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MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

1. Fund of Funds for Startups
2. Miniratna Status
3. Ranganath Misra Commission
4. Community Forest Resource
5. CGH Scheme
6. UNCTAD
7. 5th India-UK HAD
8. Chicago Convention
9. CCAMLR
10. West Bank

ECONOMIC TIMES
Page 11

FUND OF FUNDS FOR STARTUPS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Sidbi's FFS to Invest ₹100 crore in Early-stage Fund pi Ventures

Fund eyes seed, pre-Series A and Series-A bets

Our Bureau

Bengaluru: Early-stage venture capital fund pi Ventures on Wednesday said it has received a commitment of ₹100 crore ($12.2 million) for its second fund from Small Industries Development Bank of India's (Sidbi) equity scheme Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS).

The fresh capital is about 2.5 times what Sidbi's FFS had invested in the first fund, the statement added.

The announcement comes two weeks after the Bengaluru-based firm, which focuses on artificial intelligence and deeptech-based businesses, raised ₹22 crore from Belgium's Colruyt Group for the same fund. While pi Ventures partner Manish Singhal declined to reveal exactly how much of the targeted corpus has been achieved, he said it is near its final close. The second fund was launched in March 2021 with a final target corpus of ₹750 crore.

The statement added that pi Ventures will continue to focus on the early stages of seed, pre-Series A and Series A investments via this fund. The fund will continue to focus on AI and other forms of deep-tech across sectors, including blockchain, space-tech, biotech and material sciences, among others.

Pi Ventures had announced the first close of the second round in January 2022 with ₹303.5 crore ($40 million) raised from venture capital firm Accel, entrepreneurs, high net worth individuals and family offices.



pi Ventures continue to focus on the early stages of seed, pre-Series A and Series-A investments through this fund

The fund will continue to focus on AI and other forms of deep-tech across sectors

The fresh capital is about 2.5 times what Sidbi's FFS had invested in the first fund

Context: Early-stage venture capital fund pi Ventures on Wednesday said it has received a commitment of ₹100 crore ($12. 2 million) for its second fund from **Small Industries Development Bank of India's (Sidbi) equity scheme Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS).**

Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)

- **About**: Fund of Funds is a **mutual fund scheme** that invests in other schemes of mutual funds.
  - The Fund of Funds invests in other mutual fund schemes.
  - It can be **domestic as well as overseas.**
- **Objectives**: FFS has been playing a monumental role in **mobilizing domestic capital** in the Indian startup ecosystem.
  - FFS was announced with a **corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore.**
  - Under FFS, support is extended to **SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs),** which in turn invest in startups.
- **Nodal Agency: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** is responsible for operationalising the Scheme.
- **Budgetary support**: The corpus is to be built up over **14th and 15th Finance Commission Cycles** (FY 2016-2020 and FY 2021-2025) through budgetary support by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- **Growth**: The amount committed under FFS has seen a notable growth over the years **recording a CAGR of over 21% since the launch of the Scheme.**

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

- **About**: It is the **apex regulatory body for overall licensing and regulation** of micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies in India.
  - The SIDBI was established on April 2, **1990**, by Government of India, as a wholly owned subsidiary of IDBI Bank .
  - It was delinked from IDBI w.e.f. March 27, 2000.
- **Nodal Ministry**: It is under the jurisdiction of **Ministry of Finance,** Government of India headquartered at Lucknow and having its offices all over the country.
- **All India Financial Institutions**: SIDBI is one of the four All India Financial Institutions **regulated and supervised by the Reserve Bank of India**; other three are India Exim Bank, NABARD and NHB.
  - But recently NHB came under government control by taking more than 51% stake.

PIB

April 13

MINIRATNA STATUS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Solar Energy Corporation of India gets 'Miniratna Category-I' status

Context: Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) has been accorded the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)

- **About**: Solar Energy Corporation of India ltd" (SECI) is a **CPSU** under the administrative control of the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, set up on 20th Sept, 2011.
- **Objective**: It was set up to facilitate the **implementation of National Solar Mission (NSM)** and achievement of targets set therein. It is the only CPSU dedicated to the solar energy sector.
    - It is engaged in **promotion and development of various renewable energy resources,** especially solar energy, trading of power, R&D etc.
- **Mandate:** The mandate of the company has also been broadened to cover the entire **renewable energy domain.**
    - The company is also responsible for **implementation of a number of government schemes,** major ones being the VGF schemes for large-scale grid-connected projects under JNNSM, solar park scheme and grid-connected solar rooftop scheme, along with a host of other specialised schemes such as defence scheme, canal-top scheme, Indo-Pak border scheme etc.

Miniratna status

- **About**: Miniratna scheme was **introduced in 1997** in pursuance of the policy objective to make the public sector more efficient and competitive and to grant enhanced autonomy and delegation of powers to the profit-making public sector enterprises.
- **Criteria**:
    - **Miniratna Category-I**: The CPSEs which have **made profit in the last three years continuously**, pre-tax profit is Rs.30 crores or more in at least one of the three years and have a positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna-I status.
        - **Examples**: Category-I: Airports Authority of India, Antrix Corporation Limited, etc.
    - **Miniratna Category-II:** The CPSEs which have made profit for the last three years continuously and **have a positive net worth** are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna-II status.
        - **Examples**: Category-II: Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Bharat Pumps & Compressors Limited, etc.
    - **No default of loans**: Miniratna CPSEs should **have not defaulted in the repayment of loans/interest payment** on any loans due to the Government.
    - **No support from government**: Miniratna CPSEs shall **not depend upon budgetary support or Government guarantees.**

THE HINDU Page 11

RANGANATH MISRA COMMISSION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

SC asks if Mishra report can be used to decide on quota for Dalit converts

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that a 2007 report of the Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities, which recommended Scheduled Caste reservation for Dalit converts to Christianity and Islam, is not all that "perfunctory", adding that the government may need to "re-check" its stance on the report.

The oral observation by Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, a member of a three-judge Bench headed by Justice S.K. Kaul, comes a few months after the Centre discredited the report as "myopic", and something prepared within the "four walls of a room".

The Centre recently constituted a new commission headed by former Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan, giving it two years to prepare a report. On Wednesday, the court rekindled interest in the Mishra report, asking whether its empirical data could be used to determine if the exclusion of Dalit converts to Christianity and Islam from the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 was discriminatory and unconstitutional.



It also said that the government may need to "re-check" its stance on the report.

The court fixed the hearing for July. The Bench was hearing a series of petitions filed 19 years ago, which had challenged the exclusion of Dalit converts to Islam and Christianity from the 1950 Order.

Social stigma

The government has argued that Dalits who converted to Christianity or Islam to overcome the burdens of caste cannot claim reservation benefits enjoyed by those who chose to stay back in the Hindu religious system.

But Justice Amanullah said that social stigma may continue to be attached to members of historically backward communities among Hindus who convert to Islam and Christianity to overcome caste oppression. Justice Kaul said that the court would look into the question of whether the "caste system can be imported into Islam and Christianity".

Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj said that the court should first wait for the Justice Balakrishnan Commission to complete its inquiry.

"Unless there is a categorical study of the current data, etc, there is no question of going into the constitutional issues now. The Commission is doing its work," Mr. Nataraj argued.

Petitioners' lawyers, including senior advocates C.U. Singh and Colin Gonsalves and advocates Prashant Bhushan, Franklin Ceasar Thomas and others, urged the court to examine the issue on the basis of the "authoritative" empirical data collated by the Ranganath Mishra Commission, as well as 20 other reports and studies done over the years into the issue.

Context: The Supreme Court said that a 2007 report of the **Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities**, which recommended Scheduled Caste reservation for Dalit converts to Christianity and Islam, is not all that "perfunctory", adding that the government may need to "re-check" its stance on the report.

Key Points

- The Bench was hearing a series of petitions filed 19 years ago, which had challenged the exclusion of Dalit converts to Islam and Christianity from the **1950 Order.**
- **Paragraph 3 of the 1950 Order**, post amendments in 1956 and 1990, mandates that anybody who is not a Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist cannot be granted Scheduled Caste status.
- Rejecting the Mishra report, the **government had recently constituted a new Commission** headed by a former Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan, giving it two years to prepare a report on the question of granting SC status to "new persons who have historically belonged to the Scheduled Castes but have converted to religions other than Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism".
- The government has argued that **Dalits who converted to Christianity or Islam to overcome the burdens of caste cannot claim reservation** benefits enjoyed by those who chose to stay back in the Hindu religious system.

National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities

- **About**: National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities, also called **Ranganath Misra Commission**, was constituted by Government of India on 29 October 2004 to look into various issues related to Linguistic and Religious minorities in India.
  - It was chaired by former **Chief Justice of India Justice Ranganath Misra.**
  - The commission submitted the report to the Government on 21 May 2007.
- **Main recommendations:**
  - **Give 10% quotas for Muslims and 5% for other minorities** in government jobs and in seats in all the higher educational institutions (graduation and above).
  - **Reserve 8.4% quota** out of the existing OBC quota of 27% for religious minorities, mainly Muslims
  - **Permit Dalits who convert to Islam or Christianity** to avail of reservation benefits under the Scheduled Caste reservation quota.

DTE

APRIL 13

COMMUNITY FOREST RESOURCES (CFR)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

Estimating the potential of community forest rights: What makes implementation challenging

Given the complexity of land and forest settlement in India and the poor quality of land records and maps available, generating an estimate is not an easy task

CFRR STATISTICS OF THE STATES

State	CFRR potential as per ATREE study	Area granted under CFRR/CR	Notes/ caveats
Chhattisgarh	53,842 km^2 in 11,445 villages	14,637 km^2 (27%) to 3,660 villages	Considering only CFRR
Madhya Pradesh	57,948 km^2 in 19,158 villages	5,931 km^2 (10%)	No CFRs; mostly includes CRs to other non-forest uses
Jharkhand	21,175 km^2 in 12,516 villages	420 km^2 (2%)	No CFRs; mostly includes CRs to other non-forest uses.
Maharashtra	50,045 km^2 in 17,256 villages	11,769 km^2 (24%) to 5,071 villages	After removing rights to other non-forest uses and multiple titles per village

Note: CR or community rights refers to forest use and developmental rights granted under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 Source: ATREE study

Context: Even after 16 years, implementation provisions under the **Forest Rights Act, 2006,** have been far from satisfactory.

- One of the many reasons for non-implementation is a lack of clarity about where and how much forest land might be eligible for **Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) claims.**
- Consequently, there is no "target" that state governments must reach and against which their performance can be measured in terms of recognising CFRR.

Community Forest Resources (CFR)

- **About**: The CFR area is the **common forest land** that has been traditionally protected and conserved for sustainable use by a particular community.
- **Usage**: The community uses it to:
  - **Access resources available** within the traditional and customary boundary of the village; and
  - For **seasonal use of landscape** in case of pastoralist communities.
- **Boundary**: Each CFR area has a **customary boundary** with identifiable landmarks recognised by the community and its neighbouring villages.
- **Community Forest Resource Rights**
  - **Section 3(1)(i) of Forest Rights Act, 2006**: The CFR rights under this Section of the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act** (commonly referred to as the Forest Rights Act or the FRA) provide for recognition of the right to "protect, regenerate or conserve or manage" the community forest resource.
  - **Section 5 of Forest Rights Act, 2006:** These rights **allow the community to formulate rules** for forest use by itself and others and thereby discharge its responsibilities under Section 5 of the FRA.
  - **Nistar and non timber produce rights**: CFR rights, along with **Community Rights (CRs) under Sections 3(1)(b) and 3(1)(c)**, which include nistar rights and rights over non-timber forest products, ensure sustainable livelihoods of the community.
  - **Gram Sabha role**: These rights give the **authority to the Gram Sabha to adopt local traditional practices** of forest conservation and management within the community forest resource boundary.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 1

CGH SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Government Policies & Interventions)

Govt revises CGHS package rates to retain hosp services

New Delhi: The Union health ministry has decided to revise the central government health scheme (CGHS) package rates for all beneficiaries and has also simplified the referral process under it for the benefit of the employees. Officials said the revision has been done for the first time since 2014 in order to retain hospitals offering the services. Many private hospitals wanted to opt out from the CGHS panel because the rates hadn't been reviewed since 2014.

According to an official statement, OPD rates have been increased to Rs 350 from Rs 150 earlier while IPD consultation fee has been increased from Rs 300 to Rs 350. The daily rate for ICU services have been fixed at Rs 5,400, including accommodation for all ward entitlements. TNN

Context: The Union health ministry has decided to revise the **central government health scheme (CGHS) package** rates for all beneficiaries and has also simplified the referral process under it for the benefit of the employees.

Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)

- **About**: The Central Government Health Scheme (CHGS) provides healthcare to the **employees and pensioners of the Central Government** that are enrolled under this scheme.
  - It covers health care under different systems of medicine, ranging from a**llopathy and homeopathy to Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, and Yoga.**
- **Origin**: The scheme was started in **1954** in Delhi.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of **Health & Family Welfare.**
- **Eligibility Criteria**: The criterion for availing the CGHS is not the headquarters, bu**t the residence of the employee** who is availing the medical facilities provided under the scheme.
  - Thus, eligible employees of the Central government and their family members who **reside in any of the notified cities are covered.**
- **Age Limit**: For **male children**, eligibility to be a dependent under the CGHS is until **he is 25 years old,** gets married, or starts earning, whichever is earlier.
  - However, if any disability (physical or mental) has occurred to the child before the age of 25 years, he is eligible for benefits even after the age of 25.
  - **For female children**, eligibility to be dependent under the CGHS is until **she gets employed or gets married,** whichever is earlier, irrespective of age.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 4

UNCTAD

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Organisations)

UN sees India growth slipping to 6% in 2023

India's economic growth is projected to decelerate to 6 per cent in 2023 from 6.6 per cent in 2022, according to the United Nations.

The UN Trade and Development Conference (UNCTAD) in its latest Trade and Development Report Update released on Wednesday expects global growth in 2023 to drop to 2.1 per cent, compared to the 2.2 per cent projected in September 2022, assuming the financial fallout from higher interest rates is contained to the bank runs and bailouts of the first quarter.

It warned that developing countries are facing years of difficulty as the global economy slows down.

Annual growth across large parts of the global economy will fall below the performance registered before the pandemic and well below the decade of strong growth before the global financial crisis.

The report said India grew 6.6 per cent in 2022, ceding the pole position among G20 countries in 2022 to oil-rich Saudi Arabia, which grew at 8.6 per cent.

For India, it said the positive effect of high public and private investment and consumption as well as rising exports was partly offset by higher energy import bills, which deepened the current account deficit and ate up reserves. PTI

Context: The **UN Trade and Development Conference (UNCTAD)** in its latest Trade and Development Report Update released expects global growth in 2023 to drop to 2.1%, compared to the 2.2% projected in September 2022, assuming the financial fallout from higher interest rates is contained to the bank runs and bailouts of the first quarter.

- **India's economic growth** is projected to decelerate to 6 per cent in 2023 from 6.6 per cent in 2022, according to the United Nations.

UN Trade and Development Conference (UNCTAD)

- **About**: It was established in 1964 to **promote trade, investment, and development** in developing countries.
  - It is a permanent organ of the **United Nations (UN) General Assembly.**
- **Headquartered**: Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Members**: UNCTAD is composed of **195 member states** and works with nongovernmental organizations worldwide.
  - **India** is also a member.
  - The most recent member is **Palestine**.
- **Governance**: The highest policy-making body of UNCTAD is the **Conference**, which meets once every four years to set policy guidelines and to formulate a program of work.
- **Flagship reports:**
  - Trade and Development Report
  - World Investment Report
  - The Least Developed Countries Report
  - Economic Development in Africa Report
  - Information Economy Report
  - Technology and Innovation Report
  - Review of Maritime Transport

PIB

April 13

5TH INDIA-UK HOME AFFAIRS DIALOGUE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

5th INDIA–UK HOME AFFAIRS DIALOGUE

Context: The **5th India-UK Home Affairs Dialogue (HAD)** was held in New Delhi.

Key Points

- During the meeting both sides **reviewed the ongoing cooperation and identified further steps** that can be taken to explore opportunities and synergies in advancing cooperation in counter-terrorism, cyber security & global supply chains, drug trafficking, migration, extradition, anti-India activities in UK including Pro-Khalistan Extremism among other issues.
- The Indian side specifically conveyed its **concerns on the misuse of UK's asylum status by the Pro-Khalistani elements** to aid and abet terrorist activities in India and requested better cooperation with UK and increased monitoring of UK based Pro-Khalistan Extremists and take appropriate proactive action.
- India's concerns over the **breach of security of Indian High Commission** were also emphasized.
- The meeting concluded with both sides **expressing satisfaction with the ongoing partnership and agreeing to deepen bilateral engagement** and maintain the momentum for enhanced security cooperation between the two countries.

LIVE MINT

Page 8

CHICAGO CONVENTION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Conventions)

India meets all international aviation safety standards: FAA

US body confers category 1 status on India after studying its aviation regulatory system

Anu Sharma
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NEW DELHI

India has met international aviation safety oversight standards, according to the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), following a comprehensive evaluation of the country's aviation regulatory system.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced, "On 12 April, the FAA informed the DGCA that India complies with the Chicago Convention's aviation safety oversight standards and retains its FAA IASA Category 1 status, last assessed in July 2018."

Category 1 status enables air carriers from such countries to operate and expand services to the US and establish codeshare agreements with US carriers.

The International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) programme evaluates whether a country's airline oversight meets International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) safety standards.

The IASA programme also assesses a country's adherence to international aviation safety standards and recommended practices outlined in the International Convention on Civil Aviation, known as the Chicago Convention.

Signed in December 1944, the Convention established the ICAO, a United Nations specialized agency coordinating international air travel.

The FAA conducted a DGCA audit from 25-29 October 2021, covering aircraft operations, airworthiness, and personnel licensing.

The International Aviation Safety Assessment assessment was followed by final consultations in April 2022 and further reviews in July and September 2022. The FAA noted the DGCA's commitment to ensuring effective safety oversight of India's aviation system.

India's Category 1 determination comes as the nation's aviation sector experiences rapid growth and expansion plans. Currently, Indian airlines operate over 700 commercial aircraft, with orders for nearly 800 more planes.

> Airlines from category 1 countries can operate and expand services to the US and establish codeshare agreements with US carriers

In a recent ICAO audit, India's Effective Implementation (EI) score significantly increased from 69.95% to 85.65%, improving its global ranking.

The audit examined legislation, organization, personnel licensing, operations, airworthiness, and aerodromes.

Context: India has met international aviation safety oversight standards, according to the **US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)**, following a comprehensive evaluation of the country's aviation regulatory system.

- The FAA informed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) that India complies with the **Chicago Convention** aviation safety oversight standards and retains its FAA IASA Category 1 status, last assessed in July 2018.

Chicago Convention

- **About**: The **Convention on International Civil Aviation**, also known as the Chicago Convention, established the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**, a specialized agency of the United Nations charged with coordinating international air travel.
- **Functions**: The Convention **establishes rules of airspace**, aircraft registration and safety, security, and sustainability, and details the rights of the signatories in relation to air travel. The Convention also contains provisions pertaining to taxation.

Key Points

- **Category 1 status** enables air carriers from such countries to operate and expand services to the US and establish codeshare agreements with US carriers.
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- The audit examined legislation, organization, personnel licensing, operations, airworthiness, and aerodromes.

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APRIL 13

CCAMLR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



Growing commercial interest in Southern Ocean's resources thwarts protection efforts around Antarctica

Russia no longer engages in krill fisheries but wants to keep its options open. It might have larger plans

By Rohini Krishnamurthy

Published: Wednesday 12 April 2023

Context: Commission for the **Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR),** which typically meets in October every year where its members hold discussions on **marine protected areas (MPAs),** management and conservation measures, has called a "special meeting" in June to resolve the differences.

- Come June, delegates from 27 countries, including India, will gather in Chile's Santiago to discuss the future of the dry, frozen continent, some 7,000 kilometres away.

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

- **About**: It is an **international treaty to manage Antarctic fisheries** with the goal of preserving species diversity and stability of the entire Antarctic marine ecosystem.
  - It is part of the **Antarctic Treaty System** which was signed between 12 countries in Washington on 1st December 1959 for making the Antarctic Continent a demilitarized zone to be preserved for scientific research only.
- **Origin**: The Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was established in **1982**.
  - It was established in response to **concerns that increasing krill fishing activities** could have a deleterious impact on the Southern Ocean ecosystem.
- **Objectives**: It is an **international treaty between 25 nations** that seeks to manage Antarctic fisheries with the goal of preserving species diversity and stability of the entire Antarctic marine ecosystem.
  - Although the aim of the Convention is to conserve marine life of the Southern Ocean, it **does not prohibit reasonable harvesting.**
- **India as a member**: **India has been a permanent member** of the CCAMLR since 1986.
  - Work pertaining to the CCAMLR is coordinated in India by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** through its attached office, the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE) in Kochi, Kerala.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

- **About**: An MPA is a **marine protected area** that provides protection for all or part of its natural resources.
  - Since 2009, CCAMLR members have **developed proposals for MPAs** for various regions of the Southern Ocean.
- **Activities**: Certain activities within an MPA are limited or prohibited to meet **specific conservation, habitat protection, ecosystem monitoring, or fisheries management objectives.**

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 17

WEST BANK

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

Israeli army kills two gunmen in West Bank

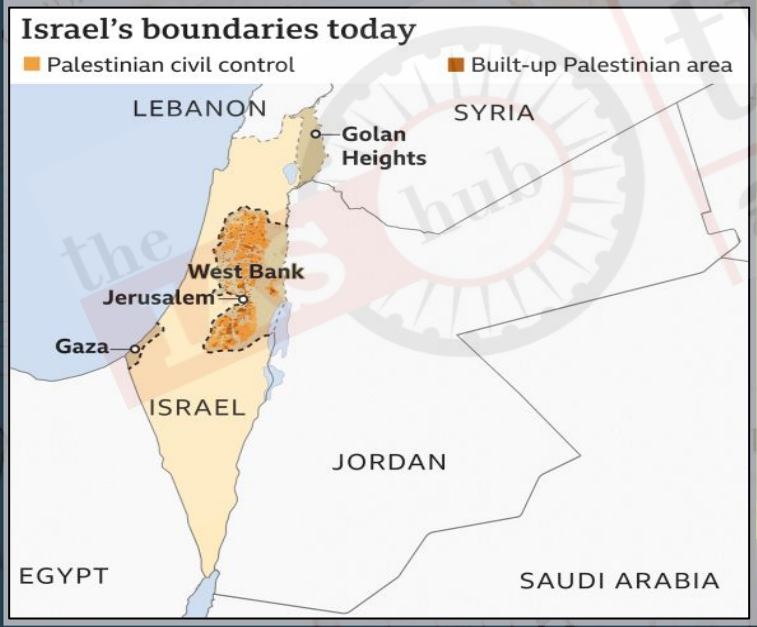
ISABEL DEBRE
JERUSALEM, APRIL 12

THE ISRAELI military shot and killed two Palestinians who allegedly opened fire at troops from their car in the northern West Bank on Tuesday, authorities said, the latest incident in a wave of deadly violence gripping the occupied territory.

The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the two men killed in the West Bank village of Deir al Hatab as Saud Abdullah Saud and Mohammed Abu Dira, without saying their ages.

The Israeli military said the men shot at an Israeli outpost near the settlement of Elon Moreh, south of the Palestinian city of Nablus. Israeli soldiers on patrol opened fire, killing the two alleged gunmen.

A third gunman was reportedly in the car during the drive-by shooting and fled. AP



Context: The Israeli military shot and killed two Palestinians who allegedly opened fire at troops from their car in the northern **West Bank**, the latest incident in a wave of deadly violence gripping the occupied territory.

- The local armed group of the **Balata refugee camp**, a militant stronghold near Nablus, identified the two men as militants.

West Bank

- **About**: It is a **landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia**, bordered by Jordan to the east and by the Green Line separating it and Israel on the south, west and north. The West Bank also contains a significant section of the western Dead Sea shore.
- **Disputes**: The West Bank was **captured by Jordan after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.**
  - Israel snatched it back during the Six Day War of 1967, and has occupied it ever since. During this war, the country defeated the combined forces of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan.
  - When Israel took control of the land in 1967 it **allowed Jewish people to move in**, but Palestinians consider the West Bank illegally occupied Palestinian land.
- **UN's Stand**: The **United Nations General Assembly, the UN Security Council, and the International Court of Justice** have said that the West Bank settlements are violative of the Fourth Geneva Convention.
  - Under the **Fourth Geneva Convention (1949),** an occupying power "shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies".
  - Under the **Rome Statute** that set up the International Criminal Court in 1998, such transfers constitute war crimes, as does the "extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly".
- **India's Stand:** India traditionally **believes in the 2-state solution** and supports the establishment of a sovereign independent and a viable state of Palestine. However, India's support for Palestine has not deterred its growing relationship with Israel.

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