

TODAY'S NEWS

Curated Insights from 'The Hindu' Newspaper

Preface

At **BPSC POINT**, our mission is to provide you with concise yet comprehensive summaries of the major news from 'The Hindu' Newspaper, with a keen focus on the UPSC/State PSC exam perspective. In today's competitive environment, having a holistic command over current issues is not just beneficial—it's essential.

What sets **BPSC POINT** apart from similar initiatives is our commitment to:

- **Targeted Relevance:** Our summaries are crafted specifically with the exam syllabus in mind, ensuring that you focus on what truly matters.
- **Analytical Insights:** We go beyond mere reporting by offering analytical perspectives that help you understand the broader implications of each issue.
- **Holistic Approach:** We emphasize connections between current affairs and key exam themes, helping you build a well-rounded knowledge base.
- **Clarity and Precision:** Our content is clear, concise, and to the point, saving you valuable time while enhancing your comprehension.

Each summary is designed to empower you with the insights and understanding necessary to excel in your exams. We encourage you to read these summaries holistically, absorbing the insights and connections that will be crucial for your success.

Wishing you the best in your preparation and on the path to success in your exams.

Team BPSC POINT

Dedicated to your exam success.

Disclaimer: While we strive to provide accurate and relevant summaries of the major news from 'The Hindu', we encourage readers to verify important details independently. If you notice any discrepancies, please notify us.



Death at work

A safety audit is essential to prevent industrial accidents

The blast at pharma company Escientia's plant in the Atchutapuram Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Anakapalli district, Andhra Pradesh, is the worst industrial accident in the region in recent times. Seventeen workers have died and many have been injured. On the same day, about 10 workers suffered injuries in a fire accident at a chemical factory in the same SEZ. Last year, on June 30, a massive explosion rocked a pharma plant at the same SEZ, leading to deaths and injuries. The Atchutapuram SEZ, among the State's largest SEZs, is home to the factories of more than 100 companies. The trail of accidents revives memories of another deadly accident on May 7, 2020 - 12 people died after a styrene monomer vapour leak from a polymers unit at Venkatapuram village on the banks of Visakhapatnam. These accidents raise serious questions about the state of industrial safety in Andhra Pradesh, more specifically in the SEZ. State Home Minister V. Anantha has said that at Escientia, workers had tried to plug a solvent leak of the chemical (solvent MTBE (Methyl tert butyl ether). Before the leak could be plugged, it fell on an electrical panel, leading to a fire and blast, she said. Meanwhile, the typical safety data sheet of MTBE - that operating personnel should have been familiar with - says that it is highly flammable and its vapour can also cause skin and eye irritation. In case of accidental release, it specifically cautions against the serious risk of fire and explosion and lays down the use of explosion-proof electrical/ventilating lighting equipment. Trade unions and activists are calling for stringent punishment to lax management. They also complain of abysmal safety standards. Their demand is for an immediate and thorough safety audit of all units at the SEZs and elsewhere in Andhra Pradesh. A key complaint is exemption from government inspection given to units in SEZs and Export Processing Zones in a 2016 order that brought into force the system of online inspections. This exemption will apparently apply to high-risk ones also, including pharma and chemicals, in SEZs. Another is exemption from inspections given to medium-risk industries which can self-certify, based on third party audits, regarding compliance with safety norms. Such government moves are intended to ease case-of-doing-business as frequent inspections by government staff may only lead to bribes and harassment without necessarily improving safety. While the intent is a well worked out practice across the world, the series of accidents calls for a broader probe including in SEZs in Andhra Pradesh so that any loopholes present can be fixed. Swift delivery of justice by punishing non-compliance of norms and the award of punitive damages will be a deterrent against ignoring safety.

A catastrophic industrial accident occurred at **Escientia's plant** in the **Atchutapuram SEZ, Anakapalli district, Andhra Pradesh**, resulting in **17 deaths** and multiple injuries. The same day, another fire accident injured about 10 workers in a nearby chemical factory. This incident is part of a series of accidents in the region, raising serious concerns about **industrial safety** in Andhra Pradesh, especially within SEZs. The accidents highlight the dangers associated with hazardous chemicals like **MTBE**, which caused the recent blast due to a solvent leak.

Key Issues:

- **Inadequate safety standards** in SEZs, with a history of deadly accidents.
- **Exemptions** from **government inspections** for SEZ units, including high-risk industries, since a 2016 order promoting ease of doing business.
- **Trade unions** and activists are demanding stringent punishment for negligent management and an immediate safety audit of all SEZ units in Andhra Pradesh.

The series of accidents demands a **broader probe** and stricter enforcement of safety norms to prevent further tragedies.

Intriguing silence

India should switch to inactivated polio vaccine

The case of acute flaccid paralysis, likely due to polio, in a child from Tikrikilla in Meghalaya, and in the media spotlight, was reported by the State government on August 14. In April 2022, a case of vaccine-derived poliovirus was detected from an environmental sample collected in Kolkata. After genetic sequencing, it was considered likely to be immunodeficiency-related vaccine-derived poliovirus (iVDPV), excreted by an immunodeficient individual. In the Meghalaya incident, even after the government confirmed the case, there is still no official report on whether it is vaccine-derived and not caused by wild poliovirus. With the global eradication of the wild poliovirus (WPV) type 2 in 2015 and the WPV type 3 in 2019, respectively, and no WPV type 1 found in environment samples in India for years, it is highly unlikely that it is due to the WPV type 1 unless it has been imported into India. As of August 15, Afghanistan and Pakistan have reported 14 WPV type 1 cases this year. If vaccine-derived, there is again no official confirmation on whether it is iVDPV or from circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV). This information is key as cVDPV would mean that the virus is in circulation in the community, while iVDPV is restricted to the single immunodeficient child. Also puzzling is the absence of any official report on whether the case has been caused by the type-1, type-2 or type-3 vaccine-derived virus. India made the globally synchronised switch in 2016 from trivalent to bivalent oral polio vaccine that has only live, attenuated type 1 and type 3 virus. So, while it is impossible that the child has the type 2 virus from the oral vaccine given in India, the chances of cVDPV type 2 virus imported into India cannot be ruled out. In 2004, 98 cVDPV and four iVDPV cases were recorded globally. Many countries have reported cVDPV in environment samples. The long delay in confirming these crucial details is intriguing as samples from the child were sent to the ICDDR,B Mumbai unit, which is a part of the WHO network of 146 accredited polio laboratories worldwide and conducts research on diseases caused by enteroviruses, especially paralytic poliomyelitis and acute flaccid paralysis. Unlike in the case of IPV, immunodeficient children are not supposed to be administered OPV. Since identifying such children and administering OPV is a challenge in India, India will continue to have such cases in the future. The Meghalaya case again brings into focus the urgent need for India to stop using OPV and switch over exclusively to IPV. Most developed countries switched to IPV decades ago. There is no reason why India should not switch to IPV at the earliest.

A case of **acute flaccid paralysis** in a child from Tikrikilla, Meghalaya, possibly due to **polio**, was reported by the State government on August 14. This incident **raises concerns** about whether the paralysis is caused by **vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV)** or wild poliovirus (WPV). India has **eradicated WPV types 2 and 3** and has not detected WPV type 1 in years, making it unlikely that the case is due to WPV unless it has been imported.

Key points include the possibility that the virus could be **immunodeficiency-related VDPV (iVDPV)**, which would be restricted to the child, or **circulating VDPV (cVDPV)**, which would indicate community spread. The type of poliovirus (type-1, type-2, or type-3) involved in this case remains unknown, with no official confirmation yet. India switched from the trivalent to the bivalent oral polio vaccine (OPV) in 2016, which excludes type-2 virus, though imported cVDPV type 2 cannot be ruled out.

This case highlights the **need for India** to transition from OPV to **inactivated polio vaccine (IPV)**, a move most developed countries have already made. The delay in confirming the nature of the virus is concerning, especially given that India is equipped with WHO-accredited labs capable of such testing. The continued use of OPV in immunodeficient children remains a challenge, reinforcing the urgency for India to switch exclusively to IPV.

FEATURE	INACTIVATED POLIO VACCINE (IPV)	ORAL POLIO VACCINE (OPV)
Type of Virus	Contains an inactivated (killed) version of the poliovirus. It cannot replicate or cause disease.	Contains a live, attenuated (weakened) version of the poliovirus that can replicate in the intestines.
Administration	Administered via an injection, typically into the muscle (intramuscular) or under the skin (subcutaneous).	Administered orally in the form of drops.
Safety	Completely safe; cannot cause polio or vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV) because it uses killed virus.	Generally safe, but there is a small risk of VDPV, particularly if the live virus mutates and causes polio in unvaccinated individuals.
Immune Response	Provides strong systemic immunity by generating antibodies in the blood, but does not induce strong immunity in the intestines.	Provides strong immunity both systemically (in the blood) and in the intestines, where the virus initially replicates.
Intestinal Immunity	Provides weak intestinal immunity; does not effectively prevent the virus from replicating in the gut.	Provides strong intestinal immunity, preventing the virus from replicating in the gut and thus reducing transmission.
Risk for Immunocompromised Individuals	Safe for immunocompromised individuals as it contains inactivated virus and cannot cause disease.	Risky for immunocompromised individuals because the live virus can cause polio.
Use in Routine Immunization	Preferred in regions where polio has been eradicated or is under control. Commonly used in developed countries.	Widely used in regions with active polio transmission or high risk of polio, particularly in developing countries.
Cost	Higher cost due to the complex production process and injection administration.	Lower cost and easier to administer, making it more suitable for large-scale immunization campaigns.
Global Use	Increasingly used in developed countries and areas with low or no polio transmission.	Historically used worldwide, especially in areas where polio is still endemic or at high risk.
Reversion Risk	No risk of reversion to a virulent form as it uses a killed virus.	Risk of reversion to a virulent form, which can cause vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV).
Viral Shedding	Does not cause viral shedding because it uses a killed virus that does not replicate in the body.	Causes viral shedding as the live virus replicates in the intestines and is excreted in the stool.
Prevention of Transmission	Less effective in preventing the transmission of poliovirus because it does not prevent the virus from replicating in the gut.	More effective in preventing transmission due to strong intestinal immunity, which helps to stop virus replication and shedding.
Switch to IPV	Recommended to avoid the risks associated with OPV, including VDPV, and as part of global eradication efforts.	Many countries are transitioning away from OPV to IPV to minimize the risk of VDPV while maintaining effective polio prevention.

FEATURE	TYPE 1 (PV1)	TYPE 2 (PV2)	TYPE 3 (PV3)
Characteristics	Most common; causes most polio outbreaks and paralysis cases.	Once widespread; eradicated in 2015.	Less common; similar to type 1 but less virulent.
Global Status	Still circulating in a few countries (e.g., Afghanistan, Pakistan).	Declared eradicated globally in September 2015.	Declared eradicated globally in November 2019.
Immunity	Immunity to type 1 does not protect against types 2 or 3.	Immunity to type 2 does not protect against types 1 or 3.	Immunity to type 3 does not protect against types 1 or 2.
Vaccine Use	Included in bivalent OPV (bOPV) and trivalent OPV (tOPV).	Was included in trivalent OPV (tOPV) before eradication.	Included in bivalent OPV (bOPV) and trivalent OPV (tOPV).
Risk of VDPV	VDPV1 can occur, but less common.	VDPV2 is the most common form of vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV).	VDPV3 can occur, but is rare.

"The battle against the polio virus is not just a fight to end a disease, but a test of our global commitment to ensuring that no child ever suffers from a preventable cause of paralysis again."

Building on favourable change in the 2024 waqf Bill

In the Waqf Bill 2024, the Waqf Amendment Bill, has been referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) as the Ministry has the government's consent to the Bill. The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1954 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The **Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024** has been referred to a **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** due to concerns from both government allies and opposition parties.

The Bill proposes changes, such as digitisation of waqfs and inclusion of women and non-Muslims in waqf boards, but also raises concerns about reducing protection for waqf properties by abolishing waqf by a user and granting excessive powers to **District Magistrates**.

Key Points:

1. Family Waqf:

- **Concept:** A family waqf (waqf al-ahli) is a form of Islamic charitable endowment aimed at supporting family members. It is grounded in Islamic teachings and historical practices, where many prominent figures, including the Prophet's companions, established family waqfs.

- **Criticism:** Some scholars argue that family waqfs were historically used *to circumvent women's inheritance rights* and consolidate family wealth. However, they also provided mechanisms to support vulnerable family members like orphaned grandchildren and aged parents.

2. Global Perspective:

- **Colonial and Post-Colonial Influence:** The British Privy Council initially invalidated family waqfs, but this decision was later reversed. Several Muslim countries restricted or abolished family waqfs in the 20th century under colonial influence. In India and other countries, family waqfs are permitted but *lack statutory supervision and do not receive tax benefits*.

3. Proposed Reforms:

- **Section 3A(2) of the 2024 Bill:** The Bill proposes that family waqfs *should not deny inheritance rights to heirs, including women*. Muslims can create family waqfs only with **one-third of their property** if excluding heirs, and they cannot completely exclude female heirs. However, the provision may still allow marginalization of female heirs if they receive only a token benefit.

4. Challenges:

- **Uniformity in Testamentary Powers:** The article raises the issue of whether similar restrictions should apply to non-Muslims, as Hindu law *allows the complete exclusion of female heirs* in certain cases. The article suggests that the JPC should refine the proposed changes to ensure uniformity, potentially integrating these provisions into a future Uniform Civil Code.

The article emphasizes the need for careful consideration and improvement of the Bill's provisions to balance traditional waqf practices with modern legal principles of fairness and equality.

"Balancing tradition with modern legal principles is not just about reforming laws; it's about redefining justice in a changing world."

The Kursk gambit, Ukrainian tactics and battle realities

The Ukrainian surprise assault by launching an amphibious attack into the Kursk region of Russia has been widely reported in the media. The bold, unprovoked assault by the Ukrainian military is seen as a major escalation in the conflict.

The importance of Kursk
The town of Kursk is a strategic location in the Russian Federation, situated on the border with Ukraine. It is a major industrial and military hub, and its capture would be a significant blow to Russia's defense capabilities.

Ukrainian tactics
The Ukrainian military's surprise assault on Kursk is seen as a bold move, demonstrating their ability to conduct large-scale amphibious operations. The use of heavy armor and artillery is a key element of their strategy.

Ukrainian losses
The Ukrainian military has suffered significant losses in the assault on Kursk, including the capture of several hundred Russian soldiers. This is a major tactical success for Ukraine.

Russian response
The Russian military has responded to the Ukrainian assault with a strong counter-offensive, capturing several Ukrainian soldiers and equipment. This shows the Russian military's ability to respond to unexpected threats.

Ukrainian strategy
The Ukrainian military's assault on Kursk is seen as a strategic move to draw Russian forces away from the front lines in the east. This could allow Ukraine to launch a counter-offensive in other areas.

International reaction
The international community has reacted to the Ukrainian assault on Kursk with a mix of support and concern. Some countries have expressed support for Ukraine, while others have called for a ceasefire.

The article discusses Ukraine's surprising and bold attack into Russia's **Kursk region**, leading to the capture of several hundred Russian soldiers.

This incursion, led by President Zelenskyy, represents a significant escalation in the ongoing conflict.

Despite Ukrainian territorial gains in Kursk, Russia continues its offensive in Ukraine, with a focus on capturing the strategic city of **Pokrovsk** in the **Donetsk region**.

The Ukrainian move into Russian territory, while impressive, risks overextending its forces, especially if Russia mounts a strong counter-attack.

Ukraine's strategy is also seen as a way to demonstrate its capabilities to its Western allies, particularly the U.S., to ensure continued support. The long-term consequences of this incursion and whether it was worth the risk remain to be seen.

Do we need a Central law for protection of healthcare professionals?

The article addresses the growing issue of violence against healthcare workers in India, particularly in the wake of a brutal incident involving a trainee doctor in Kolkata. The increasing violence is attributed to several factors, including high patient expectations, inadequate communication between doctors and patients, and the lack of proper infrastructure and security in hospitals.

Violence against healthcare workers
The article highlights the increasing violence against healthcare workers in India. This is a major concern for the government and the public. The violence is often motivated by patient dissatisfaction and a lack of understanding of the healthcare system.

Factors contributing to violence
Several factors contribute to the violence against healthcare workers. These include high patient expectations, inadequate communication between doctors and patients, and the lack of proper infrastructure and security in hospitals.

Need for a Central law
The article argues that there is a need for a Central law to protect healthcare professionals. This would provide a uniform framework for the protection of healthcare workers across the country.

Current laws
Currently, there are no specific laws in India that protect healthcare professionals. This is a major gap in the legal system.

Supreme Court's involvement
The Supreme Court has been involved in setting up a national task force to address the issue of violence against healthcare workers. This is a positive development.

Need for a comprehensive approach
The article emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach to address the issue of violence against healthcare workers. This includes both legal protections and systemic improvements in the healthcare system.

The article addresses the growing issue of **violence against healthcare workers** in India, particularly in the wake of a brutal incident involving a trainee doctor in Kolkata. The increasing violence is attributed to several factors, including **high patient expectations**, **inadequate communication** between doctors and patients, and the **lack of proper infrastructure and security** in hospitals. Despite the presence of laws in **25 states**, there have been few convictions, indicating the ineffectiveness of existing measures.

The discussion emphasizes the need for **better healthcare infrastructure**, including more spending on health, improved communication, and additional security measures in hospitals. The idea of enacting a **Central law to protect healthcare workers** is debated, with some advocating for it as a necessary step to ensure safety, while others stress the importance of addressing the **root causes of violence**, such as the public's dissatisfaction with the healthcare system.

A Central law could provide a **stronger legal framework**, but there are concerns about its implementation and whether it would actually deter violence. The article also highlights the **Supreme Court's involvement** in setting up a national task force to address the issue, which has been welcomed as a positive development. However, there is skepticism about whether this will lead to substantial changes, given the lack of effective enforcement of existing laws. The need for a **comprehensive approach** that includes both legal protections and systemic improvements in healthcare is emphasized.

"Ensuring the safety of healthcare workers isn't just about enacting laws—it's about transforming societal attitudes and systemic inefficiencies that perpetuate violence."

A look at ongoing Indian space missions

Over the past year, ISRO has made significant strides with several key missions, showcasing India's growing capabilities in space exploration and technology. Major projects include the Chandrayaan-3 mission, the Gaganyaan program, and the development of the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV).

MISSION NEXT FLIGHT OF GAGANYAAN MISSION

The infographic details the mission's objectives, including the development of the crew module, service module, and lander. It highlights the planned launch window for the next flight, the role of the Gaganyaan Test Vehicle (GTV), and the timeline for the crewed mission. Key milestones include the successful completion of the Gaganyaan Test Vehicle (GTV) mission, the development of the crew module, and the planned launch of the next flight.

India's space programme remains active following a busy 2023.

Key developments include:

- Chandrayaan 3 Mission:** Successful lunar landing led Prime Minister Modi to declare **August 23** as **National Space Day**.
- Aditya-L1:** Launched on September 2, 2023, it studies the solar atmosphere and solar storms.
- Gaganyaan TV-D1:** Conducted its first abort test on October 21, 2023, for India's human spaceflight mission.
- XPoSat:** Launched on January 1, 2024, it studies X-ray polarimetry from space.
- INSAT-3DS:** Launched on February 17, 2024, it validated the GSLV before the NISAR mission.

before the NISAR mission.

- RLV-TD:** Tested the Reusable Launch Vehicle (Pushpak) in March and June 2024.
- SSLV:** Completed its third development flight on August 16, 2024, successfully deploying EOS-08 and SR-0 Demosat satellites.
- Future Plans:** ISRO aims for a crewed lunar mission by 2040, the Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035, and development of the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV).
- NSIL:** Transferred commercial satellite activities to NewSpace India Ltd. and signed agreements for future launches.
- Private Space Missions:** Companies like Agnikul Cosmos, Skyroot Aerospace, Dhruva Space, and Bellatrix Aerospace made significant progress.
- IN-SPACE:** Issued key licences and updated regulations to support space activities and investment.

Overall, India continues to advance its space exploration and technology initiatives through both governmental and private sector efforts.

"In the silence of Sriharikota's spaceport, the echoes of India's cosmic ambitions are being written in the stars."



Slaying of the Sarkata: changing portrayal of the female protagonist in 2024

The film industry has seen a significant shift in the portrayal of female protagonists in 2024. This shift is reflected in the success of films like *Aattam* and *Justice Hema*, which have highlighted the struggles and resilience of women in various contexts. The industry is moving away from traditional stereotypes and towards more nuanced and powerful depictions of women's lives.

In August, Indian women faced both distressing and empowering moments. While there were instances of **violence** and **discrimination**, such as the tragic case of a **medical student** in Kolkata and a **wrestler** being fat-shamed, the film industry showcased progress. The Malayalam drama **Aattam** won acclaim for highlighting **gender issues**, and the **Kerala government** released the **Justice Hema Committee report**, exposing **harassment** in the Malayalam film industry. Films like **Ullozhukku** and **Laapataa Ladies** explored women's struggles and complex relationships, while **Maharaja** and **Vedaa** portrayed the harsh realities faced by women in their fight against societal norms. **Stree 2** offered a satirical take on **patriarchy**, emphasizing women's **resilience** and the need for change.





Know your English

Flashpoint
A point of conflict or tension, often used to describe a moment of high intensity or a turning point in a situation.

Appreciate
To value or be grateful for something, often used to express gratitude or admiration.

Propensity
An inclination or tendency to do something, often used to describe a natural or habitual behavior.

Word of the day
A word chosen for its interesting or useful meaning, often used in educational contexts.

Concept	Meaning	Examples/Usage
Flashpoint	The moment during a conflict when violence breaks out or intense anger occurs	"Crisis in local school reaches flashpoint."
Appreciate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Grateful/Thankful2. Recognize and Enjoy Qualities3. Understand with Sympathy4. Increase in Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none">"I appreciate your help.""Everyone appreciated Azhar's superb batting.""I appreciate the pressure Azhar was under.""The house has appreciated in value."
Propensity	An inclination or tendency to do something	"She has a propensity to exaggerate."

Passed the peak? China's crude oil imports trend down

CHINA has passed the peak of its crude oil imports, according to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA). The report states that China's crude oil imports peaked at 11.29 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2023, but have since declined to 10.90 million bpd in the first seven months of 2024. This decline is attributed to several factors, including a transition to new energy vehicles (NEVs), softening diesel demand, and strategic stockpiling.



China's oil imports peaked at 11.29 million bpd in 2023, but have since declined to 10.90 million bpd in the first seven months of 2024. This decline is attributed to several factors, including a transition to new energy vehicles (NEVs), softening diesel demand, and strategic stockpiling.

The article discusses the potential peak of China's crude oil imports, which saw record highs in 2023 but have declined in 2024.

Key points include:

- **Historical Trend:** China's oil imports grew consistently from 2001 to 2020, reaching 10.85 million barrels per day (bpd) by 2020. They peaked at 11.29 million bpd in 2023.
- **Recent Decline:** In the first seven months of 2024, imports fell to 10.90 million bpd, indicating a decrease from last year's levels.
- **Factors Influencing Decline:**
 - **Transition to New Energy Vehicles (NEVs):** NEVs, including electric and hybrid vehicles, have surpassed internal combustion engine vehicles in sales as of July 2024.
 - **Softening Diesel Demand:** Diesel demand dropped by 11% in June 2024 compared to the previous year due to decreased construction activity and a shift to LNG in trucks.
 - **Strategic Stockpiles:** China may reduce crude oil purchases for strategic reserves as it approaches its target levels.
 - **Refinery Capacity and Utilization:** Fewer new refineries are being built, and existing refineries are underutilized, processing less oil in 2024 compared to 2023.
- **Potential for Increased Demand:** Economic growth could potentially boost crude imports if it accelerates significantly, increasing diesel demand for various sectors. However, the current trends and structural changes suggest that the factors limiting rising imports are more likely to persist and intensify.

IIA finds a novel way to explore the sun's secrets by studying solar magnetic fields

The Hindu Bureau

Astronomers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have found a new way to probe deeper into the sun's secrets by studying the magnetic fields at different layers of the solar atmosphere. The astronomers have done this using data from the Kodaikanal Tower Tunnel Telescope.



The solar atmosphere is composed of various layers, including the chromosphere and corona.

As the sun's magnetic field is also the prime driver of solar wind, these processes, measurements of magnetic fields at different heights of the solar atmosphere are important. IIA astronomers have teamed up with complex computer simulations to study the sun's magnetic field through simultaneous observations in the Hydrogen-alpha and Calcium II 8662 Å lines from the Kodaikanal Tower Tunnel Telescope.

Astronomers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have developed a new method to explore the sun's magnetic fields using data from the Kodaikanal Tower Tunnel Telescope. By studying different layers of the solar atmosphere, they aim to understand energy and mass transfer processes, such as the coronal heating problem and solar wind generation. The research involves simultaneous observations of sunspots in Hydrogen-alpha and Calcium II 8662 Å lines. The study uses multiple spectral lines to analyze the magnetic field's stratification at various atmospheric heights. The telescope's 3-mirror setup includes a primary mirror for tracking the Sun, a secondary mirror for redirecting sunlight, and a tertiary mirror for horizontal beam alignment.

India, Poland formulate action plan, upgrade ties to strategic partnership

The Hindu Bureau

India and Poland have agreed to upgrade their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership, according to a joint statement issued by the two countries' foreign ministers. The agreement covers areas such as political dialogue, security, trade, climate, energy, science and technology, transport, cyber security, health, and cultural exchange.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk during their meeting.

India and Poland have established a five-year action plan (2024-2028) to enhance bilateral collaboration, elevating their relationship to a strategic partnership. The plan covers areas such as political dialogue, security, trade, climate, energy, science and technology, transport, cyber security, health, and cultural exchange. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited Polish companies to invest in India's food parks and urban infrastructure projects. The two countries also agreed on a social security agreement and a cooperation pact for space exploration. Modi announced the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar youth exchange programme, which will bring Polish youth to India annually. Poland acknowledged India's goal to join the International Energy Agency.

Centre reviews ground rules with Manipur's Kuki-Zo insurgent groups

Vishal Shaha

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs is reviewing the ground rules applicable to the Kuki-Zo insurgent groups in Manipur. The review follows demands from the groups for a suspension of the operation (SoO) agreement signed in 2008. One of the measures proposed by the Union government is to relocate SoO camps from locations close to the valley districts which are identified as hotspots.



Reviewing ground rules and the proposed relocation of SoO camps in Manipur.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs is reassessing the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with Kuki-Zo insurgent groups in Manipur, which has been in place since 2008. One proposed change is relocating SoO camps from areas near the Meitei-majority valley districts to the hills. The review follows demands from Meitei groups and a call by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh for the pact's abrogation. The SoO agreement, which involves insurgent cadres staying in designated camps with regulated weapons, was put on hold after the Manipur government boycotted a meeting to extend it. Ethnic violence between Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities erupted in May 2023, leading to significant casualties and displacement. The Kuki-Zo groups had previously agreed to a Territorial Council model but have since shifted their demand to separate administration for their people.

Centre will establish facilities for media creators, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau

The Centre is working on establishing world-class facilities in India to enhance the capabilities of creators in the media and entertainment sector. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday. Speaking at the launch of 25 'challenges' as part of the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), Mr. Vaishnaw said the event reflected India's new creator's economy, which was also recognised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the first-ever National Creators Award ceremony in March.

The creator economy had become an effective tool to showcase the country's rich cultural heritage, he said.

Programmes and infrastructure to enhance the capabilities of creators in media and entertainment, Mr. Vaishnaw said. Noting that film-making is one of the country's strengths, he said that there is now huge scope for new technology and tools in that sector, ensuring substantial employment generation. It is estimated that if successfully executed, the programme could generate two to three lakh jobs in the sector. He said that there was a need to ensure that society was not harmed in any way in the process, emphasising that this responsibility lay not just with the government but also with all stakeholders, including the industry and society. IIB Secretary Sanjay Jha, Additional Secretary Neeraj Shekhar, FICCI Director-General Pooj Vijwe among those who attended the event.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the Centre's efforts to establish world-class facilities in India to boost the media and entertainment sector.

At the launch of 25 challenges during the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), he emphasized the sector's role in showcasing India's cultural heritage and its potential for job creation.

The government aims to develop talent programs and infrastructure to enhance creators' capabilities, with an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 jobs expected from successful execution.

Vaishnaw stressed that the process should not harm society, underscoring the joint responsibility of the government, industry, and stakeholders.

When sweltering heat turns public hospitals into potential 'death traps'

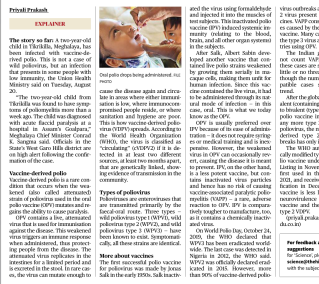


Public hospitals in rural India are struggling with inadequate infrastructure, exacerbating heat-related illnesses during severe heatwaves. Patients, often crowded into **overheated waiting areas** with poor ventilation, are at risk.

The **current heatwave** has intensified these issues, highlighting systemic failings in hospital infrastructure. **Reports of heat-related deaths** may be underreported due to lack of awareness and inadequate diagnostic facilities.

Improving hospital amenities, such as installing air conditioning and enhancing patient hydration, is crucial. Measures like providing shade, water dispensers, and reducing patient wait times are also necessary to address these challenges.

What is vaccine-derived polio?



A **two-year-old child** in Tikrikilla, Meghalaya, has been infected with **vaccine-derived polio**. This rare condition arises when the weakened poliovirus in the oral polio vaccine (OPV) mutates and causes paralysis. The child was diagnosed with **acute flaccid paralysis** at a hospital in Assam's Goalpara. The West Garo Hills district in Meghalaya is on high alert following this confirmation.

Vaccine-derived polio occurs when the attenuated virus in OPV mutates and can cause disease, particularly in areas with low immunization, poor sanitation, or among immunocompromised individuals. The World Health Organization (WHO) classifies the virus as **circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus** (cVDPV2) if it shows evidence of community transmission.

Types of poliovirus include wild poliovirus types 1, 2, and 3. The **oral polio vaccine (OPV)**, developed by Albert Sabin, is preferred for its ease of administration but carries a risk of the virus reverting to a disease-causing form. The **inactivated polio vaccine (IPV)**, developed by Jonas Salk, does not carry this risk but is more complex to produce.

The WHO declared **wild poliovirus type 3** eradicated in 2019 and **type 2** eradicated in 2015. However, vaccine-derived type 2 poliovirus outbreaks have increased since the global switch from trivalent to bivalent OPV in 2016. A **genetically modified type 2 novel oral polio vaccine** was introduced in 2021 to address this issue, showing reduced risk of reversion.

"News Highlights: Key Updates in Brief"

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India clarified that the recent **floods** in eastern Bangladesh were not caused by the opening of the **Dumbur dam** in Tripura. Protests in Bangladesh had wrongly blamed India for the flooding, leading to **security threats** against the Indian High Commission in Dhaka. The MEA stated that the flooding was due to **heavy rainfall** in the catchment areas of the **Gumti river**, which the Dumbur dam, a **hydropower project**, had been releasing water from automatically. The MEA emphasized that the floods were a result of excessive rain in both Tripura and Bangladesh and that India remains committed to **bilateral cooperation on water management issues**. Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma met with Bangladeshi officials to address concerns about security threats and to reaffirm the importance of mutual cooperation on **flood management**.
- A **Kalamezhuthu** workshop at Maharaja's College, Kochi, Kerala, showcased the traditional art of drawing ritualistic designs on the floor with natural powders, a temple performance unique to Kerala.
- The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** decided to maintain policy rates to keep inflation aligned with its 4% target. **Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra** noted that the gap between **headline and food inflation** is widening, with persistent high food prices causing delays in bringing overall inflation back to target. **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das** highlighted that while inflation is slowing, the process is slow and uneven, making it premature to discuss the **equilibrium natural interest rate**. He warned against basing policy decisions on theoretical constructs that may not reflect real-world conditions.
- Scoot, Singapore International Airlines' low-cost arm, is seeking expansion in **India's air-service agreements** to include new airports and markets. Brian Torrey, GM – India and West Asia, noted current **limitations in the bilateral agreement restrict the airline's growth**. Despite high demand, Singaporean airlines have reached their seat allocation limits for Indian routes. The request comes as Noida and Navi Mumbai are set to open new airports early next year, which Torrey described as "dream destinations" for the airline.
- Malaysia is emerging as a prime investment destination in Southeast Asia, attracting foreign investors due to its **improving growth, stable government, and rising currency**. In July, foreign investment in Malaysian debt markets reached **\$1.75 billion**, the highest in a year, amid **political instability** in Thailand and Indonesia. The Malaysian **stock market** is on track for its best performance in over a decade, with the **ringgit**, Asia's top-performing currency in 2024, playing a key role. Analysts attribute much of this success to the **ringgit's strong performance** and the country's **stable political environment** under Prime Minister **Anwar Ibrahim**. Foreign ownership of Malaysian bonds has increased to **20%**, and the ringgit recently hit an **18-month high** against the dollar.
- Thousands of Indonesians attempted to storm Parliament in protest, resulting in a delay of the vote on controversial changes to the election laws.
- China lodged a "serious protest" with the U.S. after a Biden administration official, Uzra Zeya, met with the **Dalai Lama** in New York and reaffirmed support for Tibetan human rights and cultural preservation. China criticized the Dalai Lama as a political exile engaged in anti-China activities and opposed any country facilitating his visits or meetings with officials.
- **Thailand** confirmed **Asia's first case** of a deadlier **mplex** strain, **Clade 1b**, in a 66-year-old European traveler who arrived in Bangkok on August 14 and was hospitalized with symptoms.

- **Assam** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma reported that over **43%** of **47,928 foreigners** detected in Assam from 1971 to 2014 were **Hindus**. The remaining **56.9%** were **Muslims**. The cut-off date for detecting foreigners is March 24, 1971, per the **Assam Accord**. The **Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2019** applies to non-Muslims from neighboring countries up to December 31, 2014. The highest number of detections was in **Cachar district**, with **8,139 Hindus** and **2,013 Muslims**. Assamese speakers make up **48.38%** of the population, while **Bengali speakers** account for **28.92%**. The government is monitoring the impact of the growing **non-Assamese** population.
- The **Civil Aviation Ministry** introduced new rules for **seaplane operations**, **allowing non-scheduled operators** to offer these services. The updated regulations aim to boost seaplane use under the **UDAN** scheme, which has seen limited uptake. Key changes include the elimination of the **waterdrome licence** requirement and reduced compliance standards. Additionally, pilots with a **commercial pilot licence (CPL)** can now qualify as **seaplane-rated pilots**.
- The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** has identified 189 **high-risk** glacial lakes in the Himalayas for **mitigation measures** to address overflow risks. This follows disasters like the South Lhonak Lake overflow in Sikkim, which caused fatalities and damage. The **National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme**, approved on July 25, includes **lake-lowering measures**, technical hazard assessments, and **early warning systems**. With nearly 7,500 glacial lakes monitored, efforts involve site visits during accessible months and satellite tracking. Recent activities include expeditions in **Sikkim, Ladakh**, and other regions, and monitoring by the Central Water Commission.
- The **Centre** held a national conference to discuss the implementation of the **Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES)** aimed at improving the **accuracy** and **transparency** of agricultural statistics. The initiative will enhance **crop-area estimation** and provide **geotagged plot-level data**. The conference emphasized the integration of **remote sensing, geospatial analysis, and AI** to strengthen data accuracy and support **policy formulation** and **agricultural planning**.
- The **Supreme Court** announced plans to form a multi-member committee to address farmers' grievances. The court directed the **Punjab** and **Haryana** governments to provide tentative issues for the committee and urged ongoing dialogue with protesting farmers to clear highway blockages. The **Punjab government** reported progress in partially opening a blocked highway. This development follows the Haryana government's challenge against a high court order to remove barricades at the Shambhu border, where farmers have been protesting since February.1

Practice Mains Question

1. Ensuring the safety of healthcare workers isn't just about enacting laws—it's about transforming societal attitudes and systemic inefficiencies that perpetuate violence. Examine.
2. Evaluate the impact of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 on family waqfs and inheritance rights, particularly concerning female heirs. How does this Bill address historical issues, and what challenges might arise in integrating it with other personal laws?
3. Evaluate the impact of inadequate healthcare infrastructure on heat-related illnesses in India's public hospitals. Discuss possible measures to mitigate such issues.
4. Discuss the challenges and implications of vaccine-derived poliovirus outbreaks in India. How should the government and health authorities address these challenges?

BPSC POINT

Practice Prelims Question

1. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE)?

1. MTBE is highly flammable and can cause skin and eye irritation.
2. It is primarily used as a gasoline additive to increase octane levels.
3. In case of accidental release, it is recommended to use explosion-proof electrical equipment.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: (d) 1, 2, and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1** is correct: MTBE is known to be highly flammable and can cause skin and eye irritation.
- **Statement 2** is correct: MTBE is commonly used as a gasoline additive to increase octane levels and reduce engine knocking.
- **Statement 3** is correct: In case of accidental release, explosion-proof electrical equipment is recommended to prevent fire and explosion hazards.

2. Consider the following statements regarding Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in India:

1. Units within SEZs are exempt from regular government inspections to promote ease of doing business.
2. SEZ units engaged in high-risk industries such as pharmaceuticals and chemicals must undergo mandatory government safety audits.

3. Medium-risk industries within SEZs are allowed to self-certify compliance with safety norms based on third-party audits.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: While SEZ units are exempt from regular government inspections and medium-risk industries can self-certify compliance, high-risk industries in SEZs are not necessarily required to undergo mandatory government safety audits under the 2016 order.

3. Consider the following statements regarding polio and its vaccines:

1. India has completely eradicated all types of wild poliovirus (WPV).
2. Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) contains a live attenuated virus.
3. Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) can sometimes lead to vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: d) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: India has eradicated all types of wild poliovirus, but OPV, which contains a live attenuated virus, can sometimes cause vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV). IPV, on the other hand, contains an inactivated (killed) virus.

4. In the context of polio vaccines, which of the following conditions may arise in an immunodeficient individual receiving OPV?

- a) Complete immunity from all types of poliovirus.
- b) No immunity due to the killed virus.
- c) Risk of developing vaccine-associated paralytic poliomyelitis (VAPP).
- d) Immunity with no risk of viral shedding.

Answer: c) Risk of developing vaccine-associated paralytic poliomyelitis (VAPP)

Explanation: Immunodeficient individuals receiving OPV may be at risk of developing VAPP because their immune systems may not be able to handle the live attenuated virus in the vaccine.

5. Which traditional Kerala art form, involving the drawing of ritualistic designs on the floor with natural powders, is typically performed in temples and was recently featured in a workshop at Maharaja's College, Kochi?

- A) Theyyam
- B) Kathakali
- C) Kalamezhuthu
- D) Mohiniyattam

Answer: C) Kalamezhuthu

Explanation: Kalamezhuthu is a traditional ritualistic art form from Kerala. It involves creating intricate designs on the floor using natural powders and is commonly performed in temples. The process is an elaborate one, taking several hours and is integral to temple rituals. The recent workshop organized by the Malayalam Department at Maharaja's College, Kochi, showcased this unique art form. Unlike Theyyam, Kathakali, or Mohiniyattam, which are performed as dance forms or theatrical arts, Kalamezhuthu is specifically noted for its ritualistic and visual aspects on the floor.

6. Which of the following Indian space missions was launched to study the solar corona and space weather?

- A) Chandrayaan 3
- B) Aditya-L1

- C) Gaganyaan TV-D1
- D) XPoSAt

Answer: B) Aditya-L1

Explanation: The Aditya-L1 mission was launched to study the solar corona and space weather. It successfully entered the L1 orbit on January 6, 2024, and completed its first orbit around L1 on July 2, 2024.

7. The ringgit is the currency of which country, and how has its performance impacted foreign investment trends in recent times?

- a) Thailand; It has led to a decline in foreign investment due to political instability.
- b) Indonesia; It has caused foreign investors to shift their focus to other markets.
- c) Malaysia; Its strong performance has attracted significant foreign investment in debt and stock markets.
- d) Singapore; Its stability has discouraged foreign investment in favor of neighboring markets.

Answer: c)

Explanation: The ringgit is the currency of Malaysia. Recent strong performance of the ringgit has made Malaysian debt and stock markets more attractive to foreign investors, leading to increased foreign investment. This is highlighted by the significant inflow of \$1.75 billion into Malaysian debt markets in July and the ringgit reaching an 18-month high against the dollar.

8. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Dumbur Dam and the Gumti River?

- 1. The Dumbur Dam is located on the Gumti River, which flows exclusively through India.
- 2. The Gumti River originates in Bangladesh and flows into India.
- 3. The Dumbur Dam is situated on the Gumti River, which flows through both India and Bangladesh.
- 4. The Dumbur Dam has no impact on flood conditions in Bangladesh.

Answer: 3. The Dumbur Dam is situated on the Gumti River, which flows through both India and Bangladesh.

Explanation:

Location and River Flow: The **Dumbur Dam** is indeed located on the **Gumti River**, which flows through both India and Bangladesh. The river originates in the Indian state of Tripura and flows into Bangladesh, thus crossing the border between the two countries.

Incorrect Statements:

- *Statement 1* is incorrect because the Gumti River does not flow exclusively through India; it crosses into Bangladesh.
- *Statement 2* is incorrect because the Gumti River originates in India, not Bangladesh.
- *Statement 4* is incorrect because the Dumbur Dam's water releases can impact flood conditions downstream in Bangladesh.

9. Which of the following statements is correct about the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar youth exchange programme?

1. The programme will annually send 20 Indian youth to Poland.
2. The programme will facilitate a yearly exchange of 20 Polish youth to India.
3. The programme focuses on exchanges between youth from India and Pakistan.
4. The Jam Saheb of Nawanagar youth exchange programme is intended for adults, not youth.

Answer: 2. The programme will facilitate a yearly exchange of 20 Polish youth to India.

End of Summary

This marks the end of today's summary from *The Hindu*. We trust this has added value to your exam preparation. Keep engaging with current affairs to sharpen your insights and strengthen your knowledge. We'll be back tomorrow with more updates to guide you on your path to success.

Thank you for reading. Stay focused and dedicated!

Understanding current affairs is crucial for **UPSC/State PSC preparation**, as it bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application, ensuring that candidates are well-informed, relevant, and capable of making insightful analyses on contemporary issues.