

21 September, 2024

White Revolution 2.0

Context: Recently, the Union Home Minister launched 'White Revolution 2.0'

➤ Overview:

- At a national conference, the Union Home Minister stated that 'White Revolution 2.0' will enhance women's self-reliance and combat malnutrition.
- to strengthen two lakh new agricultural cooperatives and enhance cooperation among them.



➤ White Revolution

- The White Revolution, initiated in the 1970s through Operation Flood, revolutionised India's dairy industry.
- Prof. **Vergheese Kurien** was the father of the White Revolution in India
- Spearheaded by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), it aimed to increase milk production, support rural livelihoods, and ensure self-sufficiency in milk supply.

➤ White Revolution 2.0

Under White Revolution 2.0, the government **aims to increase milk procurement by dairy cooperative societies by 50 percent over the next five years.**

➤ Focus Areas:

- Empowering women farmers.**
- Enhancing local milk production.**
- Strengthening dairy infrastructure.**
- Boosting dairy exports.**

➤ Objectives of White Revolution 2.0

- Increase Procurement:** Aim to boost daily milk procurement from 660 lakh kg to 1,007 lakh kg by 2028-29.
- Employment Generation:** The initiative is expected to create jobs and enhance women's empowerment.
- Expansion Plans:** Establish 56,000 new dairy cooperative societies and strengthen existing ones with better infrastructure.

➤ Current Landscape of India's Dairy Sector

- Top Producer:** India is the world's leading milk producer, with a per capita availability of 459 grams/day.
- Production Growth:** Total milk production rose from 187.75 million tonnes (2018-19) to 230.58 million tonnes (2022-23).
- Cooperative Dominance:** About 1.7 lakh dairy cooperatives cover around 2 lakh villages, accounting for 10% of total milk production.

According to the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS) 2023, the top five milk-producing states in India are:

- Uttar Pradesh:** 15.72%
- Rajasthan:** 14.44%
- Madhya Pradesh:** 8.73%
- Gujarat:** 7.49%
- Andhra Pradesh:** 6.70%

Together, these states account for 53.08% of the country's total milk production.

➤ Cooperative societies Coverage:

- Currently, dairy cooperatives operate in about 70% of districts, but coverage in states like Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal remains low(10-20%).
- In West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, and Northeast states, coverage by dairy cooperatives is below 10%.

➤ Market Dynamics

- Sector Contribution:** Dairy contributes nearly 40% of agriculture's output value, employing over 8.5 crore people, predominantly women.
- Organised vs. Unorganised:** Two-thirds of marketable milk is from the unorganised sector, with cooperatives holding a significant share in the organised sector.
- The program will receive funding through the National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) 2.0, emphasising village-level procurement systems.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

Context: Recently, FATF praised India's compliance, noting significant asset seizures from terrorism and money laundering investigations.

➤ Overview:

- India faces diverse terrorism threats from Islamic State, Al-Qaeda, regional insurgencies, and left-wing extremists.
- The FATF's report highlights India's high compliance with recommendations and significant asset seizures from terrorism-related investigations.

➤ What is the FATF?

- Established: 1989, during a G-7 meeting in Paris.
- Role: Global watchdog for money laundering and terrorist financing.
- The FATF Secretariat is located at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

➤ Objectives

- Initial Focus: Combat money laundering.
- Post-9/11 Expansion: In 2001, the mandate expanded to include terrorist financing.
- 2012 Update: Added efforts to counter financing of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).



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➤ FATF Recommendations

- First Report: April 1990, issued 40 Recommendations for action against money laundering.
- 2004 Additions: Ninth Special Recommendations added to strengthen standards.
- 2012 Revision: Expanded to address new threats, including financing of WMD.

➤ Membership

- Current Members: There are currently 40 members of the FATF; 38 jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations (the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Commission).
- India's Status: Joined as an observer in 2006, became a full member in 2010.

➤ FATF Sessions

- Plenary Meetings: Held three times a year to make decisions and review mutual evaluation reports.(MER)

➤ Observers

- Countries: Indonesia is the sole observer.
- Organizations: Includes ADB, IMF, OECD, UNODC, and others.

FATF Grey and Black Lists

➤ Black List

- Countries or jurisdictions with severe deficiencies in AML/CFT and a high risk of money laundering and terror. These countries are subject to sanctions and enhanced due diligence.

➤ Grey List

- Countries or jurisdictions that are working to address their AML/CFT deficiencies and are subject to increased monitoring

➤ Consequences of Listing

- Economic Sanctions: From financial institutions like IMF and World Bank.
- Impact on Loans: Difficulty in obtaining loans.
- International Trade: Reductions and boycotts.

Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) for India-2024

➤ Key Highlights

- **Areas for Improvement:**
 - Enhance understanding of money laundering (ML) and terrorist financing (TF) risks.
 - Improve national coordination and cooperation.
 - Increase the use of financial intelligence in investigations.
 - Address challenges related to predicate offences and TF investigations.
- **Main Sources of Money Laundering:**
 - Domestic illegal activities, including:
 - Cyber-enabled fraud
 - Corruption
 - Drug trafficking

• Security Threats:

- Significant threats from groups linked to **Islamic State** and **al-Qaeda**, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Ongoing terrorism threats from regional insurgencies in the Northeast and North India, as well as from Left-Wing Extremist groups.

• Implementation Challenges:

- While investigations under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** have increased, the number of prosecution complaints and concluded trials has not risen proportionately.

➤ Key Recommendations

- Implement targeted financial sanctions to freeze funds and assets without delay.
- Define domestic Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) under the PMLA; currently, only foreign PEPs are defined.
- Protect Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) from abuse related to terrorism through risk-based enhanced measures.



Free Movement Regime (FMR)

Context: Recently, The Union Home Ministry scrapped the Free Movement Regime (FMR) allowing border residents to travel 16 km without documents.

➤ Overview:

- The Union government has approved ₹31,000 crore for fencing the Myanmar border.
- Cabinet Committee on Security approved the construction of border fencing and roads along the 1,643-km India-Myanmar international border.

➤ Free Movement Regime (FMR)

- The Free Movement Regime (FMR) is a mutually agreed arrangement allowing border tribes to travel up to 16 km into each other's territory without a visa.

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- Implemented in 2018, it supports the Indian government's Act East policy.
- Rationale:** Established to address the historical division caused by the 1826 border demarcation, recognizing the strong ties between communities on either side.
- Significance:** Promotes local trade and cultural exchange, crucial for the economic well-being of border communities.

(Porous border refers to border areas not protected enough to stop people going through. It could be both open (unfenced) and closed (fenced).)

Significance of the India-Myanmar Relationship

➤ Geopolitical Importance:

- Gateway to Southeast Asia:** Myanmar connects South Asia and Southeast Asia, enhancing regional connectivity.
- Bay of Bengal Connectivity:** Strengthens maritime cooperation and economic collaboration.
- Counterbalance to China:** A robust relationship with Myanmar helps mitigate China's influence in the region.

➤ Strategic Significance:

- Neighborhood First Policy:** Emphasises building strong ties with neighbouring countries.
- Act East Policy:** Focuses on economic and cultural relations with Asia-Pacific nations.
- Multilateral Engagement:** Myanmar's membership in SAARC, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, and Mekong Ganga Cooperation enhances bilateral relations within India's "Act East" policy framework.

➤ Areas of Collaborative Cooperation

- Bilateral Trade:** In June 2024, India's exports to Myanmar rose 9.9%, while imports surged 180%, making India Myanmar's fifth-largest trading partner.
- Energy Cooperation:** Myanmar is vital for India's energy security, with substantial investments in oil and gas.

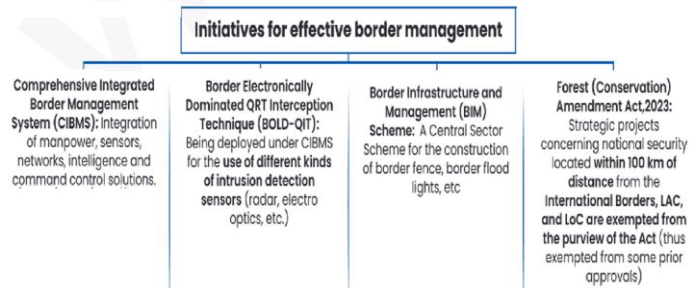
- Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** enhances connectivity and trade.
- India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project:** The project aims to connect Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand via Myanmar, enhancing regional connectivity.
- Defense Partnership:** [India-Myanmar Bilateral Army Exercise \(IMBAX\)](#) is aimed at building and promoting closer relations with armies.

➤ Threats to National Security

- Cross-border terrorism and insurgency, particularly in the Northeast.
- Arms smuggling and human trafficking.
- Drug trafficking, with Myanmar being part of the Golden Triangle.
- Refugee influx due to political instability in neighboring countries.

➤ Challenges in Border Fencing

- Rugged Terrain:** Difficult landscapes, including marshy areas and riverine borders, complicate fencing efforts.
- Lack of Demarcation:** Some borders remain disputed and undemarcated.
- Popular Discontent:** Ethnic ties across borders lead to protests, such as those from the Zo Reunification Organisation in Mizoram against the fencing decision and the suspension of the Free Movement Regime (FMR).



NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Nadi Utsav



Recently, Nadi Utsav 2024, the 5th edition of the festival, was inaugurated at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in New Delhi.

About Nadi Utsav:

- Nadi Utsav 2024 is a **three-day festival** celebrating the significance of India's rivers.
- The festival is **organized by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** to raise awareness about the **environment and ecology**.
- The theme for this year's celebration is **"Rivers in Reverse: Making of a Lifeline,"** focusing on the components of rivers and their surrounding culture.
- The festival features various activities including a **photo exhibition** on the **Kansabati River**, a display of traditional boats and a painting exhibition by school students, all centered around the theme of rivers.
- The objective of Nadi Utsav is to **inspire reverence, enthusiasm and values towards rivers**.
- The **first Nadi Utsav** was held in **2018**, and **Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi** conceived the idea.

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Kalaripayattu



Recently, Kalariprayattans protested on the streets by performing Kalaripayattu, opposing alleged discrimination by the Kerala Sports Council.

About Kalaripayattu:

- Kalaripayattu is a **traditional martial art**, originated in **Kerala** between the 3rd century BC and the 2nd century AD.
- The word Kalaripayattu is a combination of the Malayalam words **kali** (place of combat) and **payattu** (fighting).
- Kalaripayattu training starts with **body conditioning exercises**, then moves on to more complex sequences of **movements** and **weapon training**.
- Kalaripayattu uses a variety of weapons, including **sticks, swords, shields, spears, daggers, knives** and more.
- The four stages of payattu are **Maipayattu** (body conditioning), **Kolthari** (wooden weapons), **Angathari** (sharp metallic weapons) and **Verumkai** (bare-handed defense and attack).
- There are several major styles of Kalaripayattu, including **Vattenthirippu, Arappukkai** and **Pillathangi**.
- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** has recognized the Indian Kalaripayattu Federation as the Regional Sports Federation for promoting the art.
- The **Madras regiment of the Indian Army** has incorporated Kalaripayattu into its training regime.

National Achievement Survey



The National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2024 will be conducted on December 4, covering nearly 5 million students from Classes 3, 6, and 9 across 792 districts.

About National Achievement Survey:

- The National Achievement Survey (NAS) is a **large-scale assessment** of student learning in India that's **conducted by the Ministry of Education**.
- It is a **system-level evaluation** of the effectiveness of school education.
- It assesses the learning levels of students in **grades 3, 5, 8, and 10** in **government, government-aided, private** and **central government** schools.
- It **uses a sample-based approach to collect information** on student performance, as well as background variables such as **school environment, teaching methods, and student home life**.
- It **helps to identify** the most effective ways to improve the education system by comparing performance across different populations and learning outcomes.
- Design
- The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** designs the assessment framework and tools for the National Achievement Survey.
- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) administers the survey for students in **grades 3, 5, 8, and 10**.
- In the **2021** survey, **3.7 million** students from **Classes 3, 5, 8, and 10** were assessed across **720** districts.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Manipur's Tamenglong district has imposed a ban on the hunting of which migratory bird, locally known as 'Kahuaipuina' in Manipur? – **Amur Falcon**
- Recently, the President of the French Space Agency (CNES) spoke about celebrating 60 years of space cooperation between France and India. Which of the following missions was highlighted during the event? – **Gaganyaan and TRISHNA**
- Which radio telescope, touted as the world's largest in the making, recently carried out its first observations? – **Square Kilometer Array (SKA)**
- A new study indicates that a small asteroid named 2024 PT5 will temporarily behave as a 'mini moon' of which celestial body? – **Earth**
- What was recently approved by the Union Cabinet of India, chaired by the Prime Minister, to enhance the country's launch capabilities? – **Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)**

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