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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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NPCI

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

Google Pay, NPCI Sign Pact to Expand UPI Beyond India

Our Bureau

Chennai: Google India Digital Services and NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Wednesday said they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expand the transformative impact of UPI to countries beyond India.

The companies said the MoU has three key objectives—to broaden the use of UPI payments for travelers outside of India so they can conveniently make transactions abroad, to assist in establishing UPI-like digital payment systems in other countries and to focus on easing the process of remittances between countries by utilizing the UPI infrastructure, thereby simplifying cross-border financial exchanges.

"We are delighted to support NIPL towards expanding the reach of UPI to international markets," Deeksha Kaushal, Director, Partnerships, Google Pay India said in a statement.

"Google Pay has been a proud and willing collaborator to NPCI and the financial ecosystem, under the regulator's guidance, and this collaboration is another step towards our commitment to making payments simple, safe and convenient."

Kaushal said UPI has demonstrated to the world the change that happens in economies with the introduction of interoperable, population scale digital infrastructure and said that each economy that joins such networks will create impact beyond the sum of parts.

The companies said their outlined objectives will help accelerate UPI's global acceptance, providing foreign merchants access to Indian customers who will no longer have to rely only on foreign currency and/or, credit or forex cards for making digital payments and will have the option of using UPI powered apps from India including Google Pay.

"We are pleased to team up with Google Pay to propel UPI onto the global stage," Ritesh Shukla, chief executive officer of NIPL said. "This strategic partnership will not only simplify foreign transactions for Indian travelers but will also allow us to extend our knowledge and expertise of operating a successful digital payments ecosystem to other countries."

Context: Recently, Google India Digital Services and **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL),** a wholly-owned subsidiary of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI),** announced that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expand the transformative impact of UPI to countries beyond India.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- **About**: It is an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
- **Established**: As an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), the NPCI operates under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, to create a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.
- **Not-for-Profit Company**: Incorporated as a "Not for Profit" Company under Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956, the NPCI focuses on bringing innovations in retail payment systems through technology for greater operational efficiency and wider payment reach.
- **Innovation in Retail Payment Systems**: The company is dedicated to bringing innovation to retail payment systems by leveraging technology to enhance operational efficiency and expand the reach of payments.
- **Promoted by Major Banks**: NPCI is promoted by ten major banks, including the State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Citibank, Bank of Baroda, and HSBC.
- **Regulatory Board Composition**: The regulatory board of the NPCI, headquartered in Mumbai, includes nominees from the RBI and ten core promoter banks.
- **Payment Systems**: NPCI operates various payment systems, including National Financial Switch (NFS), Immediate Payment System (IMPS), Aadhaar-enabled Payments System (AEPS), and National Automated Clearing House (NACH).

THE HINDU Page 14

CERT-IN

Syllabus GS Paper 3 – Disaster Management)

CERT-IN takes over 11 months to plug vulnerabilities exposing personal data

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI



Image used for representation.
GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

A critical vulnerability that exposed the personal details of top industrialists, celebrities, sports personalities and others in the country has been fixed by the Corporate Affairs Ministry months after a cybersecurity expert flagged the issue.

Sai Krishna Kothapalli, founder and CEO of Hackrew Infosec, who came across the vulnerability by chance and flagged it to the Computer Emergency Response Team, India (CERT-IN) on January 16, 2023, confirmed that the problem appeared to have been resolved after 11 months on December 20. However, suspecting theft or abuse of the sensitive data, he has called for an investigation.

It was during Pongal holidays last year that Mr. Sai Krishna, while working on a security tool called "Eagle Eye", stumbled upon personal details in documents such as Aadhaar, PAN, voter identity card and passport and date of birth, contact number and communication address of such persons. This vulnerability exposed the personal details of nearly 98 lakh directors of Indian companies. "This is a story on how personal data of prominent personalities such as Ratan Tata, Mukesh Ambani, Gautam Adani, Shah Rukh Khan, Virat Kohli and many other influential people was freely available online due to a vulnerability in a government portal," Mr. Sai Krishna told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

An alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, Mr. Sai Krishna said he was preparing a proof of concept for "Eagle Eye", which was capable of detecting secrets and sensitive information from websites, when he visited the website of the Ministry.

"The next day, I noticed something interesting while going through the logs. I didn't realise the 'Eagle Eye' tool I was prototyping was running in the background while browsing the MCA website. That night, it picked something up. There was some PII [Personal Identifiable Information] like email and phone numbers that were in the HTTP response but not there in the rendered HTML. This means that the browser received some data that is not shown anywhere on the screen," he said.

This was a generic type of vulnerability usually present in Web and mobile applications. "I was shocked. In front of my eyes, I had all the personal details of very important persons which were available for any individual or agency in India or abroad to access and even abuse. Such information is a jackpot for scammers. In a recent incident, scammers duped banks to the tune of ₹50 lakh just by using PAN numbers of some VIPs," he said. But what came as a rude shock to Mr. Sai Krishna was that despite passing on the alert to CERT-IN, the vulnerability remained for a few months. It took 11 months and four days for the critical issue that leaked personally identifiable information of approximately 98 lakh Indians, including many high net-worth individuals, to get resolved.

CERT-IN reply

When the issue was first flagged to CERT-IN on January 16, 2023, the security researcher received a reply by e-mail stating that the complaint was registered and appropriate action would be taken.

With no reply after that and the vulnerability persisting, Mr. Sai Krishna wrote to the Director-General, CERT-IN on July 31, 2023 to which he received a mail three days later saying the vulnerability had been communicated to the authorities concerned for an early resolution. On September 8, 2023, CERT-IN informed him that the issue had been resolved. But when he checked, the vulnerability was persisting.

"There are a lot of companies openly selling the contact information [e-mail and phone numbers] of directors online. I don't know if this vulnerability has been exploited. I have requested for a thorough investigation," he said.

Context: A critical vulnerability that exposed the personal details of top industrialists, celebrities, sports personalities and others in the country has been fixed by the Corporate Affairs Ministry months after a cybersecurity expert flagged the issue.

Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)

- **About**: CERT-In is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.
- **Formed**: 19 January 2004.
- **Headquarters**: New Delhi, India.
- **Motto**: Handling Cyber Security Incidents.
- **Objective**: Securing Indian cyberspace.
- **Functions:**
  - Collection, analysis and dissemination of information on cyber incidents.
  - Forecast and alerts of cyber security incidents
  - Emergency measures for handling cyber security incidents
  - Coordination of cyber incident response activities.
  - Issue guidelines, advisories, vulnerability notes and whitepapers relating to information security practices, procedures, prevention, response and reporting of cyber incidents.
  - Such other functions relating to cyber security as may be prescribed.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 1

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION REGULATING ACT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

FCRA licence scrapped, CPR says its funding choked, staff 'skeletal'

Heartbreaking, will keep it going, says think tank head Yamini Aiyar

RITU SARIN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 17

A WEEK after the Centre for Policy Research received a final order cancelling its licence under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), its president Yamini Aiyar has said its funding had been "choked", its staff strength was now "skeletal" and programming is down to a bare "minimum".

The CPR, established in 1973 and one of the country's premier public policy think tanks, has seen its fortunes reversed since September 2022 when it was subjected to a survey by the Income Tax (IT) Department.

Since then, CPR, which works with several state Governments and Central Ministries, has had its income tax exemption status cancelled and its FCRA licence (through which it receives 75% of its funding) first suspended and on January 10, finally revoked.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Context: The Centre for Policy Research recently faced a significant setback as it received a final order cancelling its licence under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), resulting in "choked" funding, a "skeletal" staff strength, and programming reduced to a bare "minimum."

Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

- **About**: Enacted during the Emergency in 1976, FCRA emerged amid concerns that foreign powers were meddling in India's affairs by channeling funds through independent organizations.
- **Regulating Foreign Donations**: The law aimed to regulate foreign donations to individuals and associations, ensuring they operated in a manner consistent with the values of a sovereign democratic republic.
- **2010 Amendment**: In 2010, FCRA underwent an amendment to "consolidate the law" on utilizing foreign funds and "prohibit" their use for "any activities detrimental to national interest."
- **2020 Amendment**: Further amendments in 2020 granted the government increased control and scrutiny over the receipt and utilization of foreign funds by NGOs.
- **Criteria**: To receive foreign donations, individuals or NGOs must be registered under the FCRA, open a designated bank account in the State Bank of India, Delhi, and utilize the funds only for the specified purpose outlined in the Act.
- **Granting Registrations**: FCRA registrations are awarded to individuals or associations with specific cultural, economic, educational, religious, and social programs.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 4

GM CROPS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

Govt committed to safe use of GM crops, Centre tells SC

BHAVINI MISHRA
New Delhi, 17 January



The government told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that it was committed to the safe use of genetically-modified (GM) crops and "accordingly robust evaluation systems are in place". Bt cotton was approved in 2002 after an elaborate safety-assessment exercise spanning over seven years, the Centre said.

The court is hearing public interest litigations challenging the environment ministry's decision to approve the commercial cultivation of GM mustard.

This is the first time that a GM food crop is set to be commercially cultivated. On the third day of hearing, the Centre told the apex court that India has a robust regulatory framework in place for the regulation of genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) and products thereof.

"The approval to Bt cotton and Bt brinjal by Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) and Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has been accorded on the basis of an elaborate set of guidelines and procedures.

These guidelines are based on state-of-the-art international guidance developed after years of consultations by agencies like FAO, WHO, OECD and Codex Alimentarius," the government said in its filing.

The court, on January 11, had expressed displeasure at the GEAC for not considering recommendations of the court-appointed Technical Expert Committee (TEC) before taking its decision in October 2022 to release the GM mustard variety into the environment. The TEC had made certain recommendations, with one member dissenting.

The Centre, represented by Attorney General for India R Venkataramani, had told the court that the GEAC had not considered the committee's report as there was no legal requirement for it to consider such reports.

It should be noted that the release of the GM Mustard was put on hold after the Court asked the Centre to maintain status quo in November 2022.

The Centre also said that the regulatory mechanisms have not faltered and acted in a most transparent manner.

Context: Recently, the government assured the Supreme Court that it remains steadfast in its commitment to the safe use of genetically-modified (GM) crops, emphasizing that robust evaluation systems are currently in place.

- Bt cotton was approved in 2002 after an elaborate safety-assessment exercise spanning over seven years.

Genetically Modified Crops

- **About**: It can be defined as organisms (i.e., plants, animals or microorganisms) in which the genetic material (DNA) has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination.
- **Technology called**: Modern biotechnology" or "gene technology".
- **Aim**: To overcome the boundaries of plant species by incorporating a foreign gene into seeds to achieve specific effects; this foreign gene may originate from a plant, an animal, or even a soil bacterium.
- **GM crops in India**: BT cotton, BT Brinjal, DMH 11 Mustard.
  - BT cotton is the only genetically modified (GM) crop that has been approved for commercial cultivation in India.
- **Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)**: It is the apex body that allows for the commercial release of GM crops.

Advantages Of GM Crops

- **Climate change resistant**: GM crops are disease and drought resistant plants that require fewer environmental resources (such as water and fertilizer).
- **Faster Growth & Less resources**: Less use of pesticides aided with faster growing plants and animals.
- **Higher Production**: Increased supply of food with reduced cost and longer shelf life. DMH-11 has an average of 20-25% more yield than the currently used mustard seeds.

PIB Jan 17

SANATAN KHADI VASTRA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

KVIC launches ‘Khadi Sanatan Vastra’ from its flagship store in Connaught Place, New Delhi

Context: Recently, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has introduced a fresh collection of 'Sanatan Khadi Vastra,' offering a 20% discount on the new line.

Sanatan Khadi Vastra

- **Design**: The design concept for 'Sanatan Vastra' originated at the Khadi Center of Excellence (COEK) situated within the premises of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).
- **Manufacturing Process**: The creation of Khadi involves no mechanical or chemical processes, distinguishing Sanatan textiles for adhering to traditional Indian methods.
- **Significance**
- **Cultural Relevance**: 'Sanatan Vastra' embodies a fusion of India's rich heritage and contemporary fashion trends, with a specific goal of captivating the interest of the youth towards Swadeshi products.
- **Economic Impact**: Beyond its fashion aspect, the launch holds a broader significance in enhancing the livelihoods of countless rural artisans. This initiative contributes significantly to the economic empowerment of these communities.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

- **About**: It is a statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- **Objective**: The KVIC is responsible for strategizing, advocating, and overseeing programs aimed at the growth of Khadi and rural industries in rural areas.
- This includes planning and implementation, working in collaboration with other relevant agencies involved in rural development when required.

FDCs & CDSCO

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – SCI & TECH)



Drug regulator gives approval for FDCs licenced before 1988

Govt banned 344 combinations on 10 March '16, citing public interest and human risk

Somrita Ghosh
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NEW DELHI

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has allowed companies to manufacture and market five fixed dose combinations (FDCs) that were banned last year. The permission comes with certain conditions, as per a notice issued by Dr Rajeev Raghuvanshi, Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

The CDSCO order, dated 11 January, read that in 2023, the Central Licencing Authority had banned 14 FDCs out of a list of 19 drug cocktails that were licenced before 1988 for manufacture and sale in the country without requiring approval.

An expert committee headed by Dr M.S. Bhatia recommended two fixed FDCs as reasonable under certain conditions. For the three others, it asked for more data, including on safety and efficacy.

The committee under the chairmanship of Dr Bhatia, professor and head, department of Psychiatry, University College of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, examined the 19 FDCs approved before 1988 for their rationality.

The committee recommended for continued manufacturing and marketing of the Paracetamol 500mg plus, Phenylephrine Hydrochloride 10mg plus, caffeine anhydrous IP 32mg tablets, with the condition to generate safety and efficacy data by way of conducting Phase IV clinical trial within time frame of one year. The five formulations are, variously, for treating common cold symptoms, headaches, depression, cough, and allergy.

The Central government, in June, 2023, issued notifications prohibiting manufacturing, sales and distribution of 14 fixed dose combinations (FDCs) licensed prior to the year 1988, including cough syrups, anti allergy drugs and pain relief drugs with immediate effect, following advice from an expert committee in a report submitted on April 1, 2022, that these drugs may involve risk to human beings.

The CDSCO order, dated 11 Jan, read that in '23, the Central Licencing Authority had banned 14 FDCs out of a list of 19 drug cocktails

According to the professor Kokate Committee's recommendations, the Central government banned 344 combinations on 10 March 2016, citing public interest and the possibility of human risk when using these FDCs in the absence of safer alternatives.

Context: The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has allowed companies to manufacture and market five fixed dose combinations (FDCs) that were banned last year.

Fixed Dose Combinations

- **About:** FDC refer to products containing one or more active ingredients used for a particular indication(s).
- **FDCs can be divided into the two groups**
  - **First group of FDCs**: Includes those in which one or more of the active ingredients is a new drug.
  - **Second group FDCs**: Includes those in which active ingredients already approved/marketed individually are combined for the first time, for a particular claim and where the ingredients are likely to have significant interaction of a pharmacodynamic or pharmacokinetic nature.

Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)

- **About**: CDSCO establishes standards and measures to ensure the safety, effectiveness, and quality of drugs, cosmetics, diagnostics, and medical devices within the country.
- **Headquarters**: New Delhi
- **6 Zonal Offices of CDSCO**: Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ghaziabad, Hyderabad, and Ahmedabad
- **Ministry**: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- **Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act**: CDSCO is tasked with the **approval of drugs, conduct of clinical trials**, and establishment of standards for drugs.
  - This coordination aims **to ensure uniform enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act**, contributing to a standardized and regulated pharmaceutical landscape in the country.
- **Export Regulation**: CDSCO plays a role in regulating the export of drugs from India.
  - Manufacturers with CDSCO certification can export drugs to other countries, expanding India's pharmaceutical presence internationally.

PIB Jan 16

E-SAKSHI APPLICATION
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Govt Scheme)

Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh launches the MPLADS e-SAKSHI Mobile Application for the Revised Fund Flow Procedure under MPLAD Scheme

Context: Recently, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the MPLADS e-SAKSHI Mobile Application.

e-SAKSHI Application

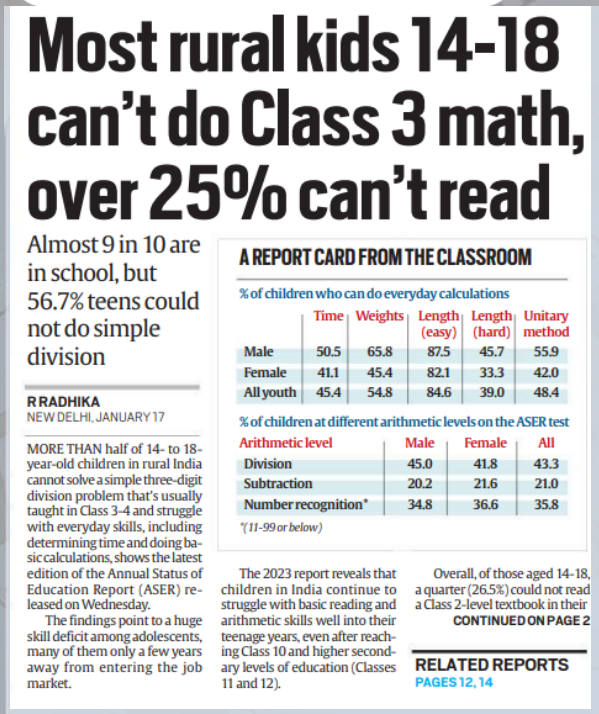
- **Launch**: Under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) Scheme.
- **Aim**: To recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt needs.
- **Development Projects**: The new procedure is poised to bring forth a myriad of benefits, revolutionizing the way Members of Parliament engage with and manage development projects in their constituencies.
- **Convenience and Accessibility**: Offering convenience and accessibility, the system allows MPs to propose, track, and oversee projects at their fingertips.
- Real-time Access: It enhances decision-making processes, enabling swift responses to emerging needs or issues that may arise during the course of project implementation.
- **Transparency**: One of the key features is the promotion of transparency, providing MPs with instant updates on the status and progress of their proposed projects.
- **Features**: The system comes equipped with features for budget management, ensuring MPs can effectively monitor expenditures related to the development projects in their constituencies.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 1

ASER REPORT ON EDUCATION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Social Issues)



Most rural kids 14-18 can't do Class 3 math, over 25% can't read

Almost 9 in 10 are in school, but 56.7% teens could not do simple division

R RADHIKA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 17

MORE THAN half of 14- to 18-year-old children in rural India cannot solve a simple three-digit division problem that's usually taught in Class 3-4 and struggle with everyday skills, including determining time and doing basic calculations, shows the latest edition of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) released on Wednesday.

The findings point to a huge skill deficit among adolescents, many of them only a few years away from entering the job market.

A REPORT CARD FROM THE CLASSROOM

% of children who can do everyday calculations

	Time	Weights	Length (easy)	Length (hard)	Unitary method
Male	50.5	65.8	87.5	45.7	55.9
Female	41.1	45.4	82.1	33.3	42.0
All youth	45.4	54.8	84.6	39.0	48.4

% of children at different arithmetic levels on the ASER test

Arithmetic level	Male	Female	All
Division	45.0	41.8	43.3
Subtraction	20.2	21.6	21.0
Number recognition*	34.8	36.6	35.8

*(11-99 or below)

The 2023 report reveals that children in India continue to struggle with basic reading and arithmetic skills well into their teenage years, even after reaching Class 10 and higher secondary levels of education (Classes 11 and 12).

Overall, of those aged 14-18, a quarter (26.5%) could not read a Class 2-level textbook in their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORTS
PAGES 12, 14

Context: Recently, the **ASER 2023 report** sheds light on the persistent challenge as it discloses that children in India still grapple with fundamental reading and arithmetic skills, even in their teenage years, despite having advanced to senior classes like standard 10 and the higher secondary levels of education (Classes 11 and 12).

Key Findings of Report

- The report highlights a continued challenge in India, where **children face difficulties in mastering fundamental reading** and arithmetic skills, even after progressing to higher educational levels.
- Among **individuals aged 14-18, the report reveals that a significant proportion (26.5%) cannot read a Class 2-level** textbook in their regional language, and nearly half (42.7%) struggle with reading sentences in English.
- Basic mathematics poses a substantial challenge, with more than **half of surveyed students (56.7%) unable to solve a simple 3-digit** by 1-digit division problem..
- **The ASER 2023 assessment extends to evaluating** the practical application of basic arithmetic and reading skills in daily activities. Alarmingly, less than half of the surveyed individuals (approximately 45%) can calculate the number of hours a child slept based on bedtime and waking time.
- **Across various tasks assessing basic numeracy** and reading skills, boys consistently outperformed girls.

Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)

- **About**: The ASER, an annual citizen-led household survey, strives to assess the enrollment and learning status of children in rural India.
- **Annual Conduct**: ASER has been consistently conducted each year since 2005, covering all rural districts of India, making it the largest citizen-led survey in the country.
- **Scope**: ASER surveys offer representative estimates regarding the enrollment status of children aged 3-16 and the fundamental reading and arithmetic levels of children aged 5-16 at the national, state, and district levels.

DTE Jan 17

OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Env and Eco)

Conducive climate, beach this year: In February, large number of Olive Ridley turtles expected to lay eggs in Rushikulya

Context: Wildlife experts expect a higher number of Olive Ridley turtles, an endangered species, to lay eggs this year in the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha's Ganjam district.

Olive Ridley Turtles

- **Size and Abundance**: The Olive ridley turtles hold the title of being the smallest and most abundant among all sea turtles worldwide.
- **Characterized by**: Olive-colored carapace, are carnivores, deriving their name from this distinctive feature.
- **Arribada Mass Nesting**: Renowned for their remarkable behavior, Olive ridley turtles engage in Arribada, a unique mass nesting phenomenon where thousands of females converge on the same beach to lay eggs.
- **Habitat**: Warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans.
  - **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary**: Odisha's Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary stands out as the world's largest rookery, serving as a crucial breeding ground for these sea turtles.
- **Protection Status**
  - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**: Schedule 1.
  - **IUCN Red List**: Vulnerable.
  - **CITES**: Appendix I.

THE HINDU Page 4

JALLIKATTU

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Art and Culture)



Two people gored to death at Jalikattu event in T.N.

The Hindu Bureau
SIVAGANGA

Two spectators, including a minor boy, were gored to death by bulls near the venue of a bull-taming event held in Siravayal village near Tirupathur in Sivaganga district on Wednesday. More than 100 spectators were also injured.

As per the police, the bulls, which were outside the sporting venue, suddenly charged at the spectators. One of the animals gored Baskaran, 12, while another bull gored a man, identified as Manimuthu, 35. They were rushed to a hospital, but doctors declared them brought dead.

Jallikattu, known as "*manju virattu*" in the region, is traditionally held every year as part of Pongal celebrations. About 80 bull-tamers had registered 275 bulls for the event, according to organisers, who added that about 80,000 people had congregated at the sporting venue. The event was inaugurated by Minister K.R. Periakaruppan. MP Karti Chidambaram and MLA S. Mangudi, among others, were present.

The Nachiarpuram police have registered a case in the incident.

Context: Recently, two individuals, including a minor boy, were tragically gored to death in a jallikattu event.

Jallikattu

- **About:** The term Jallikattu is derived from the combination of two words - 'Calli' (coins) and 'Kattu' (tie), signifying a bundle of coins tied to the bull's horns.
- **Ancient Tradition**: Jallikattu, a competitive bull-taming sport in Tamil Nadu, boasts a history of 2,000 years. Participants aim to tame a bull for a prize, and failure results in the bull owner claiming the reward.
- **Cattle Breeds for Jallikattu**: Kangayam, Pulikulam, Umbalachery, Bargur, and Malai Maadu are among the native cattle breeds specifically raised for Jallikattu, showcasing the diversity in the sport's participants.
- **Historical References to Jallikattu**: The origins of Jallikattu can be traced back to a seal discovered at Mohenjodaro, dating between 2,500 BC and 1,800 BC. In ancient times, it was known as Eru Thazuval, meaning "embracing the bull."
- **Jallikattu in Tamil Epics:** Jallikattu finds mention in Silappadikaram, one of the great Tamil epics from the Sangam age, further emphasizing its deep-rooted cultural significance.

Controversy over Jallikattu

- **HC Verdict**: In 2006, a Madras High Court ruling prohibited the conduct of events such as rekla race and jallikattu, including safety concerns.
- **Tamil Nadu Regulation of Jallikattu Act (2009)**: The Tamil Nadu Regulation of Jallikattu Act was enacted in 2009 to introduce regulations and safety measures for the conduct of jallikattu.
- **Jallikattu and Mass Agitations in Tamil Nadu**: In Tamil Nadu was the Supreme Court's ban on jallikattu and similar sports involving animals, citing the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, in the landmark Welfare Board of India vs A. Nagaraja (2014) case.

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