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First-ever exhibition on architectural epigraphy in Kashmir evokes interest



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Global South must work together, says Jaishankar



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No takers yet for EV localisation scheme



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Leh stir explodes into deadly violence; govt. blames activist

Several people were feared dead and many injured in Leh city in the Union Territory of Ladakh on Wednesday after an ongoing protest demanding the constitutional safeguards of Statehood and tribal status for the region bordering China turned violent. The Ministry said a hunger strike was started by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on September 10 to press for Statehood and inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule (tribal status).



It said the Government of India had been actively engaging with the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), and despite a planned meeting on September 26 with the leaders, “a mob guided by Sonam Wangchuk’s provocative statements” caused violence. The Ministry added that the process of dialogue through the high-powered committee had yielded phenomenal results, such as increasing reservation for Ladakh Scheduled Tribe from 45% to 84%, providing one-third reservation for women in the councils, and declaring Bhoti and Purgi as official languages. The process for recruitment for 1,800 posts had also commenced, the Ministry said. Ladakh Lieutenant-Governor Kavinder Gupta, in a televised address, confirmed the deaths but did not specify the number, adding that curfew had been imposed as a precautionary measure. Following the violence, Mr. Wangchuk called off the hunger strike.

Typhoon Ragasa makes landfall in southern China



Super Typhoon Ragasa has battered Hong Kong, Macao and southern China after claiming 14 lives in Taiwan and three in the Philippines. The storm has displaced millions, damaged infrastructure and forced widespread shutdowns across East Asia.

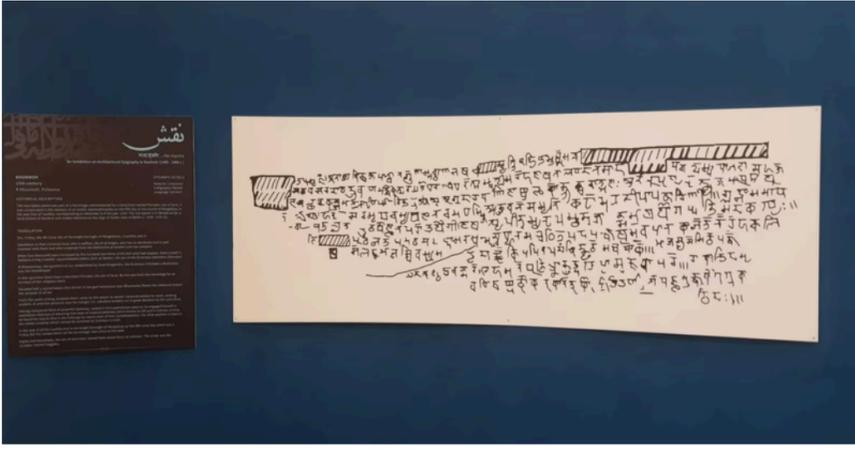


Kolkata submerged ahead of Durga Puja »page 2



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Exhibition documents the written text on public buildings, down centuries

Exhibition Overview

- An exhibition titled "Architectural Epigraphy in Kashmir" is being held at the India International Centre art gallery, showcasing inscriptions on Kashmiri public buildings from the 14th to 19th centuries.
- The exhibition documents over 600 public buildings and features 41 inscriptions, made possible by The Barakat Trust in London.

Cultural and Historical Context

- Kashmir's syncretic culture is reflected in the blend of Buddhist, Persian, Sikh, and Mughal influences visible in its architecture and inscriptions.
- These inscriptions, found on mosques, shrines, bridges, and temples, serve devotional, commemorative, literary, and aesthetic purposes.
- The "hankal," a medallion seen at shrine thresholds, features verses from the Quran or saintly lines, serving as a call for faith and repentance.

Artistic and Religious Influences

- The exhibition displays the intersection of architecture, craft, and calligraphy, drawing parallels with local art forms such as the Kashmiri shawl.
- Examples include patterns at the Khanqah-e-Molla in Srinagar, inspired by 19th-century shawl designs, and shrines associated with Sufi saint Mir Syed Ali Hamdan.
- Inscriptions often blend languages and scripts—Persian, Gurmukhi, Urdu, Kashmiri, and Hindi—demonstrating Kashmir's linguistic diversity.

Interpretation and Legacy

- The exhibition explores how written texts help interpret both the past and present, serving as more than aesthetic adornments but as reflections of collective memory.
- Renovations and new uses for buildings challenge the preservation of such heritage, but written inscriptions continue to narrate Kashmir's evolving culture.

A colonial city that is crumbling

Background and Recent Events

- Kolkata recently experienced 252 mm of rain in just 67 hours, leading to extensive flooding and the deaths of nine people, mostly from electrocution after contact with exposed electrical sources.
- The city has a population of 4.5 million and faces chronic problems with outdated infrastructure and poor drainage.

Accountability and Political Response

- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee blamed the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC), while also involving the RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group and citing the need for infrastructure upgrades.
- A lack of accountability is noted as a hallmark of the current regime; instead of corrective action, blame is shifted among agencies and corporations.

Infrastructure and Urban Issues

- Kolkata's drainage and sewage systems are outdated, and encroachments have filled up crucial wetlands.
- Though development projects and disaster-resilient plans have been approved, actual signs of improvement are lacking.
- Issues of illegal construction and unplanned urban growth exacerbate flooding and make the city increasingly vulnerable.

Disasters and Government Response

- In addition to flooding, Kolkata suffered major devastation from the Amphan cyclone in May 2020, which left about 100 dead in the state and saw a similar lack of accountability and effective action.
- Relief was slow; compensation provided to affected families was minimal and highly publicized.

Political Opposition and Public Sentiment

- The opposition criticizes the government for its repeated failures, mismanagement, and lack of vision, contrasting it with earlier regimes.
- Despite infrastructure failures, the ruling party emphasizes compensation rather than reform, and no one is held accountable for recurring tragedies.
- The citizens of Kolkata deserve better governance, and the city's problems reflect broader issues with political leadership and responsibility.



Global South must work together, says Jaishankar

Global South Cooperation

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized that the concept of multilateralism is "under attack," and Global South nations are seeking solutions from international organizations like the United Nations.
- He called for more consultations and unity among developing countries, especially in the face of global crises such as the pandemic, climate change, conflicts, supply disruptions, energy, and food security.

High-Level Meeting in New York

- A high-level meeting of 20 "like-minded" Global South countries was held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, hosted by India.
- Countries from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and South America (excluding North America) participated.

Challenges to Multilateralism

- Jaishankar stated that multilateral organizations are becoming ineffective or are being starved of resources.
- He pointed out that countries are facing numerous shocks—a reference to the pandemic, Ukraine war, Gaza conflict, and trade uncertainties—necessitating urgent collective solutions.

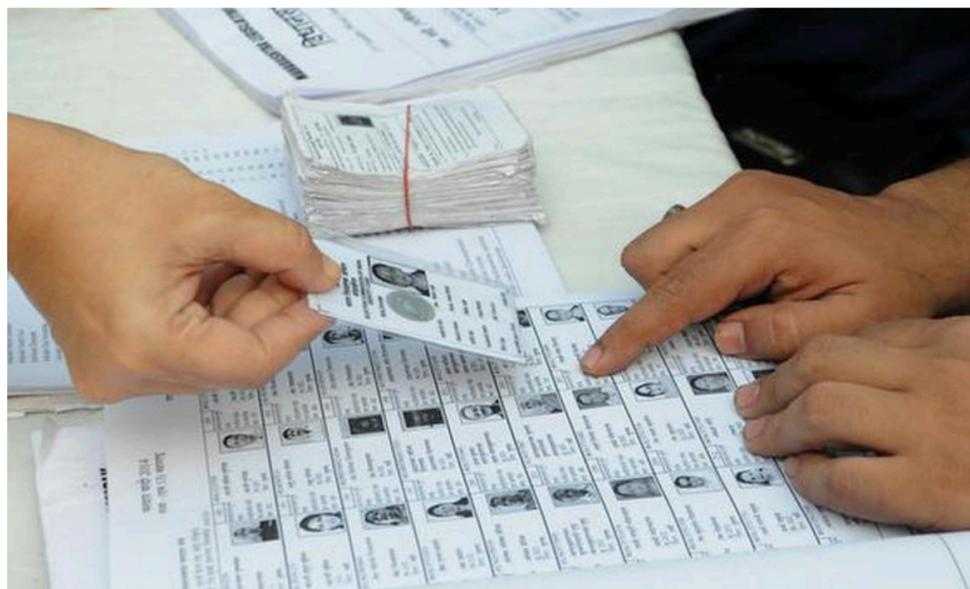
India's Ongoing Efforts

- India has hosted multiple consultations for the Global South in recent years, such as the "Voice of Global South Summit," with participation from about 125 countries.
- India is advocating a more prominent voice for the Global South in global decision-making.

Context and International Climate

- Jaishankar's meeting and remarks came just after U.S. President Donald Trump's address to the UN, where the U.S. criticized the UN system, cut funding, and accused the UN Human Rights Council and UNESCO of bias.
- Jaishankar did not name any country specifically but focused on the structural problems affecting multilateralism and the need for Global South unity.

EC launches e-sign feature for addition, deletion, and correction of voter names



New E-Sign Feature for Voter Services

- The Election Commission (EC) has introduced an e-sign feature on its ECINet portal and app for voters who want to register, or request addition, deletion, or correction of names on the voter list.
- The e-sign process requires Aadhaar-linked phone numbers for identity verification.

Implementation and Process

- The feature was rolled out from the second week of September and is accessible through ECINet, which integrates around 40 EC web applications.
- Initially, the pilot covered five Assembly constituencies in Kerala, Gujarat, Punjab, and West Bengal during the elections held from June 19.

Steps for Voters

- Applicants fill a form online and are then taken to an external portal by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), where they enter their Aadhaar number and receive an OTP for authentication.
- This process replaces earlier methods requiring physical documentation and manual verification.

Importance and Context

- The e-sign feature addresses concerns over fraudulent deletions and additions of names, an issue highlighted in recent reports (such as cases in Karnataka).
- The significance of the feature has increased due to recent allegations of staff manipulating voter rolls, as seen in recent Assembly elections.

Future Rollout and Reactions

- The EC plans a wider rollout of the feature.
- Political leaders have recently raised concerns about fraudulent additions to voter lists, including Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Rajan Patil.

Centre clears scheme to add medical seats across country



Scheme Approval and Objectives

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved Phase 3 of a centrally sponsored scheme to add 5,000 postgraduate and 5,023 undergraduate medical seats in India by 2028-29.
- Existing medical colleges, standalone postgraduate institutes, and hospitals run by the Union and State governments will be strengthened and upgraded.

Financial Details

- The total financial outlay for the scheme is ₹15,034.5 crore from 2025-26 to 2028-29.
- The Union government's share is ₹10,303.20 crore; the states' share is ₹4,731.30 crore.

Impact and Targets

- The scheme aims to increase the number of postgraduate and undergraduate medical seats in government institutions to meet demand and improve healthcare accessibility.
- India currently has 808 medical colleges with 1,23,700 MBBS seats.

Growth in Healthcare Education

- Over the last decade, 69,352 MBBS seats have been added, marking a 127% growth; similarly, 34,401 postgraduate seats have been added, a 143% growth.
- The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana will support further expansion of medical sciences.

Faculty Guidelines and Quality

- New competency-based faculty regulations have been issued to improve standards of medical education and teaching quality.
- These changes will enhance academic consistency, professional standards, and ensure alignment with the latest medical advances.

Addressing Regional Disparities

- The scheme prioritizes regions with less capacity to meet the demand for accessible and affordable medical education, with targeted improvements for historically underserved areas.

No takers yet for EV localisation scheme

Lack of Interest in EV Scheme

- No automaker has applied for the Centre's ₹4,150 crore investment-linked import concession scheme for electric cars, announced to encourage local manufacturing, with a focus on attracting companies like Tesla.
- Since the scheme's launch three months ago, officials have not received any expressions of interest from auto manufacturers.

Scheme Details and Timeline

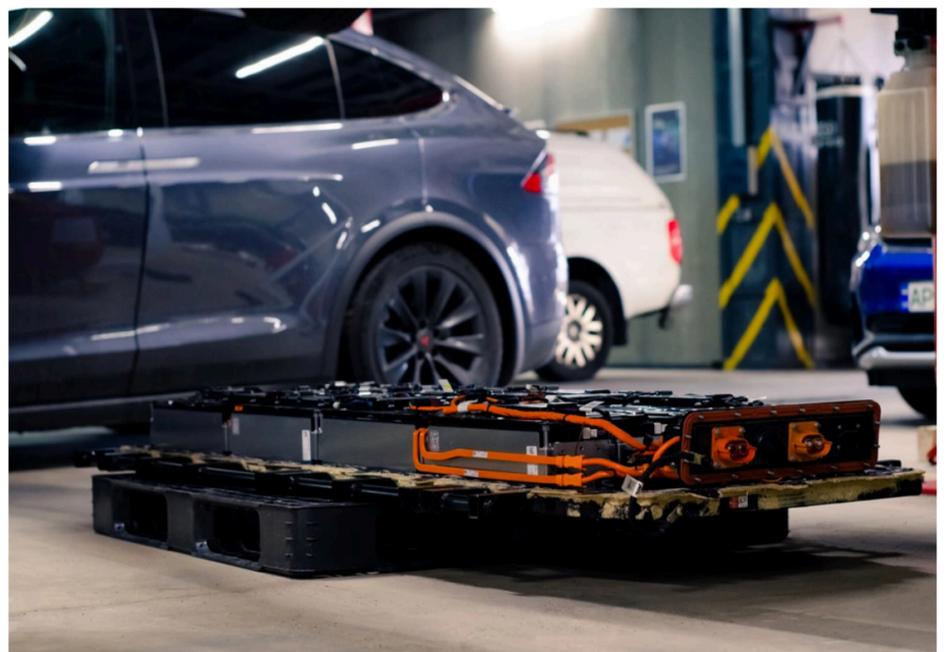
- The Ministry of Heavy Industries began accepting applications on June 24, with the deadline set for October 27, 2025.
- The scheme, called the Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMECPI), was designed to offer duty concessions for commitments to local production.

International Context and Concessions

- Officials pointed out that Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with countries such as the U.S. and EU could make the scheme less attractive, citing the U.K.'s FTA which lowers import duties significantly but only for limited volumes.
- Some automakers attended the initial stakeholder meeting but have not been in contact with the government since.

No Planned Changes Yet

- Government officials indicated that there are no immediate plans to revise the scheme or its guidelines, despite the lack of applications.



PRELIMS CORNER :

1. In India, world's first liquid-mirror telescope developed for astronomical research was set up at which one of the following places ?

- (a) Kodaikanal
- (b) Ladakh
- (c) Nainital
- (d) Imphal

2. The "I4F" fund recently seen in the news is a cooperation between India and ?

- (a) Indonesia
- (b) Israel
- (c) France
- (d) USA

3. "Sohrai Murals", sometimes seen in the news recently, are part of a long tradition of which of the below community ?

- (a) Bhilalas community
- (b) Gond community
- (c) Bhil community
- (d) Santhal community

4. 'Monster Quake' sometimes seen in the news recently, is the largest quake ever observed on:

- (a) Venus
- (b) Saturn
- (c) Jupiter
- (d) Mars

K Visa: Why this could be China's answer to Trump's war on H-1B

Context: H-1B and US Policy

- US President Donald Trump's administration has restricted H-1B visa issuance, pressuring US companies to hire locally.
- China views these changes as an opportunity to attract international talent that the US is turning away.

The K Visa: China's Initiative

- China recently introduced the K visa, targeting highly educated foreign nationals, especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, as well as sectors like research, entrepreneurship, and business.
- The K visa streamlines the residency and work approval process for foreign professionals with a proven track record and fills high-level positions in critical sectors.
- It closely mirrors H-1B objectives but is positioned as a more accessible, less politically contentious alternative.

Strategic Objectives

- The K visa is part of China's broader strategy to attract global talent, bridge gaps in critical sectors, and bolster innovation.
- China hopes to attract overseas Chinese graduates and top international students affected by restrictive US immigration policies.
- The move also demonstrates China's commitment to supporting high-level industries and building economic self-reliance.

Broader Impact and Industry Reaction

- The success of the K visa will depend on economic conditions, job opportunities, and the scale of international engagement.
- Experts see this as a tactical step to entice top minds from US and other global talent pools, with the long-term aim of enhancing China's international competitiveness.
- The effectiveness of the K visa policy will be clear only after implementation, and its adoption by foreign professionals remains to be seen.

China-US Competition for Talent

- Amid tighter US visa regimes and international tensions, China is positioning itself as a welcoming destination for global talent, potentially offsetting brain drain risks and boosting innovation in domestic industries.

EXPLAINED

How are courts protecting personality rights?



What Are Personality Rights?

- Personality rights protect an individual's voice, likeness, name, and mannerisms from unauthorised commercial use, especially important for celebrities and public figures.
- These rights are recognized as part of broader privacy, publicity, and intellectual property rights in India.

Court Actions and Legal Basis

- Indian courts have recently issued injunctions protecting Bollywood celebrities like Aishwarya Rai and Abhishek Bachchan from misuse of their voices and likeness by AI-generated content and deepfakes.
- Courts rely on privacy rights (Article 21), copyright laws (Copyright Act 1957), and trademark law to issue such orders.
- The Trade Marks Act, 1999, permits individuals, particularly celebrities, to register distinctive attributes of their persona, such as names, signatures, or even catchphrases, as trademarks.
- Notable precedents include the Delhi High Court recognizing celebrities' rights over their names, images, and voices.

Practical Steps by Courts

- Courts have been proactive, granting interim orders to restrain e-commerce platforms and AI companies from using celebrity attributes without consent.
- Example: The Bachchans sought and received urgent interim relief to remove unauthorised online content.

Ongoing Risks and Future Directions

- The misuse of celebrity identities, especially through deepfakes and AI, has heightened the urgency for robust judicial protection.
- However, such injunctions may raise concerns over free speech versus privacy and publicity rights, especially for public figures.
- Experts suggest clearer, dedicated legislation on personality rights in India for consistency and better enforcement.
- Personality rights are rooted in privacy, IP, and tort law, providing individuals (especially celebrities) the right to control the commercial exploitation of their persona.
- AI and technology have amplified the risk of misuse, making judicial intervention and potential legal reform essential for effective protection.

India is mostly with us: Zelenskyy



Zelenskyy's Comments on India's Stance

- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated that "India is mostly with us" regarding Ukraine's war with Russia.
- Zelenskyy said India's relationship with Ukraine was positive, especially on energy matters, and he believed President Trump could manage any related challenges.

India's Position on Russia

- Zelenskyy noted everything depends on India not withdrawing support, but was confident India would gradually change its attitude to Russian energy imports.
- He acknowledged it was more difficult for China, since Beijing would not benefit from supporting Ukraine against Russia.

International Perspectives

- Finnish President Alexander Stubb echoed a sentiment of optimism for EU and U.S. collaboration with India, calling it an "emerging superpower."
- EU nations and the U.S. have urged India to engage more closely with Ukraine and the West.

U.S., EU, and Trade Measures

- President Trump and his administration have imposed additional tariffs and trade pressures on Russia, stepping up efforts in Europe to end oil and LNG trade with Russia.
- Trump's stance toward Russia and Putin has shifted, with recent disappointment over the Russia-U.S. relationship.

EU's Efforts to Cut Russian Energy

- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Europe is actively reducing energy imports from Russia, focusing on sanctions for sanctioned products rather than penalty tariffs.

Broader Implications

- The overall sentiment among Western leaders and Ukraine is one of optimism, believing India's deeper engagement will help isolate Russia and aid Ukraine's cause.

Iran rebuilds missile sites hit by Israel, experts say key component is missing

Iran's Missile Site Rebuilding

- Iran is rebuilding missile production sites destroyed by Israel during a 12-day war in June, according to satellite images.
- A key component needed to restart full production—planetary mixers for making solid-fuel missile propellant—is believed to still be missing.

Significance of the Component

- Planetary mixers, needed to blend chemicals for solid-fuel missiles, have not been found in Iran or in imports from China, making full-scale production difficult.
- U.S. and allied countries have purchased similar mixers to prevent Iran's acquisition, with experts stating that the lack of mixers was a bottleneck.

Strategic Importance

- Solid-fuel missiles are faster to load and fire than liquid-fuel missiles, giving Iran a strategic deterrence edge.
- Iran has maintained missile infrastructure and is quickly repairing and improving missile facilities damaged by Israeli attacks.

Changed Priorities and New Developments

- The recent conflict increased Iran's focus on producing better missile equipment and chemicals, evolving its operational capabilities.
- Chemicals used in propellants caused a deadly explosion in April, killing at least 20 people at a port in Iran.

Other Factors

- Iran is reportedly sourcing chemicals from China to make solid-fuel propellants, but critical hardware like planetary mixers remains elusive.
- Iran's missile sites—like Shahroud and Semnan—are being rebuilt, but full production awaits the resumption or replacement of key machinery.

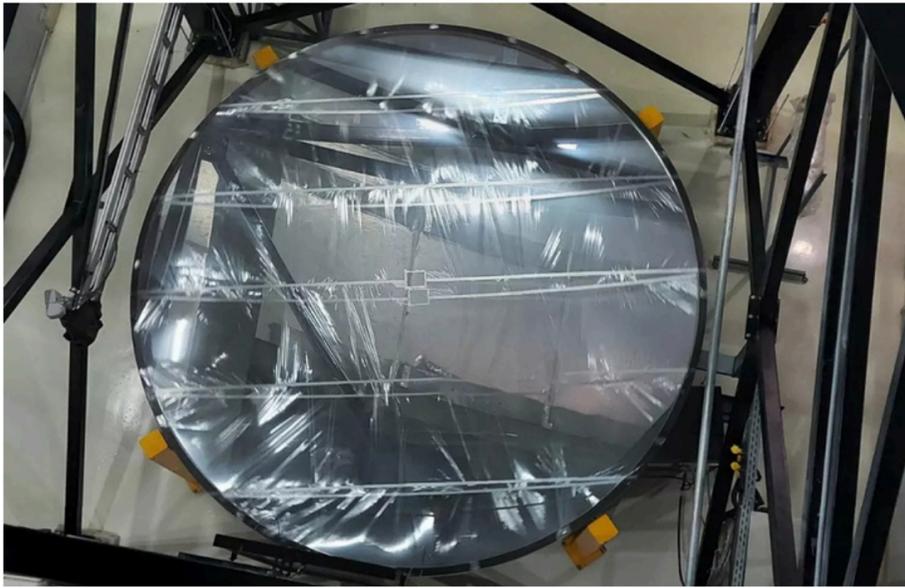
International Responses

- The U.S. State Department has sanctioned Chinese firms aiding Iran's missile program.
- Iran's government has not detailed its rebuilding progress; China offered diplomatic support at recent meetings.
- UN and global efforts continue to monitor and sanction Iran's missile and nuclear activities.

Prelims Corner: Explanations

Q1. Ans c

The International Liquid-Mirror Telescope (ILMT) has been set up at the Devasthal Observatory campus owned by Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital in Uttarakhand, as it becomes the world's first liquid-mirror telescope for astronomical observations. It will observe asteroids, supernovae, space debris, and all other celestial objects from an altitude of 2,450 meters in the Himalayas.



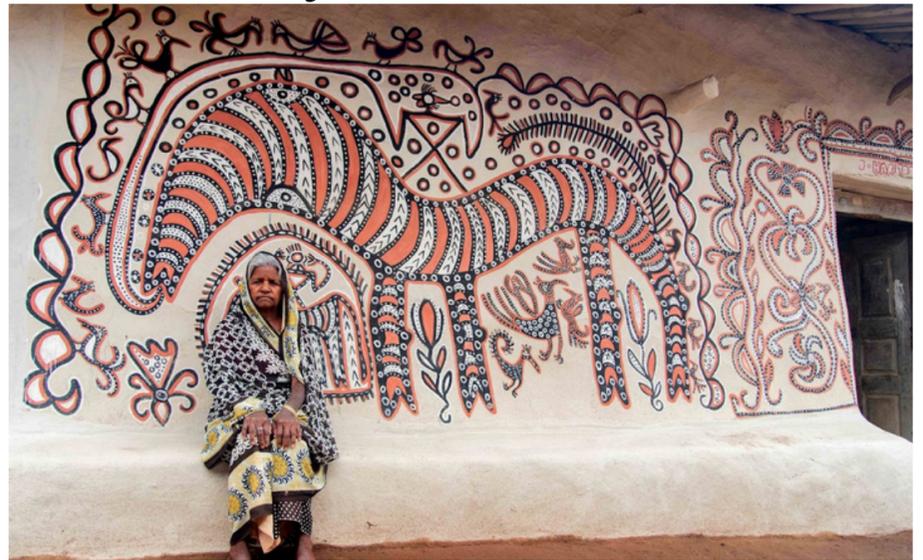
Q2. Ans b

India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F) fund is a cooperation between the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Government of India, and the Israel Innovation Authority, the Government of Israel to promote, facilitate and support joint industrial R&D projects between companies from India and Israel to address the challenges in the agreed 'Focus Sectors'. I4F is aimed to promote, facilitate and support joint industrial R&D between India & Israel, which would lead to the co-development and commercialization of innovative technologies benefiting both countries. Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA) is appointed to implement the I4F program in India, while Israel Innovation Authority is the implementing agency in Israel.



Q3. Ans d

Sohrai murals are an art that adorns walls during ceremonies or special occasions, such as weddings and childbirth. It varies across regions, prominently featuring geometric shapes. The prominence given to geometry in the murals can be linked with the Santhal community's affinity for symmetrical precision in its architecture. These murals are a part of the tradition of the Santhal community. Santhali women usually paint the walls of their houses to mark Sohrai, a harvest festival coinciding with Diwali or Kali Puja.



Q4. Ans d

NASA'S InSight, short for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy, and Heat Transport, is a Mars lander designed to give the Red Planet its first thorough checkup since it formed 4.5 billion years ago. It is the first outer space robotic explorer to study in-depth the "inner space" of Mars: its crust, mantle, and core. This lander has recently found a monster marsquake and it has a magnitude of 5 temblors. This Marsquake has been the largest ever recorded tremor on a planet other than earth, hence earning it the name of 'Monster Quake'.



Case Study:



The Vishwamitri river in Vadodara underwent a massive conservation effort called the Flood Mitigation Project, involving dredging and desilting to restore its flow. The project cost Rs 1,200 crore and addressed sedimentation caused by debris and encroachments, which had led to severe flooding and reduced the river's capacity. The river is a rich biodiversity hotspot, home to ants, bees, frogs, snakes, turtles, crocodiles, and over 88 bird species. Volunteers, led by Assistant Professor Ranjitsinh Devkar, actively monitored and rescued wildlife eggs — especially those of turtles, crocodiles, and birds — during the river restoration. Eggs of crocodiles (88 rescued), turtles (284 rescued), and birds (38 rescued) were relocated for hatching, with some moved to Sayaji Baug Zoo for incubation. Volunteers painstakingly identified and labelled each egg's location and section of river, reducing losses during the restoration. The project not only improved the river's health but also offered a "second chance" to native wildlife, particularly reptiles and birds, whose nests were at risk due to restoration activities.

FIFA 2025 Ballon d'Or Winners



Paris Saint-Germain's Ousmane Dembele and Barcelona's Aitana Bonmati have been named the 2025 Ballon d'Or winners. Barcelona's Lamine Yamal won the men's Kopa Trophy — awarded to world football's best player under the age of 21— for a second successive year, also finishing second in Ballon d'Or voting. Vicky Lopez won the women's Kopa Trophy to complete a clean sweep of the award for Barcelona and Spain.

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"Success starts with every challenge, not from the comfort zone."

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EMRS Recruitment 2025

- **Organization:** Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)
- **Post -**TGT, Accountant, and Other
- **Eligibility:** Graduate, Post Graduate, and Relevant Qualifications

No. of Vacancies **7267**

BSF Head Constable Recruitment 2025

- **Organization:** Border Security Force (BSF)
- **Post -**Head Constable
- **Eligibility:** 10th / 12th Pass / ITI

No. of Vacancies **1121**

Bank of Baroda Recruitment 2025

- **Organization:** Bank of Baroda
- **Post -** Manager, Senior Manager & Other
- **Eligibility:** Graduate

No. of Vacancies **58**

East Central Railway Sports Quota Recruitment 2025

- **Organization:** East Central Railway
- **Post -**Various Sports Persons Positions
- **Eligibility:** 10th/12th Pass, ITI, Graduate

No. of Vacancies **56**

ECGC Apprentices Recruitment 2025

- **Organization:** Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)
- **Post -** Apprentices
- **Eligibility:** Graduate

No. of Vacancies **25**

EMRS Recruitment 2025

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BSF Head Constable Recruitment 2025

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Bank of Baroda Recruitment 2025

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East Central Railway SQ Recruitment 2025

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ECGC Recruitment 2025

[CLICK HERE >> https://ecgc.in/](https://ecgc.in/)



“Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.”

Winston Churchill