



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 18 September 2024

EXPLODING PAGERS IN LEBANON

In Lebanon, thousands were injured after pagers used by Hezbollah, a militant group, exploded almost simultaneously across the country. The blasts resulted in at least nine deaths and around 2,800 injuries, many of them severe.

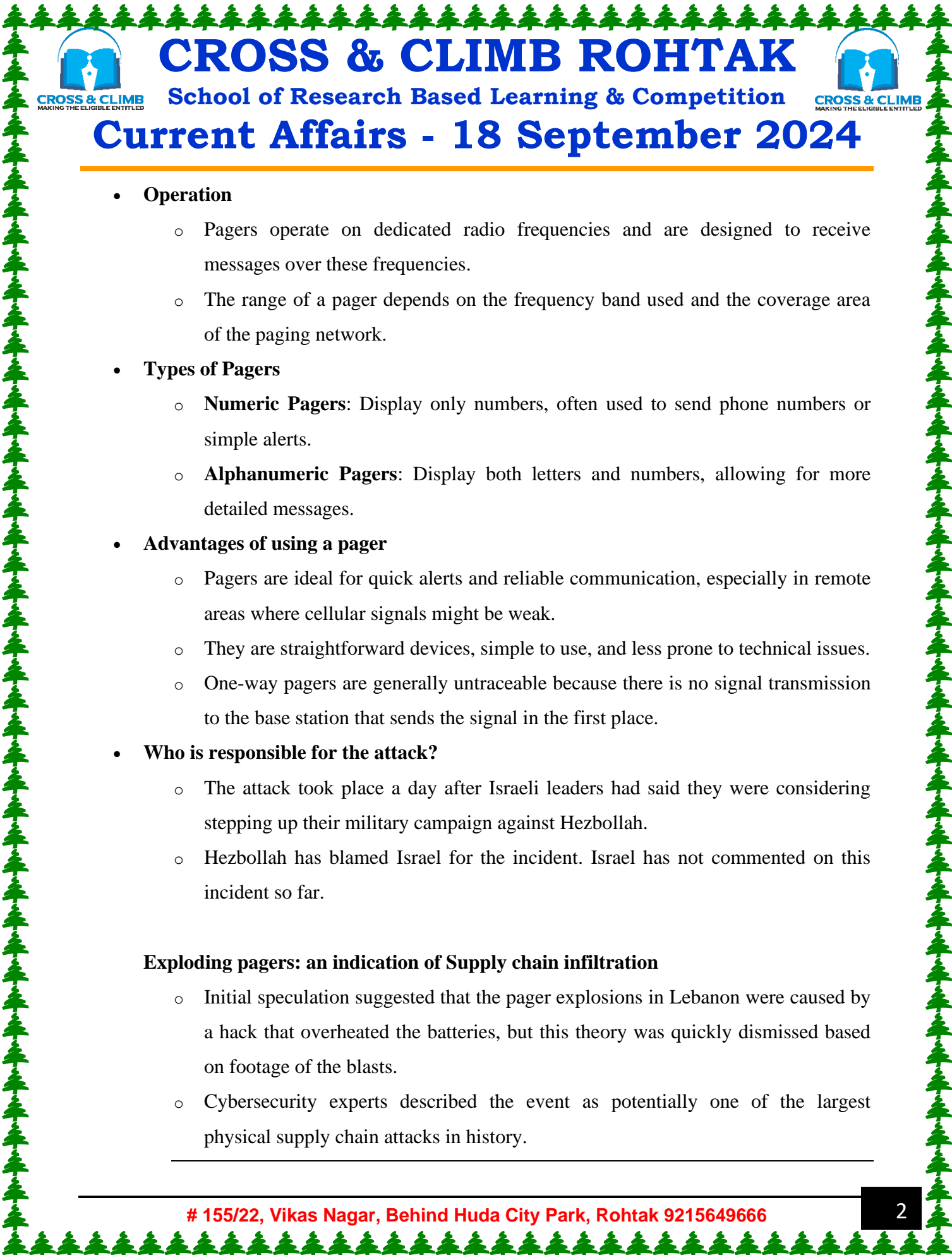
The cause of the attack remains unclear, but it appears to have been highly sophisticated. Hezbollah has blamed Israel for the incident, though Israeli officials have not yet commented on the matter.

Hezbollah

- Hezbollah, meaning "Party of God," is considered the world's most heavily armed non-state actor, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).
- The group possesses a wide range of weaponry, including rockets and missiles.
- The group opposes Israel and Western influence in the region, and it has supported Syria's President Bashar al-Assad during the Syrian civil war.
- In the mid-2000s, Hezbollah became more involved in Lebanese politics and now holds seats in the country's parliament.
- However, it has faced increasing protests due to worsening economic conditions in Lebanon.

Pager

- A pager, or beeper, is a small, portable device used for receiving and sometimes sending short messages or alerts.
- Pagers receive messages through radio frequencies from a base station or central dispatch.
- Messages can be numeric or alphanumeric, which are then displayed to the user.
- Two-way pagers allow users to send and receive messages, similar to early text messaging.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 18 September 2024

- **Operation**
 - Pagers operate on dedicated radio frequencies and are designed to receive messages over these frequencies.
 - The range of a pager depends on the frequency band used and the coverage area of the paging network.
- **Types of Pagers**
 - **Numeric Pagers:** Display only numbers, often used to send phone numbers or simple alerts.
 - **Alphanumeric Pagers:** Display both letters and numbers, allowing for more detailed messages.
- **Advantages of using a pager**
 - Pagers are ideal for quick alerts and reliable communication, especially in remote areas where cellular signals might be weak.
 - They are straightforward devices, simple to use, and less prone to technical issues.
 - One-way pagers are generally untraceable because there is no signal transmission to the base station that sends the signal in the first place.
- **Who is responsible for the attack?**
 - The attack took place a day after Israeli leaders had said they were considering stepping up their military campaign against Hezbollah.
 - Hezbollah has blamed Israel for the incident. Israel has not commented on this incident so far.

Exploding pagers: an indication of Supply chain infiltration

- Initial speculation suggested that the pager explosions in Lebanon were caused by a hack that overheated the batteries, but this theory was quickly dismissed based on footage of the blasts.
 - Cybersecurity experts described the event as potentially one of the largest physical supply chain attacks in history.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 18 September 2024

SUBHADRA SCHEME



SUBHADRA Scheme is named after Goddess Subhadra, the younger sibling of Lord Jagannath, the presiding deity of Odisha.

- All eligible beneficiaries between the age of 21-60 years would receive Rs. 50,000/- over a period of 5 years between 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- An amount of Rs 10,000/- per annum in two equal installments will be credited directly to the beneficiary's Aadhaar-enabled and DBT-enabled bank account.

How will it work?

- The money will be deposited directly into the beneficiary's Aadhaar-enabled single-holder bank account.
- The government has made e-KYC mandatory for the scheme. A Subhadra Debit Card will be issued to the beneficiaries.
- A total 100 beneficiaries with the highest number of digital transactions in each gram panchayat and urban local body area will receive an additional incentive of Rs 500.
- Women from economically well-off families, government employees, and income-tax payees will not be eligible for the scheme.
- Women who receive assistance of Rs 1,500 or more per month (or Rs 18,000 or more per year) under any other government scheme will also be excluded.
- There is no last date to register; the process will continue until all eligible beneficiaries have been registered.

WHAT IS THE WINDFALL TAX?



Windfall Tax is a higher tax imposed on specific industries when they make unusual and above-average profits.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 18 September 2024

- The term “windfall” refers to an unexpected rise in profits, and the tax on windfall gains is known as the windfall tax.
- The increase in profits is not attributed to any expansion or investment strategy of a business but to a favourable external factor for which the business is not responsible.
- A windfall tax is levied on industries or businesses that make disproportionate profits during unexpected situations like commodity shortages, wars, pandemics, changes in government policy, etc.
- The most common industries that fall target to windfall gains tax include oil, gas, and mining.
- Some individual taxes—such as inheritance tax or taxes on lottery or game-show winnings—can also be construed as a windfall tax.

Objective:

- The primary objective of windfall taxes is to appropriate a portion of these extraordinary profits, which are perceived to exceed normal returns, for the public good.
- Governments assert that these profits are not solely due to the taxed entity's efforts but also due to external factors, justifying the redistribution of such gains to benefit society as a whole.
- It is also used as a supplementary revenue stream for the government.

BHITARKANIKA NATIONAL PARK



- Location: It is located in the Kendrapara district of Odisha.
- It lies at a rich delta made by the Brahmani, Baitarani, and Dhamara rivers.
- It comprises vast mangrove forests, meandering rivers, and creeks leading to tidal deltas.
- Spread over a vast area of 672 sq.km., it is the second largest mangrove ecosystem in India.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 18 September 2024

- Proximity to the Bay of Bengal makes the soil of the area enriched with salt; the vegetation and species of the sanctuary are comprised of those that are mainly found in the tropical and subtropical intertidal regions.
- It is also designated as the second Ramsar site in Odisha after the Chilika Lake.
- Flora: Mangrove species, casuarinas, and grasses like the indigo bush.
- Fauna:
- It is home to the largest congregation of the endangered Saltwater Crocodile in the country.
- The Gahirmatha Beach, which forms the boundary of the park in the east, is the largest colony of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtles.
- It is also home to numerous animals like hyenas, wild boar, Chitals, Sambar, Spotted Deer, Wild Boar, Jungle cat, Wild Pigs, etc., and migratory birds, which make it their home during the winter season, lending a vibrant hue to the ecosystem.

SUPREME COURT SETS ASIDE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST 30 ARMY PERSONNEL IN NAGALAND OPERATION

The Supreme Court has closed all proceedings related to an FIR against 30 army personnel accused of a botched operation in Nagaland in 2021.

The SC bench stated that Nagaland, being a state under the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958**, requires sanction from the competent authority to prosecute armed forces personnel under Section 6 of the Act. The two-judge bench, however, said its order would not prevent the Army from taking any disciplinary action against the personnel.

The competent authority, in an order dated February 28, 2023, had denied granting this sanction, leading the court to close the case.

Background of the present case

- In December 2021, Army para commandos were lying in wait for militants in Nagaland's Mon district.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 18 September 2024

- The commando team was deployed at a site between Tiru and Oting, about 100km from the Myanmar border.
- They apparently mistook the coal mine workers for their targets in the dark and started firing.
- They shot and killed six villagers instead, all of them coal mine workers returning home in a van singing songs.
- Soon after, a village search party attacked the soldiers, leading to firing in which seven more civilians died. A soldier was also killed.
- Later, another civilian was killed in Mon, dominated by the Konyak tribe, when security forces repelled a mob attack on an Assam Rifles camp.
- **Need for sanction to prosecute from the Centre**
 - These security personnel were operating in areas which are under AFSPA, 1958.
 - Hence, there is need for the sanction of prosecution from the Centre for initiating any proceedings against security forces personnel for any actions taken by them while discharging their duties.
- **Centre denied sanction to prosecute**
 - In February 2023, the competent authority had declined to grant the sanction.

Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 [AFSPA]

- It was enacted 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.

Current Affairs - 18 September 2024

- Prosecution of the officer on duty needs prior permission of the Central Government.
 - **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.
-

RELATIVE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF INDIAN STATES

Why in News?

The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) recently released a working paper titled ‘**Relative Economic Performance of Indian States: 1960-61 to 2023-24.**’

The analysis spans a long period, from 1960-61 to 2023- 24, providing insights into how individual states have performed in response to changes in national and state-specific policies.

What is the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)?

- It is a **non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent** body constituted to give economic advice to the Government of India, specifically the **Prime Minister**.
- The council serves to highlight key economic issues facing the country to the government of India from a neutral viewpoint.
- It advises the PM on economic issues like **inflation, microfinance, and industrial output**.

Current Affairs - 18 September 2024

Indicators Used to Capture Relative Economic Performance of States:

- **Two indicators:** The paper focuses exclusively on the relative performance of states, measured using two indicators-
 - (1) Share in India's GDP and
 - (2) Relative per capita income.
- **Northern states:**
 - Among the northern states, **Delhi and Haryana** have performed notably well, while **Punjab's** economy has deteriorated after 1991.
 - Haryana's share of India's GDP now exceeds that of Punjab, and its relative per capita income has reached 176.8%, compared to Punjab's 106.7% in 2023-24.

What may be Inferred from the States' Relative Economic Performance?

- Overall, the **western and southern regions** of the country are **outperforming** others, with **notable success** also observed in parts of the **north**.
 - The stark contrast between **Haryana and Punjab** raises an interesting question: Did Punjab's focus on agriculture contribute to a form of '**Dutch disease**,' hindering its transition to industrialisation?
 - **The eastern part** of the country continues to be a **concern**. Although **Bihar's** relative position has stabilised in the last two decades, it remains significantly behind other states and requires much faster growth to catch up.
 - An interesting overall observation is that the **maritime states** have clearly outperformed the other states, with the exception of **West Bengal**.
 - Even the coastal state of **Odisha** which was traditionally a laggard state has seen improved performance in the last two decades.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 18 September 2024

WHAT ARE SEAWEEDS?

"Seaweed" is the common name for countless species of marine plants and algae that grow in the ocean as well as in rivers, lakes, and other water bodies.



- They range in colours from red, green, brown and black and also vary in size, from microscopic to large underwater forests.

- Seaweeds are generally anchored to the sea bottom or other solid structures by rootlike "holdfasts," which perform the sole function of attachment and do not extract nutrients as do the roots of higher plants.
- Many show a well-established zonation along the margins of the seas, where the depth of the water is 50 metres (about 165 feet) or less.

Uses:

- A number of seaweed species are edible, and many are also of commercial importance to humans.
 - Some are used as fertilizers or as sources of polysaccharides.
 - High amount of antioxidants present in seaweed protects the body from damages caused by free radicals and protect cells from their impact.
 - Animal studies have found that substances found in seaweed help increase the production of a protein that metabolises fat effectively.
 - Research suggests that consuming seaweed can help in managing diabetes by balancing the sugar levels in the blood.
 - Many seaweeds contain anti-inflammatory and anti-microbial agents.
 - They are effective binding agents (emulsifiers) in such commercial goods as toothpaste and fruit jelly, and popular softeners (emollients) in organic cosmetics and skin-care products.
-