



21 August, 2024

Waterspout

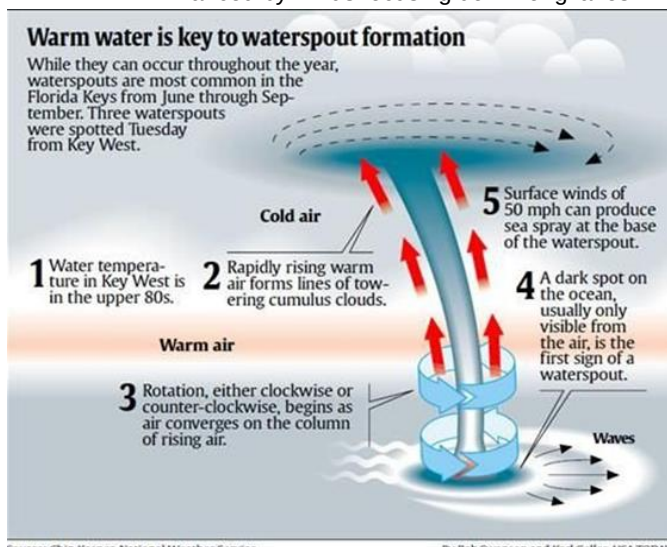
Context: A luxury yacht sank in a violent storm off Sicily on August 19, leaving at least one dead and six missing, possibly due to a waterspout.

➤ Definition

- **Waterspout:** A rotating column of air over water, appearing as a funnel-shaped cloud.
- **Types:**
- **Non-Tornadic (Fair-Weather) Waterspout:**
 - Common type, weak vortex.
 - Forms in coastal waters, associated with cumulus clouds.
- **Tornadic Waterspout:**
 - A tornado over water, formed from mesocyclones.
 - Rarer, involves severe thunderstorms.

➤ Formation

- **Non-Tornadic Waterspout Lifecycle:**
 - Formation of a dark spot on the water.
 - Development of spiral patterns and a spray ring.
 - Visible condensation funnel forms.
 - Decay as the inflow of warm air weakens.
- **Tornadic Waterspout Formation:**
 - Created from severe thunderstorms over water.
 - Similar to land-based tornadoes but occurs over water.
- **Winter Waterspout:**
 - Also known as ice spout, forms under snow squalls.
 - Requires cold air over warmer water to produce fog-like steam.
 - Enhanced by winds focusing down long lakes.



➤ Characteristics

- **Climatology:**
- **Common Areas:**
 - Tropical and subtropical regions.

- Also found in temperate zones: Europe, Great Lakes, Australia, and New Zealand.

• Frequency:

- More common within 100 km from the coast.
- Peak season in late summer, with September as the prime month in the Northern Hemisphere.

• Occurrence:

- Seen over seas, bays, lakes, and rivers.
- Frequent along the southeast U.S. coast and in the Great Lakes area.

➤ Impacts

- **Human:**
- **Hazards:** Strong waterspouts threaten watercraft, aircraft, and people.
- **Notable Incidents:**
 - **Malta tornado of 1551:** Sunk boats, caused casualties.
 - **1851 Sicily tornadoes:** Twin waterspouts with significant damage.
- **Natural:**
 - **Animal Impact:** Can lift small animals like fish, frogs, and turtles.
 - **Fish Rain:** Fish can be carried and fall on land, occasionally seen up to 160 km inland.

➤ Research and Forecasting

- **Szilagyi Waterspout Index (SWI):**
 - Predicts waterspout development conditions.
 - Ranges from -10 to +10, with higher values indicating favorable conditions.
- **International Centre for Waterspout Research (ICWR):**
 - Focuses on waterspout research, safety, and forecasting.
 - Includes contributions from meteorologists, storm chasers, and other interested communities.

India – Malaysia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

Context: Malaysia and India elevated their relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim's State Visit.

➤ Bilateral Relations:

- Enhanced Strategic Partnership of 2015 evolved into a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- Recognition of deep-rooted ties, cultural linkages, and vibrant Indian diaspora in Malaysia.
- Agreement to further consolidate relations and promote high-level exchanges.

➤ Cooperation Areas:

- Discussions covered political, defense, economic, trade, digital technologies, start-ups, fintech, energy,

Face to Face Centres





21 August, 2024

healthcare, higher education, culture, tourism, and people-to-people relations.

➤ **MoUs and Agreements Signed:**

- Recruitment, Employment, and Repatriation of Workers.
- Ayurveda and Traditional Systems of Medicine.
- Digital Technologies.
- Culture, Arts, and Heritage.
- Tourism.
- Youth and Sports.
- Public Administration and Governance Reforms.
- Financial Services between LFSA and IFSCA.

➤ **Economic and Trade Initiatives:**

- Bilateral trade reached US\$19.5 billion.
- Encouragement for further industry cooperation and investments.
- Review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA).
- Discussions on Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (MICECA).
- Promotion of local currency settlement in trade.

➤ **Digital and Technological Cooperation:**

- MoU on Digital Technologies.
- Formation of the Malaysia-India Digital Council.
- Collaboration on digital infrastructure and emerging technologies.

➤ **Defense and Security:**

- Continued strong cooperation in defense and security.
- Agreement to enhance defense industry collaboration and R&D.
- Joint condemnation of terrorism and cooperation against transnational organized crime.

➤ **Educational and Cultural Initiatives:**

- Special allocation of 100 seats under India's ITEC Programme for Malaysian nationals.
- Establishment of Ayurveda Chair at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tiruvalluvar Chair at Universiti Malaya.
- Enhanced cooperation in agriculture, audio-visual co-production, and tourism.

➤ **Environmental and Regional Cooperation:**

- Support for sustainable energy and climate change adaptation.
- Malaysia's participation in the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).
- Strengthened ASEAN-India engagement.

➤ **Announcements:**

- Elevation of India-Malaysia relationship to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- Special allocation of 200,000 MT of white rice to Malaysia.

- Addition of 100 ITEC slots for Malaysian nationals.
- Malaysia joining IBCA as a founding member.
- Establishment of Ayurveda Chair and Tiruvalluvar Chair.
- Cooperation through India-Malaysia Start-up Alliance and Digital Council.
- - Convening of the 9th India-Malaysia CEO Forum.

Lokpal and Lokayukta

Context: The Lokayukta SIT submitted additional details to the Karnataka Governor for prosecution sanction against HD Kumaraswamy.

➤ **Lokpal and Lokayukta Overview:**

- **Purpose:** Established to investigate and prosecute corruption among public officials in India.
- **Recommendation:** Proposed by the Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) in the 1960s for addressing citizens' complaints related to corruption.
- **Role:** Function as "Ombudsman" institutions, investigating allegations of corruption against public bodies and officials.
- **Levels:** Lokpal operates at the national level, while Lokayukta functions at the state level. Both are headed by a panel of judges or retired judges.
- **Jurisdiction:** Handles complaints against ministers and top government officials.

➤ **Background and Genesis:**

- **Origins:** The ombudsman concept originated in Sweden in 1809.
- **Indian Proposal:** Early proposal for a constitutional Ombudsman by Ashok Kumar Sen in the 1960s.
- **Term Coined:** Dr. L. M. Singhvi introduced the terms Lokpal and Lokayukta in 1963.
- **First Recommendations:** 1966 ARC recommended establishing Lokpal and Lokayukta.
- **Legislative History:** Lokpal bill passed in 1968 but lapsed. Repeatedly introduced but not enacted until 2013.
- **Anna Hazare Movement:** In 2011, the movement pushed for the creation of an effective anti-corruption body, leading to the Lokpal and Lokayukta Bill becoming law in 2013.

➤ **Key Provisions of the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act 2013:**

- **Selection Committee:** Includes the Prime Minister, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition, Chief Justice of India or a nominee, and an eminent jurist appointed by the President.
- **Jurisdiction:** Covers the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of Parliament, and various government employees.
- **Composition:** Consists of a chairperson and up to eight members, with judicial members and

Face to Face Centres



21 August, 2024

representation from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities, and women.

- **Superintendence:** Directs investigative agencies, including the CBI, on cases referred by Lokpal.
- **Foreign Donations:** Includes jurisdiction over foreign donations exceeding Rs 10 Lakhs per year.
- **State Lokayuktas:** Mandates establishment of Lokayukta institutions in states within 365 days.

➤ Lokpal and Lokayukta (Amendment) Act 2016:

- **Selection Committee:** Allows the leader of the largest opposition party to be a member if there is no recognized Leader of Opposition.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Modifies the requirement for public officials to report assets and liabilities, removing the 30-day timeframe.

➤ Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Changes:

- **New Sections:** Sections 8A and 8B added to the CVC Act, empowering the CVC to investigate references from Lokpal and oversee CBI investigations related to corruption.

- **Superintendence:** CVC now has powers of superintendence over the CBI concerning offenses under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

➤ Existing Governance Framework Against Corruption:

- **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988:** Main law for punishing corrupt practices by public servants.
- **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):** Main agency for investigating corruption cases.
- **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and State Vigilance Commissions:** Handle grievances related to corruption.
- **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):** Addresses complaints of rights violations.
- **Conduct Rules:** All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 and Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 prohibit activities compromising integrity.
- **Administrative Tribunals:** Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) resolves disputes related to administrative actions and corruption.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Jan Poshan Kendra Initiative



Recently, the Jan Poshan Kendra initiative was launched by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in partnership with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and udaan.

About Jan Poshan Kendra Initiative:

- The **Jan Poshan Kendra Initiative** is a **government-led pilot project** aimed at transforming Fair Price Shops (FPS), commonly known as ration shops, into **Jan Poshan Kendras**.
- The initiative aims to increase the **income levels of Fair Price Shop dealers** by offering a wider range of nutrition-rich food items and other household products.
- It will allocate **50% of their storage** for nutrition-rich products, with the remaining space used for other household items.
- It also seeks to improve nutrition by enabling Fair Price Shops to offer a **variety of nutrition-dense and non-PDS commodities**.
- Additionally, the initiative focuses on modernizing these shops by broadening the variety and availability of products through **udaan's eB2B platform**.
- The pilot project has been launched in 60 selected FPSs across four states: **Rajasthan** (Jaipur), **Uttar Pradesh** (Ghaziabad), **Telangana** (Hyderabad) and **Gujarat** (Ahmedabad).

NHPC Limited



Recently, a landslide damaged six houses and a building of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) at the site of its Teesta-V hydropower station in Gangtok district of Sikkim.

About NHPC Limited:

- NHPC Limited, **formerly known as the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation**, is a **Mini Ratna Category-I** Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- The company was incorporated in **1975** under the **Companies Act, 1956**, with the primary objective of developing hydroelectric power in the country.
- It is mandated to plan, promote and organize the integrated and efficient development of power in all aspects through both conventional and non-conventional sources in India and abroad.
- It is **responsible for exploring new sites** for hydroelectric projects and developing small hydroelectric projects.
- The company also **focuses on research and development (R&D)** in the field of hydroelectric power.
- The company has an **authorized share capital of ₹15,000 crore**, making it a premier organization in the country for the development of hydropower.
- Its headquarter is in **Faridabad, Haryana**.

Face to Face Centres



21 August, 2024

Euthanasia



The Supreme Court recently refused to grant an aged couple's plea to allow "passive euthanasia" for their 30-year-old son, who has been lying comatose at home for 11 years.

About Euthanasia:

- Euthanasia is the **practice of intentionally ending a person's life** to relieve pain and suffering.
- It is categorized into different types, including **active euthanasia** (where a deliberate intervention, such as administering a lethal injection, is made to end life) and **passive euthanasia** (where life-sustaining treatments or interventions are withdrawn or withheld).
- In India, **passive euthanasia was recognized as legal by the Supreme Court** in March **2018** in the landmark case **Common Cause vs Union of India**.
- The **court allowed passive euthanasia** under strict guidelines, which include the preparation of a living will (an advance directive specifying the conditions under which a person would not want to be kept on life support).
- The **Aruna Shanbaug Case** (2011) was a pivotal moment in Indian legal history regarding euthanasia.
- The Supreme Court, in this case, permitted passive euthanasia under stringent conditions, marking the **first time this form of euthanasia was recognized in India**.

Place in News

Estonia

Estonia, one of the three Baltic states, declared its independence from the Soviet Union on August 21, 1991.

Estonia (Capital: Tallinn)

Location: Estonia, officially known as the **Republic of Estonia**, is a country in the **Baltic region** of Northern Europe.

Boundaries: Estonia shares its borders with **Lake Peipus** and **Russia** (East), the **Baltic Sea** (West), the **Gulf of Finland** (North) and **Latvia** (South).

Physical Features:

- Suur Munamagi** is the highest point in Estonia.
- The **Emajogi**, the **Parnu** and the **Põltsamaa** are the prominent rivers in the country.
- Estonia is an important **producer of oil shale**.

Membership: Estonia is a member of various international organizations, including the **European Union (EU)**, **NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and the **United Nations (UN)**.



POINTS TO PONDER

- The MUDA scam, recently in the news, is associated with which state? – **Karnataka**
- The Maharashtra government recently launched the first 'Solar Village' in which district? – **Satara**
- Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, recently in the news, is located in which state? – **Rajasthan**
- Which institution is associated with the Rapid Innovation and Start-up Expansion (RISE) accelerator program, recently in the news? – **Atal Innovation Mission**
- Which African country recently reported a cholera outbreak? – **Sudan**

Face to Face Centres

