

Supreme Court(SC) asks Centre to set up a fresh Delimitation Commission

- The directions were issued on a plea seeking a proportionate representation of the **Limbu and Tamang tribal communities in Sikkim and West Bengal assemblies.**
- The SC's decision was made to **ensure the rights** as guaranteed under
 - ⊖ **Articles 330** (reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the House of People) and
 - ⊖ **Article 332** (reservation of seats for SCs and STs in legislative assemblies of states) of the Constitution,
 - ⊖ To prevent a violation of **Article 14** (equality before law).
- **Delimitation Commission: Under Article 82 of the Constitution**, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act.
 - ⊖ It is responsible for the **readjustment of the constituencies** (number and boundaries) of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies **after every Census.**
 - ⊖ **Its decisions are considered final** and are unchallengeable in any court.
 - ⊖ The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but **no modifications are permissible therein by them.**
 - ⊖ **Composition:**
 - ◆ A **SC judge** (Current or retired) **acts as Chairman**
 - ◆ The **Chief Election Commissioner of India** or an Election Commissioner nominated by him/her.
 - ◆ Respective **State's Election Commissioner.**

Delimitations in India

- ⊖ The Delimitation Commission has been set up **four times since independence i.e. in 1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002.**
- ⊖ **In 1976, the 42nd Constitutional Amendment** froze this delimitation exercise until the first Census after 2000 was published.
- ⊖ **In 2002, the 84th Constitutional Amendment** further extended the freeze for 25 years **till 2026.**

Prime Minister (PM) participated in the 525th birth anniversary celebration of Sant Meerabai in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh

- **About Meerabai (1498-1546)**
 - ⊖ Meera Bai is one of the **great saint poets of the Bhakti movement.**
 - ◆ She was a **Saguna Bhakt** and held a **deep devotion to Lord Krishna**, whom she considered her husband.
 - ⊖ **Early Life and Marriage:**
 - ◆ She was born to Rajput King **Ratan Singh in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.**
 - ◆ In 1516, she was married to **Bhoj Raj** (son of Rana Sanga and prince of Mewar) who died in 1521.
 - ⊖ **Devotion to Lord Krishna:**
 - ◆ She refused to be a part of the royal household and **moved to Brindavan in pursuit of her devotion.**
 - ◆ She is believed to have **spent her last years in Dwarka.**
 - ⊖ **Composition**
 - ◆ She composed her poems in the **Rajasthani dialect of Hindi and Braj**
 - ◆ **'Mere to giridhar gopal'**, and **"Paayoji maine Ram Ratan dhan paayo"** is her most famous poem.
 - ◆ **Robert Bly and Jane Hirshfield** in **'Meerabai: Ecstatic Poems'** rendered some of her poems into English.
 - ⊖ **Social Reformer:**
 - ◆ She was a disciple of **Saint Ravidas** who hailed from a caste considered **"untouchable".**
 - ◆ Her religious pursuits **challenged societal norms for princesses and widows.**




About Bhakti Movement


- ⊖ Bhakti means **personal devotion to God.**
- ⊖ The **Bhakti saints** advocated for **attaining God through devotion (bhakti)** rather than adhering to rules, regulations, or societal structures.
- ⊖ In North India, the **religious movement of this period lies between 1300 – 1550 A.D**
- ⊖ This tradition of Bhakti is classified into two categories:
 - ◆ **saguna (with attributes):** Worship of **specific deities with Anthropomorphic forms** such as Shiva, Vishnu, goddess.
 - ◆ **Nirguna (without attributes):** It was a worship of an abstract form of God.
- ⊖ **Guru Nanak, Tulsidas, Kabirdas, Ravidas and Surdas** among others are famous saints belong to this movement.

The Central government exempts the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) from the Right To Information (RTI) Act, 2005

- **Department of Personnel and Training** issued a notification under section 24 (2) of the RTI Act, 2005 adding CERT-In in the Second Schedule of the RTI Act.
 - ⊕ **RTI act provides the right to citizens to secure access to information** under the control of public authorities, to promote transparency and accountability.
- **Section 24 of the RTI Act:** It says that this law is not applicable to the intelligence and security organizations specified in the Second Schedule.
 - ⊕ However, the information pertaining to the **allegations of corruption and human rights violations shall not be excluded.**
 - ⊕ The second Schedule **includes intelligence and security agencies** under its ambit like RAW, IB, etc. After CERT-in it has 27 agencies.
- **Other exemptions under RTI**
 - ⊕ Certain categories of information have been exempted from disclosure under **sections 8,9,10 and 11** like, information affecting the **sovereignty and integrity of India**, records of deliberations of the Council of Ministers, information forbidden by court of law, etc.
 - ⊕ **Section 8(2)**, states that information exempted under sub-section (1) and the Official Secrets Act, 1923 can be disclosed **if the public interest in disclosure outweighs the harm to the protected interest.**



CERT-In



About: CERT-In is the **national nodal agency** for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.

Genesis: Operational since 2004.

Ministry: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology


Mandate: **Information Technology Act 2000**, designated CERT-In to perform the following functions in the area of cyber security, including:

- ⊕ Collection, analysis, and dissemination of information on cyber incidents.
- ⊕ Emergency measures for handling cyber security incidents etc.

International Energy Agency (IEA) releases "Emissions from Oil and Gas Operations in Net Zero Transitions" report

- **Key highlights**
 - ⊕ Around **15% of global energy-related emissions** stem from the production, transport, and processing of **oil and gas**.
 - ⊕ **Use of oil and gas** contributes to **another 40% of emissions**.
 - ⊕ **US\$600 billion** would be required to **halve the emissions intensity** of oil and gas operations globally by 2030.
- **Recommendations to reduce emissions of oil and gas sector**
 - ⊕ **Minimise methane emissions:** Methane is responsible for **around 30% of rise in global temperatures** since Industrial Revolution.
 - ⊕ **Eliminating all non-emergency flaring:** Non-emergency flaring happens when oil field operators choose to burn the "associated" gas that comes with oil production.
 - ◆ Operators may **invest in equipment and pipelines to capture "associated" gas.**
 - ⊕ **Electrify upstream operations:** Electrifying operations (including drilling rigs, pumps, compressors, etc.) cuts in half CO₂ emissions from upstream energy use in 2030.
 - ⊕ **Deployment of CCUS:** Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) **involves capture of CO₂** from large point sources like power generation.
 - ◆ **This captured CO₂** is compressed, transported, and either **used in various applications** or **injected into deep geological formations.**
 - ⊕ **Use of low-emissions electrolysis hydrogen** (i.e., using electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen).

IEA



Genesis: IEA was founded in 1974 to ensure the **security of oil supplies**. Energy security remains a central part of its mission.

Membership: **31 countries** (India is not a member).
 ⊕ India is **part of 'association countries'** of IEA.

Reports:

- ⊕ World Energy Outlook
- ⊕ Global EV Outlook

For the first time, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare introduced generic drugs for treating four rare diseases

- **Price** of these unbranded generic versions of medicine for the **four rare diseases** will be **100 times lower** than the current market value of the branded drugs.
- **Four Rare disease are**
 - ⊕ **Tyrosinemia-Type 1:** An **autosomal recessive genetic metabolic disorder** characterised by lack of **Fumarylacetoacetate hydrolase** enzyme (needed for the final breakdown of the amino acid tyrosine)
 - ⊕ **Gaucher's Disease:** Inherited metabolic disorder characterised by lack of **glucocerebrosidase** enzyme needed for **breaks down lipids**
 - ⊕ **Wilson's Disease:** An autosomal recessive disorder caused by **abnormal copper accumulation in the body** particularly involving the brain, liver, and cornea.
 - ⊕ **Dravet or Lennox Gastaut Syndrome- seizures:** A genetic epilepsy
- **About rare disease**
 - ⊕ WHO defines rare disease as often **debilitating lifelong disease or disorder** with a prevalence of **1 or less, per 1000 population**.
 - ⊕ It collectively afflicts **6-8% of the population** in any country at any given time.
 - ⊕ **India** could have **8.4 crore to 10 crore** such cases.
 - ⊕ Nearly 80% of these diseases are **genetic in nature**.
- **Challenges:** Late diagnosis due to lack of awareness, unavailability of treatment, Prohibitive cost of treatment, etc.

Key initiative for rare diseases

- ⊕ **National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD), 2021:** Financial support of **up to Rs. 50 lakhs** to rare disease patients for treatment in any of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) mentioned in NPRD.
- ⊕ **Exemption from Basic Customs Duty** to Rare Diseases drugs when imported by CoEs or a person or institution (on the recommendations of CoE) for personal use.
- ⊕ **Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Pharmaceuticals** covers orphan drugs (drugs of rare diseases).

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) launched the training of Krishi Sakhis for the promotion of Natural Farming

- The initiative aimed to train and certify 50,000 Krishi Sakhis in a phased manner by the National Centre for Organic and Natural Farming (NCONF).
 - ⊕ NCONF is a subordinate office of the MoA&FW.
- They will be trained under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
 - ⊕ DAY-NRLM is a poverty alleviation program of MoRD that enables poor households in rural areas to access gainful self-employment and skilled-wage employment opportunities.
- **Krishi Sakhis:** They are practicing farmers and trained para-extension professionals in agriculture at the grassroots level.
 - ⊕ They encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly and economically viable agricultural methods by raising awareness.
- **Natural farming:** it is a chemical-free farming system with an understanding of ecology, resource recycling, and on-farm resource optimization.
 - ⊕ It aims at restoring soil health, maintaining diversity, ensuring animal welfare, stressing on efficient use of natural/local resources, and promoting ecological fairness.
 - ⊕ **Challenges associated:** susceptible to pest attacks, time-consuming, labor-intensive, etc.
 - ⊕ **Initiative to promote natural farming:** National Mission on Natural Farming, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, etc.



COMPONENTS OF NATURAL FARMING



Beejamrit

The process includes treatment of seed using cow dung, urine and lime based formulations.

Whapasa

The process involves activating earthworms in the soil in order to create water vapor condensation.

Jivamrit

The process enhances the fertility of soil using cow urine, dung, flour of pulses and jaggery concoction.

Mulching

The process involves creating micro climate using different mulches with trees, crop biomass to conserve soil moisture.



Plant Protection

The process involves spraying of biological concoctions which prevents pest, disease and weed problems and protects the plant and improves their soil fertility.

Also in News



9th schedule of the Constitution

- Bihar government asked Centre to include recently amended laws (raising caste-based quotas from 50% to 65%) in 9th schedule.
- **9th schedule**
 - ⊕ It was added to Constitution by 1st Constitutional Amendment (1951) under Article 31B.
 - ⊕ Central and state laws included in 9th schedule cannot be challenged in courts for violation of Fundamental Rights.
 - ⊕ However, Supreme Court in *I R Coelho v State of Tamil Nadu* (2007), ruled that any law added to 9th Schedule after April 24, 1973, violating fundamental rights can be challenged if:
 - ◆ it undermines the basic structure, as outlined in Article 21 along with Articles 14 and 19.



Cashew crop

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA), facilitated the export of over 30 tonnes of cashew on National Cashew Day(23rd November).
- **About Cashew**
 - ⊕ **Origin:** Native to Brazil; it was introduced in the Malabar coast in the 16th century.
 - ⊕ **Soil and climate:** Well-drained deep sandy loam soils.
 - ◆ **Temperature:** Range of 20 to 38 degree Celsius.
 - ◆ **Relative humidity:** 60 to 95%
 - ◆ **Annual precipitation:** 2000 to 3500 mm.
 - ⊕ India is the second largest producer and exporter of Cashew Nuts.
 - ⊕ **Major Cashew producing states:** Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.



Coseismic ionospheric perturbations (CIP)

- A study has revealed that even smaller earthquakes have their reflection in the ionosphere.
- Earthquakes generate ionospheric disturbances that are referred to as CIP.
- Coseismic vertical crustal movements excite acoustic waves in the atmosphere.
 - ⊕ These waves propagate to reach the ionosphere, causing disturbances in electrons along the line of sights connecting ground Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receivers and satellites.
- The CIPs can help to observe earthquake sources from space and may pave the way for deciphering earthquake precursors using space-based observations.



Avian influenza A(H9N2) virus

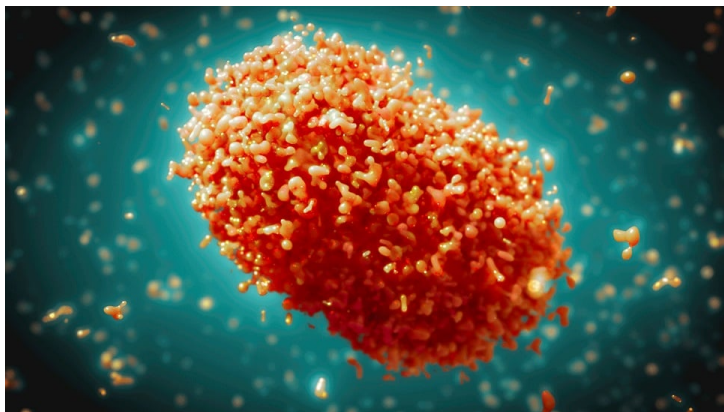
- Union Health Ministry is closely monitoring the reported outbreak of H9N2 in China.
- H9N2 is a subtype of the influenza A virus, which causes human influenza(rare) as well as bird flu.
- H9N2 viruses are found worldwide in wild birds and are endemic in poultry in many areas.
- Transmission of virus infection can take place due to exposure to infected poultry or contaminated environments.
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Institute of High-Security Animal Diseases (ICAR-NIHSAD) has developed an 'Inactivated low pathogenic avian influenza (H9N2) vaccine for chickens'.

India's banking liquidity deficit at near 5-year high

- In banking system **Liquidity deficit (LD)** means banks do not have sufficient funds for credit demands by customers.
 - ⊕ **Tightened monetary policy, Payments of advance tax and GST by businesses** (shifting money away from banking system) are being considered as key reasons for LD.
- **RBI controls liquidity in banking system** through a **Liquidity Adjustment Facility** (operates through Repo and Reverse Repo auctions).
 - ⊕ **Additional instruments for liquidity management:** Marginal standing facility, Statutory Liquidity ratio, etc.

Monkeypox (mpox)

- WHO confirms **sexual spread of mpox in Congo for the 1st time** as the country sees a record outbreak.
- **About mpox:**
 - ⊕ It is an **infectious disease caused by the monkeypox virus.**
 - ⊕ **Symptoms:** painful rash, enlarged lymph nodes, and fever.
 - ⊕ The **natural reservoir of the virus is unknown** – various small mammals such as squirrels and monkeys are susceptible.
 - ⊕ **Person-to-person transmission** of mpox can occur through direct contact with infectious skin or other lesions.
 - ⊕ Initially limited to **certain African countries until early 2022**, it later spread globally.



World's largest solar facilities

- Recently launched **Noor Abu Dhabi** of the UAE is one of the world's largest stand-alone operational solar plant with a total capacity of 1.2 GW.
- **Other largest solar power plants**
 - ⊕ **Bhadla Solar Park** (multiple plants) in Rajasthan has a capacity of 2.25GW.
 - ⊕ **Pavagada Solar Park** in Karnataka has a capacity of 2 GW.
 - ⊕ **Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project** at Ramagundam, Telangana is India's largest floating solar power project (commissioned in 2022).
- **Cochin International Airport** is the world's first solar-powered airport.



Account Aggregators(AA)

- The Finance Minister has assured that **the customer data shared with AA is completely safe in India.**
- An AA is a type of **RBI-regulated entity (with an NBFC-AA license).**
 - ⊕ It helps an individual **securely and digitally access and share information** from one financial institution to other in the AA network.
 - ⊕ It replaces **sharing physical signed and scanned copies of bank statements, or having to share usernames and passwords** with third parties.
 - ⊕ It creates **opportunities for new kinds of services** -- eg new types of loans.

Personality in news | **Guru Teg Bahadur (1621- 1675)**

- **Martyrdom Day** of Guru Teg Bahadur (9th Guru of Sikhs) was observed.
- He was born to **Mata Nanki and Guru Hargobind (6th Sikh guru).**
- He was married to **Mata Gujri** and was **father of Guru Gobind Singh (the 10th Guru).**
- In childhood, he was called **Tyag Mal** because of his ascetic nature. **At 13 years of age remarkable bravery** in a battle against a **Mughal chieftain** earned him the name **Tegh Bahadur.**
- His sermons were delivered in **Sadukhri and Braj languages.**
- He was **executed in 1675** on orders of **Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.**
- **Ethical values:** Courage of conviction, compassion, empathy, etc.

