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DAILY pre PARE
Current affairs summary for prelims

22 July, 2024

Sessions of Parliament

Context: *The Monsoon Session of the Parliament is set to begin today as the incumbent government presents a budget for the remaining of the year.*

Meaning of Session of Indian Parliament

- A "Session of Indian Parliament" is the time when both Houses (the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha) convene to conduct legislative business.
- These sessions allow elected representatives to debate, discuss, and pass laws that affect the country's governance and development.
- Sessions are governed by the Indian Constitution and parliamentary rules.

Types of Sessions of Indian Parliament

- There is no fixed parliamentary calendar in India. Article 85 of the Constitution mandates:
  - The President summons each House to meet at times and places as deemed appropriate.
  - The maximum gap between two sessions cannot exceed six months.
  - The President may prorogue the Houses or dissolve the Lok Sabha.

Typically, there are three sessions each year:

1. **Budget Session**
   - Longest and most important session focused on the presentation and passing of the Union Budget.
   - Usually held from February to May.
2. **Monsoon Session**
   - Named for coinciding with the monsoon season, focused on legislative business and national issues.
   - Typically held from July to September.
3. **Winter Session**
   - Focuses on urgent legislative matters and bills.
   - Generally held from November to December.

- **Special Sessions:** Called by the President for urgent or extraordinary matters.

Components of Sessions of Indian Parliament

- **Meetings:** A session consists of multiple meetings, each lasting for a day.
- **Sittings:** Each meeting has two sittings:
  - **Morning Sitting:** 11 AM to 1 PM
  - **Post-Lunch Sitting:** 2 PM to 6 PM

Procedures Used During Sessions of Parliament

- **Summoning:**
  - The President summons both Houses based on the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs' recommendation.
  - The maximum gap between two sessions cannot exceed six months.
- **Adjournment:**
  - Suspension of work in a sitting for a specified time (hours, days, or weeks).
  - **Adjournment Sine Die:** Termination of a sitting without a specified date for reassembly.
- **Prorogation:**
  - Formal ending of a session by the President of India.
  - The House is adjourned sine die and the President issues a prorogation notification.
- **Recess:** The period between the prorogation of a House and its reassembly in a new session.
- **Dissolution:**
  - Formal termination of the Lok Sabha, leading to the formation of a new House after elections.
  - The Rajya Sabha, being a permanent House, is not subject to dissolution.

Rules Regarding Lapsing of Bills Upon Dissolution of Lok Sabha

- **Bills that Lapse:**
  - Bills pending in the Lok Sabha.
  - Bills passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha.
  - Bills not passed by both Houses and requiring a joint sitting.
- **Bills that Don't Lapse:**
  - Bills pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha.
  - Bills passed by both Houses but pending presidential assent or reconsideration.

Quorum

- Minimum number of members required for the House to transact business:
  - Lok Sabha: 55 members (1/10th of 545 members).
  - Rajya Sabha: 25 members (1/10th of 250 members).
- The Presiding Officer must either adjourn or suspend the meeting if a quorum is not present.

Indian Patent Applications lead the world

Context: *In FY24, domestic patent applications have surpassed foreign ones for the first time, driven by growth in chemicals, pharma, computer science, and IT sectors.*

Foreign Patent Dominance

- Foreign entities hold a dominant share of patents granted in India, accounting for nearly two-thirds of approvals.
- Top global IT companies lead in patent approvals, with a significant presence in India.
- Despite an increase in domestic patent applications, foreign entities still secure over 70% of final patent clearances.

Face to Face Centres

DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | LAXMI NAGAR : 9205212500, 9205962002 | RAJENDRA NAGAR: 9205274743 | UTTAR PRADESH PRAYAGRAJ: 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ): 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR): 7234000501, 7234000502 | GREATER NOIDA: 9205336037, 38 | KANPUR: 7887003962, 7897003962 | GORAKHPUR : 7080847474, 9161947474 | ODISHA BHUBANESWAR: 9818244644/7656949029

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Impact on Indian R&D

- The disparity between domestic and foreign patent holders highlights inefficiencies in India's R&D capabilities.
- Weak private investments and stagnant government spending contribute to lower R&D activity.
- Indian manufacturing relies heavily on imported machinery and foreign technicians.

Global Patent Comparison

- India's foreign patent approval rate is among the highest globally, at 74.46% in 2022.
- In comparison, countries like China have much lower foreign patent approval rates.
- High R&D spending countries have a lower share of foreign patents, e.g., Japan (22.98%) and South Korea (26.61%).

Patent Filing Trends

- Patent approvals reflect research and development (R&D) activities and are skewed towards foreign entities.
- Rising domestic patent applications have increased from 34% in FY19 to 53% in FY24.
- However, domestic patent approvals have not yet matched the increase in applications.

PATENT APPLICATIONS IN INDIA

	Indian applicants	Foreign applicants	% of foreign applicants
2022-23	43,301	39,519	47%
2021-22	29,508	36,932	55%
2020-21	24,326	34,167	58%
2019-20	20,843	35,625	63%
2018-19	17,005	33,654	66%

PATENT APPROVALS BY INDIA

	Indian patentee	Foreign patentee	% of foreigners holding patents
2022-23	9,239	24,895	72%
2021-22	6,397	23,676	78%
2020-21	5,629	22,756	80%
2019-20	4,003	20,933	83%
2018-19	2,511	12,772	83%

Source: Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks (CGPDTM)

Challenges in Patent System

- The quality of patent applications and the number of patent examiners in India impact approval rates.
- India has fewer patent examiners compared to other major economies, affecting the patent approval process.

Shift in Patent Filings

- Since 2020, there has been a shift towards more domestic patent filings.
- This trend is expected to affect future patent grants, reflecting improvements in domestic patent applications.

Evolution of IP Creation

- India's role as a back office has evolved, but original IP creation by Indian firms remains limited.
- The government is promoting IP creation through various incentives, particularly in the semiconductor industry.

R&D Spending Stagnation

- India's R&D spending as a percentage of GDP has stagnated and is lower than the global average.
- Lower R&D spending reflects weak private investment and reliance on imported technology.
- Comparatively, other countries with higher R&D spending have a lower share of foreign patents and stronger domestic innovation.

U-WIN

Context: *The government's 100-day health plan features the nationwide launch of U-WIN, an online platform for managing childhood vaccinations, akin to CoWIN.*

Maharashtra Notification on RTE Quota Exemption

- **Definition:** U-WIN is an online vaccine management platform for childhood vaccinations, similar to the CoWIN system used during the Covid-19 pandemic.

How Does U-WIN Work?

- Registration: Children up to six years old and pregnant mothers are registered using government IDs (like Aadhaar) and mobile numbers.
- Vaccination Records: Records for all 25 childhood vaccines and two vaccines for pregnant mothers are added to the platform.
- Vaccination Certificate: A color-coded vaccination certificate is generated, showing administered vaccines, their dates, and upcoming doses.
- Reminders: SMS reminders are sent to parents before the next dose is due.
- Digital Certificate: Parents can download the digital vaccine certificate, eliminating the need for a physical booklet and enabling vaccinations anywhere in the country.
- Vaccination Center: U-WIN helps locate the nearest vaccination center and book slots.
- Health Worker Benefits: The platform generates due-lists for health workers and will eventually allow for analysis of micro-trends in vaccination data.

Integration with Other Systems

- **eVIN Platform:** U-WIN will be linked with eVIN, which manages vaccine inventory and monitors storage conditions.
- **ABHA ID:** U-WIN data will connect with the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) ID for comprehensive health record integration.

Benefits of U-WIN

- **Improved Compliance:** Automated reminders boost vaccination adherence.
- **Portability:** Maintains vaccination continuity for children relocating, supporting migrant families.
- **Error Reduction:** Prevents recording of incorrect or premature doses.
- **Granular Data:** Offers detailed individual vaccination records for better insights.
- **Zero Dose Reduction:** Birth registration may lower the number of unvaccinated children.

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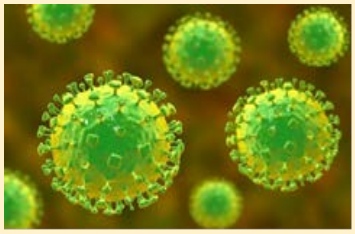
NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Nipah Virus



Recently, a 14-year-old boy from Malappuram district in Kerala, who was being treated for Nipah virus infection confirmed by tests at the Kozhikode Virology Lab and the National Institute of Virology, Pune, has lost his life.

About the Nipah Virus:

- The Nipah virus is a **zoonotic virus** that can be transmitted from animals to humans and belongs to the Paramyxoviridae family.
- The Nipah virus is a **single-stranded,** negative-sense **RNA virus classified** under the **Henipavirus genus**.
- Its structure includes a nucleocapsid protected by a **matrix protein**, along with prominent fusion proteins and glycoproteins essential for cell attachment and entry.
- This virus was **first identified in 1999** among **Malaysian pig farmers**.
- It was subsequently detected in Bangladesh and eastern India in **2001** and again in **2007**, with recent outbreaks reported in **Kerala**.
- It **spreads through direct contact** with **infected animals**, **contaminated food** and person-to-person transmission.
- Common symptoms of **Nipah virus** infection include **fever**, **headache**, **muscle aches**, nausea and a sore throat.
- Nipah virus outbreaks are often seasonal and region-specific.
- Recent outbreaks have been observed in Kerala, with significant incidents reported in **2018** and **2023**.
- The virus has **also been identified** in **Cambodia**, **Ghana** and **Thailand.**

Chandrayaan-2 Mission

Five years ago on 22nd of July, India launched the Chandrayaan-2 mission.

About the Chandrayaan-2 Mission:

- Chandrayaan-2 was **India's second lunar mission, launched on 22 July 2019.**
- The mission was **launched using the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III-M1).**
- It was **launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota** by India's Space Research Organization (**ISRO**) to explore the **South Pole of the Moon**.
- The project began in **2007** with an agreement between India's space agency **ISRO** and Russia's **ROSCOSMOS** for mutual cooperation.
- The mission consisted of three main components: an **Orbiter**, a **Lander named Vikram**, and a **Rover named Pragyan**.
- The mission's goals included studying the **Moon's topography**, seismography, **surface chemical composition,** thermo-physical characteristics of top soil, composition of the lunar atmosphere and mapping minerals, **water molecules** and distributing minerals in polar regions.
- Chandrayaan-3, India's third lunar mission and second attempt at a soft landing on the Moon's surface, took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota **on July 14, 2023.**

Piracicaba River

Recently, a drone captured footage of thousands of dead fish due to severe contamination in the environment protection area of Taqua on the Piracicaba River in São Paulo, Brazil.

About the Piracicaba River:

- The Piracicaba River is a river in the state of São Paulo in southeastern **Brazil**.
- It originates from the junction of the **Atibaia** and **Jaguari rivers.**
- It is a **tributary of the Tietê River**, which it joins at the **Barra Bonita Dam reservoir.**
- This river basin spans **12,531 square kilometers**, covering 57 municipalities in São Paulo and four in Minas Gerais.
- It has been **used for navigation** by small steamers and to **supply water for coffee and sugar cane farms.**

Dyson Sphere

About the Dyson Sphere:

- A Dyson sphere is a **hypothetical megastructure** that surrounds a star and captures a large portion of its solar energy output.
- The concept of a Dyson sphere was **first proposed by astronomer Freeman Dyson** in 1959 as a theoretical solution to the energy need s of Earth's more advanced descendants in the future.
- Its primary **purpose is to meet the immense energy demands** of a highly advanced civilization by harnessing the star's entire radiative power.
- In **May 2023**, scientists conducted a study that scanned **5 million stars within 1,000 light years** of Earth to search for signs of Dyson Spheres.
- The **study identified seven stars** with unexplained infrared radiation emissions.
- The Dyson Sphere concept **reveals the immense energy** needs and advanced technology of civilizations, **promotes the study of infrared radiation** for detecting **extraterrestrial life** and underscores the complexities of constructing and detecting such megastructures.

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Place in News

Laos

The Indian Embassy in the Southeast Asian country stated that thirteen Indians who were lured into cyberscamming centers in Laos have been rescued and sent back home.

Laos (Capital: Vientiane)

Location: Laos, officially known as the Lao People's Democratic Republic is the only **landlocked country in Southeast Asia.**

Political Boundaries: Laos shares its borders with **Vietnam** (East & Northeast), **Thailand** (West & Southwest), **China** (North) **Myanmar** (Northwest) and **Cambodia** (South).

Physical Features:

- The highest point in Laos is **Phou Bia**.
- The major rivers in Laos include the **Mekong River,** forming a significant part of the western border, and the **Nam Ou River**, a main tributary of the Mekong.
- The **Annamite Range** runs along the eastern border with Vietnam.
- Laos possesses significant mineral resources, including **coal**, **bauxite**, **tin**, **copper** and **gold**.
- Laos has a **tropical monsoon climate**.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Davis Strait is located between which two regions? **- Greenland and Canada**
- What is the 'MV Sea Change'? **- The world's first commercial passenger ferry powered by 100% hydrogen fuel**
- The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) is managed by which ministry? **- Ministry of Finance**
- Which Indian space scientists were honored at the Global Space Conference by COSPAR? **- Prahlad Chandra Agrawal and Anil Bhardwaj**
- Which state government is holding special camps to grant Indian citizenship to minority refugees from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh? **- Rajasthan**