

# NEWS TODAY

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF POKHRAN-II

● **Pokhran-II (also called Operation Shakti)** is the name assigned to the **series of five nuclear bomb test explosions** conducted by India at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in May 1998.

➤ It was the second Indian nuclear test, the first test was **code-named Smiling Buddha(1974)**.

● **What was the need?**

➤ **The adverse security environment** in the early 1990s after the collapse of the soviet union.

➤ **Failure by states possessing nuclear weapons** to accept a time-bound framework for nuclear disarmament along with a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

➤ **Hostile neighborhood.**

➤ To utilize nuclear power and energy for India's development.

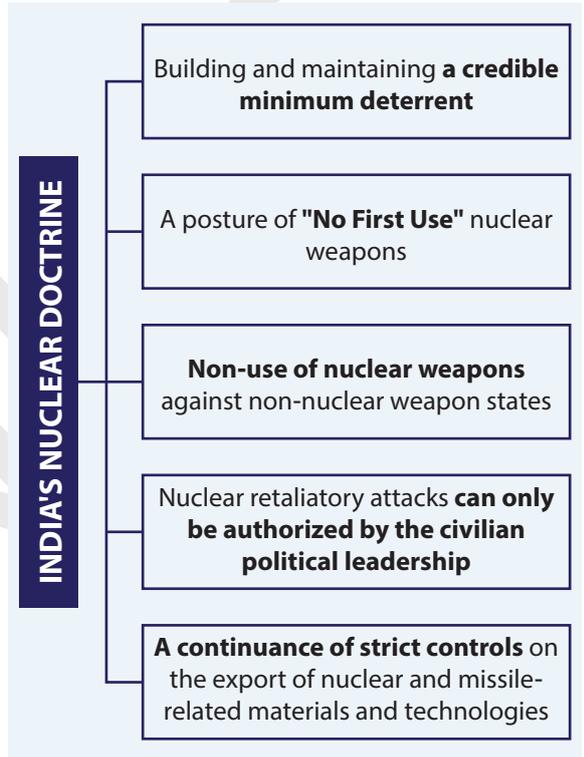
● **Impact of the test**

➤ The tests allowed India to establish a **credible nuclear deterrence** and stand up to nuclear blackmail from the West.

➤ Laid the foundation for achieving **self-reliance in the development of nuclear weapons**.

➤ Pokhran-II had a significant impact on India's geopolitical influence, as it **raised the country's profile as a strategic player in South Asia and the world**.

➤ The nuclear tests **led to the development of India's nuclear doctrine**, which outlines the country's stance on the use of nuclear weapons and its nuclear posture.



## POWER TO APPOINT WHIP RESTS WITH POLITICAL PARTY, SC

● The Constitution Bench in Shiv Sena case ruled that **power to appoint a whip and a leader rests with the "political party"** and not the "legislature party," as stated in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

● **Key Observations of SC**

➤ **Appointment of whip:** Speaker must **recognise the whip** and leader authorised by the political party, **based on the party constitution, after conducting an inquiry**.

■ Allowing the legislative wing to act independently from the political party contradicts the constitutional system of governance.

➤ **Speaker to decide disqualification:** Disqualification ought to be decided as per established procedures in law and the Speaker is the appropriate authority for this under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, which lays down the anti-defection law.

■ Emphasised that the **Speaker should decide on pending disqualification petitions in a reasonable timeframe**.

■ **MLAs have the right to participate in proceedings of the House regardless of pendency** of any petitions for disqualification.

➤ **Floor test:** A floor test is **to be conducted by the Governor only on obtaining objective material** to show that the incumbent government had lost the confidence of the House.

### WHIP IN INDIA

● A whip may refer to both a **written order to members of a party in the House** to abide by a certain direction, and to a designated official of the party who is authorised to issue such a direction.

● **All parties can issue whips to their members.** Parties appoint a senior member from among their House contingents to issue whips — this member is called a chief whip, and he/ she is assisted by additional whips.

# SUPREME COURT SEEKS COMPLIANCE OF GUIDELINES LAID DOWN IN ANURADHA BHASIN CASE

- The SC has issued notice seeking the compliance of the Government with respect to its judgement in Anuradha Bhasin case.
  - In **Anuradha Bhasin's Case (2020)**, the suspension of mobile, landline and internet services in the **state of Jammu and Kashmir** at the time of the revocation of Article 370 along with restrictions on movement in certain areas was challenged.
- **Key Guidelines Proposed in Anuradha Bhasin's Case**
  - An order **suspending internet services indefinitely is impermissible** under the **Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Service) Rules, 2017**.
  - Suspension can be utilised for **temporary duration** only.
  - Any order **suspending the internet issued** under the **Suspension Rules**, must adhere to the principle of **proportionality** and must not **extend beyond necessary duration**.
  - Any order suspending the internet **under the Suspension Rules** is subject to **judicial review**.
- The court had also declared that **freedom of speech and expression** as well as **freedom of trade and commerce through internet** are constitutionally **protected rights under Article 19(1)(a) and Article 19(1)(g)**.

## INDIA AMONG TOP 5 COUNTRIES DEVELOPING OIL PIPELINES, 49% OF PROJECTS IN AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST: REPORT

- **Global Energy Monitor**, a non-profit organisation, reports that India is one of the top builder of under-construction or planned oil pipelines.
- **Key highlight**
  - India is constructing 1,630 km long oil transmission pipelines, **ranking second globally in the pipelines under the construction category**.
  - **Paradip Numaligarh Crude Pipeline (under construction) and New Mundra-Panipat Oil Pipeline (proposed)** will be among the longest oil pipelines in the world.
  - **The leading five countries in terms** of in-development pipelines (proposed and under construction) are the United States, India, Iraq, Iran, and Tanzania.
  - **Oil pipelines in development globally** represent an increase of nearly 30% from this time last year.
- **Reasons for promoting pipelines for transporting oil and Gas**
  - They are **more efficient at transferring these vast quantities of oil and natural gas** than conventional shipments by rail, truck, or ships.
  - Pipelines will greatly **minimize the risk of explosion during transit**.
  - **The time** required to construct a pipeline **is lower**.
  - **Transit losses are minimal**.
  - Oil transport lines have a **less damaging environmental effect** than other forms of conveyance.

### GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR THE PROMOTION OF OIL AND GAS PIPELINES

- Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Project
- One Nation & One Gas Grid
- City gas distribution project

### INTERNET SHUTDOWNS RELATED PROVISIONS IN INDIA

- 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).

## DELHI GOVERNMENT HAS POWER OVER ALL SERVICES EXCEPT POLICE, LAND, PUBLIC ORDER: SUPREME COURT

- A constitution bench ruled that the elected government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD) **has legislative and executive power over "Services" under Entry 41, List II of the 7th schedule**.

### Key Observation of SC

- **The Lieutenant Governor(L-G) is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers(CoM)** of NCTD in relation to matters within the legislative scope of NCTD.
- SC also reaffirms that the **Centre had exclusive legislative and executive control over 'services' relating to public order, land and police** as envisaged under Article 239AA.
- **A constitutionally entrenched and democratically elected government** needs to have control over its administration.
  - The civil service, under the control of Ministers, implements CoM's decisions for good governance.
- **The 69th Amendment of Constitution in 1991** gave National Capital of Delhi special status with its own democratically elected government and legislative assembly.
  - Legislative Assembly shall have power to enumerate anything in **State List or in Concurrent List** in so far as any such matter is applicable to Union territories.
  - Provided that **in case of difference of opinion between L-G and his Ministers on any matter**, L-G shall refer it to the President.

# PM LAYS FOUNDATION STONE OF LASER INTERFEROMETER GRAVITATIONAL-WAVE OBSERVATORY – INDIA (LIGO-INDIA)

- The LIGO-India facility is being constructed in the **Hingoli district in Maharashtra**.

- LIGO - India is a **planned advanced gravitational- wave observatory** to be located in India as part of the worldwide network.

- **Genesis:** The project was given “in principle” approval in 2016 to be **completed by 2030**.

- **Funding:** Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

- Working of LIGO**

- **The observatory comprises two 4-km-long vacuum chambers**, built perpendicular to each other.

- **Highly reflective mirrors** are placed at the end of the vacuum chambers.

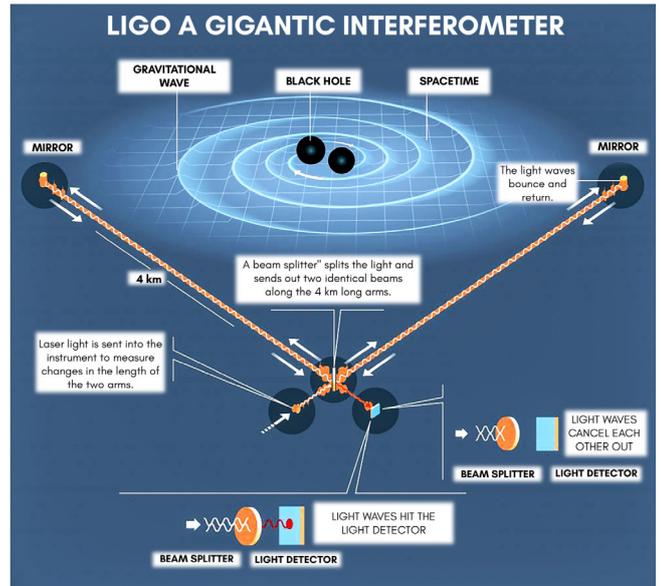
- **Light rays are released simultaneously** in both vacuum chambers.

- In normal circumstances, the light rays in both chambers would return simultaneously. But The presence of a phase difference marks the **detection of a gravitational wave**.

- Scientific benefits of LIGO India**

- Will increase **the expected event rates, and will boost the detection confidence of new sources** (by increasing the sensitivity, sky coverage, and duty cycle of the network).

- It would have the **ability to localize Gravitational wave sources** in the sky.



## ALSO IN NEWS

 <p><b>AGMARK</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)</b> has proposed to do away with Agmark registration for edible oils sourced from multiple sources.</li> <li><b>AGMARK</b> is a certification mark for <b>agricultural produce, assuring that they conform to a grade standard</b> notified by the Directorate of Marketing &amp; Inspection (DMI), under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.</li> <li>It is governed by the <b>Agricultural Produce (Grading Marking) Act, 1937</b>.</li> <li>It differentiates between <b>quality and 2-3 grades</b> are prescribed for each commodity.</li> <li>It <b>includes</b> fruits, Vegetables, cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetable oils, ghee, etc.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Hadron Beam Therapy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prime Minister dedicated National Hadron Beam Therapy Facility, Navi Mumbai to Nation.</li> <li>Hadron Beam Therapy <b>is an advanced and highly precise radiation</b> treatment for tumors.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In this, the irradiating beams are made of charged particles (protons and other ions, such as carbon).</li> <li>➤ Charged particles can penetrate the tissues with <b>little diffusion and deposit the maximum energy</b> just before stopping allowing specific regions to be irradiated.</li> </ul> </li> <li>With the use of hadrons, the tumor can be irradiated while the damage <b>to healthy tissues is less than with conventional therapy</b>.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>MPox (Monkey Pox)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The World Health Organization (WHO) has ended the global health emergency for mpox.</li> <li>Mpox is a Viral disease <b>most commonly found in Africa</b> and has infected around 87,000 people in 2022</li> <li>The <b>virus is a member of the Poxviridae family</b> which is genetically similar to other poxviruses.</li> <li>It <b>spreads through close contact with an infected individual</b> and can be transmitted from animals too.</li> <li><b>Symptoms:</b> Fever, Rashes, Swollen lymph nodes, headaches</li> <li>Currently there is <b>no approved anti-viral treatment</b> for the disease.</li> </ul>



 <p><b>Fission Molybdenum-99</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prime Minister dedicated the <b>Molybdenum-99 production facility</b> located in Trombay Campus of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre to Nation.</li> <li>• <b>About Molybdenum-99</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Molybdenum-99 is the parent isotope of technetium-99m (Tc-99m)</b>, a short-lived, gamma-emitting isotope.</li> <li>➤ <b>Tc-99m is used for</b> the detection of disease and for the study of organ structure and function.</li> <li>➤ <b>Tc-99m is especially useful for nuclear medicine procedures</b> because it can be chemically incorporated into small molecule ligands and proteins.</li> <li>➤ Tc-99m is currently produced through a multistep process that begins with the <b>neutron irradiation of fissile U-235</b> contained in highly enriched uranium.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Sahyadri Tiger Reserve</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>It has not had a resident tiger for decades</b> due to lack of prey, absence of tigress, and too many leopards</li> <li>• <b>Location:</b> It is located in the Sahyadri Ranges of Western Ghats in Maharashtra.</li> <li>• It includes the area around <b>the Koyna Dam, warna river.</b></li> <li>• It spreads over two Protected Areas of <b>Koyana Sanctuary (KWLS) and Chandoli National Park (CNP).</b></li> <li>• <b>Habitat Attributes:</b> The habitat of Sahyadri is composed of woodlands, grasslands, and plateaus.</li> <li>• <b>Flora:</b> The forest cover here is that of moist evergreen, semi-evergreen, moist and dry deciduous vegetation</li> <li>• <b>Fauna:</b> Wild dog, Leopard, Gaur, Sambar, Four Horned Antelope, Mouse Deer, and Giant Squirrel.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Palak Lake</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the mass mobilization of <b>public participation in the Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE), a Nature walk</b> was organized along the Palak Lake.</li> <li>• The Palak Wetland Reserve is located about <b>360 km from Aizawl, the capital city of Mizoram.</b></li> <li>• It is rich in biodiversity and falls under the <b>Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot.</b></li> <li>• It is the <b>largest natural lake</b> in Mizoram.</li> <li>• It is home to most of the common wetland birds and hill birds and is believed to be a winter stop-over <b>for migrating Pintail Duck.</b></li> </ul>
 <p><b>Baobabs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bhil tribe</b> of Central India is <b>opposing the forest department's decision</b> to give permission for uprooting baobab trees for commercial use.</li> <li>• Baobabs belongs to the <b>genus Adansonia</b> are native to <b>mainland Africa, Madagascar, and Australia.</b></li> <li>• They have <b>unusual barrel-like trunks</b> and are known for their <b>extraordinary longevity</b> (live up to 2,000 years) and <b>ethnobotanical importance.</b></li> <li>• The tree's unique <b>pendulous flowers</b> are pollinated by <b>bats</b> and bush babies.</li> <li>• IUCN Status: <b>endangered</b></li> <li>• Madhya Pradesh government has applied for a <b>Geographical Indication (GI)</b> tag for Boababs.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>YUVA PRATIBHA - Culinary Talent Hunt'</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MyGov, in collaboration with Institute of Hotel Management, Pusa launched '<b>YUVA PRATIBHA - Culinary Talent Hunt'</b></li> <li>• <b>Aim and Objective:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>To bring out the lost recipes of India</b> and promote the culinary talents of youth.</li> <li>➤ To <b>create awareness of the contribution of nutri-cereals</b> (millets) for food security and nutrition.</li> <li>➤ To <b>promote national outreach of millets.</b></li> <li>➤ To <b>incorporate millets in food preparation.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Cham lama dance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a <b>masked dance unique to Tibetan Buddhism</b></li> <li>• In this Buddhist monks with colourful costumes dance to the sounds of traditional instruments.</li> <li>• The <b>dance in itself is seen as a form of meditation</b> and mostly practised during festivals like Losar in Buddhist monasteries.</li> <li>• <b>Padma Sambhava (Guru Rinpoche)</b> the founder of Nyingmapa is believed to <b>have started the Cham Dance tradition.</b></li> <li>• The dance <b>often depicts scenes of Padmasambhava's life and his 8 manifestations</b></li> </ul>