


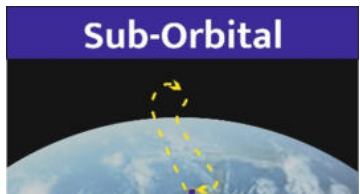
NEWS TODAY

GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES INTER-SERVICES ORGANISATIONS (COMMAND, CONTROL AND DISCIPLINE) BILL, 2023 IN LOK SABHA

- Bill seeks to **empower Commander-in-Chief or Officer-in-Command** of Inter-services Organisations in respect of service personnel who are serving under his command for maintenance of discipline, proper discharge of their duties etc.
 - Presently, such personnel are governed by Air Force Act, 1950, Army Act, 1950 and Navy Act, 1957 (Service Acts).
 - Only officers of respective services exercise disciplinary powers over service personnel.
- Other Key Features of the Bill
 - Empowers Union government to set up inter-services organisations.
 - Inter-Services organisation is a **body of troops including a Joint Services Command** consisting of persons, subject all service acts or any two of the said Acts.
 - Service personnel continue to be governed by their respective Service Acts for disciplinary or administrative action.
- Significance of bill: Provides for **expeditious disposal of cases**, saving of time by **avoiding multiple proceedings and greater integration amongst Armed Forces**, ensure discipline and effective discharge of duties etc.
- It will also provide a renewed push for theaterisation.
 - Theaterisation or Theatre Command means **putting specific number of personnel from three services under a common commander** in a specified geographical territory.

ISRO PLANS SPACE TOURISM BY 2030

- Initial plan will focus on **developing technologies to ensure a robust escape system, on-demand launch, recovery, re-use, and retro-propulsion landing**.
 - Earlier government had stated in parliament that **ISRO is developing capabilities** towards space tourism through demonstration of **human space flight capability** to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- Space tourism project will be in partnership with **private firms via Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)**.
 - IN-SPACe, independent nodal agency under Department of Space (DOS), facilitates **non-government entities (NGEs) participation** in space activities.
- Space tourism is a segment of space travel that **allows lay people to travel to space for recreational, leisure or business purposes**.
 - Companies like **Blue Origin, Virgin Galactic and Elon Musk's SpaceX** have entered space tourism.
- It's **divided into different types**, including **orbital, suborbital, and lunar tourism**.

	Orbital Tourism	Suborbital Tourism
Altitude	Over 400 kilometres	About 100 kilometres
Duration in Space	Spend days or even more than a week	Give passengers a few minutes in space .
Velocity	Spacecraft must achieve orbital velocity (speed that an object must maintain to remain in orbit around a planet). <div>  </div>	Requires much lower speeds than orbital. <div>  </div>

SILICON VALLEY BANK CRISIS UNLIKELY TO AFFECT INDIAN BANKS

- **Failure of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and Signature Bank** in US has raised **questions on safety of depositors wealth everywhere**.
 - **Major reasons for SVB collapse** are **Run on the bank** (withdrawal of money by customers in large numbers), **lack of diversification** as it invested mainly in bonds and treasury, **downturn in technology stocks** etc.
 - **Signature Bank** is seen as a **fallout of SVB collapse** leading to high **deposit outflows, cryptocurrency focused operations** etc.
- **Such failures are unlikely in the Indian banking system** considering:
 - **RBI has classified major banks** like SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank as **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)** based on **Systemic Importance Scores (SISs)**.
 - D-SIBs have to **earmark additional capital and provisions** to safeguard their **operations**.
 - **Different balance sheet structure**, i.e. high share of household savings unlike US banks with large corporate deposits.
 - **Majority of deposits with Public Sector Banks** or strong private sector lenders.
 - **Past experiences of government and RBI** stepping in to save banks. For e.g.
 - **Rescue of Yes Bank in 2020 or safety assurance in 2008** to calm financial markets on 'run on the bank' at **ICICI Bank**.

BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA (BCI) GIVES PERMISSION TO FOREIGN LAW FIRMS TO ENTER INDIA

- BCI notified **Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022**.
- **Key Highlights of the rules**
 - **Allows foreign lawyers and law firms to**
 - Register with BCI to **practise in India**.
 - **Practice in non-litigious matters**, which would be laid down by BCI in consultation with Ministry of Law.
 - **Advice Indian clients on international legal issues**, including international arbitration.
 - However they will **not be allowed to appear before any courts, tribunals or any other regulatory authorities**.
- **Significance of the move**
 - Law firm to **benefit from exposure to global best practices**.
 - It will **provide foreign firms and investors** with some **judicial comfort**.
 - It will help in **attracting FDI** and making India a **hub of International Arbitration**.
- **About BCI**
 - It was **established** by Parliament under **Advocates Act, 1961** to **regulate and represent Indian bar**.
 - **Statutory functions of BCI include:**
 - To lay down **standards of professional conduct and etiquette** for advocates.
 - To safeguard **rights, privileges and interests** of advocates.
 - To **recognise Universities** whose degree in law shall be a **qualification for enrolment as an advocate**.







JOINT COMMITTEE ON MULTI-STATE CO-OPERATIVES SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022 SUBMITS REPORT TO PARLIAMENT







- Bill was **introduced in Lok Sabha** in December 2022 and was referred to joint committee.
- It **amends Multi-State Co-operative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002** to accommodate changes brought on by 97th Constitutional Amendment Act (inserted Part IXB in Constitution).
 - It also aims to **improve ease of doing business, increase financial discipline and enable raising of funds** in MSCS.
- **Key highlights of the bill**
 - **Election of board members:** Central government will establish Co-operative Election Authority consisting of a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and up to three members appointed by central government.
 - **Redressal of complaints:** Central government will appoint one or more Co-operative Ombudsman with territorial jurisdiction.
 - **Establishes Co-operative Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development Fund** for revival of sick multi-state co-operative societies.
 - **Other Provisions:** Increased monetary penalties on violations; Cooperative Information Officer appointment by all MSCS etc.
- MSCS are **cooperative societies** whose **activities are not confined to one state and serve interests of individuals in more than one state**.
 - A cooperative is an **autonomous association** of persons **united voluntarily** to meet their **common economic, social and cultural needs** through a **jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise**.

OPENAI RELEASES NEW MODEL GPT-4

- It is the **latest version of ChatGPT** (Generative Pre-Trained Transformer), an **artificial intelligence (AI)-powered chatbot**, which can **comprehend and generate natural language or human text**.
- GPT is a **kind of computer language model that relies on deep learning techniques** to produce human-like text based on inputs.
 - Deep learning is a **subset of machine learning**, which is essentially a **neural network with three or more layers**.
 - These neural networks **attempt to simulate behavior of human brain** allowing it to learn from large amounts of data.
- GPT is **trained on large amounts of text data** and uses an **algorithm known as Transformer** to learn how to generate text that is similar to human conversation.
- GPT-4 is a large multimodal model** (accepting **image and text inputs**, emitting text outputs) that is supposedly **bigger, faster, and more accurate** than earlier versions.
 - It can **process a lot more information** at a time and is **also more multilingual**.
- Limitations: Not fully reliable** as it still **hallucinates facts**, makes reasoning errors, it can have **various biases** in its **output and does not learn from its experience**.

ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>Governor's Power to Call for a Floor Test</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A constitution bench of Supreme Court (SC) (in Subhash Desai v. Principal Secretary, Governor of Maharashtra And Ors.) observed that Governor's decision to call for a floor test should not trigger the fall of a government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floor test is 'a constitutional mechanism primarily taken to know whether the executive enjoys the confidence of the legislature'. Chief Justice also questioned Governor's decision to call for a floor test merely on the basis of internal rebellion in a party. Earlier, in Shivraj Singh Chouhan vs State of Madhya Pradesh, SC approved Governor's decision to call for a floor test following breakaway in the then ruling party.
 <p>Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Coast Guard Region (North East) is conducting fourth edition of Table top exercise (simulated emergency) under CSC. CSC was formed in 2011 as a trilateral maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Later Mauritius joined as fourth member and Bangladesh & Seychelles participate as observer countries. Conclave underlines regional cooperation and shared security objectives concerning all littoral nations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). It aims to make maritime security, marine pollution response and maritime search & rescue priorities for the region.
 <p>European Free Trade Association (EFTA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government has ruled out any duty concessions for gold or easing of intellectual property rights regime for EFTA countries. EFTA is an intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. It was set up in 1960 (Stockholm Convention) for the promotion of free trade and economic integration between its members. EFTA is the ninth largest trader in the world in merchandise trade and fifth largest in trade in services.
 <p>Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It provides production estimates of four Major Livestock Products (MLPs) Milk, Egg, Meat and Wool. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It also contains information like livestock population as per latest 20th Livestock Census, import and export data of livestock etc. Released by: Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. Key Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per-capita availability of milk (2021-22) is 444 gram/day. Top milk producing States: Rajasthan, UP, MP. Top meat producing States: Maharashtra, UP, West Bengal. Top wool producing states/UTs: Rajasthan, J&K, Gujarat. Top egg producing States: Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana.

 <p>Women and Men in India 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an annual statistical compilation of Gender related Indicators of India. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Key Findings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sex Ratio: 945 in 2021, expected to reach 952 by 2036. Life Expectancy: Reached 68.4 and 71.1 years for males and females respectively during 2015-19. It is expected to reach 71.2 and 74.7 years by 2031-36. Infant Mortality Rate: 28 (28 Male and 28 Female) in 2020. Literacy Rates: 77.7% (84.7% Male and 70.3% Female) in 2017. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR): 41.3% (57.3% Male and 24.8% Female) in 2021-22.
 <p>Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union government appointed chairperson of PFRDA. It is a statutory regulatory body set up under PFRDA Act with an objective to promote old age income security and protect interests of National Pension System (NPS) subscribers. It consists of a Chairperson and not more than six members, of whom at least three shall be Whole-Time Members, to be appointed by Central Government.
 <p>McMohan Line</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US, in a senate resolution, recognised McMahon Line as international boundary between China and India. McMahon Line serves as de facto boundary between China and India in the Eastern Sector. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It specifically represents boundary between Arunachal Pradesh and Tibet, from Bhutan in the west to Myanmar in the east. It extends from corner of Bhutan to Isu Razi Pass on the Burma border. It was drawn during the Simla Convention of 1914 (Between Great Britain, China, and Tibet). 
 <p>Plastic Rocks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researchers have found plastic rocks on Trindade island in the state of Espirito Santo, Brazil. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trindade island is an important conservation spot for one of the largest sea turtles - Green Turtles (Chelonia Mydas), (IUCN Status: Endangered). Plastic was found in the rocks called plastiglomerates - a mixture of sedimentary granules and other debris held together by plastic. This intertwining of plastic with rocks is evidence of humans' pollution reaching earth's geological cycles.
 <p>Research, Education and Training Outreach (REACHOUT)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REACHOUT scheme is implemented by Ministry of Earth Sciences for capacity building. It consists of several sub-schemes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R&D in Earth System Science. International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography. BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate. Program for Development of Skilled manpower in Earth System Sciences. Main objective is to support various R&D activities, develop useful collaborations with international organizations, develop skilled and trained manpower in Earth Sciences etc.
 <p>Places in News</p>	<p>Germany (Capital: Berlin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A shooting in Hamburg killed several people. Political boundaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bordered in north by North Sea, Baltic Sea, and Denmark; in west by Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France; in south by Switzerland, Austria and in east by Poland. Geographical Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany's largest wooded area, Black Forest, is in the southwest near the Swiss and French border. Major Rivers: Rhine, Elbe, Danube. Highest mountain: Zugspitze 