

NEWS TODAY

5% OF BIRDS IN INDIA ARE ENDEMIC: ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (ZSI)

● Findings are **part of ZSI's publication "75 Endemic Birds of India"** that provides details of bio-geographic regions where the species are found, their conservation status, distinguishing traits, preferred habitats etc.

➤ **Endemic species** of plants and animals are **found exclusively in a particular area.**

● **Other Key findings**

➤ **India is home to 1,353 bird species, 12.40% of global bird diversity.**

➤ **Three endemic species-** Manipur Bush Quail (*Perdica manipurensis*), Himalayan Quail (*Ophrysia superciliosa*) and Jerdon's Courser (*Rhinoptilus bitorquatus*) **not recorded in last few decades.**

➤ **Three species-** Himalayan Quail; Jerdon's Courser and Bugun Liocichla (*Liocichla bugunorum*)- **are classified as 'Critically Endangered' by IUCN.**

➤ **Highest number of endemic species have been recorded in Western Ghats** including Malabar Grey Hornbill (*Ocyroceros griseus*); Malabar Parakeet (*Psittacula columboides*); Ashambu Laughing Thrush (*Montecincla meridionalis*); White-bellied Sholakili (*Sholicola albiventris*) etc.

➤ **Several species are endemic to Andaman and Nicobar Islands** such as Nicobar Megapode (*Megapodius nicobariensis*); Nicobar Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis klossi*); Andaman Crake (*Rallina canningi*); and Andaman Barn Owl (*Tyto deroepstorffi*).

➤ **Four species** of birds are **endemic to Eastern Himalayas**, and **one each to Southern Deccan plateau** and **central Indian forest.**

About ZSI

● It was established in 1916 and traces its origin to **Zoological Section of the Indian Museum at Calcutta in 1875.**

● It undertakes **exploring, naming, describing, classifying and documenting animals from all over India.**

PM LAID FOUNDATION STONE FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF 508 RAILWAY STATIONS UNDER AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME (ABSS)

● ABSS was **launched to redevelop railway stations nationwide to provide state-of-the-art public transport** and world-class amenities at railway stations.

➤ It is **based on Master Planning for long term and implementation** of Master Plan will be **as per station needs.**

➤ **Stations will be developed as 'City Centres'** in an integrated approach for **overall city development, centred around station.**

➤ **Design of station buildings** will be inspired by **local culture, heritage and architecture.**

● **Initiatives taken by Indian railways for modernisation:**

➤ **Train Modernisation** by introducing indigenously developed Vande Bharat Trains, Vistadome coaches, SMART coaches with ultra-modern facilities, Increasing Speed of Freight Trains etc.

➤ **Signalling and Safety features** include Real Time Information System (RTIS) for tracking, Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches, KAVACH- Indigenously developed Train Collision Avoidance System, Electronic Interlocking system etc.

➤ **Combating Climate Change** through initiatives such as setting up Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs), becoming a Net Zero entity by 2030 by completing electrification of all railway tracks etc.

➤ **Others:** Elimination of all unmanned level crossings on broad gauge, Wi-Fi services at stations, One Station One Product scheme etc.

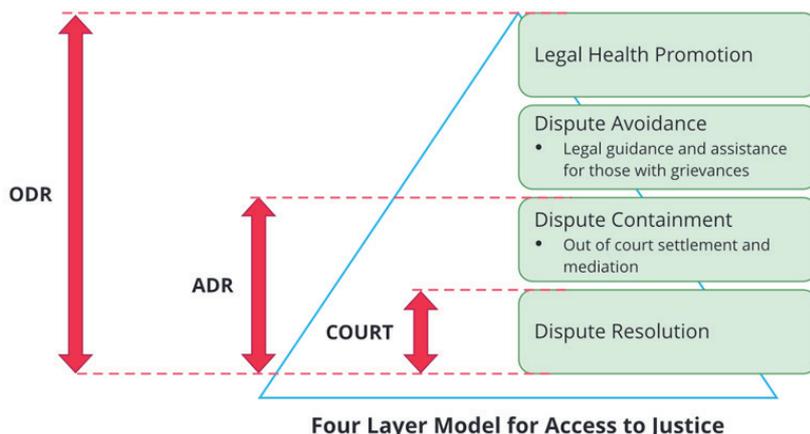


LOK SABHA PASSES INTER-SERVICES ORGANISATION (COMMAND, CONTROL & DISCIPLINE) BILL, 2023

- ISO Bill empowers Commander-in-Chief (C-i-C) and Officer-in Command (O-i-C) of ISOs with all disciplinary and administrative powers over the serving or attached personnel.
 - Presently, the C-i-Cs or O-i-Cs of ISOs were not empowered to exercise disciplinary or administrative powers over the personnel belonging to other services.
- Key highlights of the bill
 - **Applicability:** to all personnel of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and to persons of other forces as notified by the Central Government.
 - **Empowers central government to constitute ISO: Central government may constitute an ISO** with personnel belonging to at least two of the three services: Army, Navy and Air Force.
 - **Existing ISOs** (Andaman & Nicobar Command, Defense Space Agency, and National Defense Academy) shall be deemed to be constituted under the bill.
 - **Provides for a Commanding Officer (CO):** who will be in command of a unit, ship, or establishment.
 - CO will also perform duties assigned by the Commander-in-Chief or Officer-in-Command of the Inter-services Organisation.
- **Significance:** expeditious disposal of cases, avoiding multiple proceedings, reducing financial burdens, and greater integration and joint manship amongst Armed Forces personnel.

SEBI ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON ONLINE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ODR) PORTAL

- Move aims to streamline the existing dispute resolution mechanism by establishing a less time-consuming common ODR portal.
 - Current grievance redressal mechanism- **Sebi Complaint Redressal System (SCORES)**- will be integrated with ODR mechanism to ensure that complainants unsatisfied with SCORES resolution can approach ODR.
- **Market infrastructure institutions (MIIs)**—stock exchanges and depositories— will identify and empanel ODR institutions and establish and operate a common ODR portal with empanelled ODR institutions.
 - All listed companies, specified intermediaries and regulated entities in securities market will enrol on ODR portal.
- ODR is the resolution of disputes, particularly small- and medium-value cases, using digital technology and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) techniques, such as arbitration, conciliation and mediation.
- **Significance of ODR:** Reduction in court cases, Cost-effective and efficient resolution, increased enforcement of contracts etc.
- **Challenges to ODR:**
 - **Structural challenges** like lack of digital literacy and infrastructure
 - **Behavioural challenges** like lack of awareness and trust in ODR
 - **Operational challenges** like difficulty in enforcing ODR outcomes, archaic legal process etc.
- **ODR in India:** RBI's ODR policy for digital payments, SAMADHAAN portal for MSMEs, online mediation provision under Mediation Bill, 2021 etc.



UNION CABINET APPROVES AN OUTLAY OF ₹1.39 LAKH CRORE FOR BHARATNET

- Cabinet approved a partnership between BBNL and Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs/Udyamis) for implementing Fibre-to-Home (FTTH) internet connections.
 - A VLE is a person responsible for managing and operating a Common Service Center (CSC) under the CSC scheme.
- Under this, the fiber requirement is provided by BBNL, and local entrepreneurs will maintain the network.
- **About BharatNet:** It was approved as National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) initiative in 2011 and later renamed as BharatNet.
 - **Aim:** to connect all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country and provide 100 Mbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats.
 - **Objective:** Facilitate the delivery of e-governance, e-health, e-education, e-banking, Internet, etc. to rural India.
 - **Executed:** by Bharat Broadband Network (BBNL) as a special purpose vehicle (SPV).
 - **Funded:** by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)
 - **USOF** is the pool of funds generated by a 5% Universal Service Levy that is charged upon all the telecom fund operators on their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPRESSED BIO-GAS (CBG) (SATAT)

- **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)** initiative envisages setting up of 5000 Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants **for the production of 15 Million Metric Ton (MMT) per annum of CBG by 2023-24.**
 - **Launched** in 2018 **by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.**
- **Key highlights of report**
 - CBG projects are **not being implemented at the desired rate**, only about 40 CBG plants **being set up so far.**
 - Need to provide **fiscal support** for the development of **pipeline infrastructure** for connecting CBG projects with the City Gas Distribution (CGD) network.
 - Need to set up **Bio Fuel Infrastructure Fund** and establish **Credit Guarantee Fund** to improve the accessibility of credit to CBG projects.
 - Nudge **Oil and Gas PSEs** to make investments in **new CBG projects.**
 - Develop a **robust mechanism for coordination** with other ministries and agencies.
- **About CBG**
 - **An enriched form of biogas:** more than 90% methane, carbon dioxide up to 4%, and other traces of gases such as hydrogen sulfide, oxygen, and nitrogen.
 - **Benefits of CBG:** Additional revenue source for farmers, reduction in import of natural gas and crude oil, Buffer against crude oil/gas price fluctuations, etc.

ALSO IN NEWS



Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCSs)

- Union **Ministry of Cooperation** launched the **digital portal of the CRCS**
- Portal **aims to digitize various activities** of CRCS like registration, audit, election, vigilance, training, etc.
- **About CRCS**
 - It is a **statutory body** under the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002.**
 - It is responsible for the **registration of MSCSs, amendment to by-laws of MSCSs, arbitration,** etc.
- **Cooperative societies confined to one state only** are governed by cooperative laws of respective state governments.



Arash-Dorra Gas Field

- **Iran objected to an agreement between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia** to develop Arash/Dorra Gas field.
- This **offshore gas field, located in the Persian Gulf,** is known as **Arash in Iran and Dorra in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.**



World Trade Statistical Review (WTSR) 2023

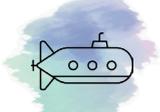
- **WTO released 2023 edition of WTSR** that provides **data on global trade in merchandise and commercial services.**
- **Key findings related to India**
 - **Ranked 18th** (China remained at top) in the list of **merchandise exporters** in 2022.
 - **Ranked 7th in the list of services exporters** with 4.4% of global trade share.
 - **9th largest goods importer** with 2.8% of global share.



Digital India RISC-V Microprocessor (DIR-V) Program

- Union government launched the **DIR-V program** with the **objective to enable** the creation of **next-generation microprocessors** in India.
- It will help ensure **partnership between startups, academia, and multinationals** to make India a **RISC-V Talent Hub** and **supplier of RISC-V system of chips.**
- **Reduced Instruction Set Computer - V (RISC-V)**
 - It is an **open-source instruction set architecture used to develop custom processors** for a variety of applications, from embedded designs to supercomputers.
 - **Applications:** wearable appliances, smartphones, the Internet of Things (IoT), High-performance computing, data centers, etc.



 <p>River Devika</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● About Devika River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Originates: from the hilly Suddha Mahadev temple in Udampur (Jammu & Kashmir) and flows down towards western Punjab (Pakistan), where it merges with the Ravi River. ➤ Udampur is also referred to as Devika Nagari.
 <p>IMS-1 Satellite Bus Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ISRO transferred IMS-1 Satellite Bus Technology to private firm through NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), commercial arm of ISRO. ● Satellite Bus is the main body of a satellite holding all the scientific equipment and necessary payloads. ● IMS-1 satellite bus is a small satellite platform designed to enable low-cost access to space. ● It serves as a dedicated vehicle for various payloads (up to 30 kg), enabling Earth imaging, ocean and atmospheric studies, and microwave remote sensing.
 <p>Neerakshi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India launched its first of its kind Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) named 'Neerakshi.' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It can be used for mine detection, mine disposal, underwater surveys etc. ➤ It has an endurance of four hours and can go up to 300 metres deep. ● It is a collaboration of Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd and MSME entity Aerospace Engineering Private Ltd (AEPL).
 <p>Nuclear Medicine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Russia undertook an initiative for BRICS collaboration in Nuclear Medicine. ● Nuclear Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a medical speciality that uses radioactive tracers (radiopharmaceuticals) to assess bodily functions and to diagnose and treat disease. ➤ Risks: Added exposure to ionizing radiations can increase risk of developing cancer.
 <p>Terms in News</p>	<p>Juice Jacking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Juice jacking is a cyberattack where a public USB charging port is used to steal data or install malware on a device.
 <p>National Handloom Day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2015, Government of India designated 7th August as National Handloom Day to celebrate rich cultural heritage and craftsmanship of handloom weavers. ● It was in 1905 that the Swadeshi Movement was launched on the same day in a meeting held at Calcutta Town Hall. ● Handloom sector is an important source of livelihood in rural and semi-rural parts of the country and contributes to women's empowerment with over 70% of all weavers and allied workers being female.
 <p>Adichanallur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Foundation stone laid for establishment of a museum in Adichanallur, one of five sites declared to be developed as Iconic Sites in Union Budget 2020-21. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Other sites are: Rakhigarhi (Haryana), Hastinapur (UP), Dholavira (Gujarat), Shivsagar (Assam). ● Adichanallur is an iron-age burial site located in Thoothukudi District on banks of Thamirabarani river in Tamil Nadu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adichanallur also showcases megalithic culture. ➤ Various objects dating back to 467 BCE and food grains such as millets and paddy dated 665 BCE have been unearthed here. ➤ Korkai, ancient seaport mentioned in Sangam literature, was nearby Adichanallur.



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



JAIPUR



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI