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## Current Affairs - 21 September 2024

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### FAST TRACK IMMIGRATION-TRUSTED TRAVELLER PROGRAMME



The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided to expand the Special Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) to 20 other airports across the country.

- It has been initiated to **speed up the Immigration clearance** process for eligible persons from the following categories: Indian Nationals and Foreign Nationals holding OCI Cards.
  - It was first launched at **Delhi's IGI Airport**.
  - It has been introduced with the purpose of facilitating international mobility with faster, smoother and secure immigration clearances.
  - It is similar to the **United States' Global Entry Program**, which allows fast-tracked clearance for pre-approved and low-risk travelers upon their arrival at select airports in the US.
  - The FTI-TTP is implemented through an **online portal with the Bureau of Immigration being the nodal agency**.
  - To enroll in the scheme, the applicant has to register online on the portal with details and documents.
  - Once the application for FTI-TTP is approved, those individuals will not need to go through the arduous process of standing in long queues for immigration clearance while arriving in India.
  - **Validity:** The FTI registration will be **valid for a maximum of five years** or until the validity of the passport, whichever comes first.
  - Under the FTI-TTP programme, eligible passengers are allowed to utilise e-gates and bypass regular immigration queues for a seamless experience.
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### GLOBAL CYBERSECURITY INDEX

India has marked a significant milestone in its cybersecurity efforts by achieving top Tier i.e. Tier 1 status in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024.



Global Cybersecurity Index is a trusted reference that measures the commitment of countries to cybersecurity at a global level.

- It is to raise awareness of the importance and different dimensions of the issue.
- Each country's level of development or engagement is assessed along five pillars namely, **Legal Measures, Technical Measures, Organizational Measures, Capacity Development, and Cooperation** – and then aggregated into an overall score.
- It is published by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.

### Key highlights of GCI 2024

- The report places **46 countries in Tier 1**, the highest of the five tiers, reserved for “role modelling” countries that demonstrate a strong commitment in all five cybersecurity pillars.
- With a remarkable score of 98.49 out of 100, India joins the ranks of ‘role-modelling’ countries, demonstrating a strong commitment to cybersecurity practices across the globe.
- Most countries are either “establishing” (Tier 3) or “evolving” (Tier 4) in terms of cybersecurity.

### Key facts about International Telecommunication Union

- It is the **United Nations specialized agency** for information and communication technologies. It was established in 1865 as International Telegraph Union.
- In 1947 the ITU became a specialized agency of the United Nations. It is an intergovernmental organization that coordinates between governments and private



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sector bodies with respect to global telecommunication and information communication technology (ICT) services.

- **Member countries:** It has a membership of **193 countries** and more than 1000 companies, universities and international and regional organizations.
  - **Functions:**
    - allocate global radio spectrum and satellite orbits;
    - coordination and setting of technical standards related to telecommunication/ICT;
    - work to improve access to ICTs in underserved communities worldwide;
  - **India and ITU:** India has been an active member of the **ITU since 1869** and has been a regular member of the **ITU Council since 1952**.
  - **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
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### WHAT IS CRITICALITY IN A NUCLEAR REACTOR?

India's third home-built 700 MWe nuclear power reactor has achieved criticality and is expected to start commercial electricity generation soon.



- Nuclear reactors use uranium fuel rods—long, slender, zirconium metal tubes containing pellets of fissionable material to create energy through fission.
- **Fission is the process of splitting the nuclei of uranium atoms to release neutrons that in turn split more atoms, releasing more neutrons.**
  - Fission **produces a great deal of energy** in the form of very high heat and radiation.
  - That's why reactors are housed in structures sealed under thick metal-reinforced concrete domes.
  - **Power plants harness this energy** and heat to produce steam to drive generators that **produce electricity**.



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- **Criticality** means that a reactor is controlling a sustained fission chain reaction, where each fission event releases a sufficient number of neutrons to maintain an ongoing series of reactions.
- This is the **normal state of nuclear power generation**.
- **Fuel rods** inside a nuclear reactor are producing and losing a constant number of neutrons, and the nuclear energy system is stable.
- Nuclear power technicians have procedures in place, some of them automated, in case a situation arises in which more or fewer neutrons are produced and lost.

### Controlling Criticality:

- When a reactor is starting up, the number of neutrons is increased slowly in a controlled manner.
- **Neutron-absorbing control rods** in the reactor core are used to calibrate neutron production.
- The control rods are **made from neutron-absorbing elements** such as **cadmium, boron, or hafnium**.
- The **deeper the rods are** lowered into the reactor core, the **more neutrons the rods absorb** and the **less fission occurs**.
- Should a malfunction occur, technicians can remotely plunge control rods into the reactor core to quickly soak up neutrons and shut down the nuclear reaction.

### What Is Supercriticality?

- At **start-up**, the nuclear reactor is **briefly put into a state that produces more neutrons than are lost**.
  - This condition is called the **supercritical state**, which allows the neutron population to increase and **more power to be produced**.
  - **When the desired power production is reached**, adjustments are made to **place the reactor into the critical state** that sustains neutron balance and power production.
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### WHO IS AN ADVOCATE-ON-RECORD (AOR)?



• The concept of AoR was **introduced by the SC with the power given to it under Article 145(1)** of the Indian Constitution, which states that the

SC may, from time to time, make rules for regulating the practices and procedures in the court.

- An AoR is a **legal professional who is entitled to represent clients and plead for them in the SC.**
- It is a specific category of advocates **with rights of audience in the SC.**
- An AoR has the **exclusive right to file and conduct cases in the SC.**
- **All the procedural aspects need to be completed by AOR** with the assistance of a registered clerk.
  - This includes **drafting and filing petitions, applications, and other legal documents.**
- **Any notice or order/correspondence by the SC is sent to the AoR.**
- They **specialize in the practice and procedure of the SC.** They are familiar with the rules and regulations governing the court and play a crucial role in navigating legal matters through the highest court of the country.
- **No other High Court in India has a similar provision.**
- Order IV rule 5 of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 lays down the **requirements to be fulfilled to become an AoR.** They are as follows:
  - The Advocate is required to be **enrolled with any State Bar Council.**
  - The Advocate is required to have a **prior experience of at least 4 years.**
  - The Advocate has **undergone a training of 1 year under a senior AoR.**
  - The Advocate has **appeared for the examination conducted by the SC.**



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- The Advocate is required to **have an office in Delhi within a radius of 10 miles from the SC house** and give an undertaking to **employ a clerk**, who shall be a registered clerk, within one month of being registered as an advocate on record.
- Once registered, an AOR is **issued a unique identification number** that must be used on all documents filed in the SC.

### WHAT IS A BLAST FURNACE?

Tata Steel Ltd. recently said it had commissioned 'India's largest blast furnace' at Kalinganagar, Odisha, as part of the Phase II expansion of its plant.



**Blast Furnace** is a **vertical shaft furnace** that **produces liquid metals** by the **reaction of a flow of air** introduced under pressure into the bottom of the furnace **with a mixture of metallic ore, coke, and flux** fed into the top.

- The blast furnace itself is a **steel shaft lined with fire resistant, refractory materials**.
- The hottest part of the furnace - where the walls reach a temperature  $>300^{\circ}\text{C}$  - is water-cooled.
- The whole structure is **supported from the outside by a steel frame**.
- Blast furnaces are **used to produce pig iron from iron ore** for subsequent **processing into steel**, and they are also employed in processing lead, copper, and other metals.
  - The **process is continuous**, with **raw materials** being **regularly charged to the top** of the furnace and **molten metal and slag** being **tapped from the bottom** of the furnace at regular intervals.
  - Once a blast furnace is started, it will **continuously run for four to ten years** with only short stops to perform planned maintenance.
- **Rapid combustion is maintained by the current of air under pressure**.
- Blast furnaces are the **largest consumers of materials and energy** in the iron and steel-making process.



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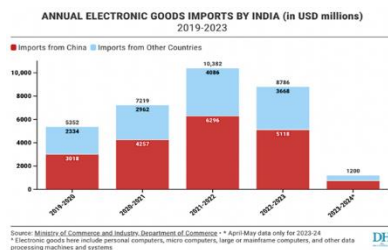
### What is Pig Iron?

- Pig iron is an intermediate product and **first product of Iron making reduced from Iron ore.**
- Pig iron has a **very high carbon content**, typically 3.5–4.5%, **along with silica, Manganese, Sulphur, Phosphorus, Titanium and other trace elements.**
- It is **obtained directly from the blast furnace** and cast in molds.

### GOVT EXTENDS IMPORT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- The **Import Management System (IMS)** of the Indian Government is a framework designed to streamline and regulate the import of goods into India.
- Managed primarily by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), IMS aims to facilitate efficient import processes, ensure compliance with various regulations, and maintain the quality and safety of imported products.
- **Objectives of IMS:**
  - To protect domestic industries by regulating the inflow of goods that could negatively impact local markets.
  - To safeguard public health, safety, and the environment by controlling the import of hazardous or substandard products.
  - To ensure that all imports comply with Indian laws and standards, maintaining the quality of goods entering the country.
  - To enhance ease of doing business by providing a transparent and streamlined process for importers.

### Reasons Behind the Introduction of Import Management System:



#### • **China Factor:**

- Data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry gives us a broad picture of India's dependence on China



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with regard to the import of electronic goods such as laptops, computers etc.

- Indeed, India's imports of the aforementioned class of electronic goods have been steadily rising.
  - Whereas in 2019-20, India's imports of electronic goods stood at \$5.3 billion, that figure climbed to \$10.3 billion in 2021-22, before declining slightly to hit \$8.7 billion in 2022-23.
  - Given this fact, a rise in indigenous manufacturing would not only help India reduce its dependence on its diplomatic and business rival but would also help indigenous manufacturers expand their footprint globally.
  - The **introduction of Import Management System could force IT hardware companies to establish new supply chains, as China is unlikely to be classified as a trusted geography.**
  - **Security Factor:**
    - Another factor behind the restrictions imposed on this class of electronic goods is concerns about 'security'.
    - The restrictions may have been brought in to **guard against electronic hardware coming in with "in-built security loopholes that may potentially endanger sensitive personal and enterprise data"**.
    - Across the world, many red flags have been raised about cybersecurity with regard to Chinese-manufactured electronics.
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### INDIA'S NEXT DAIRY MILESTONE - CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

Operation Flood, launched in 1970, ushered in the White Revolution and transformed the dairy sector in India. In order to give further boost to this sector, the government has announced plans for "White Revolution 2.0".

- White Revolution 2.0 aims to boost milk procurement by dairy cooperatives from 660 lakh kg per day in 2023-24 to 1,007 lakh kg by 2028-29.





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- The Ministry of Cooperation's strategy focuses on expanding cooperative reach to new areas and increasing their share in the organized dairy sector.
  - This initiative, building on the legacy of Operation Flood, will enhance market access for dairy farmers, generate employment, and empower women.
  - **Target**
    - White Revolution 2.0 will increase milk procurement of dairy cooperatives by 50%, over the next five years.
    - It will do so by providing market access to dairy farmers in uncovered areas and increasing the share of dairy cooperatives in the organised sector.
  - **NDDB's Action Plan for White Revolution 2.0**
    - To drive the White Revolution 2.0, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) plans to establish 56,000 new multipurpose dairy cooperative societies (DCSs) over the next five years and strengthen 46,000 existing ones.
      - The strengthening will be done by providing more advanced milk procurement and testing infrastructure.
    - Key states for new DCSs include Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh.
  - **Funding**
    - The National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) 2.0 will provide the bulk of the funding for White Revolution 2.0.
    - The scheme will offer financial aid to set up milk procurement systems, chilling facilities, and capacity-building programs at the village level.
    - Additionally, Rs 40,000 will be provided to 1,000 Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies (MPACSSs) to support the infrastructure of dairy cooperatives.
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