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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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DTE

Jan 12

CABO VERDE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Places in news)

WHO certifies Cabo Verde malaria-free; third African country to do so



Context: The World Health Organization (WHO) has certified **Cabo Verde (also known as Cape Verde) as a malaria-free country,** becoming the third country to acquire the status in the global health organisation's African region.

Cabo Verde

- **About**: It is an archipelago and island country of West Africa in the central Atlantic Ocean
- **Bordered by**: Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, and Senegal.
- **Comprise**: Ten volcanic islands with a combined land area.
- **Capital**: Santiago

Malaria

- **About:** It is a life-threatening disease **caused by parasites** that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected **female Anopheles mosquitoes**.
  - Africa has the highest malaria burden and accounted for roughly 95 per cent of global malaria cases and 96 per cent of related deaths in 2021.
- **Two Other Malaria Free Countries**: Mauritius and Algeria.

WHO's Certification

- WHO's certification of Cabo Verde being **malaria-free is testament to the power of strategic public health planning**, collaboration, and sustained effort to protect and promote health
- The certification is WHO's official recognition of a country's malaria-free status.
- It is **granted after a country has demonstrated, using rigorous, credible evidence,** that the chain of indigenous malaria transmission by Anopheles mosquitoes has been disrupted nationwide for at least three consecutive years.
- A **country must also demonstrate the capacity to prevent the re-establishment of transmission**.

INDIAN EXPRESS Page 17

INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Syllabus GS Paper 3 – Environment/Disaster)

CHASING MONSOON FOR 150 YEARS

The story of India Meteorological Department's origin

ANJALI MARAR
BENGALURU, JANUARY 12

TWO MONSTROUS cyclones in 1864, one striking Kolkata and the other hitting the Andhra coast, killed more than one lakh people. The loss of lives in the Kolkata cyclone, possibly the most destructive one till then, alone was estimated to be over 80,000. Two years later, in 1866, India faced severe drought and famine, pushing scores of people into malnutrition and deaths by starvation.

Through events like these were not uncommon in India in those times, the severity of these particular calamities, more than anything else, exposed the lack of a system of monitoring atmospheric parameters and forewarning their changes. It is these events that triggered the eventual setting up of the India Meteorological Department, which on Monday, January 15, is entering its 150th year of existence.

Though meteorological observations were being made from several observatories at least from the 1850s, these were being done largely by amateurs or the disparate wings of the British colonial system, including the military and the survey office. The Asiatic Society of Bengal, which had been publishing some of these observations in its journal, was among the first to push for the setting up of a separate office. It was on January 15, 1875, that the IMD officially started functioning, employing the services of just one person, Englishman





(Left) IMD headquarters, New Delhi; H F Blanford, the first Imperial Meteorological Reporter, took charge on January 15, 1875.
Photos: 'Mausam' Years of Weather Service | IMD

Meteorological Reporter, to systematically study the climate and meteorology of India, and use this knowledge for weather forecasting and issuing cyclone warnings.

The IMD now has evolved into a massive organisation, running hundreds of permanent observatories and thousands of automatic weather stations across the country. While weather forecasting remains its main raison d'être, IMD now provides a variety of related specialised services that are sought by a vast range of agencies. Whether it is conducting events or mountaineering expeditions or organising a big function or a space launch, there is hardly any major activity that happens without the inputs of the IMD. These, apart from the several regular forecast and advisory services for agriculture, railways, airways and ships, power plants, fishing community, water management agencies and the like.

"Weather affects many of our activities, and it is not surprising that the IMD is now called upon to provide its services across several sectors. We are constantly upgrading our

from the office of the Election Commission of India (ECI)," Kelkar recalled.

Within a few days, Kelkar met with ECI officials and made a presentation. Since then, the dates of the general elections, and also other state elections, are invariably decided after taking inputs from the IMD.

M Rajeevan, a former Secretary with the Ministry of Earth Sciences and an expert on Indian monsoons, has a similar recollection. As per IMD records, October 28, 2008, remains a heavy rainfall day, following the onset of the northeast monsoon. It was also the day that India launched its first space mission to the moon, Chandrayaan-1. Rajeevan led the team that predicted favourable weather conditions over Sriharikota at the time of the launch.

"Due to the approaching northeast monsoon, frequent thunder events were being reported during the days leading to the launch date of Chandrayaan-1. Based on simple physics and the local weather forecast, that indicated light rainfall during morning hours and thunder post afternoon, my team assured ISRO of a thunder-free window at the time of the launch. As predicted, there was no thunder and the launch was successful. It rained while we were packing to leave later in the evening," Rajeevan said. ISRO rockets are rain-proof but strong winds and thunder are not conducive conditions for a launch.

One thing that has remained largely unchanged over the last 150 years is the IMD's quest to understand and predict Indian monsoon. The monsoon system has always been extremely complex, but under the impacts of climate change, it has become even more erratic and difficult to predict. The last 15 years have seen a major improvement in IMD's capabilities and it has shown up in its forecasts.

Kelkar said the obsession with the monsoon began with the start of the IMD, and early British meteorologists were flummoxed with what they experienced in their early days in India. "Experiencing it for the first time, the early British officers serving at the department were amazed by the monsoons. They wrote poetic and essay-like monsoon forecasts," he said.

IMD's first long-range monsoon forecast was made in 1886 and, quantitatively, was a good one. However, the most impactful successes of IMD have been in cyclone prediction, one of the main triggers for its establishment 150 years ago. Starting with the 2013 Phailin, the death toll from cyclones has come down to a minimal level. Earlier, cyclones these powerful would have easily killed thousands of people. The credit goes to IMD's forecasts, combined with efficient evacuation measures put in place by local administration.

Mohapatra, who specialises in cyclones and was posted in Bhubaneswar during the 1999 Odisha super cyclone, said that event was its lowest point as a meteorologist.

"But that was also the turning point for IMD's cyclone forecast capabilities. We made massive investments in time, manpower and technology, with the intent that something

Context: The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) recently marked the commencement of its 150th year, steadfast in its commitment to providing weather and climate services to the country.

India Meteorological Department

- **Establishment**: IMD was established in 1875 and serves as the National Meteorological Service of India.
- **Purpose**: It is the principal government agency for all matters related to meteorology and associated subjects.
- **Administrative Affiliation**: Operating under the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India, IMD functions as an agency dedicated to meteorological activities.
- **Headquarters**: IMD is headquartered in New Delhi, functioning as a central hub for meteorological operations.

Global Recognition:

- IMD is recognized as one of the six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres of the World Meteorological Organization.

Roles and Responsibilities

- IMD plays a crucial role in various sectors, **providing meteorological information and warnings for optimal functioning** in weather-sensitive activities.
- One of IMD's primary roles is **to conduct meteorological observations and offer current and forecasted information**. This supports activities such as agriculture, irrigation, shipping, aviation, and offshore oil explorations.
- IMD issues warnings against severe weather phenomena, including tropical cyclones, norwesters, dust storms, heavy rains, snow, cold and heat waves. These warnings aim to prevent destruction of life and property.
- **IMD contributes to various sectors by providing meteorological statistics** essential for agriculture, water resource management, industries, oil exploration, and other nation-building activities.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

Jan 12

ZERO DEFECT ZERO EFFECT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

Govt's ZED scheme for MSMEs hits 1 lakh certification milestone; check scheme's details

Context: Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) scheme by the MSME Ministry has achieved the 1 lakh certification milestone, the ministry said recently.

Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED)

- **About**: The ZED scheme offers environmentally conscious manufacturing certification with gold, silver, and bronze levels based on 20 performance parameters.
- **Launched in**: October 2016.
- **Revamped in**: April 2022 .
- **Aim**: To enhance MSME competitiveness, make them sustainable and transform them as National and International Champions.
- **Objectives of the ZED Scheme**
  - Create awareness about ZED manufacturing.
  - Motivate MSMEs for ZED rating assessment.
  - Drive manufacturing with Zero-Defect processes.
  - Emphasize environmental impact minimization (Zero Effect).
  - Encourage MSMEs to upgrade quality standards in products and processes.
  - Contribute to the "Make in India" campaign.
- **Applicability:** Currently applicable exclusively for manufacturing MSMEs.
- **MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification**: It is an extensive drive to create awareness amongst MSMEs about Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) practices and motivate & incentivise
- **Certification Levels: Level 1**: BRONZE, **Level 2**: SILVER, **Level 3**: GOLD

PIB Jan 12

CPGRAMS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Governance)

17th Report on States/Union Territories performance on CPGRAMS released by DARPG for the month of December, 2023

Context: The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) released the Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) 17th monthly report for States/UTs for December, 2023.

Key Points

- **Uttar Pradesh has received the maximum number of grievances** in December, 2023 with the number standing at 20,732 grievances.
- **15 States/UTs have received more than 1000 grievances** in the month of December, 2023. **Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat disposed the maximum number** of grievances in December, 2023, with the number standing at 22,874 and 4,687 grievances respectively.
- **16 States/UTs have disposed more than 1000 grievances** in the month of December, 2023.

Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)

- **About**: It is an online platform available to the citizens 24x7 to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery.
- **Connected**: It is a single portal connected to all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and States.
- **Accessible**: Every Ministry and States have role-based access to this system.
  - It is also accessible to the citizens through standalone mobile applications downloadable through Google Play store and mobile applications integrated with UMANG.
- **Tracking of Status**
  - The status of the grievance filed in CPGRAMS can be tracked with the unique registration ID provided at the time of registration of the complainant.
  - CPGRAMS also provides an appeal facility to the citizens if they are not satisfied with the resolution by the Grievance Officer.

TIMES OF INDIA

Jan 12

ARTICLE 30

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

SC: Article 30 on minority institutes not intended to ghettoise communities

Context: The Supreme Court's recent attempt aimed to strike a balance by remarking that the intent of Article 30 of the Constitution was not to recently ghettoise minorities by insisting they had the upper hand in administration of the institution.

Article 30

- **Right to Establish Educational Institutions:** All minorities, whether based on religion or language, have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- **Minority Educational Institutions: (1A)**: In the event of compulsory acquisition of property from a minority educational institution, the State must ensure that the amount fixed does not impede the rights guaranteed under clause (1).
- **Non-Discrimination in Granting Aid**: The State is prohibited from discriminating against any educational institution, managed by a minority based on religion or language, when providing aid to educational institutions.

Categories

- **Category 1**: Institutions that request both state recognition and financial assistance.
- **Category 2**: Institutions that request neither recognition nor financial assistance.
- **Category 3**: Institutions that do not request either recognition or financial assistance.
- **Objective**: To safeguard the educational rights of minority communities in India and uphold their freedom to preserve culture and language through education.

Features of Article 30

- Article 30 **safeguards the right of minority communities to establish and manage educational institutions** according to their preferences.
- Discrimination in admission to these institutions is explicitly prohibited under this article.
- The provision extends **to state funding or assistance for such institutions, ensuring they can claim rights and benefits** comparable to those granted to government-aided or government-operated institutions.
- These educational institutions, while **exercising their rights, are obligated to comply with state regulations**. These regulations, imposed in the interest of national security, public order, or morality, must be reasonable and non-discriminatory.

DTE Jan 12

HIMALAYAN WOLF
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

The first-ever IUCN assessment of the Himalayan Wolf is out. And it is grim

Context: The Himalayan Wolf has been assessed for the first time in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List.

Himalayan Wolf

- **Scientific name**: Canis lupus chanco
- **Habitat**: Found living in Ladakh in the Himalayas, the Tibetan Plateau,[9][10] and the mountains of Central Asia.
    - India has 227-378 mature individuals in its section of the Himalayas.
- **Characteristics**: The Himalayan wolf has a thick, woolly fur that is dull earthy-brown on the back and tail, and yellowish-white on the face, tummy, and limbs.
    - It has closely spaced black speckles on the muzzle, below the eyes, and on the upper cheeks and ears.
    - Larger than the Indian and common European wolves.
- **Threat**: Illegally hunted for trade in its fur and body parts including paws, tongues, heads, and other parts.
- **IUCN Status**: Vulnerable
- **CITES**: Appendix I

Suggestions to enhance the protection of Himalayan wolves

- Securing and restoring healthy wild prey populations and landscapes and setting aside wildlife habitat refuges;
- Improving livestock guarding methods, such as predator-proof corral pens and using sustainable livestock herding practices, including reduced livestock loads, adapted herding, and developing novel but tradition-based holistic management practices
- Management of feral dog populations
- Trans-boundary efforts in conservation of the species in range countries through research and monitoring.

PIB Jan 12

ANUBHAV AWARDS SCHEME
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Governance)

'ANUBHAV Awards Scheme, 2024'

Context: On the directions of the **Prime Minister of India, DOPPW had launched an online platform entitled 'Anubhav Portal'** for sharing experiences of retiring/retired Central Government employees while working with the Government.

ANUBHAV Award

- **About**: It is a means for retiring employees to showcase significant achievements made during their service period.
- It also provides them with an opportunity to convey **information related to contribution** in enhancing the effectiveness of the **various Government policies.**
- **Launch**: March 2015
- **Conferred by**: Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare
- **Objective**: It is envisaged that this culture of leaving notes by retirees will become the foundation stone of good governance and administrative reforms in future.
- **Categories**: 20.
- **Cash award**: Rs. 10,000/- a Medal.
- **ANUBHAV Awards Portal**: It provides a Platform to retiring Government Employees for sharing their experiences while working in different Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

Categories Covering Anubhav

S. No.	Area	S. No.	Area	S. No.	Area
1.	Accounts	8.	Learning from Failures	15.	Sharing of learning experience from other colleagues while in service
2.	Admin Work	9.	Public Dealing	16.	Sharing of experience where public safety was ensured
3.	Good Governance	10	Contribution to Field Work	17.	Sharing of initiatives taken where Govt. expenditure was saved or revenue augmented
4.	Government Process Re-engineering	11.	Development of Personal Traits while in service	18.	Initiatives taken to devise a corruption free system
5.	Information Technology	12.	Disclosure of Experience for the knowledge of others	19.	Innovative scheme/idea and how it was implemented
6.	Research	13.	Instances of great strength/valor/bravery	20.	Any other category decided by the Committee
7.	Simplification of Procedures	14.	Constructive feedback or suggestion to improve line of work retiree was part of		

ALL INDIA RADIO

Jan 12

AKASH MISSILE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

DRDO conducts successful flight-test of New GenerationAKASH missile from Chandipur in Odisha

Context: Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved a significant milestone with the successful flight-test of the New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

AKASH Missile

- **Indigenous Development**: Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as part of the Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).
- **Characteristics**: A mid-range surface-to-air anti-aircraft missile capable of supersonic speeds ranging from Mach 2.8 to 3.5, with nuclear capability.
- **Multi-Target:** A multi-target, multi-directional, all-weather air-defense system equipped with surveillance and tracking radars.
- **Propulsion System**: Powered by a Ramjet-rocket propulsion system.
- **Operational Range and Altitude**: Capable of engaging aerial threats up to a maximum range of 25 km and an altitude of 18 km, operating at speeds between 1.8 to 2.5 Mach.
- **Export Approval by Cabinet**: The Cabinet has granted approval for the export of the Akash missile.

Akash-NG Variant

- **About**: A new-generation Surface-to-Air Missile designed for use by the Indian Air Force.
- **Purpose**: Specifically designed to intercept high-maneuvering, low radar cross-section aerial threats. It features an advanced Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) multi-function radar combining search, track, and fire control functions.
- **Extended Range Capability**: While the earlier variant has a maximum range of 25-30 km, the Akash-NG variant can effectively strike targets up to 70 km.

THE HINDU Page 14

TB SURVEILLANCE MILESTONE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

At 25.37 lakh, India achieved record TB notifications in 2023

R. Prasad
CHENNAI

With 25,37,235 TB cases notified in 2023, India has bettered the TB notification number achieved in 2022. The number of TB cases notified in the public sector in 2023 stood at 16,99,119, while the number of TB cases notified by the private sector was 8,38,116. Whereas the TB notification by the public sector reached 93% of the target, it was 89% in the case of the private sector.

In 2022, India had notified 24,22,121 TB cases, which the India TB report 2023 remarked as a "milestone year for TB surveillance efforts in India, with a record high notification". TB case notification in 2022 was 13% more than what was achieved in 2021. Due to the pandemic, TB notifications fell sharply in 2020 and 2021.

Besides marking a record total TB notification, 2022 also recorded the highest ever TB case notification from the private sector – 7,33,694, which was 77.1% of the target notification. In 2023, the number of TB notifications from the private sector increased further to 8,38,116, with a record 89% of the target. But, despite the increase, it still accounts for only 33% of the total notifications in the country. Yet, the share of TB notifications by the private sector has been the highest ever achieved so far. In 2021, the share of TB notification by the private sector was 32%, which then decreased to 30% in 2022. However, TB notification by the private sector has been slowly but steadily increasing – 21% in 2017, 25% in 2018, 28% in 2019, and 31% in 2020.

The number of TB cases notified by the private sector has been woefully short of the targets set by the National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2022-2025. As per the target, the TB notification by the private sector was 35% in 2020, 45% in 2021, and 56% in 2022 and 2023. Even after achieving the highest TB notification of 33% in 2023, the notification by the private sector is yet to come anywhere close to the targets set by the NSP.

With 50% to 70% of TB patients in India seeking care in the private sector, the percentage of TB cases notified each year is small. This would mean that tens of thousands of TB cases in India are being missed each year. According to NSP, "close to 0.54 million TB patients remain uncaptured by TB surveillance/notification and services, and are likely in private health delivery systems or the community".

Context: With 25,37,235 TB cases notified in 2023, India has bettered the TB notification number achieved in 2022.

About Tuberculosis (TB)

- **About:** It is an infectious disease that most often affects the lungs and is **caused by a type of bacteria**.
- **Symptoms:** prolonged cough (sometimes with blood), chest pain, weakness, fatigue, weight loss, fever, and night sweats.
- **Caused by: bacteria** (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often affect the lungs, but can also attack any part of the body such as the kidney, spine, and brain.
- **Transmission: TB is highly contagious** and spreads from person to person through the air.
- **Treatment:** It is **curable and preventable.** TB can usually be treated with a course of **4 standard, or first-line, anti-TB drugs.**

KEY INITIATIVES TO COMBAT TB

- **India: National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP):** launched in 1997, aims at achieving universal access to TB diagnosis and treatment, **National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2017 - 2025**: to eliminate TB as a public health problem **by 2025 and NI-KSHAY- (Ni=End, Kshay=TB).**
- **Global**: **SDG Target 3.3** - By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, TB, malaria and neglected tropical diseases, and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases and **WHO End TB Strategy:** As compared with 2015, **80% reduction** in the TB incidence rate by 2030; **90% reduction** in the annual number of TB deaths by 2030; **No households** affected by TB **face catastrophic costs by 2020.**

HINDUSTAN TIMES Page 17

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Places in News)

Papua New Guinea capital quiet after emergency declared

Reuters

letters@hindustantimes.com

SYDNEY: Soldiers and police patrolled the quiet streets of Port Moresby on Friday as people joined long lines for fuel a day after Papua New Guinea declared a state of emergency in response to a massive outbreak of rioting and violence.

Prime Minister James Marape declared a 14-day state of emergency late on Thursday, suspending several officials and putting more than 1,000 soldiers on standby, after a police and public sector protest over pay on Wednesday descended into rioting and looting that killed at least 20 people.

The city had returned to a "new normal" on Friday morning, with police and soldiers on the streets and long lines at petrol stations, according to Matt Cannon, who heads the local branch of not-for-profit emergency responder service St John Ambulance.

"We're expecting the supermarkets that are functioning to reopen today and I'm hearing they have increased security to cater for potentially large numbers of people," Cannon said.

The unrest was sparked when police and other public servants went on strike on Wednesday over a pay cut that officials later blamed on an administrative glitch.

Within hours, thousands thronged the streets looting and rioting against a backdrop of smoke and burning buildings. A mob also tried to break through the gates outside the prime minister's office.

Fifteen people were killed in the rioting in the capital city Port Moresby and five were killed in Lae, in the country's north, according to Donald Yamasombi, deputy commissioner of specialist operations with the Papua New Guinea police. The death toll was earlier reported at 16.

Yamasombi said 700 police and 120 soldiers patrolled Port Moresby on Friday along with several hundred reservists.



Context: Recently, Papua New Guinea's prime minister declared a state of emergency, suspending government and police officials, in response to the tragic events that unfolded with the killing of 16 people during rioting in the Pacific island nation.

Papua New Guinea

- **Located**: Situated in the southwestern Pacific and encompasses the eastern half of New Guinea, the **world's second-largest island**, along with numerous smaller offshore islands.
- **Bounderd by**: Indonesia to the west,
  - Australia to the south,
  - and the Solomon Islan0ds to the southeast.
- **Capital**: The capital city is Port Moresby.
- **Terrain**: The terrain is predominantly mountainous, but there are low-lying plains in southern New Guinea.
- **Torres Strait**: It is also known as **Zenadh Kes**, is a strait between Australia and the Melanesian island of New Guinea.
- **Economy**: Copper and gold are the main mineral resources of the island.

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