

Parakram Diwas

❖ Context

- **The Prime Minister** has paid homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on Parakram Diwas.

About Parakram Diwas:

- Parakram Diwas is celebrated on January 23 to commemorate the **birth anniversary of freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose**.
- This year marks the **126th birth anniversary** of Bose, fondly known as 'Netaji'.
- **To mark the occasion**, 21 unnamed islands of Andaman and Nicobar will be named after Param Veer Chakra awardees.
- **A model of the National Memorial** dedicated to Netaji which will be built on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep is also being unveiled.

About Subhas Chandra Bose:

- The charismatic leader who gave popular slogans like "Delhi Chalo" **was born on January 23, 1897**, in Cuttack, Bengal division, Odisha.
- His appealing slogan - "**Tum mujhe khoon do, mai tumhe azadi doonga** (You give me blood, I will give you freedom)"- fuelled Indians with patriotism during the freedom struggle.
- **Born to Jankinath**, a prominent lawyer, and Prabhavati, Bose was the 9th child among their 14 children including 8 sons and 6 daughters.
- **He attended Presidency College**, Calcutta, till his suspension in 1916 due to nationalist activities. Later he graduated from Scottish Churches College in 1919.

- To prepare for the Indian civil service examination, he was sent by his parents **to England's University of Cambridge**.
- After clearing the examination in 1920, **Bose resigned a year later, in April 1921**, following news of nationalist turmoil in his homeland and hurried back to India.
- In India, **Bose joined the Indian National Congress**, but with time, refuted Mahatma Gandhi's less confrontational approach.
- In 1938, he became the president of the Indian National Congress. But resigned a year later despite defeating his rival in reelection.
- **On October 21, 1943, Bose formed 'Azad Hind Fauj'** and later started Azad Hind radio station in Germany.
- **He went missing on August 18, 1945**, after a plane crash in Taiwan. Out of three inquiry commissions on the accident, two claimed he died due to the crash while one stated was alive after the tragedy.

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-:

- **For the year 2023**, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (**OSDMA**) and Lunglei Fire Station (**LFS**), Mizoram, both in the Institutional category, have been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2023 for their excellent work in Disaster Management.
- The Government has instituted **an annual award** to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by **individuals and organizations in India** in the field of disaster management.
- The award is announced **every year on 23rd January**, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Measles and Rubella (MR)

❖ Context

- India had set a **target to eliminate measles and rubella (MR) by 2023**.

Key Highlights:

- India has missed the earlier deadline of 2020, due to a variety of reasons, exacerbated by disruptions due to the pandemic.
- An earlier target that was set for 2015 was also missed.
- It was in **2019** that **India adopted the goal of measles and rubella elimination by 2023**, anticipating that the 2020 goal could not be reached.
- **Significance of this Target**
 - The measles virus is one of the world's **most contagious human viruses** that kills more than 1,00,000 children every year globally.
 - **Rubella** is a leading vaccine-preventable cause of **birth defects**.
 - Both measles and rubella can be prevented by just two doses of a safe and effective vaccine.
 - Over the past two decades, the measles vaccine is estimated to have **averted more than 30 million deaths globally**.
- **Govt Efforts**
 - During 2010–2013, India conducted a **phased measles catch-up immunisation** for children aged 9 months–10 years in 14 States,

- It vaccinate approximately 119 million children.
- **Mission Indradhanush**.
 - Launched in 2014 to ramp up vaccinating the unvaccinated population.
- During 2017–2021, India adopted a national strategic plan for measles and rubella elimination.
- It introduced rubella-containing vaccine (RCV) into the routine immunisation programme.
- It launched a nationwide **measles-rubella supplementary immunisation activity (SIA)** catch-up campaign.

Measles (Khasra)

- **About**
 - It is a highly **contagious viral disease** which affects mostly children.
- **Symptoms**
 - **Fever, dry cough, running nose, sore throat, and rash** (appear around **10 to 14 days** after exposure to the virus).
- **Means of Transmission**
 - Coughing & sneezing, close personal contact.

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- **Treatment**
 - **Vaccine is available.**
 - The WHO recommends immunization for all children with two doses of the measles vaccine, either alone, or in a measles-rubella (MR) or measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) combination.
 - As per the guidance of the National Health Mission, in India, measles vaccination is given under the Universal Immunisation Programme at **9-12 months of age** & the second dose at **16-24 months of age**.

Rubella (German measles or Three-day Measles)

- It is a contagious viral infection best known by its distinctive red rash.
- It can cause serious **problems for unborn babies** whose mothers become infected during pregnancy.
- Rubella isn't the same as measles, but the two illnesses share some signs and symptoms.
- The **measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)** vaccine is safe and highly effective in preventing rubella (lifelong protection).

News in Between the Lines

Digital Crop Survey



❖ Context

- The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), scheme **has mobilized more than Rs.30,000 crore** for projects in the agriculture infrastructure sector with a sanctioned amount of Rs.15,000 crore under AIF.

❖ Key Highlights:

- **AIF is silently changing** the landscape of Indian Agriculture through creation and modernization of much needed agriculture infrastructure.
- These infrastructure projects are helping in **reducing post-harvest losses, modernizing agriculture packages** and practices and moreover helping farmers in better price realization of their produce.

❖ About Agriculture Infra Fund:

- Agriculture Infra Fund (AIF) is a financing facility **launched on 8th July 2020** under the visionary guidance of the Prime Minister, for creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farm assets.
- **Under this scheme, Rs 1 lakh crore** is to be disbursed by financial year 2025-26 and the **interest subvention** and credit guarantee assistance will be given till the year 2032-33.

Puri's Jagannath Temple



❖ Context

- Odisha's Governor has said he believes foreigners should be allowed to enter the Temple.

❖ About Jagannath Temple:

- The Jagannath Temple at Puri is one of the most revered **Vaishnava sites** of worship in India.
- The Temple is one of the four dhams (char dham) where Lord Jagannath, a form of Lord Vishnu, is worshipped along with his elder brother Lord Balabhadra & sister Devi Subhadra.
- Its main shrine was built by Anantavarman of the Chodaganga dynasty in the tenth century.
- Lord Jagannath is also known as **Patitabapan** which literally means "saviour of the downtrodden".
- All those who are barred from entering the Temple because of religious reasons get the privilege of a darshan of the Lord in the form of **Patitapaban at the Lion's Gate**.

Mahabali Frog



❖ Context

- Mahabali Frog is waiting to be elevated as the State Frog of Kerala.

❖ About Mahabali Frog:

- **Scientific Name-** Nasikabatrachus sahyadrensis.
- It is endemic to the Western Ghat.
- It also known as Purple Frog and pignose frog.
- It buries itself all through the year and **surfaces only one day to lay eggs**.
- The frog was named after the **mythical King Mahabali**, who visits his people once a year from the underneath world.
- The species, stands out with its evolutionarily distinct and globally endangered status.
- The conservation of Mahabali Frog will also help in conserving the aquatic ecosystems in the Western Ghats.
- Amphibians are considered as nature's **best insect and pest control agents**.
- **IUCN Red List** -Near Threatened.

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Chargesheet



❖ Context

➤ Recently, The Supreme Court held that **chargesheets are not 'public documents'**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- SC also said that enabling their free public access **violates the provisions of the Criminal Code of Procedure** as it compromises the rights of the accused, victim, and the investigation agencies.

❖ About Chargesheet:

- A chargesheet is **defined under Section 173 CrPC**.
- It is the **final report prepared by a police officer** or investigative agencies after completing their investigation of a case.
- After preparing the chargesheet, the officer-in-charge of the police station **forwards it to a Magistrate**, who is empowered to take notice of the offences mentioned in it.
- The chargesheet should contain details of names, the nature of the information, & offences.
- A chargesheet must be filed against the accused within a prescribed period of **60-90 days**, otherwise the arrest is illegal and the accused is entitled to bail.

❖ First Information Report (FIR)

- FIR has **not been defined in either the Indian Penal Code (IPC) or the CrPC**.
- It finds a place under the police regulations/ rules under Section 154 of CrPC, which deals with 'Information in Cognizable Cases'.
- An FIR is filed at the 'first instance' that the police is informed of a cognizable offense or offence for which one can be arrested without a warrant; such as rape, murder, kidnapping.

Buddhist Monastery Complex at Bharatpur of Bengal



❖ Context

➤ Recent **excavations at Bharatpur in West Bengal's** Paschim Bardhaman district have revealed the presence of a Buddhist monastery.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The site was **initially excavated between 1972 and 1975** when archeologists from ASI and from Burdwan University found a Buddhist stupa at the site.
- They have exposed some structures which appear to be the outer wall of the monastery.
- It is containing **nine layers of brick and a small circular structure**, probably a stupa.
- **Uniqueness of the Site**
 - Presence of a **large stupa along with a monastery complex** and **black and red ware pottery** from the Chalcolithic or Copper Age.
- **Buddhist Stupa and Votive Stupas**
 - A Buddhist stupa is a commemorative monument usually housing sacred relics associated with the Buddha or other saints or priests.
 - Votive stupas have similar significance but are smaller structures originating in eight cylindrical structures.
- **Importance**
 - The site was important for two main reasons-
 - It is an **early village settlement** on the bank of the river Damodar which could date to around 2000 BCE.
 - The Buddhist monastery complex.
- **Sculpture Found**
 - Five beautiful seated sculptures of the Buddha in Bhumisparsha Mudra.

Hybrid Immunity



❖ Context

➤ A recent study in the journal **The Lancet Infectious Diseases** held that "hybrid immunity" provides better protection against severe Covid-19, while all immunity against a re-infection wanes within a few months.

❖ About Hybrid Immunity:

- Hybrid immunity is **gained from a previous infection plus vaccines** – either the primary doses or both primary and booster doses.
- The study said that a hybrid immunity offers a "**higher magnitude and durability**" of protection as compared to infection alone, emphasising the need for vaccination.

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Leopard 2 Tank



❖ **Context**

- Recently, U.S. Defense Secretary said that Germany has not decided whether to allow its Leopard 2 tanks to be sent to Ukraine.

❖ **Leopard 2 Tank:**

- The Leopard 2 is **one of the world's leading battle tanks**.
- It first **came into service in 1979** and has a top **speed** of 68km/h (42mph).
- **Range**- About 500km.
- **Users**
 - It is **used by the German Army** for decades and by the militaries of more than a dozen other European nations.
 - It is also used by the armies of countries as far apart as Canada and Indonesia.
 - It has seen service in conflicts in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Syria.
- **Technical Fetures**
 - The tank, which is powered by a diesel engine, features **night-vision equipment and a laser range finder** that can measure distance to an object, enabling it to **better aim at a moving target while traveling over rough terrain**.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund



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Shanghai Cooperation Organization



❖ **Context**

- There is no participation from Pakistan in **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** film festival being organised under India's presidency.

❖ **About Shanghai Cooperation Organization:**

- **The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** is an intergovernmental organization founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2001.
- The SCO currently **comprises eight Member States** (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), **four Observer States** interested in acceding to full membership (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia) and six **"Dialogue Partners"** (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey).
- The SCO has **been an observer in the UN** General Assembly since 2005.
- **On 9 June 2017**, at the historic summit in Astana, India and Pakistan officially joined SCO as full- members.
- **In 2021, the decision was made** to start the accession process of Iran to the SCO as a full member, and Egypt, Qatar as well as Saudi Arabia became dialogue partners.