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Current Affairs - 12 September 2024

MAKING INDIA A START-UP NATION

Context

- India's economic growth over the last decade has been shaped by pivotal developments like the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), affordable data access, and the COVID-19 pandemic, which accelerated the growth of e-commerce and startups.
- Together, these once-in-a-generation events have created a unique opportunity for India to capitalise on its momentum and build a sustainable roadmap for future growth.
- However, sustaining this trajectory requires comprehensive integration of key subsystems, including education, entrepreneurship, and employment (the 3E model), which can be the foundation for India's exponential economic rise.
- **Entrepreneurship as a Solution: Creating New Opportunities**
 - One of the most promising solutions to the employment challenge is **creating a culture of entrepreneurship**.
 - With job creation unable to keep pace with the growing number of job seekers, **encouraging graduates to pursue entrepreneurial ventures can generate new employment opportunities** and stimulate economic growth.
 - **Startups and small businesses have the potential to create jobs** not only for their founders but also for others, contributing to overall employment generation.
 - To encourage more students to pursue entrepreneurship, **India must reframe the way it measures the success of its higher education institutions**.
 - Traditionally, **universities and colleges are ranked based on their ability to place students in high-paying jobs**.
- **Transformation of Higher Education**
 - The higher education system in India **must undergo a transformation to meet the evolving needs of the economy and the workforce**.



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- Currently, the **primary success metric for higher education institutions (HEIs) is their ability to place graduates in high-paying jobs.**
- While this is important, **it overlooks the role that HEIs can play in fostering entrepreneurship and innovation.**
- To better align higher education with the demands of the modern economy, **institutions should incorporate entrepreneurship, research, and innovation into their curricula.**
- **Universities should encourage students to engage in entrepreneurial activities,** provide access to incubation centres, and offer mentorship from industry experts.
- **Harnessing the Power of Digital Education**
 - Another key opportunity lies in the rapid expansion of digital education.
 - The **telecom revolution has made internet access more affordable and widespread,** even in rural areas.
 - **Digital education platforms can offer courses in emerging technologies, entrepreneurship, and vocational skills,** providing students with the tools they need to succeed in the modern workforce.

Conclusion

- **India stands at the threshold of unprecedented economic opportunity,** driven by its demographic dividend, expanding digital infrastructure, and burgeoning startup ecosystem.
 - However, **sustaining and accelerating this growth requires a strategic focus on integrating education, entrepreneurship, and employment.**
 - **By rethinking the success metrics of higher education and fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, India can create millions of jobs, elevate its global economic standing,** and ensure inclusive, long-term prosperity.
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WHAT IS MITHUN?



Bovine animal Mithun has been spotted in Assam for the first time, the Chief Minister said recently.

- The Mithun or **gayal** (*Bos frontalis*) is a **heavily built, semi-domesticated bovine species**.
- Mithun is believed to have originated more than 8000 years ago and is **considered to be a descendant of wild Indian gaur or bison**.
- It is known as the '**cattle of the mountain**'.
- **Distribution:**
 - The highest concentration of mithuns in the world is spread over the North Eastern (NE) region of India, with Arunachal Pradesh having the highest population.
 - It is also found in parts of Southeast Asia, viz., **Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Bhutan**.
 - The geographic zone is covered with **tropical evergreen rainforests**.
- It is the **state animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland**.
- The '**Soulung**' festival is observed annually by the **Adi tribes of Arunachal Pradesh** to commensurate the birth and arrival of Mithun on this earth.
- **Physical Features:**
 - Mithun **appears somewhat similar to that of Guar** (Indian bison) but is **smaller in size**.
 - Like Guars, they are **strongly built, large-sized fleshy animals** with an average weight of 400- 650 kg.
 - The characteristic feature of Mithun lies in the **head, which has a well-developed, broad frontal bone** with a **flat-shaped face** and from the front view, it appears like an inverted triangle from where **two horns emerge from the lateral sides**.

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- Horn colour varies from whitish yellow to salty black in most animals.
 - The young mithuns are light to dark brown in colour, which darkens with age.
 - In **adult mithuns**, the **most common colour is black** with white markings and white with black markings. Other than these two, albino or pure black is also found.
 - **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List: Vulnerable**
 - **CITES: Appendix I**
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WHAT ARE GRAM NYAYALAYAS?



- Gram Nyayalayas, or village courts, are **established under the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008**, for speedy and easy access to the justice system in the rural areas of India.
- The Act **extends to the whole of India, except to the States of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sikkim** and the tribal areas specified in the **Sixth Schedule** to the Constitution of India.
- Gram Nyayalayas is aimed at providing inexpensive justice to people in rural areas at their doorsteps.
- **Constitution:**
 - The **State governments** have been vested with the authority of setting up one or more nyayalayas, after proper **consultation with the respective High Court**, in every Panchayat at the intermediate level or group of adjacent Panchayats at the intermediate level of a district.
 - However, the Act **does not make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory**.
 - Section 4 of the Act provides for the headquarters of the gram nyayalaya to be situated in the respective Panchayat or some other place notified by the state government.



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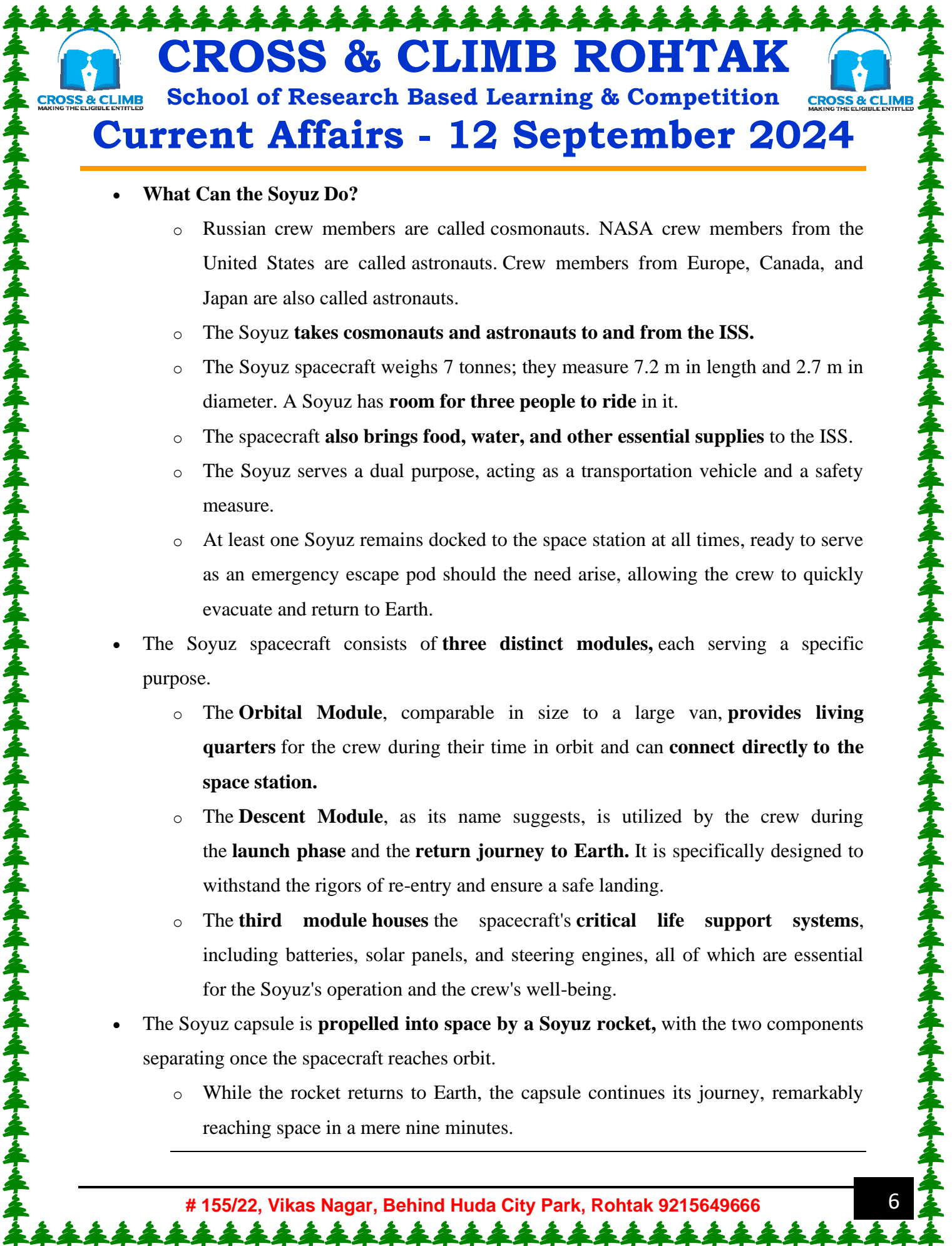
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- **Presiding Officer:** The Gram Nyayalayas are presided over by a Nyayadhikari (appointed by the State Government in consultation with the respective High Court), who will have the same power, enjoy the same salary and benefits as a Judicial Magistrate of First Class.
- **Act as Mobile Court:** The Nyayadhikari shall periodically visit villages and may hear the parties and dispose of the cases at a place other than its headquarters.
- **Territorial Jurisdiction:** The State governments are also sanctioned to control and alter the territorial jurisdiction of the Gram Nyayalayas from time to time, depending upon the requirement or circumstance.
- The Gram Nyayalayas will try criminal cases, civil suits, claims, or disputes which are specified in the First Schedule and the Second Schedule to the Act.
- Disputes are to be settled as far as possible by bringing about conciliation between the parties and for this purpose, the Gram Nyayalayas will make use of the conciliators to be appointed for this purpose.
- The Gram Nyayalaya shall not be bound by the rules of evidence provided in the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice, subject to any rule made by the High Court.
- **Appeals:**
 - **Criminal matters:** An appeal against the decision of the Nyayalaya in a criminal matter can be filed in the Sessions Court of that jurisdiction.
 - **Civil matters:** an appeal against any verdict of the gram Nyayalaya concerning a civil matter can be filed in a District Court of the concerned jurisdiction.

WHAT IS THE SOYUZ SPACECRAFT?



- The Soyuz (saw-yooz) is a Russian spacecraft.
- The Soyuz programme is the longest operational human spacecraft programme in the history of space exploration.



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- **What Can the Soyuz Do?**
 - Russian crew members are called cosmonauts. NASA crew members from the United States are called astronauts. Crew members from Europe, Canada, and Japan are also called astronauts.
 - The Soyuz **takes cosmonauts and astronauts to and from the ISS.**
 - The Soyuz spacecraft weighs 7 tonnes; they measure 7.2 m in length and 2.7 m in diameter. A Soyuz has **room for three people to ride** in it.
 - The spacecraft **also brings food, water, and other essential supplies** to the ISS.
 - The Soyuz serves a dual purpose, acting as a transportation vehicle and a safety measure.
 - At least one Soyuz remains docked to the space station at all times, ready to serve as an emergency escape pod should the need arise, allowing the crew to quickly evacuate and return to Earth.
- The Soyuz spacecraft consists of **three distinct modules**, each serving a specific purpose.
 - The **Orbital Module**, comparable in size to a large van, **provides living quarters** for the crew during their time in orbit and can **connect directly to the space station.**
 - The **Descent Module**, as its name suggests, is utilized by the crew during the **launch phase** and the **return journey to Earth.** It is specifically designed to withstand the rigors of re-entry and ensure a safe landing.
 - The **third module houses** the spacecraft's **critical life support systems**, including batteries, solar panels, and steering engines, all of which are essential for the Soyuz's operation and the crew's well-being.
- The Soyuz capsule is **propelled into space by a Soyuz rocket**, with the two components separating once the spacecraft reaches orbit.
 - While the rocket returns to Earth, the capsule continues its journey, remarkably reaching space in a mere nine minutes.



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WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE (IBCA)?



Natural geographic isolation is occurring among Asiatic lion populations in Gujarat, and there is currently no need to translocate them, according to the director general of the International Big Cat Alliance.

- It was launched by the Prime Minister of India in Mysuru on April 9, 2023, at an event **commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger in India.**
- **Objective:** Strengthen **global cooperation and efforts for the conservation** of seven big cat species (tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma) and their habitats.
 - **Out of the seven big cats, five** — tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, and cheetah — **are found in India.**
- The alliance **aims to reach** out to **97 range countries** covering the natural habitats of the seven big cats.
- IBCA has been conceived as a **multi-country, multi-agency coalition** to strengthen global cooperation and **mobilise financial and technical resources** to support the entire ecosystem associated with the conservation of these species and their habitats.
- It will serve as an evolving platform for convergence of knowledge and best practices, supporting existing specific inter-governmental platforms, while also **providing direct support to recovery efforts** in potential range habitats.
- IBCA would have a multi-pronged approach in broad-basing and establishing linkages in several areas and help in knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, networking, advocacy, finance, and resource support.
- IBCA governance consists of an **assembly of members, a standing committee, and a secretariat with its headquarters in India.**
- IBCA has secured the Government of India's initial support of Rs. 150 crore for five years (2023-24 to 2027-28).



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NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AWARD



National Florence Nightingale Award was instituted by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Government of India in the year 1973.

- The award is given to outstanding nursing personnel employed in Central, State/UTs and Voluntary Organizations.
- It was awarded as a mark of recognition for the **meritorious services rendered** by the **nurses and nursing professionals** to the society.
- The nurse in her/his regular job in the hospital or community settings, educational or administrative setting is eligible for the national award.
- Each award consists of a Certificate of Merit, a Cash Award of **1,00,000/- and a medal**.

Who is Florence Nightingale?

- Florence Nightingale was an English social reformer, statistician and the **founder of modern nursing**.
- Nightingale came to prominence while serving as a manager and **trainer of nurses during the Crimean War**, in which she organised care for wounded soldiers at Constantinople.
- Her efforts to formalize nursing education led her to establish the first scientifically based nursing school—the Nightingale School of Nursing, at St. Thomas' Hospital in London.

MISSION MAUSAM



Mission Mausam is envisaged to be a **multi-faceted and transformative initiative** to tremendously boost India's weather and climate-related science, research, and services.

- It will exponentially expound research and development, and **capacity in atmospheric sciences**, especially weather surveillance, modelling, forecasting, and management. By



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integrating advanced observation systems, high-performance computing, and cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning.

- Its focus will include improving observations and understanding for providing highly accurate and timely weather and climate information across **temporal and spatial scales**, including monsoon forecasts, alerts for air quality, extreme weather events and cyclones, weather interventions for managing fog, hail, and rain, etc., capacity building and generating awareness.
- Critical elements of Mission Mausam will include the **deployment of next-generation radars and satellite systems** with advanced sensors and high-performance supercomputers, the development of improved Earth system models and a **GIS-based automated Decision Support System** for real-time data dissemination.
- **Implemented by**
 - Three institutes of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**: the India Meteorological Department, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and the National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting will primarily implement Mission Mausam.
 - These institutions will be supported by other MoES institutions, along with collaborating national and international Institutes, Academia and Industries, furthering India's leadership in weather and climate sciences and services.
- It will directly **benefit numerous sectors**, such as
 - Agriculture, disaster management, defence, environment, aviation, water resources, power, tourism, shipping, transport, energy and health. It would also enhance data-driven decision-making in areas such as urban planning, road and rail transport, offshore operations and environmental monitoring.