the IAS hub
Be Your Dream.

AUGUST
13

CRUX10

10 News. 10 Sources. One Place.



THE HINDU
ET
BS
TOI
The Indian EXPRESS
livemint
pib
DownToEarth
FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
Science Reporter
सत्यमेव जयते
विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Table of Contents

1. Religious Conversion Laws
2. Corporate Tax In India
3. CPI-Based Inflation
4. Medical Device Policy 2022
5. China-Taiwan Issue
6. Essential Commodities Act
7. Indigenous Aircraft Carrier
8. Oldest Fossil Of A Radio Galaxy
9. World Elephant Day
10. Greywater Management

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 8

RELIGIOUS CONVERSION AND ANTI-CONVERSION LAWS IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social issues)

Himachal now brings a more stringent Bill on religious conversions

Offence may attract jail term between five and 10 years

AMIL BHATNAGAR
SHIMLA, AUGUST 12



Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur

IN THE final Vidhan Sabha session before the state heads for polls, Himachal Pradesh seeks to criminalise mass religious conversions. An amendment to the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act-2019 was tabled on the third day of the Monsoon Session. In the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill-2022, a provision has been added which deems conversion of two or more persons as mass conversion.

The Jai Ram Thakur government said the initial Act was introduced to promote freedom of religion by prohibition of conversion from one religion to another through coercion, misrepresentation or fraudulent means. However, no provisions for mass conversions were given in the Act. The amendment seeks to establish mass conversion within the same Act and with stringent punishment for the same.

Section 3 of the Freedom Act states, "No person shall convert or attempt to convert, either directly or otherwise, any other person from one religion to another by use of misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, inducement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage."

The Amendment Bill will be defining conversion of two or more persons at the same time as mass conversion. "Provided further that whosoever contravenes the provisions of Section 3 in respect of mass conversion shall be punished with imprisonment for a term, which shall not be less than five years, but which may extend to ten years," reads the Amendment Bill. The person accused of carrying out mass conversions will also be liable for a fine upto Rs 1.5 lakh.

If a person is found to be accused of a second offence of the same nature, the quantum of prison may extend to a minimum of seven years and a maximum of ten years.

The Bill further provides that if a person conceals his religion while marrying someone from another religion, he/she shall be punished with imprisonment for a term, which shall not be less than three years, but which may extend to ten years. The person will also be liable to a fine which shall not be less than Rs 50,000 and also may extend to Rs 1 lakh.

The initial Act provided that a person converting to another religion out willingly shall give notice to the office of District Magistrate a month in advance. Any violation of the same would be deemed a punishable offence. An addition to the clause has been added which states that any person who makes a false declaration or continues to draw the benefit of his parent religion or caste even after conversion shall be punished to not less than two years or extended to five years of imprisonment.

Earlier the DM would authorise an inquiry into allegations of conversions. In the amendment, a police Sub-Inspector level officer will be authorised to carry out an investigation in the conversion case. The offence under this Act is non-bailable and the accused will be tried by the Court of Sessions, the Bill states.

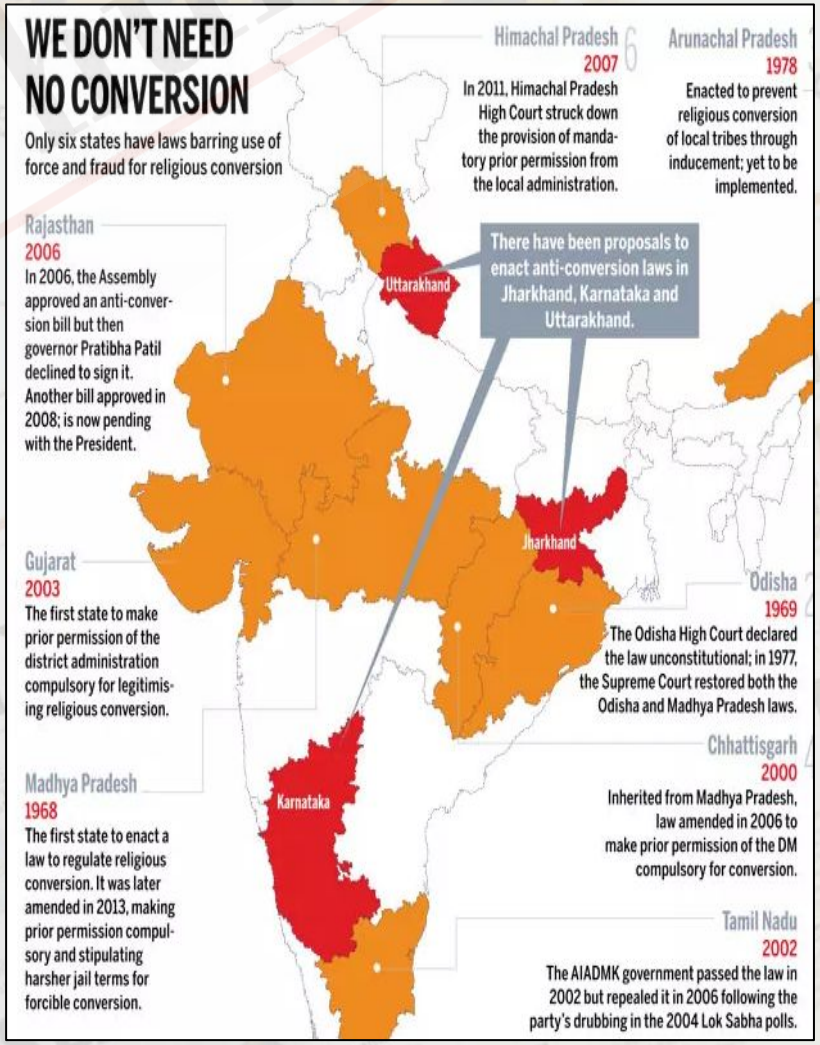
Context: Himachal Pradesh seeks to criminalise mass religious conversions.

Status of Anti-Conversion Laws in India

- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 25 guarantees the freedom to profess, propagate, and practise religion, and allows all religious sections to manage their own affairs in matters of religion; subject to public order, morality, and health.
- **Existing Laws**: There has been no central legislation restricting or regulating religious conversions.

Supreme Court Judgements on Marriage and Conversion

- Hadiya Judgement 2017: Neither the State nor the law can dictate a choice of partners or limit the free ability of every person to decide on these matters.
- **Lily Thomas and Sarla Mudgal case**: Religious conversions carried out without a bona fide belief and for the sole purpose of deriving some legal benefit do not hold water.
- **Salamat Ansari-Priyanka Kharwar case of Allahabad High Court 2020:** The right to choose a partner or live with a person of choice was part of a citizen's fundamental right to life and liberty (Article 21).



INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 17

CORPORATE TAX IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Corporate tax mop-up rises 34% in first 4 mths of FY23

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

CORPORATE TAX collections grew 34 per cent during the current financial year till July 31, the Finance Ministry said Friday, without detailing the absolute figures of the revenue collections.

"The corporate tax collections during FY 2022-23 (till 31st July, 2022) register a robust growth of 34% over the corporate tax collections in the corresponding period of FY 2021-22 @FinMinIndia," the Income Tax Department said in a series of tweets.

During 2021-22, corporate tax collections stood at Rs 7.23 lakh crore, a growth of over 58 per cent from 2020-21, it said. "Even when compared to collections of FY 2018-19 (pre-COVID period), the collections of FY 2021-22 are higher by over 9 per cent. The positive trend of growth continues, but for the overall impact of the COVID-19 pandemic during FY2020-21, when the corporate tax collections took a temporary hit," it said.

This indicates that the "simplified tax regime with low rates and no exemptions has lived up to its promise", it said.

As per data released by the Controller General of Accounts, the corporate tax collections stood at Rs 1.46 lakh crore in April-July of the previous financial year. As per latest government data, in April-June, the government collected Rs 1.61 lakh crore as corporate tax, up 29.84 per cent year-on-year.

Earlier in the day, some opposition leaders pointed to revenue loss through corporate tax cut and linked it to the ongoing debate of distribution of freebies by political parties.

Under the new regime introduced in September 2019, the corporate tax rate for all existing companies was cut to 22 per cent (without surcharge and cess) from 30 per cent earlier. A tax rate of 15 per cent was announced under Section 115BAB for newly incorporated domestic companies, which make fresh investment by March 31, 2023, for manufacturing, production, research or distribution of such articles or things manufactured. This was extended by one year in this year's Budget to March 31, 2024.

APR-JUL OF LAST FISCAL

₹1.46L cr

As per data released by the Controller General of Accounts, the corporate tax collections stood at Rs 1.46 lakh crore in April-July of the previous financial year

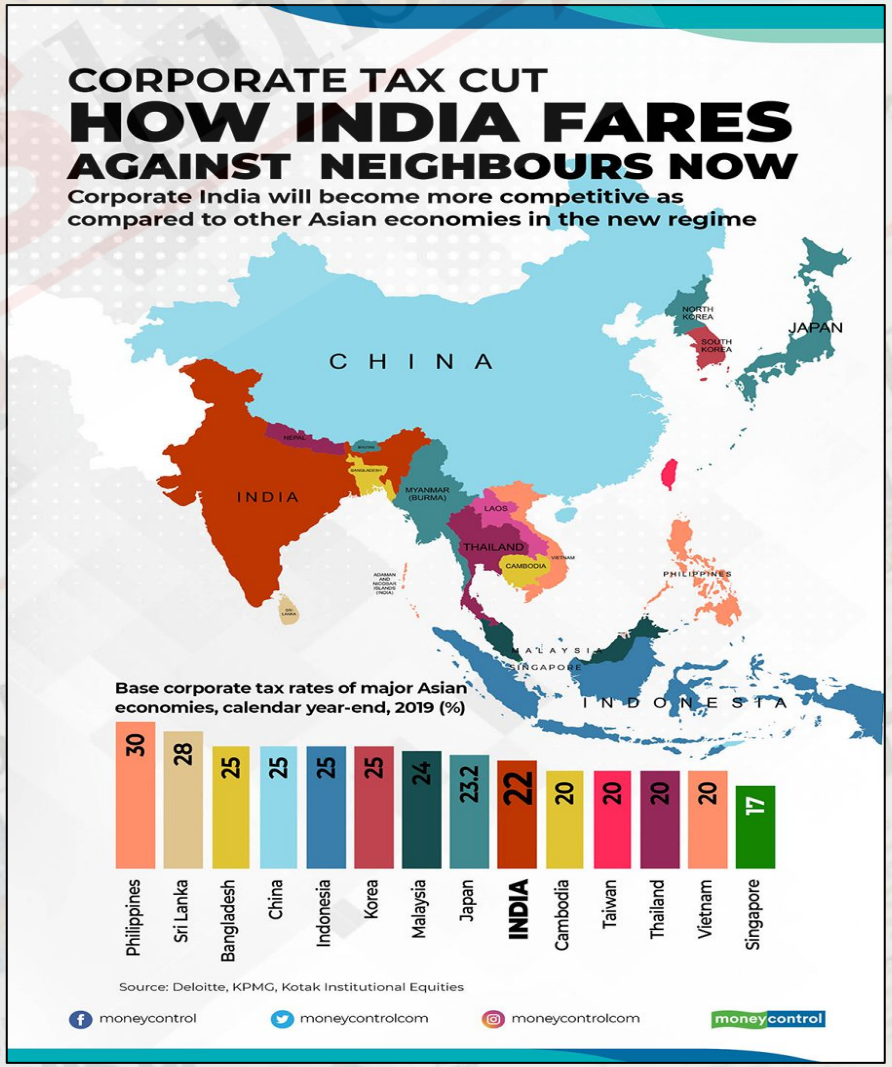
Context: During 2021-22, corporate tax collections stood at Rs 7.23 lakh crore, a growth of over 58 per cent from 2020-21.

Corporation Tax

- The tax which is levied on the income of the domestic and foreign companies that arose in India.
- It is levied on both the public and private companies registered under the Companies Act of 2013.
- The rate at which the tax is imposed as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 is known as the Corporate Tax Rate.

Corporate tax in India:

- **Under the new regime introduced in September 2019,** the corporate tax rate for all existing companies was cut to **22 per cent** (without surcharge and cess) from 30 per cent earlier.
- A **tax rate of 15 per cent was announced under Section 115BAB** for newly incorporated domestic companies, which make fresh investment by March 31, 2023, for manufacturing, production, research or distribution of such articles or things manufactured. This was extended by one year in this year's Budget to March 31, 2024.



LIVEMINT Page 14

CPI-BASED INFLATION
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

CPI-based inflation eases to five-month low in July

FROM PAGE 18

per barrel on Friday and have declined by 20% over the last two months, amid recession fears and declining demand.

Vivek Rathi, director of research at Knight Frank India, said that the increase in fuel inflation despite government measures to curb fuel prices is a concerning factor.

"Currently, international crude and commodity prices have corrected; this should further soften inflation in India in the coming months. However, rupee depreciation which increases the import costs and the fall in crop yields due to uneven monsoon this year poses a near-term risk to inflation in India," Rathi added.

Annual inflation in FY22 slowed to 5.5% from 6.2% in the previous year.

After rising 20% since the start of 2022, global food prices have fallen about 10% since early June.

India's wholesale inflation has been over 15% for three straight months up to June.

Context: Retail inflation in India dropped below the 7% mark for the first time in four months.

Consumer Price Index

- **It measures price changes from the perspective of a retail buyer.**
- **It is released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).**
- **It calculates the difference in the price of commodities and services such as food, medical care, education, electronics etc, which Indian consumers buy for use.**
- **It has several sub-groups including food and beverages, fuel and light, housing and clothing, bedding and footwear.**
- **Four types of CPI::**
  - **CPI for Industrial Workers (IW):** compiled by the Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
  - **CPI for Agricultural Labourer (AL):** compiled by the Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
  - **CPI for Rural Labourer (RL):** compiled by the Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
  - **CPI (Rural/Urban/Combined):** compiled by the NSO in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- **Base Year:** 2012.
- **The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** uses CPI data to control inflation.
- **In April 2014, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** had adopted the CPI as its key measure of inflation.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)	Wholesale Price Index (WPI)
It measures the change in the retail prices of goods and services	It measures change in price of goods charged by whole seller.
CPI releases on a monthly basis.	WPI releases on a weekly basis
CPI includes both goods and services.	WPI includes only goods.
It includes about eight categories of products and services.	It includes primary articles, fuel & power and manufactured goods.
Base year is calendar year.	Base year here is Financial Year.
It calculates the final stage of inflation.	It measures inflation in the first stage
CPI is of importance to the general public	WPI is of importance to those who keep track of wholesale prices.

LIVEMINT Page 16

MEDICAL DEVICE POLICY 2022

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

Centre set to send medical device policy for final nod

Priyanka Sharma
priyanka.sharma@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

The Department of Pharmaceuticals will shortly circulate a draft note of the proposed new Medical Device Policy 2022 for cabinet approval that will seek to turn India into a global manufacturing hub for medical devices.

All stakeholder consultations have been completed and the government think tank NITI Aayog has asked the department to prepare a mechanism to attract venture capital funding and drive local production of medical devices.

The aim is to make medical devices one of the champion sectors and boost India's 10-12% share of the global medical devices industry.

The draft note envisages that by 2047, India will be among the top five global manufacturing hubs in terms of value and technology for medical devices, and it will emerge as a champion in critical components, cancer diagnostics, medical imaging and ultrasonic scans among others. India now ranks among the world's top 20 global medical devices market, and is the 4th largest medical devices market in Asia after Japan, China, and South Korea.

"We have received remarks from all the stakeholders and departments. They have accepted and supported the policy also. So, we have got a very good response from all the people," said an official aware of the matter requesting anonymity. "In fact, NITI Aayog has told the Department of Pharmaceuticals to raise the capacity of domestic manufacturing by exploring venture capital and private equity," the official said.

Context: The Department of Pharmaceuticals will shortly circulate a draft note of the proposed new Medical Device Policy 2022 for cabinet approval that will seek to turn India into a global manufacturing hub for medical devices.

Draft National Policy for the Medical Devices, 2022

- **Building Competitiveness through fiscal and financial support** for stimulating the development of the local manufacturing ecosystem with private sector investments.
- **Incentivise core technology projects** and exports through tax refunds and rebates.
- **Adopt Public-private partnerships** to reduce the cost of healthcare and drive efficiency.
- **Create a single-window clearance system** for licensing medical devices.
- **Identify critical suppliers** and promote local sourcing.
- **Encourage cross-industry** collaboration.
- **Increase the share of medical technology** companies in research and development to around 50%.
- **A dedicated fund for encouraging joint research** involving existing industry players, reputed academic institutions and startups.
- **Incorporate a framework for a coherent pricing regulation** to make available quality and effective medical devices to all citizens at affordable prices.



THE HINDU Page 1

CHINA-TAIWAN ISSUE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - international relations)

Avoid unilateral action to alter Taiwan status quo, says India

New Delhi calls for de-escalation of tensions

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India on Friday called for "restraint" over Taiwan and cautioned against "any unilateral action to change the status quo", while maintaining that its position on the 'One China' policy has been "well known and consistent" that doesn't need any reiteration.

At the weekly press briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said: "Like many other countries, India too is concerned at the recent developments. We urge the exercise of restraint, avoidance of unilateral actions to change status quo, de-escalation of tensions and efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region."

Dire straits

- U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi arrives in Taiwan on August 2 despite China's strong opposition
- China begins military drills on August 4 in six regions around Taiwan, practically enforcing a naval and air blockade in these regions
- Chinese vessels and jets cross the median line of the Taiwan Strait and its missiles fly over Taiwan
- In response, Taiwan launches its own military exercises after China wraps up its live drills



Peace at risk: China conducting a missile test near Taiwan. ▪ REUTERS

India is concerned at the recent developments. We urge the exercise of restraint
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

India had maintained a studied silence on the situation as China held military drills near Taiwan after U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to the island. China has halted the drills but announced that its "war preparation" would continue. As the crisis intensified, China stepped up global diplomacy and reached out to countries in southeast and south Asia, seeking support for its 'One China' policy. A spokesperson of the Embassy of China here earlier had said that 170 countries had supported the 'One China' policy and that China would not "renounce" the option of force in dealing with Taiwan.

Asked about India's position on the 'One China' policy, Mr. Bagchi said: "India's relevant policies are well known and consistent. They do not require reiteration."

The official comments from the Indian side also reflected New Delhi's disappointment over the "technical hold" that China placed on the listing for Jaish-e-Mohammed leader Abdul Rauf Asghar at the UN Security Council on August 11. Mr. Bagchi described the Chinese move as "unfortunate" and "most uncalled for".

India's strong position against terrorism found special resonance because of the latest terror attack in Rajouri that led to the death of four soldiers.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Context: India called for "restraint" over Taiwan and cautioned against "any unilateral action to change the status quo.



India's stand on the Taiwan Issue

- Since 1949, **India has accepted the One China policy** that accepts Taiwan and Tibet as part of China.
- **India uses the policy to make a diplomatic point**: If India believes in "One China" policy, China should also believe in a "One India" policy.

India-Taiwan relations

- **India's Act East Foreign Policy:** to cultivate extensive ties with Taiwan in trade and investment as well as developing co-operation in science & technology, environment issues and people-to-people exchange.
- India-Taipei Association (ITA) and Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre (TECC) in New Delhi.
- India and Taiwan **do not have formal diplomatic relations**
- Since 1995, both sides have maintained representative offices in each other's capitals that function as de facto embassies.

THE HINDU Page 10

ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Essential Commodities Act invoked to rein in tur dal price

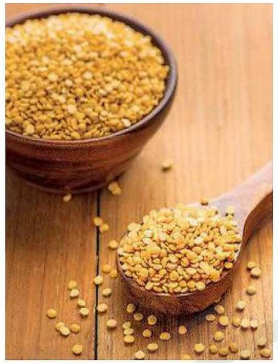
States to monitor and verify stocks available with traders

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

With tur dal prices surging since mid-July and reports coming in of some traders creating artificial supply squeeze by restricting sales, the Centre has invoked the Essential Commodities Act of 1955 to ask States to monitor and verify the stocks available with such traders.

The directive issued on August 12, 2022, came hours before the Retail inflation numbers for July are released. Consumer price inflation has been over 7% since April, and had moderated slightly to 7.01% in June.

Tur dal prices have risen since mid-July amid slow progress in kharif sowing as compared to last year due to excess rainfalls and water logging conditions in parts of major tur dal growing



The Consumer Affairs Department says it is watching stocks of pulses.

States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, the Department of Consumer Affairs has noted.

"On top of the sufficient overall availability of pulses in the domestic market, the government is currently holding about 38 lakh tonnes of pulses which are being released in the market to further augment the stocks available in the market," the Department said, stressing that it is closely watching the availability and prices of pulses in the domestic as well as overseas markets to take pre-emptive steps if there is any unwarranted price rise in the upcoming months.

States and Union Territories have also been asked to direct 'stockholder entities to upload the data of stocks held by them' on an online monitoring portal of the Department of Consumer Affairs, on a weekly basis. The government hopes the move will rein in attempts by some sections of traders and stockists to push the price for tur dal upwards, by resorting to 'restricted sales' and creating an artificial scarcity.

Context: The Centre has invoked the Essential Commodities Act of 1955 to ask States to monitor and verify the stocks available with traders.

Essential Commodities Act, 1955

- **To regulate** the production, supply and distribution of a whole host of commodities it declares 'essential' in order to make them available to consumers at fair prices.
- **The list of items** under the Act include drugs, fertilisers, pulses and edible oils, and petroleum and petroleum products.
- **The Centre can include new commodities** as and when the need arises, and take them off the list once the situation improves.
- **Under the Act, the government can also fix the maximum retail price (MRP)** of any packaged product that it declares an "essential commodity".

Historic Amendment to Essential Commodities Act 1/2

- Visionary step towards transformation of **agriculture and raising farmers' income**
- India has achieved near self-sufficiency in many **essential food items**
- However, farmers have been unable to realise better prices due to lack of investment in **cold storage, processing and export**
- Entrepreneurial sprit dampened due to stringent provisions of **Essential Commodities Act**
- Farmers suffer huge losses when there are **bumper harvests of perishable commodities**
- With adequate processing facilities, **much of this wastage can be reduced**

Key Features:

- **Cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes** to be removed from list of essential commodities
- Will **remove fears of private investors** of excessive regulatory interference
- Freedom to produce, hold, move, distribute and supply will lead to **harnessing economies of scale**
- Help attract private sector/foreign direct **investment in agriculture sector**
- Will help drive investment in cold storages and modernisation of **food supply chain**

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 20

INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Indigenous technology and out-of-the-box thinking has been the story behind India's IAC

Vikrant: The Making Of A Leviathan



INS Vikrant during sea trials

AnanthaNarayanan.K
@timesgroup.com

In its very first sea trial last August, INS Vikrant achieved the top speed of 28 knots, a rarity for a defence vessel its size and power anywhere in the world, yet, at a certain point, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) had been in real danger of being left high and dry. In nautical parlance, they call it 'hall slaughtering'.

The incident happened in the lead-up to the ship's official launch in 2013. Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), the ship's builders, wanted a functional launch, one that would see the 45,000-tonne leviathan slide effortlessly from dry dock into the water. But the Navy wanted the frills as well — what's an aircraft carrier without its ski-jump (the curving, elevated portion of the flight deck used to launch fighter jets), they asked, and rightly so.

The ski-jump would mean an extra 330 tons and, as it were, the Kochi dry dock could just about take the ship's bare-bones weight. There was a real possibility that the ship wouldn't budge, or its hull could be damaged. The project's Russian consultants said they could find a solution but demanded a prohibitive price. Left with no choice, the CSL's engineers improvised — they put together a buoyancy pontoon (huge steel balloons that from either side provided ballast to lift the ship) and it worked just fine. "CSL designed the special pontoon and simulated it several times. The Russians were dumbstruck. We had combined available technology and some out-of-the-box thinking," said NV Suresh Babu, former director (operations) of CSL and a current adviser to the shipyard.

A mix of indigenous technology and lateral thinking has been the story behind the building of India's IAC that started formally in 2004 and ended on July 28 when the ship was handed over to the Navy.

The IAC, to be commissioned in the Indian Navy as INS Vikrant, is 262m-long, or the size of two football fields, and is the biggest ship built in India. When the project contract was first awarded to CSL, a commercial shipyard that had no experience in making a warship, there was scepticism. "Now we are one of the very few shipbuilders who have built an aircraft carrier and that earns a lot of respect to all," said Madhu S Nair, chairman and managing director of CSL.

TRIAL AND ERROR

Conceived in the late 1990s, it was the first time a project of such magnitude was being implemented in India. The only experience CSL had with defence vessels was the repair and refits of INS Viraat. However, CSL's experience in building large tankers and bulk carriers was an advantage.

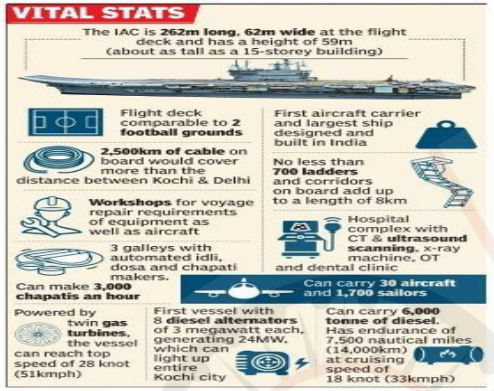
Another challenge was procuring steel as IAC is the first ship to be built in India using indigenously developed special-grade high tensile steel (DMR 249). The initial plan was to procure it from Russia. Later, the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory developed the steel indigenously and Steel Authority of India Limited produced nearly 22,000 tonne.

IAC has the most complex integrated platform management systems (IPMS), considered the brain that keeps the vessel 'alive', ever built in India. Due to its complexity, CSL and Navy decided to do an integrated trial of IPMS before integrating it into the ship. The trial was held at the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited complex in Bengaluru in 2015. "The very first test failed miserably. The team went back to the drawing board and completed the second trial successfully. If the trial had not been held before integration, it could have been much more complex to resolve," said Anish S, CSL's deputy manager who played a key role in developing the IAC's IPMS.

MILES TO GO...

Nair said it took a while for everyone to start believing that CSL could actually do the project but the result has borne them out. "It may not be the biggest carrier but we can proudly say IAC is the best carrier in terms of technology, systems etc. It completed all five sea trials with exemplary performance. I would not say we have done everything correctly. But there is a first time for everything. We could easily make another IAC in around 7-8 years," Madhu Nair said.

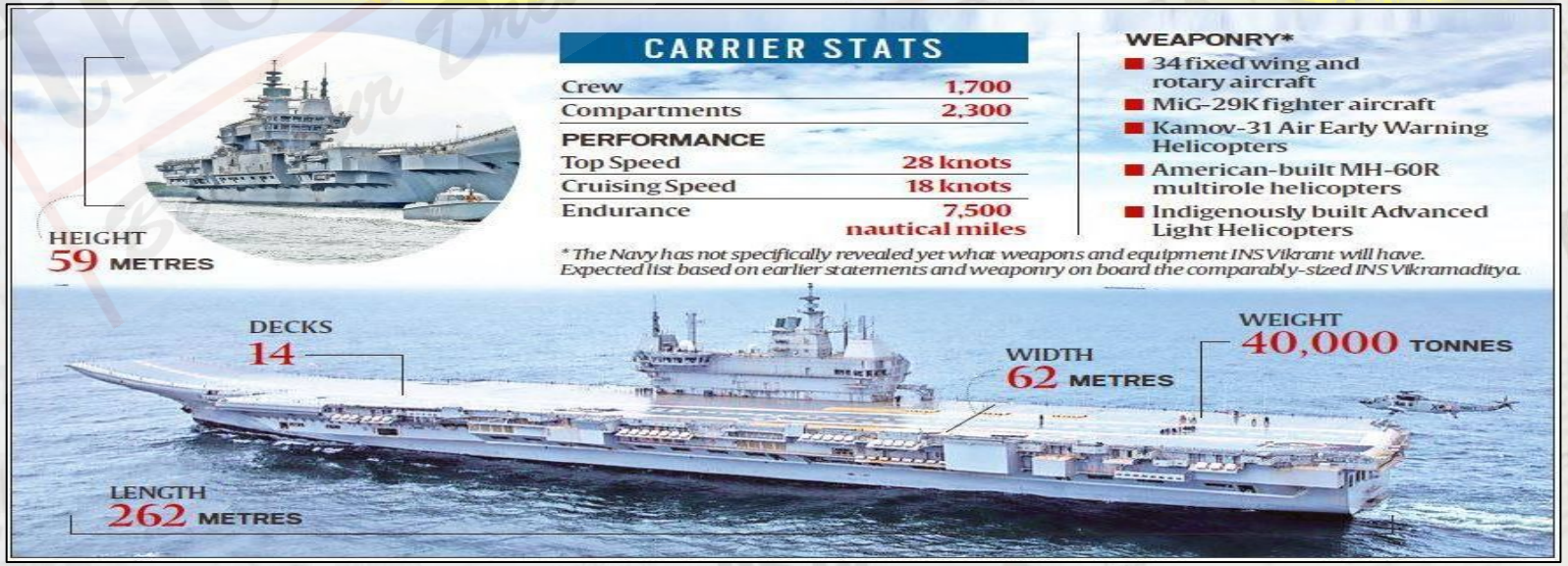
VITAL STATS



Context: In its very first sea trial last August, INS Vikrant achieved the top speed of 28 knots, a rarity for a defence vessel its size and power anywhere in the world.

Indigenous Aircraft Carrier

- Recently, the **Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) 1**, which is called INS Vikrant.
- In order to commemorate the legacy of INS Vikrant (decommissioned), the First IAC is named as INS Vikrant.
- **An aircraft carrier** is "a large ship that carries military aircraft and has a long, flat surface where they take off and land."
- **INS Vikrant (decommissioned):** Beginning with INS Vikrant which served India from 1961 to 1997.
- **INS Viraat (decommissioned):** INS Vikrant was followed by the Centaur-class carrier HMS (Her Majesty's Ship) Hermes, which was rechristened in India as INS Viraat and served in the Indian Navy from 1987 to 2016.
- **INS Vikramaditya**: It is the Indian Navy's largest aircraft carrier and warship converted from the Russian Navy's decommissioned Admiral Gorshkov/Baku.



DOWN TO EARTH

August 13

THE OLDEST FOSSIL REMNANT OF A RADIO GALAXY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Astronomers find extremely aged remnant of galaxies that influence universe's evolution

A team of Indian astronomers from Pune claimed the remnants belonged to galaxies formed 260 million years ago, a record in itself

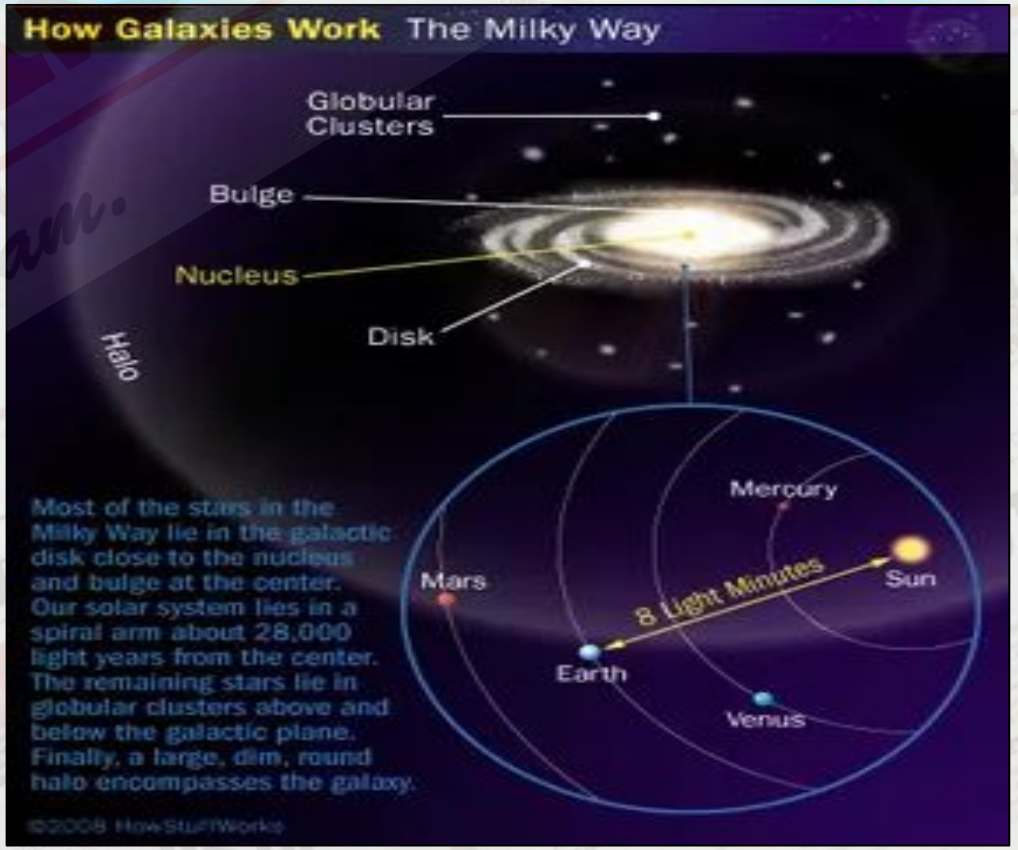
Context: A team of Indian astronomers have discovered extremely aged remnant fossil 'lobes' of a radio galaxy that had become active about 260 million years ago.

Key Points

- The scientists claimed it was the oldest fossil remnant of a radio galaxy found till date.
- Such fossils contained information of how radio galaxies influenced the course of evolution of our universe.

Galaxy

- It is a **sprawling space system** which is composed of stars, dust, interstellar gas, stellar remnants, and dark matter and all held together by gravity.
- The solar system where our earth exists is in the **Milky Way Galaxy.**
- **Three types of galaxies:**
  - **Elliptical Galaxies:** These type of galaxies are like flattened balls of old stars and contain very little gas. It also includes the most massive galaxies containing a trillion stars.
  - **Spiral Galaxies:** They have a flattened shape, a bulge in the centre composed of old stars surrounded by a disk of young stars and are arranged in spiral arms.
  - **Irregular Galaxies:** They have no particular shape. There are billions of galaxies in the universe, the centre of the galaxy releases a huge amount of heat, radiation, radio waves and x-rays.



PIB

August 13

WORLD ELEPHANT DAY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Environment & Ecology)

PM lauds the efforts of Elephant conservationists on World Elephant Day

PM expresses happiness upon rise in the number of elephant reserves in the last 8 years

Posted On: 12 AUG 2022 11:03AM by PIB Delhi

Context: The Prime Minister has lauded the efforts of Elephant conservationists on the occasion of World Elephant Day.

Current Data on Elephants in India:

- India is home to approximately around **27,000 Asian Elephants**, which is the world's largest population of the species.
- **Elephant Census (2017)**: Karnataka has the highest number of elephants (6,049), followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054).

Asian Elephants:

- **Three subspecies of Asian elephant** which are the Indian, Sumatran and Sri Lankan.
- **Indian subspecies has the widest range** and accounts for most of the remaining elephants on the continent.
- **Elephant herd is led** by the oldest and largest female member (known as the matriarch)
- **Longest-known gestational** (pregnancy) period of all mammals, lasting up to 680 days (22 months).
- **Females between 14 - 45** years may give birth to calves approximately every four years.

Protection Status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**: Schedule I.
- **CITES**: Appendix I

Conservation efforts

- **Project Elephant:** A centrally sponsored scheme and was launched in February 1992 for the protection of elephants, their habitats and corridors.
    - **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change provides financial and technical support** to major elephant range states in the country through the project.
- **Right of passage:** Supreme Court (SC) upheld the 2011 order of the Madras High Court (HC) on the Nilgiris elephant corridor, affirming the **right of passage of the animals** and the closure of resorts in the area.

DOWN TO EARTH

August 13

GREYWATER MANAGEMENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Environment & Ecology)

75 years of people's power: Jharkhand district modifies leach pits to tackle grey water

Pits in Sahibganj district raised to counteract frequent floods, shallow groundwater

NEXT NEWS >

By Sushmita Sengupta, Swati Bhatia
Published: Friday 12 August 2022



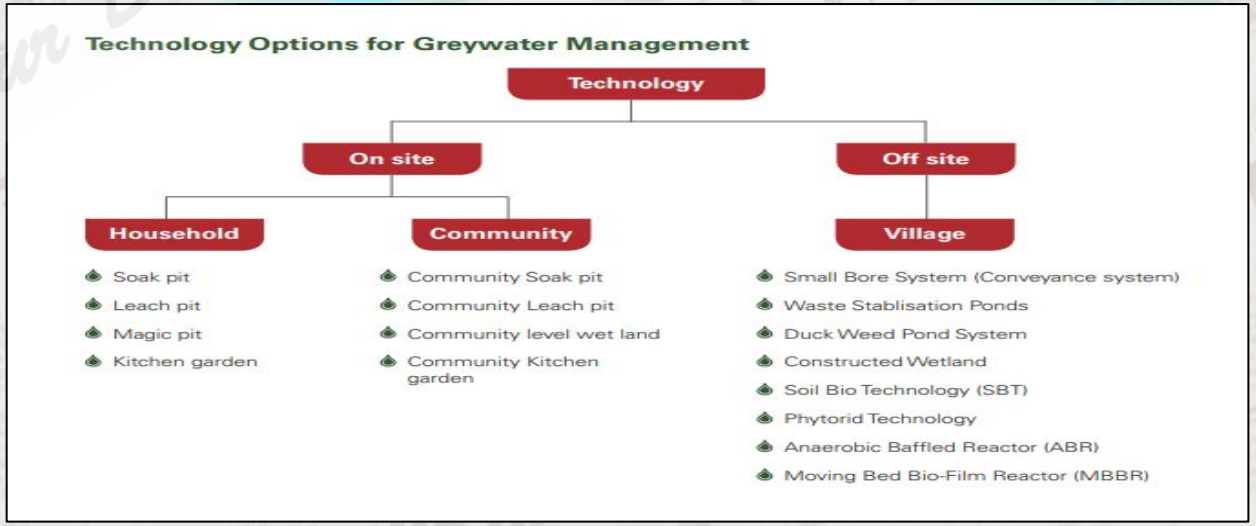
Sujalam 2.0 Campaign

- This campaign has been launched for **greywater management**.
- **The theme for this campaign**: 'Groundwater: making the invisible visible' is the theme for this campaign.
- **Objective of this campaign**
- Managing greywater through the participation of the people.
- Pans to mobilize communities such as schools, panchayats, and anganwadis to help in greywater management.
- **Funding of this campaign:** Funds will be provided from the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin Phase II or through grants under the 15th Finance Commission as well as the MGNREGS or through the convergence between all of them.

Context: The villages in the hilly areas manage their grey water through leach pits at the household and community levels.

Grey water

- **It is defined as wastewater** that is produced from household processes (e.g. washing dishes, laundry and bathing).
- **It can contain harmful bacteria** and even faecal matter that contaminates soil and groundwater.
- **India does not have a focused policy framework for management and usage of grey water** in urban and rural areas.
- The Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) has **specified permitted discharge standards for treated water**; use of treated wastewater in agriculture and horticulture (MoHUA, 2012).
- **The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB, 2000) directs** that treated wastewater can be used as a source of artificial ground water recharge once it meets standards and is compatible with existing groundwater.



THANK YOU!

t.me/theiashub

/mkyadav

www.theiashub.com/daily-quiz

9560082909