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BIRSA MUNDA'S ENDURING LEGACY

Early Life of Birsa Munda and His Rise Against British Oppression

- Born in 1875 in Ulihatu, a village in present-day Jharkhand, Birsa Munda grew up in an era marked by British exploitation and oppression, especially targeting tribal communities.
- Colonial authorities and local landlords imposed harsh conditions on tribal populations, seizing their lands and denying them basic rights.
- **Ulgulan: A Fight for Justice and Cultural Identity**
 - Birsa Munda, only in his twenties, responded with courage and fervor. Known as Dharti Aba or the Father of the Earth, he organized the Ulgulan, or the Munda Rebellion, against this exploitation.
 - His movement was a fight not only for justice but also for the preservation of tribal identity and cultural values.
 - While the Ulgulan marked a historical struggle against oppression, it also highlighted the cultural resilience of the tribal communities.
 - His ideals continue to resonate as his legacy reminds the nation of the importance of preserving indigenous knowledge, customs, and values in a modernising world.
- **Compassionate Leader and Healer**
 - In addition to his role as a revolutionary, Birsa Munda was also revered as a healer and spiritual leader.
 - Trained in the art of healing, he dedicated himself to caring for the sick and stories of his compassion spread, as he travelled from village to village, offering his healing touch to those in need.
 - This dedication to service further endeared him to his community, reinforcing his image as a protector and a caregiver, embodying the very essence of leadership based on empathy and solidarity.

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Renewed Recognition of Birsa Munda's Contribution and Lessons for Modern Society

- **Renewed Recognition of Tribal Heroes**
 - For many years, **Birsa Munda's contributions remained under recognised in mainstream historical narratives.**
 - Yet, as **the nation celebrates Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, or the 75th anniversary of India's independence, there is a renewed appreciation for heroes like Birsa Munda, whose sacrifices contributed to India's journey toward freedom.**
 - In 2021, **the Indian government declared November 15 as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas** to honour the contributions of tribal freedom fighters.
- **Lessons for Modern Society**
 - Today, **Birsa Munda's legacy offers powerful lessons for modern society.**
 - His **vision of harmonious living with nature reflects the sustainable values** deeply embedded in tribal societies.
 - **Birsa Munda's life reminds us that tribal societies have long valued collective welfare over individual gain,** an ethos that modern society can learn from in its quest for sustainable development.

Conclusion

- **Birsa Munda's legacy calls upon us to strive for a just and compassionate society** that values cultural heritage, collective welfare, and sustainable harmony with nature.
- As India continues to honour his contributions and those of countless other tribal leaders, **the nation reaffirms its commitment to preserving the diverse cultural fabric that defines India.**
- **In embracing the lessons of Birsa Munda's life, India moves closer to a vision of inclusive development,** where every community, including the historically marginalised, is a celebrated part of the national narrative.



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CENTRE REIMPOSES AFSPA IN 6 'VOLATILE' MANIPUR AREAS

Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958

- AFSPA has its origins in British-era legislation enacted to suppress the Quit India Movement.
- In 1947, it was introduced as four ordinances, which were replaced by an act in 1948.
- The current law, enacted in 1958 by then-Home Minister G.B. Pant, was initially named the Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers Act.
- As new states like Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland were formed, AFSPA extended to cover these areas.
- **About**
 - The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act was enacted in 1958 to bring under control what the government of India considered **disturbed areas**.
 - Enacted by Parliament in September 1958, AFSPA was first implemented in the Northeast, and then in Punjab.
 - Under its provisions, the armed forces have been empowered to open fire; enter and search without warrant, and arrest any person who has committed a cognisable offence.
 - Prosecution of the officer on duty needs prior permission of the Central Government.
- **States where AFSPA is in effect**
 - AFSPA can be implemented in an area after it has been declared as **disturbed**.
 - Currently, AFSPA is in effect in parts of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh.
 - It was completely lifted from Meghalaya in April 2018. It was repealed in Tripura in 2015

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- **Disturbed Area**

- A disturbed area is one which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA.
 - Section (3) of the AFSPA Act empowers the governor of the state or Union territory to issue an official notification on The Gazette of India.
 - Following which the centre has the authority to send in armed forces for civilian aid.
- The state or central government considers those areas as disturbed by reason of differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
- Once declared 'disturbed', the region has to maintain status quo for a minimum of three months, according to The Disturbed Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1976.
- The state governments can suggest whether the AFSPA is required to be enforced or not.
- But under Section (3) of the APSPA, their opinion can still be overruled by the governor or the centre.

Controversial provisions of AFSPA

- **Section 3** – It empowers the Centre to declare any area as Disturb Area without taking consent of the concerned state.
 - **Section 4** – Accords certain power to an authorised officer which also include power to open fire at any individual even if it results in death.
 - Under this section, the officer has also been given the power to (a) arrest without a warrant; and (b) seize and search without any warrant any premise.
 - **Section 7** – It mandates prior executive permission from central or state authorities for prosecution of a member of the security forces.
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WHAT ARE DOMESTIC SYSTEMICALLY IMPORTANT BANKS (D-SIBS)?

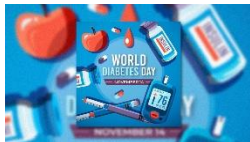


- D-SIB means that the bank is **too big to fail**.
- According to the RBI, some banks become systemically important **due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity, and lack of substitutes and interconnection**.
- A **failure of any of these banks** can lead to systemic and **significant disruption to essential economic services** across the country and can cause an economic panic.
- As a result of their importance, the **government is expected to bail out these banks** in times of economic distress to prevent widespread harm.
- Additionally, D-SIBs follow a **different set of regulations in relation to systemic risks and moral hazard issues**.
- Due to this perception, these banks **enjoy certain advantages in funding**.
- The system of D-SIBs was **adopted in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis**, where the collapse of many systematically important banks across various regions further fueled the financial downturn.
- **How are D-SIBs determined?**
 - Since 2015, the **RBI** has been **releasing the list of all D-SIBs**.
 - They are classified into five buckets, according to their importance to the national economy.
 - In order to be listed as a D-SIB, a bank **needs to have assets that exceed 2 per cent of the national GDP**.
 - The banks are then further classified on the level of their importance across the five buckets.
 - Right now, there are **three D-SIBs in India—SBI, HDFC and ICICI Bank**.
 - **ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank** are in **bucket one**, while **SBI** falls in **bucket three**, with bucket five representing the most important D-SIBs.

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- **What regulations do these banks need to follow?**
 - Due to their economic and national importance, the banks need to **maintain a higher share of risk-weighted assets as Tier-I equity.**
 - SBI, since it is placed in bucket three of D-SIBs, has to maintain Additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) at 0.60 percent of its Risk-Weighted Assets (RWAs).
 - ICICI and HDFC, on the other hand, have to maintain Additional CET1 at 0.20 percent of their RWA due to being in bucket one of D-SIBs.
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WORLD DIABETES DAY 2024



- It is celebrated globally on **November 14** every year.
- This date **commemorates the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who, along with Charles Best, co-discovered insulin in 1922, a medical breakthrough that has since transformed the lives of millions living with diabetes.**
- The theme for World Diabetes Day 2024 is '**Access to Diabetes Care: Empowering Better Health for All.**'

History:

- World Diabetes Day was **first established in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO)** as a response to the growing concerns around the diabetes epidemic.
- **In 2006, the United Nations officially recognised it, making it a global observance.**
- The initiative draws attention to the challenges posed by diabetes, including the need for more accessible healthcare, and raises awareness of lifestyle changes that can mitigate the risks associated with diabetes.

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What is Diabetes?

- **Diabetes mellitus**, also known as diabetes, is a **metabolic disease** marked by consistently **elevated blood sugar levels**.
 - Diabetes is a chronic illness in which the body either produces insufficient amounts of insulin or is unable to use the insulin that it does produce efficiently.
 - The **pancreas secretes** the hormone **insulin**, which is **crucial for controlling blood sugar**
 - Blood sugar levels can rise and cause issues with the heart, kidneys, feet, and eyes if insulin is not functioning properly.
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WHAT IS AMBER?



- It is a **fossil tree resin** that has achieved a **stable state through loss of volatile constituents and chemical change** after burial in the ground.
- Amber has been **found throughout the world**, but the **largest and most significant** deposits occur along the **shores of the Baltic Sea** in sands 40 to 60 million years old.
- Amber occurs as **irregular nodules, rods, or drop like shapes** in all shades of yellow with nuances of orange, brown, and, rarely, red.
- **Milky-white opaque** varieties are called **bone amber**.
- The turbidity of some amber is **caused by inclusions of many minute air bubbles**.
- Many hundreds of species of **fossil insects and plants are found as inclusions**.
- Deeply coloured translucent to transparent amber is prized as gem material.
- Ornamental carved objects, beads, rosaries, cigarette holders, and pipe mouthpieces are made from amber.
- **Amberoid**, or “**pressed amber**,” is produced by **fusing together small pieces of amber** under pressure. Parallel bands, or flow structure, in amberoid help to distinguish it from natural amber.



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'KNOW YOUR MEDICINE' APP



- It is part of NADA India's broader mission to **raise anti-doping awareness and education**, equipping athletes with essential information to stay clean.
- The app allows **users to easily verify whether** a specific medicine or its ingredients contain any substances listed as **prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)**.
- By offering this quick and seamless verification, the KYM app helps athletes to stay informed and uphold the integrity of sport, fostering a culture of fair and ethical sportsmanship.

National Anti-Doping Agency

- It was established by the Government of India, with the objective of acting as the independent **Anti-Doping Organization for India** having a vision of dope-free sports.
- It was set up as a registered society under the **Societies Registration Act of 1860** on November 2005.

The primary functions

- To **implement the Anti-Doping Code** to achieve compliance by all sports organizations in the Country.
- To **coordinate dope testing program** through all participating stakeholders.
- To **promote anti-doping research** and education to inculcate the value of dope-free sports.
- To **adopt best practice standards** and quality systems to enable effective implementation and continual improvement of the program.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports



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MATES SCHEME



- **Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-professionals Scheme (MATES)** gives **Indian university graduates** and early career professionals a chance to **work in Australia for two years.**

- The **Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement (MMPA)** is a bilateral framework that supports and **promotes two-way migration and mobility** between the two countries while addressing issues pertaining to illegal and irregular migration. MATES has been established under the MMPA.
- This scheme will open for professionals from December this year.

Eligibility

- It is open to **Indian nationals who are aged 30** or younger at the time of application;
- Have proficient English language skills (overall IELTS or equivalent score of at least 6, with a minimum score of 5 for each of the four modules);
- Have graduated within 2 years from an eligible educational institution at the time of application;
- Hold a qualification (Bachelor's degree or higher) in one of the following: renewable energy, mining, engineering, Information Communications Technology (ICT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Financial Technology (FinTech) and Agricultural Technology (AgriTech).
- Graduates from the **top 100 universities** of India as per the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking 2024** will be eligible.
- MATES participants will be able to live and work in Australia for **up to 2 years.**
- Participants will be able to apply to bring dependents (spouses and dependent children). Dependents will have work rights in Australia, and will not count towards the annual cap.
- Visa holders will **have 12 months** to make their first entry into Australia, and may stay in Australia for 24 months from the date of first entry. The visa will allow multiple entries to Australia.