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FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Science Reporter

विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मन्त्रालय
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
सत्यमेव जयते



MK Yadav Sir

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INDIAN EXPRESS

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NEW SCHEMES ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

To make 2 crore 'lakhpati didis' in villages, drone training for women

Rs 15,000 cr scheme for people engaged in traditional skills

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

REACHING OUT to the socially and economically backward classes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced two key initiatives — the Vishwakarma Yojana to boost livelihood opportunities for people engaged in traditional skills, and the Lakhpati Didi scheme to ensure an annual income of at least Rs 1 lakh for 2 crore women in villages by providing skill development training.

With an outlay of Rs 13,000 crore to Rs 15,000 crore, the Vishwakarma Yojana will be launched on Vishwakarma Jayanti (September 17).

"This Vishwakarma Jayanti, we will give about Rs 13,000-15,000 crore to the people who live with traditional skills, who work with tools, and with their own hands, mostly belonging to the OBC community. Be it our carpenters, goldsmiths, masons, washermen, barbers... to give new strength to such people," Modi said.

Saying that it was his dream to "create 2 crore Lakhpati Didis in villages", Modi said drone pilot training would be provided to women self-help groups as part of skill development.

"Today, 10 crore women are associated with women self help groups. If you go to a village you will find women working in banks, you will find women working in anganwadis, you will find women who give medicines. Now, my dream is to create 2 crore Lakhpati Didi," Modi said.

For this, he said, a new alternative in the form of science and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Context: Prime Minister announced two new initiatives - **Vishwakarma Yojana**, a new scheme with an outlay of Rs 13,000 crore to Rs 15000 crore, and **Lakhpati Didi**, under which skill training will be provided to two crore women so that they can earn at least Rs 1 lakh annually.

Vishwakarma Yojana

- It is a scheme that aims to provide **skill development, financial assistance, market linkages, social security and empowerment** to the artisans and craftsmen belonging to various communities, especially the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- The scheme will have an **initial allocation of around ₹13,000 crore to ₹15,000 crore** and will be launched on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti, which falls on September 17 this year.
- It will cover **artisans and craftsmen** from various sectors such as textiles, leather, metal, wood, clay, stone, bamboo, cane, paper, glass etc.
- It will **provide skill training to the artisans and craftsmen** based on their existing level of proficiency and market demand.

Lakhpati Didi

- The government is p**lanning skill development training** for two crore women under the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme that aims to encourage them to start micro-enterprises.
- The **'Lakhpati Didi' scheme has been in place in some states** and now the government is planning to train two crore women under it.
- Women would be **trained in skills like plumbing, LED bulb making** and operating and repairing drones among others.

ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 1

CSR SPENDING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

CSR Spending Goes Greener; Health Gets Highest Dose

Cost and Effect

TOP SPENDERS (In ₹ crore, FY22)

RIL	812
HDFC	723
TCS	720
ONGC	436
NTPC	357

Source: MCA

CSR EXPENDITURE (IN ₹ CR)

	FY20	FY21	FY22
Health	6,841	9,276	9,987
Education	9,635	8,559	8,382
Environment	1,805	1,337	2,837
Rural Growth	2,301	1,851	1,801
Total Spending	24,966	26,211	25,933

Note: Spending under broad categories, including allied areas



More than two-fold jump in spending on environment projects in FY22

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New Delhi: India Inc. is reprioritising its spending under corporate social responsibility (CSR) obligations. As the focus on sustainability gathered traction, CSR expenditure on the environment more than doubled in FY22 from a year before to ₹2,837 crore and the sector emerged as the biggest recipient of such funds after health and education. Similarly, the pandemic prompted companies to sharply raise spending on health, which has now beaten education as the top sector for CSR expenditure.

Spending on health stood at ₹9,987 crore in FY22, against ₹8,382 crore on education, according to an ET analysis of the latest segregated (provisional) data by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).

Health also includes initiatives on hunger, poverty and malnutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation

The health category also includes initiatives on hunger, poverty and malnutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation.

Infy Top Spender on Environment ▸▸ 7

Context:As the focus on sustainability gathered traction, **CSR expenditure** on the environment more than doubled in FY22 from a year before to ₹2,837 crore and the sector emerged as the biggest recipient of such funds after health and education.

- Similarly, the pandemic prompted companies to sharply raise spending on health, which has now beaten education as the top sector for CSR expenditure.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending

- **About**: The Corporate Social Responsibility concept in India is governed by **Section 135 and Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013** and Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014.
  - As per the **Companies (Amendment) Act, 2019,**CSR is applicable to companies before completion of 3 financial years.
  - Companies are required to spend, in every financial year, **at least 2% of their average net profits** generated during the 3 immediately preceding financial years.
  - For companies that have not completed 3 financial years, average net profits generated in the preceding financial years shall be factored in.
  - The CSR activities in India **should not be undertaken in the normal course of business** and must be with respect to any of the 17 activities of CSR mentioned in Schedule VII of the act.
- **Criteria**: The Companies Act has made it **mandatory** for certain corporations to undertake CSR activities. The Act requires companies with:
  - (a) a net worth of INR 5 billion (500 crore) or more or;
  - (b) An annual turnover of INR 10 billion (1000 crore) or more or;
  - (c) Net profit of INR 50 million (5 crore) or more, to spend 2% of their average net profits of 3 years on CSR.
    - Prior to that, the **CSR clause was voluntary for companies,** though it was mandatory to disclose their CSR spending to shareholders.
- **CSR Committee:** Every company to which CSR criteria are applicable shall constitute a **Corporate Social Responsibility Committee.**
  - The CSR Committee should **consist of 3 or more directors,** with at least 1 independent director.
  - The activities to be undertaken under CSR are prescribed by the Government in **Schedule VII of the Companies Act.**

PER CAPITA INCOME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

India's per capita income to grow 7x by FY47: SBI Research

ABHIJIT LELE
Mumbai, 15 August

The per capita income of Indians as gleaned from income-tax filing is expected to increase from ₹2 lakh in FY23 to ₹14.9 lakh in FY47, coinciding with 100 years of the country's Independence, according to SBI Research.

In dollar terms it will increase from about $2,500 in FY23 to $12,400 in FY47.

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic advisor, State Bank of India, said the weighted mean income was ₹4.4 lakh in Assessment Year 2013-14. That rose to ₹13 lakh in FY23. The buoyancy in the number of tax-filers has contributed to the upward push.

According to Ghosh, the middle class is on the rise. It is more forward-looking than what a lot of corresponding research has been able to capture. This class displays a state of mind filled with abundant hope. This may warrant new definitions because it depicts a unique state of flux, leveraging the emerging opportunities as the economy gets formalised and the share of the gig economy rises, Ghosh added.

The population of India is expected to increase to 1.6 billion in FY47 from 1.4 billion in FY23 and, correspondingly, the workforce is expected to increase to 725 million in FY47 from 530 million in FY23.

This would mean increasing the workforce share in the population from 37.9 per cent in FY23 to 45 per cent in FY47.

SBI Research said the workforce with a taxable base was expected to increase to 565 million in FY47 from 313 million in FY23.

Income-tax filers are expected to increase from 70 million in FY23 to 482 million in FY47.

THE PREDICTION

Driving multi-fold income growth in India



	FY23	FY47
Per capita income (₹lakh)	2.0	14.9
Workforce (mn)	530	725
Workforce with taxable income (mn)	313	565
Population (bn)	1.4	1.6

Source: SBI Research

Context: The **per capita income of Indians** as gleaned from income-tax filing is expected to increase from Rs 2 lakh in FY23 to Rs 14.9 lakh in FY47, coinciding with 100 years of the country's Independence, according to SBI Research.

- **Per capita income (PCI)** or total income measures the average income earned per person in a given area (city, region, country, etc.) in a specified year. It is calculated by dividing the area's total income by its total population.
- **India's per capita net national income** (at current prices) for 2022-23 stands at INR 172,000, according to estimates from the National Statistical Office (NSO).

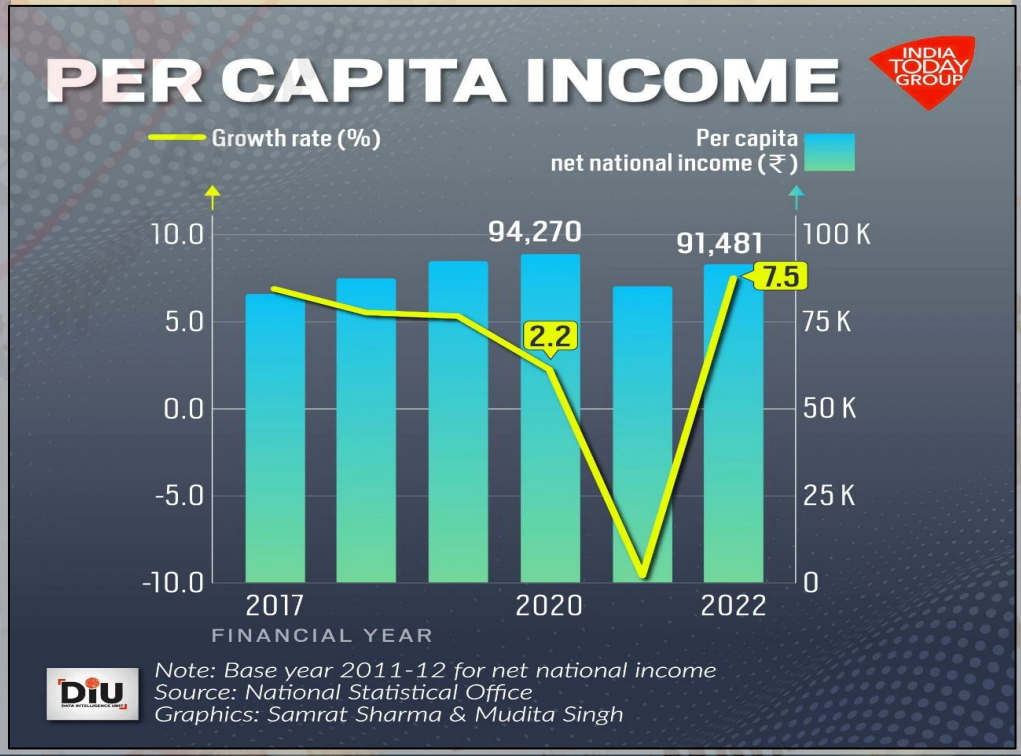
India's Average Income (adjusted for PPP)

	Average income or per capita income adjusted for purchasing power parity (in dollars)	Global position	Total number of countries for which data is available
1981	603.17	123	140
1991	1,127.39	132	155
2001	2,021.14	151	188
2011	4,493.67	139	194
2014	5,233.88	136	195
2021	7,340.90	128	193
2022	8,358.30	127	192

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*2022 Is an IMF forecast

Source: International Monetary Fund.



THE HINDU

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EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Education)

On I-Day, Stalin seeks transfer of education back to State List

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Chief Minister says all subjects that interact with people directly should be put on the State List

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday called for transferring education back to the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. He said that only this would help abolish the centralised examinations like NEET. Education, originally a State subject, was moved to the Concurrent List by the Indira Gandhi government during the Emergency.

Hoisting the national flag at Fort St. George on Independence Day, Mr. Stalin recalled the stand taken by former Chief Ministers C.N. Annadurai and M. Karunanidhi on State autonomy. "All subjects that interact with people directly should be transferred to the State List. Especially, education should be transferred [back] to the State List," he said.

The Tamil Nadu government would constitute a welfare board for workers attached to service providers, such as Ola, Uber, Swiggy, and Zomato, who have been serving their consumers in major cities, Mr. Stalin said. The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme would be expanded to all State-run schools across Tamil Nadu from August 25 and he would visit a school at Thirukkuvalai for inaugurating the scheme that day, he said.

Mr. Stalin said the scheme to provide a subsidy of ₹1 lakh to women autorickshaw drivers would be expanded to cover 500 women. The monthly pension for freedom fighters and their families would be increased from ₹10,000 to ₹11,000, he said.

Context: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister called for transferring **education back to the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.**

- Only this would help to abolish the centralised examinations like NEET.
- **Education, originally a State subject,** was moved to the Concurrent List by the Indira Gandhi government during the Emergency.

Constitutional provisions on education in India

Article	Provision
Fundamental Rights	
21A	Right to compulsory education
28	Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions
30	Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions
Directive Principles of State Policy	
41	Right to work, to education and public assistance in certain cases
45	Provision for free and compulsory education for children Provision for early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years
Fundamental Duties	
51A	Who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.
Part XVII - Official Language	
350A	Facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage It shall be the endeavor of every State to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups. The President may issue such directions to any State as he considers necessary or proper for securing the provision of such facilities.

PIB August 16

DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Govt. Policies & Intervention)

Union Cabinet approves expansion of the Digital India programme with an outlay of ₹ 14,903 crore

Context: The Union Cabinet approved the expansion of the **Digital India programme.** The total outlay is ₹14,903 crores.

Digital India programme

- **About**: It is a Rs 1,13,000-crore **flagship programme of the Government of India.**
- **Origin**: Launched on July 1, 2015.
- **Objectives**: To transform India into a **digitally empowered** society and knowledge economy.
- **Vision Areas:**
  - Digital Infrastructure as a Core Utility to Every Citizen
  - Governance & Services on Demand
  - Digital Empowerment of Citizens



THE HINDU

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BIRD SPECIES COUNT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

275 bird species counted during survey at Corbett Tiger Reserve

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

About 275 bird species, including two critically endangered, four vulnerable ones and two endangered species, were counted during a survey at Corbett Tiger Reserve.

The survey, conducted between June 20 and 23 by a 62-member team consisting of ornithologists, conservationists, volunteers from World Wide Fund (WWF) India, Tiger Conservation Foundation and Village Volunteer Protection Force, covering overall 540 km of 135 forest trails provided insights into the diverse bird species inhabiting at Corbett Tiger Reserve.

As per the report, two species, namely white-rumped vulture and red-headed vulture, considered critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) list, have been documented in the survey, which covered the vast range of landscape in the reserve, including grassland, dense forest, rivers and hilly terrains. Two endangered species – Pallas's fish-eagle, Egyptian vulture were also counted by the researchers in the survey. Four vulnerable bird species – great hornbill, great slaty woodpecker, grey-crowned prinia and river tern – have also been counted in the survey.



The great hornbill. FILE PHOTO

Near-threatened species

About 10 near-threatened bird species – river lapwing, red-breasted parakeet, oriental darter, lesser fish-eagle, Himalayan griffon, great thick-knee, gray-headed fish-eagle, black-necked stork, Asian woolley-necked stork and Alexandrine parakeet – have also been found at the reserve.

About 256 species documented in the survey are considered to be of least concern by the IUCN.

The report was compiled by Oriental Trials, an NGO working for conservation of wildlife.

Context: About 275 bird species, including two critically endangered, four vulnerable ones and two endangered species, were counted during the **bird survey at Corbett Tiger Reserve in Nainital.**

- The survey, conducted between June 20 and 23 by a 62-member team consisting of ornithologists, conservationists, volunteers from **World Wide Fund (WWF) India, Tiger Conservation Foundation and Village Volunteer Protection Force**, covering overall 540 km of 135 forest trails provided insights into the diverse bird species inhabiting at Corbett Tiger Reserve.
- The survey, conducted using two methods of recording the bird species — **Point Count Method and Trail Monitoring Count Method** — aims to give a holistic approach and protect all parts of the landscape which are extensively used by mega-fauna.

Key Points

- Two species, namely **white-rumped vulture and red-headed vulture**, considered critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) list, have been documented in the survey, which covered the vast range of landscape in the reserve, including grassland, dense forest, rivers and hilly terrains.
- Two endangered species - **Pallas's fish-eagle, Egyptian vulture** were also counted by the researchers in the survey.
- The scientific names of Pallas's fish-eagle and Egyptian vulture are halieetus leucoryphus and neophron percnopterus respectively.
- Four vulnerable bird species — **great hornbill, great slaty woodpecker, grey-crowned prinia and river tern** — have also been counted in the survey.
- About 10 near-threatened bird species — **river lapwing, red-breasted parakeet, oriental darter, lesser fish-eagle, Himalayan griffon, great thick-knee, gray-headed fish-eagle, black-necked stork, Asian woolley-necked stork and Alexandrine parakeet** — have also been found at the reserve.

DTE August 16

HIMALAYAN ECOLOGY

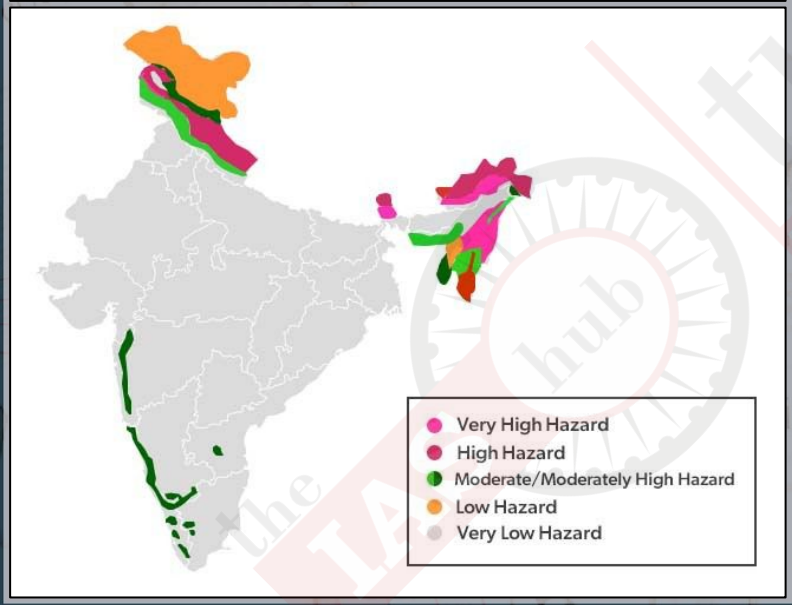
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Besides illegal structures, tourist influx, focus on sanitation systems in Himalayas too: CSE

Most Himalayan towns lack sewerage systems; millions of litres of grey water seeps into the clayey, loamy soil, making landslides inevitable

By Swati Bhatia
Published: Monday 14 August 2023





Context: The Centre and governments of Himalayan states should focus on sanitation systems in the Himalayas as well besides taking stock of wanton **illegal construction and heavy tourist** inflow, an analysis by **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE),** a Delhi-based think tank, has urged.

Key Points

- An **analysis of a few destinations** with high influx of tourists in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim by CSE shows that most Himalayan towns do not have sewerage systems.
- CSE's analysis comes even as a parliamentary panel stated in its report on August 10, 2023, that the Himalayas are under a lot of strain due to tourism and illegal construction.
- In its **135th report tabled in the Rajya Sabha, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment Forest and Climate Change** stressed the need for a thorough examination of the illegal structures in the ecologically fragile region in coordination with local authorities and strict action against illegal construction to prevent tragedies akin to the ones experienced in Kedarnath in 2013 and Joshimath earlier this year.
- It recommended that the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change "should **prepare a practical and implementable action plan** with clear timelines to put a check on ecologically destructive activities,".

DTE August 16

BAGHJAN BLOWOUT

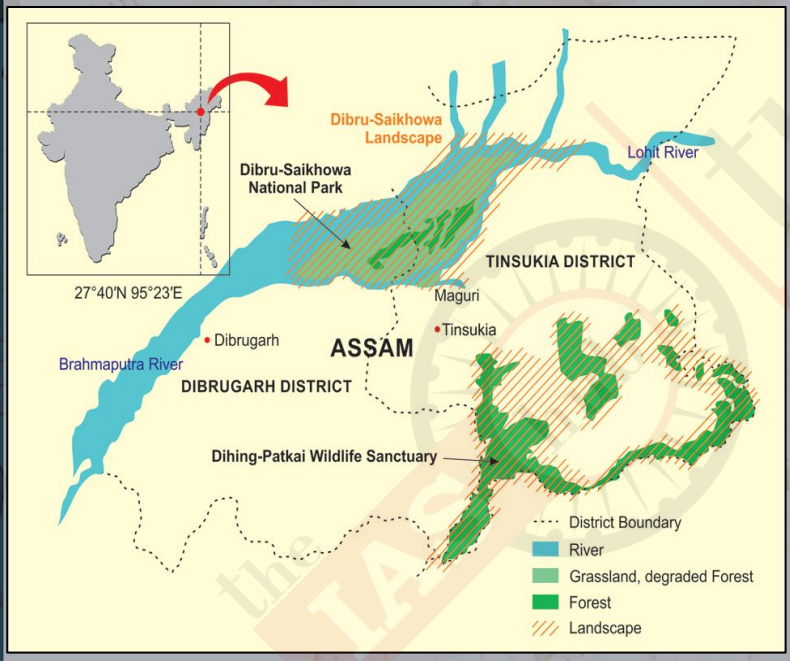
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Baghjan blowout: NGT directs Assam government to pay aid to affected families

OIL has deposited Rs 90.8 crores with Tinsukia district administration, which may impact 2,195 affected village residents living near the blowout site at Baghjan

By Anupam Chakravartty
Published: Wednesday 16 August 2023





Context: The National Green Tribunal (NGT)'s principal bench ordered the Assam government to disburse interim compensation to the victims of **Baghjan oil and gas leak** that displaced close to 9,000 people in 2020 in Tinsukia district of Assam.

Key Points

- The blowout left a trail of **devastation by a fire** from an oil and gas rig, which raged for close to five months.
- It also impacted the fragile ecology of the villages situated close to **Dibru Saikhowa National Park.**
- The **Baghjan blowout** is considered as the longest running oil spill in the country, where lakhs of rupees had been spent to control the fire that gutted several houses in the village, spewing crude oil and condensates on homesteads, rivers and lakes.
- NGT- Appointed Judge **Katakey committee** recommends legal action against Oil India Ltd. for violating various environmental as well industrial regulation.
- The Baghjan oilfield, along with 26 oil wells in Assam was operating without **mandatory environmental clearance** when one of the well experienced a blowout on May 27, 2020 following by fire.
- **Katakay committee** made interim recommendation in the status report submitted to the tribunal in which it sought legal action against Oil India Ltd. for violation the Air, water & Environment Protection Act.
- Committee also stated that Oil India limited had violated the directive of the **Central pollution Control Board.**

LIVEMINT

Page 2

BRAHMOS MISSILE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

India to step up defence ties with Philippines

Shashank Mattoo
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NEW DELHI

India and the Philippines are looking to step up defence ties after the Southeast Asian nation's high-profile purchase of a BrahMos missile. Negotiations on a defence line of credit have picked up, according to persons aware of the matter.

While the exact quantum of assistance being offered is under negotiation, officials from the Philippines have visited a number of Indian defence firms including Kalyani Strategic Systems to examine their products.

Replies to a query mailed to the company were awaited.

The offer of a line of credit, which was first made by India in 2018, was reiterated during a June meeting between foreign ministers S. Jaishankar and Enrique Manalo.

Context: India and the Philippines are looking to step up defence ties after the Southeast Asian nation's high-profile purchase of a **BrahMos missile.**

BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles

- **About**: A joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation of **India (DRDO) and the NPOM of Russia.**
  - BrahMos is named for the rivers **Brahmaputra and Moskva (Russia).**
- **Range**: 290 km
- **Fastest cruise missile in the world:** A top speed of Mach 2.8 (nearly three times the speed of sound).
- **Two-stage missile system**: Solid propellant engine in the first stage and liquid ramjet in second.
- **Multiplatform missile**: Can be launched from land, air, and sea and multi capability missile with pinpoint accuracy that works in both day and night irrespective of the weather conditions.
- **Operates on the "Fire and Forgets" principle**: It does not require further guidance after launch.

PIB August 16

SADAIV ATAL
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Personalities)

Prime Minister pays floral tributes at 'Sadaiv Atal' on the Punya Tithi of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Context: The Prime Minister paid floral tributes at **'Sadaiv Atal'** the samadhi of former Prime Minister, **Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee** on his Punya Tithi.

Key Points

- Sadaiv Atal, the Samadhi of Atal Bihari Vajpayee was dedicated to the Nation on the birth **Anniversary of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- To emphasise on the **unity in diversity,** stones from various parts of the country have been used in the construction of Samadhi near Rajghat in New Delhi.
- The Samadhi has a central platform comprising of nine square blocks, capped with a Diya in the centre. The number nine represents the **navarasas, navaratras and navagrahas.**
- The placement of the nine square blocks is in a circular lotus shaped pattern.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee served as the **Prime Minister of India** for a term of 13 days in 1996, then for a period of 13 months from 1998 to 1999, and finally, for a full term from 1999 to 2004.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born to Krishna Devi and Krishna Bihari Vajpayee on 25 December 1924 in Gwalior. He passed away on 16 August 2018 due to age-related illness.
- His birth anniversary is celebrated as **Good Governance Day.**

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