

NEWS TODAY

THREE NATIONAL FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES FOR AQUACULTURE SECTOR LAUNCHED

- Programmes launched by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying:

| Program | Details | Importance |
|--|---|---|
| Phase 2 National Surveillance Programme on Aquatic animal Diseases (NSPAAD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase-2 is sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana programme (PMMSY). > Phase 1 has been implemented since 2013. The phase-II will be implemented at the pan-India level and state fisheries departments to be an integral part. Envisages development of the National Information System on Aquatic Diseases. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will strengthen farmer-based disease surveillance systems. Help in reduction of revenue losses due to diseases and will increase exports. |
| Genetic Improvement Programme of Indian White Shrimp (Penaeus indicus) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program sanctioned with an outlay of Rs.25 crores under PMMSY to establish a National Genetic Improvement Facility for shrimp breeding. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shrimp farming sector mostly depends on one exotic Specific Pathogen Free stock of Pacific white shrimp (<i>Penaeus vannamei</i>) species. Program will help to break single species dependence and promote indigenous species vis-à-vis exotic shrimp species. |
| Shrimp Crop insurance product developed by ICAR-CIBA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product charges differential premium based on location and requirements of individual farmers from 3.7 to 7.7 % of input costs. Farmers will be compensated to the tune of 80 % loss of input cost in the event of total crop loss (more than 70%). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help in establishing farmers' access to insurance and institutional credit facilities. Will help in doubling farmers' income. |

CHECKING ECONOMIC OFFENCES

- India is likely to pitch for four 'high-level principles (HLP)' at the **G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group's first meeting**.
- Four High-level principles (HLPs)**
 - > Improving 'information sharing' for action against economic offences
 - > Exploring faster mechanisms for sharing of tax information with other **domestic law enforcement agencies**.
 - > Improving **existing mutual legal assistance** framework.
 - > Development of principles and standards on exchange of information in **new and emerging spheres** of economic activities.
 - > **Strengthening asset recovery mechanisms**
 - Deals with **economic assets stolen by fugitives** and parked or moved to other nations.
 - Aims at improving **asset-tracing and identification systems**.
 - Developing mechanisms for **timely restrain** of illicit assets.
 - Standardising measures** to strengthen asset recovery frameworks.
 - Promoting open-source information and asset recovery networks.
 - > **Strengthening law enforcement cooperation** for action against economic crimes
 - Proposes information sharing for **operational requirements** through a **proper framework/nodal agency** on protocol based secure communication channels.
 - > **Promoting integrity** among **specialized authorities** involved in preventing and combating corruption.
 - Will focus on **conduct rules, conflict of interest** rules and **asset disclosure systems**.

What is economic offence

- Economic offences form a **separate category of crimes under Criminal offences**.
- These include the **Smuggling of Narcotic substances, Counterfeiting currency and valuable securities, Financial Scams, Frauds, Money Laundering and Hawala transactions** etc.
- They have implications on the **economy as well as security**.

RUSSIA SUSPENDED NEW START TREATY

- **Russia claimed** that the **USA had not complied with the treaty's provisions** and had attempted to undermine Russia's national security.

- **About New START treaty**

- The **New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty)** is a **nuclear arms reduction treaty** between the United States and Russia (signed in 2010).
 - Entered into force in **2011**.
 - It replaced the **previous START treaty that had expired in 2009**.
- Its objective was to **limit and reduce the number of strategic nuclear warheads and delivery systems** deployed by both countries.
 - It aimed to **enhance strategic stability and build mutual trust** between the two nations.
- **Under the agreement, both sides are committed to the following:**
 - Deploying **no more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads** and a **maximum of 700 long-range missiles and bombers**.
 - A **limit of 800 intercontinental ballistic missiles** in deployment.
 - Each side can conduct **up to 18 inspections of strategic nuclear weapons sites** yearly to ensure the other has not breached the treaty's limits.
- In 2021, United States and the Russian agreed to **extend the treaty till 2026**.

IMPLICATIONS

- Disturbs the fragile **calculus of nuclear arms controls** between the two largest nuclear powers (together hold **90% of world's nuclear arsenal**).
- Could also give an opportunity to other **nuclear-armed countries**, like China, Pakistan, Iran etc to **increase their arsenals**.

EL NINO RISK FOR INFLATION, FARM OUTPUT IN INDIA

- The **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** from the US has predicted the possibility of an El Niño year.

- El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

- **ENSO is one of the most important climate phenomena** on Earth due to its ability to change the global atmospheric circulation.

- **Southern Oscillation** is the term for atmospheric pressure changes between the east and west tropical Pacific that accompany both El Niño and La Niña episodes in the ocean.

- **ENSO is a single climate phenomenon, it has three phases**

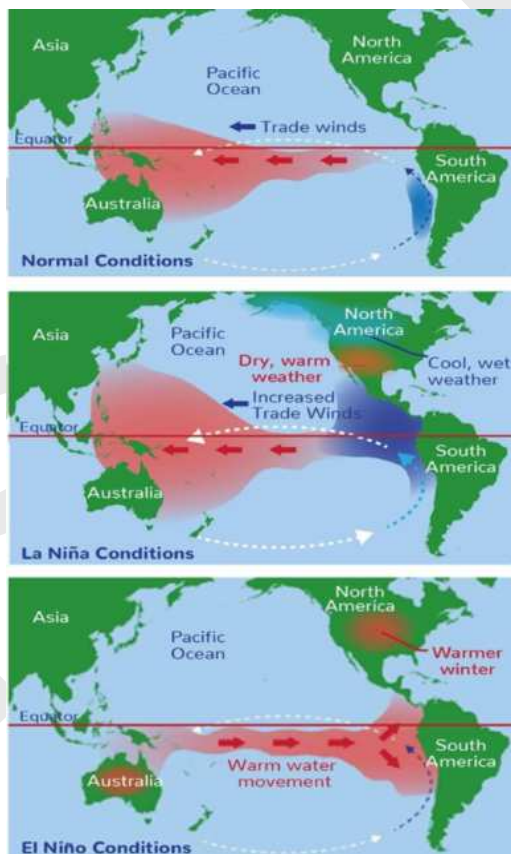
- **El Niño:** A warming of the ocean surface, or above-average sea surface temperatures (SST), in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

- **La Niña:** A cooling of the ocean surface, or below-average SST, in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

- **Neutral:** Neither El Niño or La Niña. Often tropical Pacific SSTs are generally close to average.

- **Impact of El Niño on Food inflation:** Monsoon in India is often weaker during El Niño which results in below-average crop yields and leads to an increase in food prices.

- It is estimated that **60% of all droughts in India in the last 130 years have coincided with an El Niño**.



INDIA TOPS LIST OF GLOBAL INTERNETS SHUT-OFFS: REPORT

- **Key highlight of the report** released by Access Now and the KeepItOn coalition (not-for-profit organization)

- **India enforced 84 internet shutdowns** last year and was on top of the list of nations that ordered internet shutdowns.

- **Jammu and Kashmir has the highest number** of internet shutdowns followed by Rajasthan and West Bengal.

- Reasons for shutdown are **protests, school exams, and elections**.

- Internet shutdowns are **intentional disruptions to internet access and digital communications**.

- Currently, suspension of telecom services (including internet shutdowns) is **governed by Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency & Public Safety) Rules, 2017**, notified under Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

- 2017 Rules provide for **temporary shutdown of telecom services in a region on grounds of public emergency** (up to 15 days at once).

- The law empowers **senior bureaucrats from the home ministry and Centre and state levels to order shutdowns**.

- **Impact of internet shutdowns:**

- **Major economic costs** for all sectors, for example financial transactions, commerce and industry.

- **Impact fundamental services** such as education, health care and other public services.

- **Causes mental trauma** by depriving people of their only means of reaching loved ones.

MINISTRY OF MINES RELEASED DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE OFFSHORE AREA MINERAL (DEVELOPMENT & REGULATION) ACT, 2002 (OAMDR ACT)

- The Parliament enacted the OAMDR Act, 2002 to **provide for development and regulation of mineral resources in the offshore areas** which include the territorial waters, continental shelf, exclusive economic zone and other maritime zones of India.

Salient features of the proposed amendments

- Grant production lease only through auction by **competitive bidding to improve transparency**.
- Introduced the provision for **grant of composite licence**, i.e., exploration licence-cum-production lease.
- **The size of a standard block (minimum area) to be granted has been reduced** to one minute latitude by one minute longitude (approx. 3.43 square km.) from five minutes latitude by five minutes longitude (approx. 85.75 square km.)
- Setting up of a non-lapsable **Offshore Areas Mineral Trust** under the Public Account of India to ensure availability of funds for exploration, disaster management, research, etc.
- To promote ease of doing business, a provision has been made for **easy transfer of exploration licence, composite licence or production lease**.
- **Atomic minerals**, will remain under the control of state-owned companies.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AMENDMENT

- Open up offshore mining to the **private sector**.
- **Utilise India's maritime resources** to its optimal capacity
- The move will contribute to new age sectors such as renewable energy and will **reduce India's import dependence**.

ALSO IN NEWS



New security mechanism for Aadhaar authentication

- The news security use AI & Machine Learning based security mechanism using both **finger minutia and finger image** to check the **liveness** of the finger print captured.
- **Benefits: validate the genuineness (liveness) of the fingerprint**, faster detection of spoofing attempts, ensure privacy, curb financial fraud, etc.
- UIDAI is responsible for **Aadhaar enrolment and authentication, including operation and management of all stages of the Aadhaar life cycle**.
 - It is a statutory authority under **the Ministry of Electronics & IT**.



Official Development Assistance (ODA)

- Japan has extended the ODA for Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link Project.
- ODA is **defined as government aid** that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries.
- India has been the **largest recipient of Japanese ODA loans for the past decades**.
 - Japan initiated its **economic cooperation with India in 1958**.
- Japan's ODA for India is one of the important tools to strengthen Japan-India relations set forth by **"Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership."**









International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005

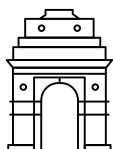
- First round of discussions regarding amendments to the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations 2005 concluded.
- **About IHR 2005**
 - It is a **legally binding agreement of 196 countries to build capability to detect and report potential public health emergencies worldwide**.
 - Under the IHR 2005, WHO has the authority to **declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)** when there is an extraordinary event that poses a public health risk to other countries through the international spread of disease.



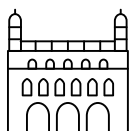
Malabar Tree toad

- Malabar Tree toad found in Mollem National Park.
 - Mollem National Park is **located in Sanguem taluk in Goa** close to the border with Karnataka.
 - This park also has several temples dating back to the **Kadamba Dynasty**.
- **Malabar tree toad**
 - It is a small species found in a forest along the western ghats in wet hollows.
 - It is believed to be the only toad to dwell **on high canopies**.
 - **Conservation IUCN status: Endangered**.
 - It finds mention in the updated checklist on Indian Amphibians released by **the Zoological Survey of India(ZSI)**.

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|---|---|
|  <p>Dangi cattle</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young cattle-rearers in nashik district have formed a forum to popularise Dangi cow. <p>About Dangi cattle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dangi animals are found in Ahmadanagar, Nashik districts of Maharashtra and Dangs district of Gujarat. Dangi cattle is known for sweet milk. Other indigenous cattle breed are: Gir, Lakhimi, Sahiwal etc. |
|  <p>Attukal Pongala</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Attukal Pongala held in Attukal Temple, Thiruvananthapuram is the largest congregation of women for a festival in the world. Pongala, which means 'to boil over', is the ritual in which women prepare sweet payasam (a pudding made from rice, jaggery, coconut and plantains cooked together) and offer it to the Goddess or 'Bhagavathy'. The ten-day-long celebration commences in the Malayalam month of Makaram-Kumbham (Feb - March) on the Karthika star. |
|  <p>1,300-year-old stupa</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) found a 1,300-year-old stupa from Khondalite mining site in Odisha's Jajpur district. A stupa could be 4.5-metre tall and initial assessment showed it may belong to the 7 th or 8 th century. Stupa, Sanskrit for heap, is a mound-like (hemispherical) burial structure containing relics of Buddhist monks. E.g., Sanchi Stupa built over Buddha relics. Central pillar supporting a triple-umbrella form (chattr), representing three jewels of Buddhism. |
|  <p>Personality in news</p> | <p>Santh Sevalal Maharaj</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the first time ever, Ministry of Culture has announced a year-long commemoration of birth anniversary of Banjara Dharmaguru Santh Sevalal Maharaj. Born in 1739 in Shivamogga district of Karnataka. He was a social reformer and spiritual teacher of Banjara Community. Spread across India, Banjara Community is a nomadic community with nearly 10-12 crore population. They are classified as SC, ST and OBC in different states. Having sound knowledge in Ayurveda and Naturopathy, he eradicated myths and superstitions prevalent among forest dwellers and nomadic tribe. Personal Values: Compassion, selflessness and Purposefulness. |
|  <p>Places in News</p> | <p>Guyana (Capital: Georgetown)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently Cabinet approved Air Services Agreement between India and Guyana. Boundaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guyana is located on the north-eastern coast of South America. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is part of Guianas, a region in north-eastern South America on Guiana Shield. Guianas includes Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana. It is bordered by Venezuela, Brazil and Suriname. Geographical features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrain: Mostly rolling highlands; low coastal plain; savanna in south. Highest point: Mount Roraima. Important River - Essequibo River  |



DELHI



LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



HYDERABAD



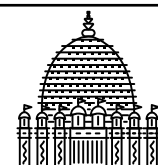
PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI