

ANUBHAV AWARDS

The submission deadline for ANUBHAV Awards Scheme 2024 is March 31, 2024.



About ANUBHAV Awards:

- It recognizes the contribution made by **Retired Officials to Nation building** while working in Government and to document the administrative history of India by written narratives.
- The ANUBHAV Portal, established in **March 2015**, serves as an online platform for retiring and retired government employees to share their experiences.
- The portal was launched by the Government of India, **Ministry of personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions**, Department of Pension & Pensioners' welfare.

Objectives

- It aims to create a **database of significant suggestions** and work experiences.
- It **channels the human resource** of retiring employees for nation building.
- Enable Ministries/ Departments to take crucial steps while considering useful and replicable suggestions.
- **Eligibility:** To participate in the scheme, retiring Central Government employees/pensioners are required to submit their Anubhav write ups, 8 months prior to retirement and up to 1 year after their retirement.
- Thereafter, the write-ups will be published after assessment by concerned Ministries/Departments. The published write-ups will be shortlisted for Anubhav Awards and Jury Certificates.
- Each ANUBHAV Awardees will be felicitated with a medal and certificate and a Prize of 10,000 rupees, whereas a Jury certificate Winner will be presented with a medal and a certificate.
- Till date, 54 ANUBHAV awards have been conferred from 2016 to 2023.

CENTRE SET TO ROLL OUT VACCINE DRIVE TO FIGHT CERVICAL CANCER

Why in news?

- The government is set to roll out a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign for girls in the 9-14 years age group.
- It is a significant step which has potential to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer in India.

Cervical cancer

- Almost all cervical cancer cases are linked to certain strains of HPV, a common virus that is transmitted through sexual contact.
- The body's immune system usually gets rid of the HPV infection naturally within two years.
- However, in a small percentage of people the virus can linger over time and turn some normal cells into abnormal cells and then cancer.
- It is preventable as long as it is detected early and managed effectively.

Prevalence

- Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer type and the second leading cause of cancer death in women of reproductive age (15-44) worldwide.
- According to the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC-WHO), India accounts for approximately one-fifth of the global burden.
- About 83 per cent of invasive cervical cancer cases are attributed to HPV 16 or 18 in India.

Prevention

- Cervical cancer screening and vaccination are two effective preventive measures.
- There is still little awareness among women about this cancer prevention, and less than 10% of Indian women are screened.
- All women aged 30-49, regardless of symptoms, should be screened for cervical cancer and their adolescent daughters vaccinated against HPV.

WHAT ARE THE BS-VI NORMS?

The Supreme Court recently directed the Union government to frame a national policy to phase out heavy-duty diesel vehicles like trucks and trailers, and replace them with BS-VI vehicles.



About BS-VI Norms:

- Bharat stage (BS) emission standards are laid down by the government to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engine and spark-ignition engine equipment, including motor vehicles.
- India has adopted BS Emission Standards since 2000, modelled on European Union norms.
- The first emission norms with the name 'India 2000' were introduced in the year 2000. BS2 and BS3 were introduced in 2005 and 2010, while BS4 norms came into effect in 2017 with stricter emission standards or norms.
- The BS standards regulate tailpipe emissions of air pollutants, including particulate matter, SO_x, and NO_x, as well as carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and methane.

Who sets them?

The standards and timeline for implementation are set by the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

- In April 2020, India leapfrogged from BS-IV to the implementation of BS-VI. The central government has mandated that vehicle makers must manufacture, sell, and register only BS-VI (BS6) vehicles from April 1, 2020.
 - It is applicable for cars, trucks, buses, three-wheelers, and two-wheelers (motorcycles, scooters, and mopeds).
 - This emission norm does not apply to off-highway equipment and vehicles such as tractors, back-hoe loaders, excavators, etc.

ELECTION COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS: SC REFUSES TO STAY NEW LAW EXCLUDING CJI FROM PANEL PICKING CEC, ECS

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court declined a request for an interim stay of the new law excluding the Chief Justice of India (CJI) from the panel to select the chief election commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners (ECs).

About the New Law to Appoint CEC and ECs:

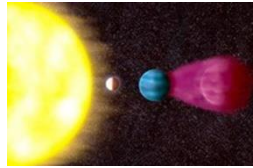
- **The CEC and other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act 2023** replaced the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of ECs and Transaction of Business) Act 1991.
 - The 1991 Act provides for the **appointment, salary, and removal** of the CEC and ECs.
- **According to the provisions of the new law**, the CEC and ECs will be **appointed by the President** upon the recommendation of a **Selection Committee**.
 - **The Selection Committee** will consist of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and Leader of Opposition or leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha.
- Under the legislation, a **Search Committee** headed by the Union Law Secretary will propose a panel of names to the Selection Committee.
- According to the new law, **the Salary** of the CEC and ECs will be equivalent to Judges of the SC and **if the CEC or ECs passes any order, it will not be challenged in any court of law.**

Why was the New Law to Appoint CEC and ECs Challenged?

- As the new law **excludes the CJI from the selection panel**, it does not provide an “independent mechanism” for the appointment of the members of the Election Commission of India (ECI).
 - Thus, it is **violative of the principle of free and fair elections.**

WHAT IS HD 63433D?

Astronomers recently unveiled the discovery of an Earth-like planet, younger and closer than any previously identified, named HD 63433d.



- It is an **Earth-like exoplanet** that orbits a sun-like star called **HD 63433** (also known as TOI 1726).
 - The star is about **73 light years** away from the sun and is **part** of the group of stars moving together that make up the **constellation Ursa Major**.
 - The star **HD 63433** shares similarities with our sun in size and type but is **significantly younger**, at roughly 400 million years old.
- It is the **smallest confirmed exoplanet**, younger than **500 million years old**.
- It's also the **closest Earth-sized planet discovered** so far, and it's about **400 million years old**.
- For comparison, Earth and the rest of our solar system are around **4.5 billion years old**, meaning **HD 63433 d** appears to be just around **10% of the age of our planet**.

It's the **third planet** found in orbit around its star. This planet is **eight times closer to its star than Mercury is to the Sun**.

- **Because of its proximity** to its star, which has 99% the mass of our sun, the **planet is tidally locked**, just like the moon is to Earth.
 - This means that **one side of the planet**, its dayside, **constantly faces the star** and is permanently blasted with stellar radiation, while the cooler nightside perpetually faces out into space.
 - This **pushes surface temperatures on the planet's dayside up** around 2,300 degrees Fahrenheit (1,260 degrees Celsius).
- Its **orbit is remarkably short**, completing a **full revolution** around its star every **4.2 days**.
- **Being so hot**, so close to its star, and so small, this planet likely **lacks a substantial atmosphere**.

CHINA – TAIWAN RELATION

Why in news?

- On January 13, Taiwan will vote to elect its next President and legislature.
- With Taiwan's complicated ties to China and rising global tensions, the election result could be a big deal for the island.
 - China, despite never ruling Taiwan, insists it's theirs and has not ruled out using force to claim it, home to 24 million people.

Geographical location of Taiwan:

- Taiwan is located north of the Philippines and the South China Sea.
 - It is about 180 km off the south-eastern coast of China.
 - It is separated from the mainland by the Taiwan Strait.



China – Taiwan Dispute

- **Background**
 - The island seems to have first appeared in Chinese records in AD239, when an emperor sent an expeditionary force to explore the area.
 - This evidence is used by Beijing to back its territorial claim.
 - After a relatively brief spell as a Dutch colony (1624-1661), Taiwan was administered by China's Qing dynasty from 1683 to 1895.
 - In 1895, Japan won the First Sino-Japanese War, and the Qing government had to cede Taiwan to Japan.
 - After World War Two, Japan surrendered and relinquished control of territory.
- **Civil War**
 - When Japan surrendered, The Chinese Nationalist Party (also known as the Kuomintang, KMT) began ruling Taiwan with the consent of its allies, the US and UK.
 - **Chiang Kai-shek** was the ruler of this party.
 - However, almost immediately following Japan's surrender, the Chinese Civil War broke out between the KMT and the Chinese Communist Party (CPC).

- Chiang and the remnants of his Kuomintang government fled to Taiwan in 1949.
- **Disagreement and confusion about Taiwan**
 - China regards Taiwan as a **breakaway province** which it has vowed to retake, by force if necessary.
 - China has repeatedly insisted that Taiwan should be called Chinese Taipei.
 - But Taiwan's leaders argue that it is a sovereign state. Taiwan continues to participate in international events and dialogues separately.
 - It has its own constitution, democratically-elected leaders, and about 300,000 active troops in its armed forces.

Who recognises Taiwan?

- Initially, Chiang Kai-shek's Republic of China (ROC) government held China's seat on the United Nations Security Council.
 - In the Cold War, the Taiwanese government in Taipei emerged as a crucial ally of the United States and took over China's seat on the UN Security Council.
- However, all that changed in 1979 when the US, as part of its efforts to normalise ties with mainland China, moved its recognition from Taipei to Beijing.
 - Officially, the US recognises Beijing's belief that Taiwan is a part of China under the 'one China' theory.
 - However, it maintains close connections with Taiwan.

India-Taiwan relations

- India does not have formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan. Like most countries, it maintains commercial ties with Taiwan.
- In 1995, New Delhi set up the India-Taipei Association (ITA) in Taipei to promote interactions between the two sides.
 - The aim of ITA was to facilitate business, tourism, and cultural exchanges.
 - ITA has also been authorized to provide all consular and passport services.
- In the same year, Taiwan too established the Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in Delhi.

CLASSICAL LANGUAGE

Recently, the West Bengal Chief Minister urged the central government to include 'Bengali' as a classical language.

தமிழ்	ಕನ್ನಡ
മലയാളം	ଓଡ଼ିଆ
ತೆಲುಗು	संस्कृतम्

About Classical Language:

- **Criteria** evolved by Government of India to determine

declaration of a language as a Classical language is as under: -

- High antiquity of its early **texts/recorded history** over a period of **1500-2000 years**;
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a **valuable heritage by generations of speakers**;
- The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community;
- The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

Currently, **six languages** enjoy the 'Classical' status: **Tamil** (declared in 2004), **Sanskrit** (2005), **Kannada** (2008), **Telugu** (2008), **Malayalam** (2013), and **Odia** (2014).

- The benefits it provides once a language is notified as a Classical language:
 - Two major **annual international awards** for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages.
 - A **Centre of Excellence** for studies in Classical Languages is set up.

Key facts about Bengali Language

- It is an official language of **West Bengal**.
- It is the second most spoken language in India and the seventh most spoken language in the world.
- The Bengali people have a rich heritage and culture dating back to prehistoric times.
- Bengali is **written from left to right**.

WHAT IS THE SBI GREEN RUPEE TERM DEPOSIT (SGRTD) SCHEME?



About SBI Green Rupee Term Deposit (SGRTD) Scheme:

- It is an **initiative of the State Bank of India (SBI)** with the aim of raising money **to finance environment-friendly projects.**
- The deposit scheme is **open to resident individuals, non-individuals, and non-resident Indian (NRI) customers.**
- The current framework **permits green deposits to be denominated in rupees only.**
- It offers investors the flexibility to choose from **three distinct tenors: 1,111 days, 1,777 days, and 2,222 days.**

Interest Rate:

- SGRTD will offer **10 basis points (bps)** interest rates **below the card rate for retail and bulk deposits** for respective tenors.
- **Senior Citizens/ Staff/ Staff Senior Citizens** are eligible for an **additional interest rate** over the applicable rate for the public.
- **The benefit of additional interest shall not be available to NRI Senior Citizens/NRI Staff.**
- **Premature withdrawals are allowed** under the scheme.
- **Loan/ overdraft facility will be available** against the deposit.

What is a Green Deposit?

- A Green deposit is an **interest-bearing deposit, received by the regulated entities (RE) for a fixed period, the proceeds of which are earmarked for being allocated towards green finance.**
- The deposits raised under the framework are **covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).**