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## SC cites Preamble to reject plea against Mushtaq opening Dasara in Mysuru

The Supreme Court on Friday reminded a petitioner, who did not want "Muslim" Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate the historical Mysuru Dasara festivities, about the Preamble which enshrines secularism, liberty of thought and faith, as well as equality and fraternity as ideals cardinal to national unity. The petition was dismissed, with the Court reiterating that the event was not exclusively Hindu and refusing to intervene in the state's decision.



The petitioner argued that a Hindu dignitary alone should open the pooja as it is a religious ritual, but the Court found that the event was state-conducted and secular, not an exclusive religious ritual. The Court emphasized that Mysuru Dasara involves spiritual and social activities, not just Hindu religious rites, with various ceremonies like lighting lamps, offering donations, and honoring contributors. The state explained that the inauguration ceremony did not involve any act of worship or pooja, underscoring the inclusive, secular nature of the festival's opening. The Supreme Court noted that "Secularism is a basic feature" of the Constitution and maintained that the state "can host an event on religion of its own" apart from following religious practices.

### Storming the Pamba



Water warriors: Snakeboats skim over the water during the fiercely contested opening event of the Champions Boat League Season 5, on the Pamba river at Kainakary, Kerala on Friday.



After Operation Sindoor, terror groups shift base »page 3



Indonesia to monitor for aflatoxins in Indian peanuts »page 5



# STATE



## Patrol ship Adamyia commissioned at Odisha's Paradip Port

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship Adamyia, the first in a series of eight Adamyia-class fast patrol vessels, was commissioned at Paradip Port in Odisha.
- Adamyia is a 51-meter-long vessel, with over 60% indigenous content, supporting the "Make in India" initiative and strengthening India's maritime security.
- The ship has a displacement of about 320 tonnes and is powered by two 3,000 KW diesel engines, enabling a top speed of 28 knots and an endurance of 1,500 nautical miles at economical speed.
- It is the first ICG ship fitted with indigenously developed Controllable Pitch Propellers and gearboxes, which improve maneuverability, flexibility, and performance at sea.
- This makes the vessel well-suited for patrolling India's vast coastline, maritime surveillance, search and rescue operations, and ensuring coastal security.
- The commissioning of Adamyia thus bolsters the capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard in safeguarding the country's maritime interests.
- The ICG operates under the Ministry of Defence and is organized into five regional commands covering India's maritime zones. It regularly undertakes patrols, surveillance, maritime rescue coordination, and environmental protection activities, strengthening India's maritime sovereignty and security.

## ₹57,000-crore drainage master plan unveiled to solve flood woes in Delhi

- The Union and Delhi governments have launched a ₹57,000-crore drainage master plan to address flood and waterlogging issues in Delhi, aiming for a lasting solution to annual disruptions.
- The plan will be executed in five phases over five years, covering major basins such as Najafgarh, Barapullah, and Trans-Yamuna, with the goal of fixing persistent waterlogging areas in the national capital.
- The drainage network under the master plan totals about 18,958 km and involves coordination among multiple government departments, including PWD, Irrigation and Flood Control, municipal corporations, and development authorities.
- PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh stated that every new drain laid in Delhi will follow the new master blueprint, and additional sewage and water master plans are also set to be unveiled soon.
- Once the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is approved, tenders will be floated for private firms to begin execution, ensuring a long-term solution to Delhi's drainage needs.
- Delhi faces urban water logging every monsoon as the city currently operates on a drainage master plan drawn up in 1976 when its population was around 60 lakh. Since then, the number has grown nearly fourfold.



## After Operation Sindoor, terror groups shift base

- Following Operation Sindoor, which destroyed major terror hubs in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Hizbul Mujahideen have started shifting their infrastructure to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- The relocation is confirmed by Indian intelligence and is facilitated by Pakistani state structures, giving these groups greater operational depth and safety in the new region.
- Evidence shows JeM gatherings taking place with police protection and political support, as well as new construction of terrorist training and assembly facilities in areas like Bandaa and Mansehra.
- The intelligence dossier details Hizbul Mujahideen's new training facility named "HM 313" in Bandaa, supervised by former Pakistani commander Khalid Khan, yielding improved resilience against Indian precision strikes.
- Intelligence also reveals JeM's continued recruitment and mobilization efforts, including a large event planned at Peshawar's Markaz Shaheed Maksudabad, and the group's propaganda drive linking recent actions to a broader narrative targeting India.
- Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is often accused of backing militant and terrorist groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and the Taliban, which have carried out attacks in India and Afghanistan.
- Pakistan has faced designations and grey-listing by international bodies like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for failing to curb terror financing activities.



## As India and Canada reset ties, NSAs hold talks on security cooperation



- India and Canada's National Security Advisers (NSAs) and security teams held talks in Delhi aimed at enhancing bilateral security cooperation, following two years of diplomatic tension after Canada's allegations linking Indian agencies to the killing of Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.
- The talks focused on counter-terrorism, especially concerning Khalistani activists wanted in India, as well as issues of extradition and sharing intelligence information.
- The meeting was described by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs as a regular part of bilateral security consultations, and an opportunity to follow up on discussions from the Modi-Carney meeting at the G-7 Summit in June.
- A range of issues were discussed, including recent threats against diplomatic missions, the security of Indian Consulates in Canada, and concerns raised by incidents targeting Indian diplomats and facilities in Canada.
- The talks come amid efforts by both sides to restore high-level diplomatic contacts and address problems like the downsizing of diplomatic staff and stalled visa services.

### Scope of Cooperation

- Dialogue mechanisms are being reactivated in areas like trade, defense, civil nuclear cooperation, critical minerals, science and technology, and agriculture.
- Negotiations have restarted for trade agreements, including the Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA) and steps toward a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- Collaborative discussions now also span clean energy, digital transformation, supply chain resilience, higher education, and mobility.

## EDITORIAL

### PRELIMS CORNER :

1. Macolin Convention, recently in news, is related to :

- (a) Cybercrime and data security
- (b) Reversing the decline in the health of the world's oceans
- (c) Private sector investment in infrastructure development
- (d) Manipulation of sports competitions

2. With regard to Kashmiri culture, the term "Raad" refers to :

- (a) Kahwa tea
- (b) Handicraft fair
- (c) Folk dance
- (d) Floating garden

3. The State of Inequality in India Report was released by

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) RBI
- (c) Economic Advisory Council to the PM
- (d) Ministry of Finance

4. Aegean dispute recently seen in news related is between :

- (a) United Kingdom and Argentina
- (b) Greece and Turkey
- (c) Ukraine and Bulgaria
- (d) France and Spain

### India's West Asia policy must maintain a strategic balance

The signing of a mutual defence agreement between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan marks a major shift for both nations, declaring that any attack on one will be considered an attack on both.

- Saudi Arabia, the custodian of Islam's two holiest mosques, and Pakistan, the Islamic world's only nuclear power, have always enjoyed a special relationship.
- The pact institutionalizes years of strategic cooperation, including Saudi financial support for Pakistan's nuclear programme and military training of Saudi forces by Pakistan.
- Announced a week after Israel bombed Qatar, underlines the shifting sands in the Persian Gulf's security landscape.
- This agreement signals a diversification of Saudi Arabia's security alliances, especially given the U.S.'s shifting focus away from West Asia and declining reliability for traditional security guarantees.
- Recent regional developments, like Israel's attack on Qatar and the derailing of the Abraham Accords, have contributed to the realignment of relationships and heightened tensions in the Persian Gulf.
- In the Abraham Accords, the U.S. tried to bring the Arab monarchies and Israel closer to build a common front against Iran. Four Arab countries, including the UAE, signed up, and Saudi Arabia was expected to follow. But the Hamas attack of October 7, 2023 and Israel's Gaza war, which has spilled into other countries, have derailed the process.
- For Pakistan, which needs financial assistance and faces India's concerns over nuclear proliferation, the pact serves as a strategic lifeline, though it carries risks of escalating involvement in broader West and Central Asian conflicts.
- India must maintain strategic balance in its West Asia policy, promoting regional stability and resisting the temptation to isolate or antagonize countries like Israel as these alliances evolve.
- India must prepare for rapid changes in West Asia's security order.
- Risks of entrapment come with the agreement: Pakistan could be dragged into West Asia's polycrisis or Saudi Arabia could be pulled into the tensions in South and Central Asia.

# BUSINESS

## Kerala eyes seafood sector partnerships with EU

- Kerala and the European Union (EU) discussed future partnerships in the seafood and marine products sector during a two-day blue economy conclave, aiming to expand opportunities for Kerala's fisheries industry.
- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan stated that collaboration with the EU would help Kerala embrace the blue economy vision and increase global prospects, especially as U.S. import tariffs have posed recent challenges.
- The Ambassador of the EU to India, Herve Delphin, suggested establishing a joint platform and nodal point to facilitate smooth cooperation between Kerala and the EU in marine technology, ocean governance, and sustainability.
- The Kerala-EU partnership is expected to be built on mutual respect and shared values, targeting one of the most promising sectors, as highlighted by the "Blues Tides" survey.
- Kerala's seafood export value to the U.S. has doubled over recent years, reaching ₹1,093 crore for 2022-25, up from ₹513 crore during 2014-17, indicating strong potential for further export growth with the EU.
- Despite challenges, Kerala's seafood industry is known for its diversity of marine varieties (over 300 commercially viable species), including shrimp, tuna, squid, mackerel, and specialty fish, supporting both domestic consumption and exports.
- Kerala's seafood sector blends traditional fishing expertise with modern technology and international market orientation, positioning it as a vital part of both Kerala's and India's blue economy.



## Exporters object Indonesia's 'delayed' aflatoxin-in-groundnut notification

- Indian exporters are disputing Indonesia's delayed notification about aflatoxins in groundnut shipments and object to Jakarta's suspension of groundnut imports, which has continued for three weeks.
- The Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) reached out to the Indonesian Quarantine Authority (IQA) regarding the issue, but Jakarta has not responded yet.
- Indonesia suspended groundnut imports from India starting September 3, citing the presence of carcinogenic aflatoxin moulds which pose health risks and are produced by Aspergillus fungi under warm, humid conditions.
- Exporters identified two main problems: IQA takes three months to report aflatoxin issues after shipments arrive, leading to uncertainty about storage conditions; and Indonesia's testing standards do not match World Trade Organization norms, using only 1 kg for testing while APEDA tests 20 kg.
- During the ongoing kharif season, groundnut sowing has increased to 48 lakh hectares from 47.65 lakh hectares last year.
- Groundnut farming in India is significant, with India ranking second globally in groundnut production after China.
- Major groundnut-producing states are Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, with Gujarat leading in production and coverage.
- India's groundnut production is supported by government procurement programs like the Price Support Scheme (PSS).



## EU proposes new Russia sanctions, Indian entities likely to be part of list



- The European Commission has proposed a 19th sanctions package against Russia, aiming to target technologies (including AI and geospatial data) and critical resources that support weapons production.
- These sanctions may also impact Indian entities, as EU officials noted the potential involvement of foreign suppliers, including those in China and India, in Russia's supply chain.
- The EU proposal includes a total ban on imports of Russian LNG by January 2027 and new sanctions on Russia's "shadow fleet," which is used to circumvent existing EU sanctions.
- Additional measures involve expanded sanctions on Russian banks, third-party transactions, and crypto platforms associated with Russia.
- The EU has not imposed tariffs on Indian or Chinese trade with Russia but has prioritized restricting technological and resource flows, following pressure from the US to adopt a tougher stance.
- The European Commission emphasizes that these sanctions are effective in applying economic pressure on Russia and will remain in place until Russia agrees to negotiations with Ukraine for a lasting peace.

Sanctions on Russia, particularly those imposed after its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, include multiple measures by the European Union, the United States, and other countries aimed at restricting Russia's access to critical technologies, resources, and financial systems.

## Pakistan to share 'nuclear deterrent' with Saudi under new pact

- Pakistan's Defence Minister announced that the country's nuclear programme could be made available to Saudi Arabia if needed, under a new defense pact between the two nations.
- The agreement, signed this week, declares that an attack on one nation would be considered an attack on both, and marks the first explicit acknowledgment of Pakistan's willingness to extend its nuclear umbrella to Saudi Arabia.
- The move is widely seen as a message to Israel, following an Israeli attack on Hamas leaders in Qatar that raised concerns among Gulf Arab countries about regional security.
- Pakistan's Defence Minister emphasized that the nation's nuclear capabilities and trained forces are prepared to support Saudi Arabia, should the need arise, as part of their defense cooperation.
- Saudi Arabia has long provided financial support to Pakistan's nuclear programme, and has been frequently linked to the possibility of receiving nuclear protection from Pakistan.
- Neither country has responded to queries about whether this pact means direct access to nuclear arms, but Pakistan's minister stated that "all capabilities" would be available according to the agreement.
- Pakistan developed its nuclear programme primarily to counter India's, and currently possesses an estimated 170 nuclear warheads, slightly fewer than India, according to international sources.



# Prelims Corner: Explanations

**Q1. Ans d**

The Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, known as the Macolin Convention, is a multilateral treaty that checks match-fixing. The convention was concluded in Macolin/Magglingen, Switzerland. It came into force on September 1, 2019. The 12th meeting of Interpol's Match-Fixing Task Force (IMFTF), in which the Central Bureau of Investigation was one of the participants, concluded recently with a call for harmonised global efforts to curb competition manipulation.



**Q2. Ans d**

Dal Lake, the urban lake, is integral to tourism and recreation in Kashmir and is named the “Jewel in the crown of Kashmir” or “Srinagar’s Jewel”. The lake is also an important source for commercial operations in fishing and water plant harvesting. The lake covers an area of 18 square kilometers (6.9 sq mi) and is part of a natural wetland, which covers 21.1 square kilometers (8.1 sq mi), including its floating gardens. The floating gardens, known as “Raad” in Kashmiri, blossom with lotus flowers during July and August. The wetland is divided by causeways into four basins — Gagribal, Lokut Dal, Bod Dal, and Nagin.



**Q3. Ans c**

The State of Inequality in India Report was released by Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). The report has been written by the Institute for Competitiveness and presents a holistic analysis of the depth and nature of inequality in India. The report compiles information on inequities across sectors of health, education, household characteristics, and the labour market. As the report presents, inequities in these sectors make the population more vulnerable and trigger a descent into multidimensional poverty.



**Q4. Ans b**

Recently, the Turkish President warned Greece to demilitarize islands in the Aegean Sea. Greece and Turkey have had a regional issue concerning the Aegean Sea since the 1970s, with both countries asserting rival claims over their borders in the Sea.



## Case Study:



### How 64 Families in Tripura Came Together To Build India's First Bio-Village?

Known as India's first self-sustaining bio-village, Daspara's transformation began with the State Government's introduction of the 'Bio Village 2.0' concept, an initiative developed by Tripura's Biotechnology Directorate. This approach focuses on introducing renewable energy sources, eco-friendly farming techniques, and sustainable practices into everyday village life. Bio Village 2.0 was first introduced in 2018, with the primary goal of promoting organic farming. Over time, the scope of the project expanded to include a variety of climate-smart interventions. These include the use of improved livestock breeds, solar-powered equipment, energy-saving electrical devices, and biogas plants. Through the Bio Village 2.0 initiative, Daspara, in Tripura, has become a model for rural sustainable practices and renewable energy consumption. With better agricultural productivity, cleaner energy solutions, and a focus on community-driven development, Daspara is paving the way for a greener, more prosperous future for Indian villages.

## Peres Jepchirchir- The untiring, indomitable Kenyan making and breaking records



## Historic Homecoming:



Residents attend a departure ritual for three colonial-era skulls, believed to be King Toera and two others from the Sakalava ethnic group, returned by France after 128 years, before their journey to Ankaranka, Ambiky, Madagascar.

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“Energy and persistence conquer all things.”

**Benjamin Franklin**