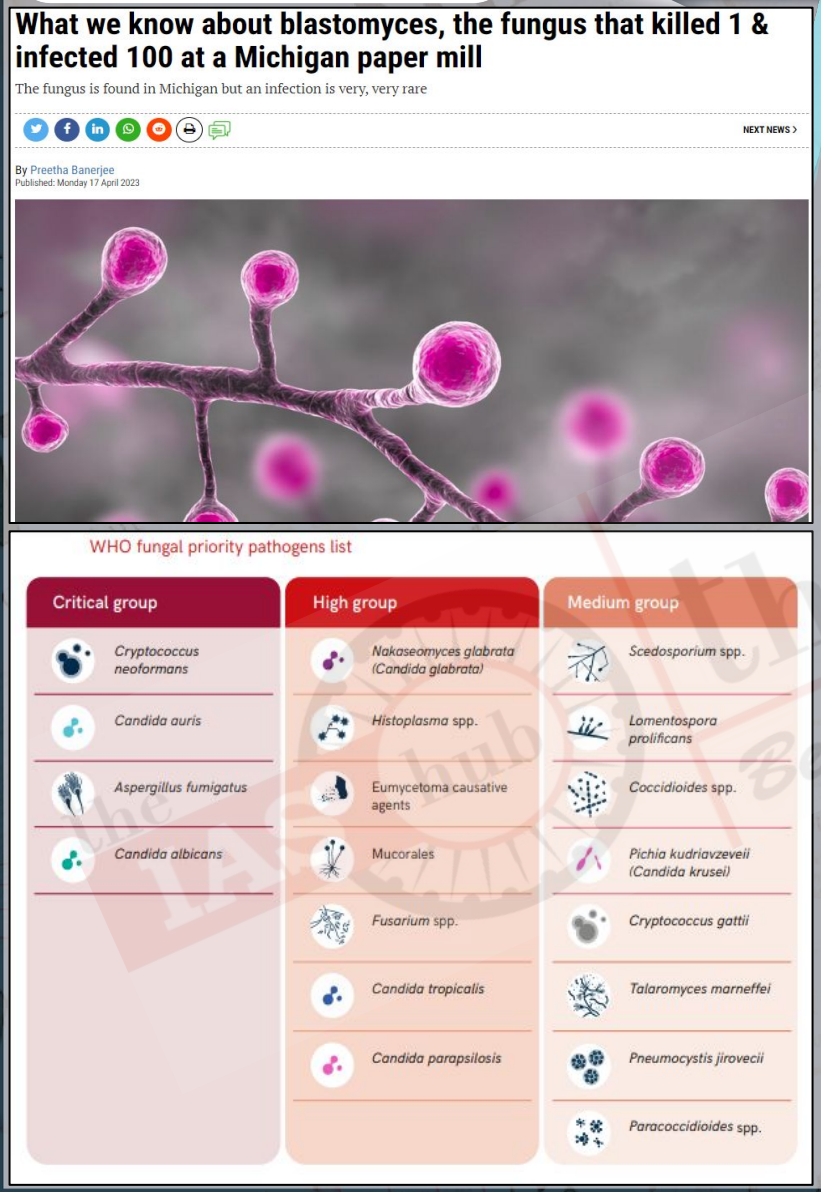
- **About**: The IBSA is a **trilateral, developmental initiative** between India, Brazil and South Africa to promote South-South cooperation and exchange.
- **Origin**: The grouping was formalised and named the IBSA Dialogue Forum when the Foreign Ministers of the three countries met in Brasilia (Brazil) on **6th June 2003** and issued the **Brasilia Declaration.**
- **Headquarters**: IBSA **does not have a headquarters** or a permanent executive secretariat.
  - It relies on the **Summits of Heads of State** and Government at the highest level.
- **IBSA Fund:** Established in 2004, **IBSA Fund (India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation)** is a unique Fund through which development projects are executed with IBSA funding in fellow developing countries.
  - The fund is managed by the **United Nations (UN) Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).**
- **Joint Naval Exercise**: IBSAMAR **(IBSA Maritime Exercise)** is an important part of IBSA trilateral defence cooperation.

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BLASTOMYCES FUNGUS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



What we know about blastomyces, the fungus that killed 1 & infected 100 at a Michigan paper mill

The fungus is found in Michigan but an infection is very, very rare

NEXT NEWS >

By Preetha Banerjee
Published: Monday 17 April 2023

Context: 12 people have been hospitalised with the disease caused by **blastomyces fungus** in the United States.

Blastomyces

- **About**: The fungus of the genus blastomycosis is **endemic to Michigan,** but instances of it infecting people are extremely rare - in the last five years.
  - The fungus is found in the **moist soil and decomposing wood and leaves** in the midwestern, south-central and southeastern states of the US.
- **Transmission**: If disturbed, **microscopic spores** from the fungus can get dispersed in air and travel freely. Human beings can contract blastomycosis by inhaling the spores.
- The disease causes **fever, cough, breathing difficulty and muscle aches.**
  - During severe infection, which is rare, the disease can **spread from the lungs to other organs,** like the skin, bones and brain.
- **Treatment**: It is usually **diagnosed through tests done** on blood and urine samples or imaging work of lungs.
  - **Body fluid and tissue culture tests** can also indicate the infection but the report may take up to a couple of weeks to be generated.
  - There are **antifungal medications** that work on blastomyces but the course of the treatment is long - lasting between six months and a year.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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CAMPA FUNDS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Kishan Reddy writes to KCR over utilisation of CAMPA funds

New Delhi: Union Minister of Tourism, Culture and DoNER G Kishan Reddy has written to Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on "non-utilisation" of Rs 610 crores of the allocated amount from CAMPA funds in the last three years in Telangana.

In his letter dated April 16th, the cabinet minister said the state has not utilised the funds as per its own Annual Plan of Operations for afforestation under the Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) Fund.

According to Telangana's Annual Plan of Operations, it was to spend Rs 1,737 crore in 3 years between 2019-20 and 2021-22. The actual utilization during this period was Rs. 1,127.93 crores.

The Centre also released about Rs 30 crore under various central schemes for forest and wildlife conservation, and maintenance of parks and zoos in the last 8 years. However, the Telangana government has not been able to release even its share of Rs. 2.2 crore towards Project Tiger, Reddy said in his letter. **ENS**

Context: Union Minister of Tourism, Culture and DoNER has written to Telangana Chief Minister on "non-utilisation" of Rs 610 crores of the allocated amount from **CAMPA funds** in the last three years in Telangana.

- According to **Telangana's Annual Plan of Operations**, it was to spend Rs 1,737 crore in 3 years between 2019-20 and 2021-22. The actual utilization during this period was Rs. 1,127.93 crores.

CAMPA Funds

- **About**: Establishment in 2004, the Ministry of Environment and Forests constituted the **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)** to oversee and manage the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) as directed by the Supreme Court.
  - **CAMPA Act or Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act** is an Indian legislation that seeks to provide an appropriate institutional mechanism, both at the Centre and in each State and Union Territory, to **ensure expeditious utilisation in efficient and transparent manner of amounts** released in lieu of forest land diverted for non-forest purpose which would mitigate impact of diversion of such forest land.
- **Objectives**: The Funds are meant to p**romote afforestation and regeneration activities** as a way of compensating for forest land diverted to non-forest uses.
- **Advisory Council: National CAMPA Advisory Counci**l has been established with the following mandate:
  - **Lay down broad guidelines** for State CAMPA.
  - **Facilitate scientific, technological and other assistance** that may be required by State CAMPA.
  - Make **recommendations to State CAMPA** based on a review of their plans and programmes.
  - **Provide a mechanism** to State CAMPA to resolve issues of an inter-state or Centre-State character.

DTE

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NANOFLUIDIC DEVICE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)



Pancreas

- The pancreas is an **organ located behind the stomach** in the upper left abdomen.
- It has two main functions:
  - An **exocrine function** that helps in digestion.
  - **Endocrine function** that regulates blood sugar.
- **Pancreatic cancer** refers to tumors that start in the cells of the pancreas.
- The cancer develops **when cells grow in an uncontrolled manner** and form masses or tumors in the pancreas instead of growing into healthy pancreatic tissue.

Context: Nanomedicine researchers at Houston Methodist academic medical centre have come up with an **implantable nanofluidic device** that can directly deliver immunotherapy into the tumour.

- The device might be able to help tame **pancreatic cancer** - one of the most aggressive and difficult-to-treat cancers.

Key Points

- The device was tested on **murine animal models** that allow the study of tumour biology, microenvironment and mechanisms of response to therapy.
- In **pancreatic cancer**, malignant (cancer) cells form in the tissues of the pancreas - the main organ responsible for regulating the blood sugar levels of an individual.
- Unfortunately, pancreatic cancer usually shows little or **no symptoms** until it has advanced and spread.
- Researchers used an implantable nanofluidic device they invented to deliver **CD40 monoclonal antibodies (mAb).**
- CD40 is a promising immunotherapeutic agent, which was given at a sustained low dose via the device called the **nanofluidic drug-eluting seed (NDES).**
- **Immunotherapy** holds promise in treating cancers that previously did not have good treatment options.
- However, immunotherapy is delivered throughout the entire body and **causes many side effects** that are sometimes long-lasting, if not life-long. By focusing the delivery directly into the tumour, the body is protected from exposure to toxic drugs.
- It has **fewer side effects,** essentially allowing patients undergoing treatment to have a better quality of life.

THE HINDU

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SAURASHTRA-TAMIL SANGAM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

3,000 people from Tamil Nadu to attend 10-day Saurashtra Sangamam

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD

Cast in the same mould as the Kashi Tamil Sangamam, the 10-day Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam will see nearly 3,000 people from Tamil Nadu, mostly Gujaratis settled in the southern State, participate. Inaugurated in the presence of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Somnath, sacred for the Hindus, the festival aims to showcase "age-old ties" and cultural links between the two coastal States of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

People of Gujarati origin are being brought on a special train, and will visit places their ancestors came from, and reconnect with pilgrimage destinations such as Somnath, Dwarka, and Porbandar. They will also explore the Gir Forest and the Statue of Unity in south Gujarat, built in 2018, to pay homage to Vallabhbhai Patel.



Age-old ties: Rajnath Singh and Tamilisai Soundararajan perform rituals during their visit to Shree Somnath Jyotirling Temple. ANI

Many people have settled in Tiruchi, Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Salem and other places in Tamil Nadu. This has been one of the biggest connections between the two States.

Cultural strength

Mr. Singh said at the inauguration, "This programme, highlighting the bond between Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, reflects the cultural diversity and strength of India. Protecting our cultural links and heritage is as important as border security, economic security, food security, social security, and cybersecurity. Border security is necessary to protect a nation. Similarly, cultural security is also important to maintain its identity."

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, at the inaugural event, reminded people of the year 2006, when Saurashtra University had invited Tamils, during the chief ministership of Narendra Modi, now Prime Minister of India. Mr. Modi is likely to attend the concluding event.

Context: Cast in the same mould as the Kashi Tamil Sangamam, the 10-day **Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam** will see nearly 3,000 people from Tamil Nadu, mostly Gujaratis settled in the southern State, participate.

Saurashtra-Tamil Sangam

- **About**: It is a program that highlights the **oneness of India's culture** by narrating untold histories of how a community emigrated to Tamil Nadu and their contributions to the country.
  - The STS is the second such programme under the **'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' initiative.**
  - The first one was the **'Kashi Tamil Sangamam'**, a month-long event held last year to "rediscover" links between Varanasi and Tamil Nadu.
- **Location**: The Saurashtra Tamil Sangam will be held at **Somnath, Dwarka** and other places in Gujarat to connect Tamil Nadu and Saurashtra.
- **Objectives**: It will **celebrate the civilisational links** between people from the southern part of the country and the People from the Saurastra and Kedarnath in the north.
  - It is a unique attempt where States shared their **culture, civilisation and heritage** with each other, and the country united in soft power.

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