



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 10 November 2024

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS: ASIA 2025



India with a total of 163 universities ranked is the most represented country in the recently released 16th edition of the World University Rankings: Asia by Quacquarelli Symonds.

- It is published annually since 2009 by Quacquarelli Symonds, which highlights the top universities in Asia each year.
- The methodology used to create the ranking is similar to that used for the QS World University Rankings, but with some additional indicators and adapted weightings.
- The **11 indicators used** to compile the QS Asia University Rankings are
 - academic reputation (30%), Employer reputation (20%), Faculty/student ratio (10%), International research network (10%), Citations per paper (10%) and papers per faculty (5%), Staff with a PhD (5%), Proportion of inbound exchange students (2.5%) and proportion of outbound exchange students (2.5%)

Highlights

- This ranking assesses 984 institutions covering 25 countries in **Eastern, Southern, South-Eastern and Central Asia**.
- **Peking University** retains the top spot, The University of Hong Kong the second, with the National University of Singapore confirmed in third.
- India boasts two institutions within the top 50 and seven in the top 100 of the QS Asia Rankings 2025, with the **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)** leading at 44th place.
- The University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) achieved the most significant improvement among Indian institutions, climbing 70 spots to 148th.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 10 November 2024

NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL



- It is a **quasi-judicial authority** incorporated for dealing with corporate disputes that are of civil nature arising under the Companies Act, 2013.

- It was constituted on 1 June 2016 under the **Companies Act, 2013**.
- It was established based on the recommendation of the **Balakrishna Eradi committee** on law relating to the insolvency and the winding up of companies.
- **Composition:** It shall consist of a President and such number of Judicial and Technical Members as may be required.

What are the Powers of NCLT?

- It is **not limited or bound by the rules** laid down in the **Code of Civil Procedure** and is guided by the principles of natural justice, subject to the other provisions of this Act and of any rules that are made by the Central Government.
- It can enforce any order that it gives in the same manner as a court would enforce it.
- It has the power to **scrutinize its own orders**.
- It has the power to **regulate their own procedure**.
- It is the **adjudicating authority** for the insolvency resolution process of companies and limited liability partnerships under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016**.

ONE SUN ONE WORLD ONE GRID' (OSOWOG) INITIATIVE

India is in advanced discussions with Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Maldives, and Singapore to establish cross-border electricity transmission lines as part of the ambitious 'One Sun One World One Grid' (OSOWOG) initiative.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 10 November 2024

- The idea for the OSOWOG initiative was put forth by the Prime Minister of India, at the First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in October 2018.



- It is an initiative to introduce a **transnational electricity grid that supplies power worldwide.**
- The project is being spearheaded by the governments of **India and the UK in partnership with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the World Bank Group.**

Vision: It aims to connect different **regional grids through a common grid** that will be used to transfer renewable energy power and, thus, realize the potential of renewable energy sources, especially solar energy.

- The idea is to harness solar and other renewable energy sources from different parts of the world, **where the sun is shining at any given moment**, and efficiently transmit that power to areas where it is needed.
- OSOWOG aims to provide power to about **140 countries through a common grid** that will ensure the transfer of clean and efficient solar power.
- The OSOWOG initiative is to be **carried out in 3 phases:**
 - In the **first phase**, the Indian grid would be connected to the grids of the **Middle East, South Asia, and South-East Asia** to develop a common grid. This grid would then be used to share solar energy as needed, in addition to other renewable energy sources.
 - The **second phase** would connect the functional first phase to the pool of **renewable resources in Africa.**
 - The **third phase** would look at achieving true global interconnection with the aim of **2,600 GW of interconnection by 2050.** The goal is to integrate as many countries as possible to create a single power grid of renewable energy. This can then be accessed by all countries.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 10 November 2024

WHAT IS A MENHIR?

An Iron Age menhir, a memorial pillar locally known as 'Niluvu Rayi' found in Kamasanpalli village of Nagarkurnool district in Telangana, faces neglect.



- A menhir is a **large upright standing stone**.
 - Menhirs may be found singly as monoliths, or as part of a group of similar stones.
 - They are widely distributed across **Europe, Africa, and Asia**, but are **most numerous in Western Europe**.
 - Their size can vary considerably; but their **shape is generally uneven and squared, often tapering towards the top**.
 - Often menhirs were **placed together, forming circles**, semicircles, or vast ellipses.
 - Megalithic menhirs were **also placed in several parallel rows, called alignments**. The **most famous** of these are the **Carnac, France, alignments**, which include 2,935 menhirs.
 - They are sometimes engraved with abstract forms (line, spiral) or with objects' images like axes.
 - Identifying the uses of menhirs remains speculation. However, it is likely that many uses involved fertility rites and seasonal cycles.
-

SEAPLANE

Kerala tourism Ministry is launching a seaplane service meant to boost the tourism sector at Bolgatty Waterdrome in Kochi.



- It is any of a class of aircraft that can **land, float and take off on water**.
- It is a **fixed-winged aeroplane** designed for taking off and landing on water. It offers the public the speed of an aeroplane with the utility of a boat.

Current Affairs - 10 November 2024

Types of Seaplanes

- **Floatplanes:** Floatplanes are the **most common type of seaplane**. They have floats, which are buoyant structures, permanently attached to the fuselage. Floatplanes rely solely on water for takeoff and landing, making them ideal for flying over lakes, rivers, and coastal areas.
- **Flying Boats:** Unlike amphibious seaplanes and floatplanes, flying boats have their **hull entirely designed to float on water**. These aircraft have a boat-like shape, with the main body of the plane floating on the water's surface. Flying boats are capable of **carrying larger passenger loads** and have the capability to take off and land in rougher water conditions.

Advantages of seaplanes

- They can fly low and have access to both land and sea, they are perfectly suitable for **coastal surveillance**.
 - They can observe coastal activity such as **border control, investigations or weather anomalies**.
-

COSTS OF POPULATION DECLINE

The Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu recently voiced concerns about low fertility rates in their states. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister announced plans to introduce legislation aimed at incentivizing families to have more children.

This initiative reflects the growing worry over demographic challenges, as both states face declining birth rates that could impact future economic growth and social stability.

India's Shifting Demographics: Ageing Population and Fertility Trends

- **Impact of Family Planning Success on Ageing Population**

Current Affairs - 10 November 2024

- Decades of successful family planning policies in India have resulted in slower population growth but have also led to a rapidly ageing population, especially in some regions.
- **Declining Fertility Rates in Southern and Smaller Northern States**
 - Fertility rates, or the average number of children born to women during child-bearing years, have declined sharply in southern states like Tamil Nadu and West Bengal (1.4 between 2019 and 2021), as well as in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh (1.5).
 - States with lower fertility rates typically experienced faster development.
- **Higher Fertility Rates in Northern States**
 - In contrast, states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh still have relatively high fertility rates (3, 2.7, and 2.6, respectively), indicating a slower demographic transition and a younger population structure.
- **Projected Growth in India's Elderly Population**
 - According to the India Ageing Report (UNFPA), India's elderly population is projected to increase from 10.1% in 2021 to 15% by 2036.
 - Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh will see a particularly advanced demographic shift, with elderly populations expected to comprise 22.8%, 20.8%, and 19% of their populations by 2036.
 - In Bihar, however, the elderly will make up only 11% by 2036.

India's Ageing Crisis and Socio-Economic Political Challenges

- **India's Accelerated Demographic Transition**
 - India's demographic transition is advancing faster than its socio-economic development. The key measure here is the **old age dependency ratio**, which indicates the number of older dependents for every 100 working-age individuals (18-59 years).
- **States with High Old Age Dependency Ratios**

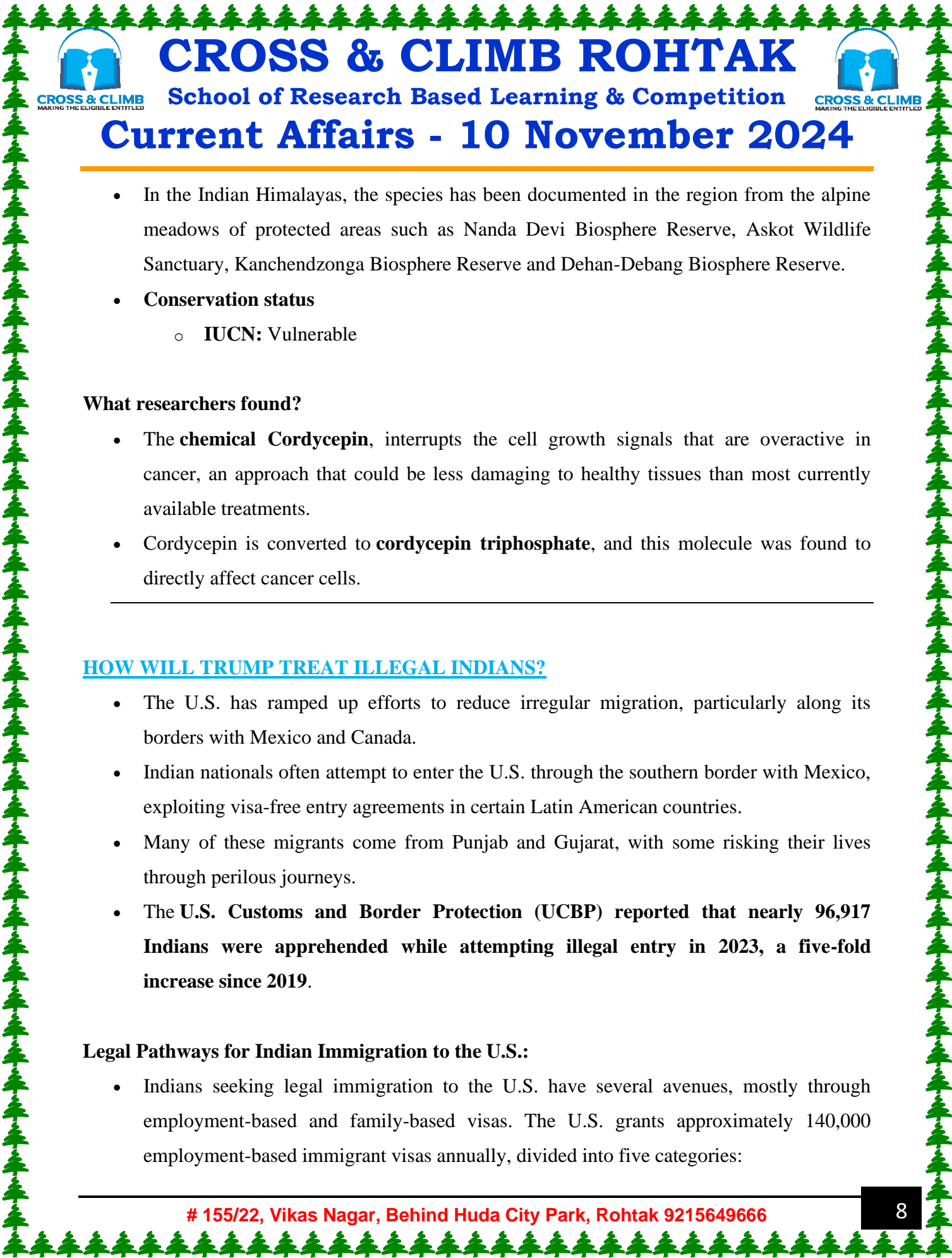
Current Affairs - 10 November 2024

- Several states have already crossed this threshold, including Kerala (26.1 in 2021), Tamil Nadu (20.5), Himachal Pradesh (19.6), and Andhra Pradesh (18.5).
 - **Healthcare Burden of Ageing Populations**
 - A 2017-18 study showed that the southern states, with only 20% of India's population, accounted for 32% of the country's out-of-pocket spending on cardiovascular diseases.
 - On the other hand, eight Hindi-belt states, home to 50% of the population, spent only 24%.
 - **Economic and Gender Implications of Increasing Fertility**
 - While some state leaders propose boosting fertility rates to counter ageing, this could reduce women's participation in the workforce, potentially hindering economic growth.
 - **Impact of Uneven Population Growth on Parliamentary Representation**
 - According to a study, states with higher population growth, like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan, are expected to gain seats (12, 10, and 7 respectively).
 - Meanwhile, states with slower growth, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh, are projected to lose seats (9, 6, and 5 respectively) due to their declining share in the national population.
-

CATERPILLAR FUNGUS



- **Caterpillar fungus** (*Ophiocordyceps Sinensis*) is a fungal **parasite of larvae** (caterpillars) that belongs to the ghost moth.
- It is endemic to the **Tibetan Plateau**, including the adjoining high Himalaya (3,200-4,500 metres above sea level).
- It is locally known as **Kira Jari** (in India), Yartsagunbu (in Tibet), Yarso Gumbub (Bhutan), Dong Chong Xia Cao (China) and **Yarsagumba** (in Nepal).



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 10 November 2024

- In the Indian Himalayas, the species has been documented in the region from the alpine meadows of protected areas such as Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, Askot Wildlife Sanctuary, Kanchendzonga Biosphere Reserve and Dehan-Debang Biosphere Reserve.
- **Conservation status**
 - **IUCN:** Vulnerable

What researchers found?

- The **chemical Cordycepin**, interrupts the cell growth signals that are overactive in cancer, an approach that could be less damaging to healthy tissues than most currently available treatments.
 - Cordycepin is converted to **cordycepin triphosphate**, and this molecule was found to directly affect cancer cells.
-

HOW WILL TRUMP TREAT ILLEGAL INDIANS?

- The U.S. has ramped up efforts to reduce irregular migration, particularly along its borders with Mexico and Canada.
- Indian nationals often attempt to enter the U.S. through the southern border with Mexico, exploiting visa-free entry agreements in certain Latin American countries.
- Many of these migrants come from Punjab and Gujarat, with some risking their lives through perilous journeys.
- The U.S. **Customs and Border Protection (UCBP) reported that nearly 96,917 Indians were apprehended while attempting illegal entry in 2023, a five-fold increase since 2019.**

Legal Pathways for Indian Immigration to the U.S.:

- Indians seeking legal immigration to the U.S. have several avenues, mostly through employment-based and family-based visas. The U.S. grants approximately 140,000 employment-based immigrant visas annually, divided into five categories:



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 10 November 2024

- **EB-1:** For individuals with extraordinary abilities, researchers, and multinational managers.
- **EB-2 and EB-3:** For professionals with advanced degrees and skilled workers.
- **Special Immigrants (EB-4):** Includes certain U.S. government employees and refugees from conflict zones.
- **Investor Visas (EB-5):** For investors who establish businesses in the U.S.
- Each year, thousands of skilled professionals, particularly from India's technology sector, apply for visas like H-1B to work in the U.S. legally.

Challenges of Illegal Immigration from India:

- The surge in illegal migration from India stems from a mix of economic aspirations and trafficking networks.
- Many Indian nationals, particularly from Punjab and Gujarat, take perilous routes via Latin American countries, often paying substantial fees to traffickers.
- Tragic incidents, such as the 2022 deaths of a family from Gujarat who froze while attempting to cross the U.S.-Canada border, highlight the dangers involved.

Future Outlook and Conclusion:

- **The Trump administration's firm stance on immigration is likely to have significant implications for Indian nationals in the U.S., both legal and undocumented.**
 - Although his primary focus remains on immigration from Latin America, the spillover effects of these stringent policies will affect Indian immigrants as well.
 - Indians in the U.S., especially those on temporary work visas, may face stricter scrutiny, while undocumented individuals face an uncertain future.
 - As U.S. immigration policies continue to evolve, Indian nationals aspiring to work or settle in the U.S. will need to remain informed and cautious in navigating these regulations.
-