

Jallikattu

❖ Context

- A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court **upheld the amendments** made by the legislatures of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka to the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, (PCA Act), 1960**.



❖ Key Highlights of the Judgment:

- The amendments allow bull-taming sports like jallikattu, kambala, and bullock-cart races.
- The Bench, led by **Justice KM Joseph**, ruled that the amendments were valid legislations.
- The Bench stated that the jallikattu issue was debatable and should be decided by the Lok Sabha (House of the People).
- The Bench emphasized that a detailed social and cultural analysis is required, which is beyond the scope of the judiciary.
- The ruling overruled the 2014 decision of a two-judge Bench that had banned such sports, including jallikattu, in the '**Welfare Board of India v. A. Nagaraja**' case.

❖ What is Jallikattu?

- Jallikattu, also known as eruthazhuvuthal, is a traditional bull-taming sport played during the Pongal harvest festival in Tamil Nadu.
- The festival is a celebration of nature and includes cattle-worship as part of thanking for a **bountiful harvest**.
- Jallikattu has faced ongoing controversy due to concerns raised by animal rights groups and courts **regarding animal cruelty** and the dangerous nature of the sport, which can result in injuries and even death for both bulls and human participants.

❖ About Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960:

- The Act applies to the entire territory of India and covers a wide range of animals, including **domestic animals, captive animals, and animals used in entertainment and research**.
- **Prohibited Acts:** The PCA Act prohibits various acts of cruelty towards animals, such as beating, overworking, torturing, mutilating, and killing them. It also prohibits practices like animal fighting and the use of animals for experiments without proper permission.
- **Offenses and Penalties:** The Act categorizes offenses into different sections, each with specific penalties. For instance, **Section 11** deals with general cruelty to animals and prescribes a punishment of imprisonment and/or fine for the offender.

DEFINITIONS OF CRUELTY UNDER THE LAW

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| 1 If any person beats, kicks, over-rides, over-loads, tortures, or otherwise treats any animal so as to subject it to unnecessary pain or suffering | 3 Employs in any work or labour or for any purpose any animal, which, by reason of its age or any disease, infirmity, wound, sore, or other cause, is unfit to be so employed | 5 Keeps or confines any animal in any cage or other receptacle which does not measure sufficiently in height, length and breadth to permit the animal a reasonable opportunity for movement | 6 Promotes or takes part in any shooting match or competition wherein animals are released from captivity for the purpose of such shooting |
| 2 Conveys or carries, any animal in such a manner or position as to subject it to unnecessary pain or suffering | 4 Mutilates or kills any animal by using the method of strychnine injections in the heart or in any other unnecessarily cruel manner | 7 Without reasonable cause, abandons any animal in circumstances which tender it likely that it will suffer pain by reason of starvation or thirst | |

Papua New Guinea

❖ Context

- One of the leaders of Papua New Guinea announced recently that the country will enter into a security agreement with the United States, granting American troops access to its ports and airports.



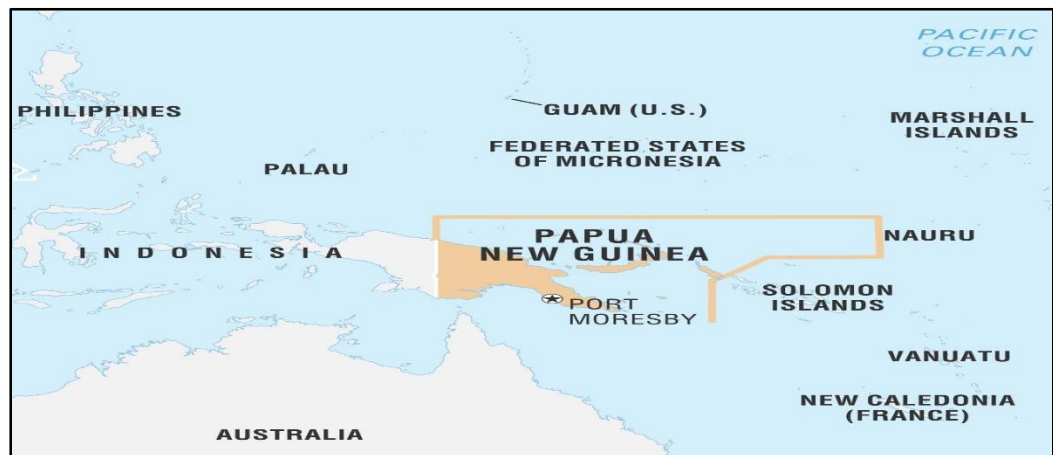
❖ Key Highlights:

- The agreements, which can be renewed every 15 years, will give the **United States** vital movement in Papua New Guinea's waters near sea routes to Australia and Japan, in return for access to US satellite surveillance.

❖ About Papua New Guinea:

- Papua New Guinea, located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.
- Location: Papua New Guinea occupies the eastern half of the island of New Guinea, as well as numerous smaller islands in the region.
- **Capital:** The capital city of Papua New Guinea is **Port Moresby**, situated on the southern coast of the country.
- **Independence:** Papua New Guinea gained independence from Australia on September 16, 1975, becoming a **sovereign nation**.

- **Cultural Diversity:** The country is incredibly diverse, with over **800 different** languages spoken and a multitude of indigenous cultures.
- **Mount Wilhelm**, the highest peak in the country.
- **Economy:** The economy of Papua New Guinea relies heavily on agriculture, mining, and natural resources.
- It is rich in resources such as **gold, copper, oil, natural gas, and timber**.



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Green Deposits

❖ Context

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) came up with a regulatory framework for banks to accept green deposits from customers.



❖ What are Green Deposits?

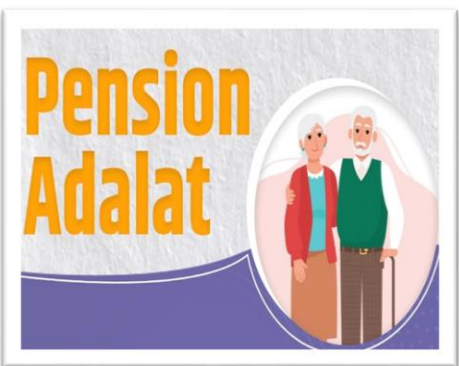
- Green deposits are not very different from the regular deposits that banks accept from their customers.
- The only major difference is that banks promise to earmark the money that they receive as green deposits **towards environment-friendly projects.**
- For example, a bank may promise that green deposits will be used towards financing renewable energy projects that fight climate change.
- A green deposit is just one product in a wide array of other financial products such as green bonds that help investors put money into environmentally sustainable projects.

❖ RBI's Regulatory Framework:

- The RBI framework requires banks to disclose information on how they invest green deposits, including details on allocation to different green projects and the environmental impact of such investments.
- Banks must develop approved rules or policies for investing green deposits, which need to be made public on their websites.
- **Third-party verification** of the banks' investment claims and the sustainability credentials of green projects **is mandatory.**
- The RBI has provided a list of **eligible sectors for green deposits**, including renewable energy, waste management, clean transportation, energy efficiency, and afforestation.
- Green deposits cannot be invested in projects **involving fossil fuels, nuclear power, tobacco, etc., to prevent greenwashing.**
- **The aim** of the new rules is to ensure transparency and prevent misleading claims about the environmental impact of green deposits.

News in Between the Lines

All India Pension Adalat



❖ Context

- Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, inaugurated the 8th All India Pension Adalat in Delhi recently.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Till date 7 All India Pension Adalats have been organised by the Department, in which 24,218 cases have been taken up and 17235 cases have been resolved.
- In line with the Government's objectives of **transparency, digitization** and service delivery, the **Bhavishya platform** introduced by this department has ensured end-to-end digitization of pension processing and payment.
- The pension adalat initiative was started on experimental basis in **2017** by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare.
- The model is adopted so that all stakeholders to a particular grievance are invited on a **common platform** and the case is resolved according to every stakeholder to complete the pension processing so that the **pension is started on time.**

Sanchar Saathi Portal



❖ Context

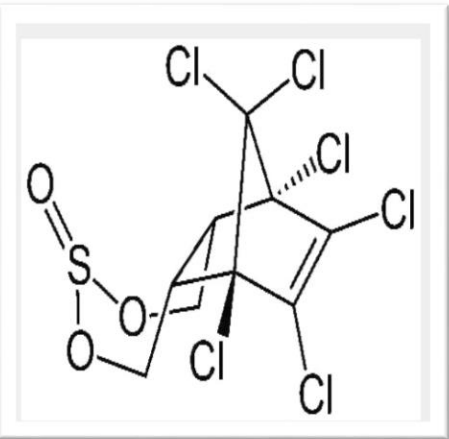
- Union Minister for Communications Ashwini Vaishnaw launched a **Citizen Centric Portal named Sanchar Saathi Portal** recently through which mobile users can now track and block their lost mobile phones.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The Sanchar Saathi Portal is an initiative of the **Department of Telecommunications.** It empowers the citizens by allowing them to know the mobile connections issued in their names, get the connections not required by them disconnected and **block and trace the lost mobile phones.**
- Three important modules have been added to the portal:
 - Central Equipment Identity Register has been introduced for **blocking stolen or lost mobiles.**
 - The second module is Know your mobile connections
 - and the third module - **Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification**, will identify fraudulent subscribers.
- Through the use of Sanchar Saathi portal, more than **40 Lakh fraudulent** connections have been identified and more than 36 Lakh such connections have been disconnected so far.

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Endosulfan Pesticide



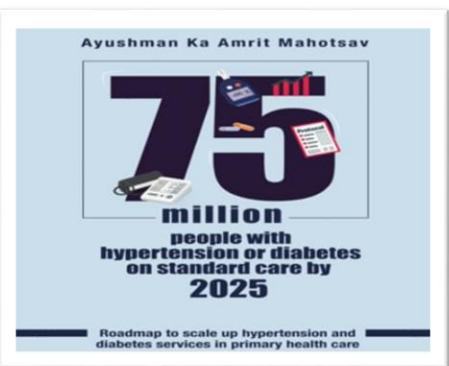
❖ Context

- The **Supreme Court** recently has slammed the **Kerala government** for doing “**virtually nothing**” for **Endosulfan pesticide** exposure victims.

❖ About Endosulfan:

- Exposure to or ingestion of endosulfan can **lead to acute and chronic health effects**, including **neurotoxicity, reproductive issues, and damage to the liver, kidney, and respiratory system**.
- It is classified as a **persistent organic pollutant (POP)** due to its long-term persistence in the environment.
- **Environmental Impact:** Endosulfan is highly persistent in the environment and can accumulate in the soil, water bodies, and the food chain.
- **Global Bans and Restrictions:** Due to its adverse effects on health and the environment, many countries have banned or severely restricted the use of endosulfan.
- **In 2011, the Stockholm Convention** on Persistent Organic Pollutants listed endosulfan for global elimination, recognizing its hazardous nature.
- **India's Ban:** In India, the use, manufacture, sale, and import of endosulfan were **banned in 2011** by the Supreme Court following concerns about its health and environmental impacts.
 - The ban came after widespread reports of **health problems and deaths associated with endosulfan** exposure in the state of Kerala.

75/25 Initiative



❖ Context

- The **Union Health Ministry** has introduced the “**75/25**” initiative, a transformative program aimed at revolutionizing the **management and prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** in India.

❖ Key Highlights:

- **Goal:** The initiative aims to ensure standardized care for 75 million individuals with hypertension and diabetes by 2025, with a focus on **Primary Health Centers (PHCs)**.
- **Training Medical Officers:** Approximately 40,000 Primary Health Care Medical Officers will be trained in the Standard Treatment Workflow for NCDs through the Shashakt Portal.
- This training will enable healthcare professionals to deliver improved services at the community level.

Mukhyamantri Sikho Kamao Yojana



❖ Context

- The Madhya Pradesh state cabinet has approved the ‘**Mukhyamantri Sikho Kamao Yojana**’ (**Chief Minister Learn and Earn Scheme**) to provide employment opportunities to unemployed youth in the state.

❖ Key Highlights:

- **Skill Development in Various Sectors:** The scheme offers training in around 700 different types of work across sectors such as engineering, hotel management, tourism, ITI, banking, insurance, and more, enabling youth to choose fields aligned with their interests.
- The government is also actively promoting self-employment.
- Regular Employment Days provide loans for self-employment, supported by government guarantees and interest subsidies, benefiting approximately 2.5 lakh youth each month.

Arab League Summit



❖ Context

- **Syrian President Bashar al-Assad** arrived in the **Saudi city of Jeddah** recently to attend the **Arab League summit**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Syria is returning after its membership was suspended in 2011.
- The Arab League Summit is a gathering of leaders from Arab League member states, which is an organization consisting of **22 countries in the Arab world**.
- The summit serves as a platform for **discussing regional issues, promoting cooperation, and addressing common challenges** faced by Arab nations.

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	- It is typically held once a year, with the host country rotating among member states. - The summit is usually hosted by the country holding the presidency of the Arab League at that time.
Kapileshwar Temple 	❖ Context - The Kapileshwar temple, located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, has recently gained recognition by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as a protected monument. - This temple, situated in the Kapilprasad area near the famous Lingraj Temple, holds great religious and cultural significance. ❖ Key Highlights: - The inclusion of the Kapileshwar temple in the ASI's protected monuments list is a significant milestone, ensuring its preservation and maintenance for future generations. - Dating back to the 5th century, the temple underwent a historical renovation in the 14th century by Gajapati Kapilendra Dev, a prominent ruler of the time. - This renovation added to the temple's grandeur and showcases the exquisite carvings and stunning architecture in the ancient Kalinga style. - The Kapileshwar temple is an architectural marvel, known for its breathtaking carvings and splendid design.
Operation Dhvast 	❖ Context - The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has made three arrests in connection with the nationwide raids carried out under 'Operation Dhvast', targeting a network involving terrorists, gangsters, and drug smugglers. ❖ Key Highlights: 129 locations were raided across Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chandigarh, and Madhya Pradesh in a coordinated operation with local police. - The NIA's actions are part of ongoing efforts to dismantle terror networks and their support infrastructure. - The agency has been investigating three cases since August 2022, which include targeted killings, terror funding for pro-Khalistan outfits, and extortion. - The conspiracies were being planned in jails across different states and executed by an organized network involving operatives based abroad. - Some criminals who fled to countries like Pakistan, Canada, Malaysia, and Australia are collaborating with incarcerated individuals to plan serious crimes.
Hiroshima Summit  MCQ Quiz Daily Current Affairs Daily Pre PARE Daily	❖ Context - Leaders of seven of the world's most powerful democracies will gather for the Group of Seven summit in Hiroshima, the location of the world's first atomic attack at the end of World War II. ❖ What is the G-7 Summit? - The G7 is an informal group consisting of seven leading industrialized nations: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom & the United States. - Japan is the host country for this year's G7 summit, but the presidency of G7 summits rotates among its seven members. - In addition to the G7 members, two representatives from the European Union also participate in the summit. - Non-G7 countries and international organizations are invited to participate in specific sessions of the summit. - The leaders discuss various important issues during the summit, including economic policy, security, climate change, energy, and gender. - The first G7 summit took place in 1975 when France hosted a meeting of what was then known as the Group of Six. The purpose was to address the economic challenges posed by a recession following an Arab oil embargo. Canada joined as the 7th member of the group a year later, expanding it to the G7. - Russia became a member in 1998, transforming the group into the G8. However, Russia was later expelled in 2014 following its annexation of Crimea.