

INDIAN ARMY DAY

For the first time, the Army Day parade, which used to take place in Delhi, was moved out of the national capital and took place in Bengaluru at Parade Ground, MEG & Centre.



Why in News?

- The 75th Army Day will be a first-of-its-kind event, taking place outside Delhi ever since the celebrations started in 1949.

About Indian Army Day:

- India celebrates Army Day on **January 15** every year to commemorate the achievements of the **first Indian Commander in Chief of the Indian Army — General (later Field Marshal) K.M. Cariappa**.
- The Army Day is celebrated every year to honor **Cariappa and the defence forces**.
- Until last year, the main **Army Day parade** was held at the Cariappa Parade ground in Delhi where **Service Chiefs paid homage to the Indian Army**.
- The **Army Day Parade** showcases the evolution of various weapon systems held in the Indian Army's inventory.
- **Soldiers are also awarded with Gallantry awards and Sena medals** on the day.

Army Day 2023:

- This year marks the **75th anniversary of Indian Army Day**.
- As part of an initiative to take major events to other parts of the country, away from the national capital region, the **75th Army Day was held in Bengaluru this year**.

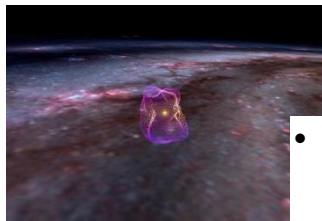
Who was Field Marshal KM Cariappa?

- He was the **First Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army** and led the Indian forces on the **Western Front during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1947**.
- He is one of the two Indian Army officers to hold the highest rank of **Field Marshal** (the other being Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw).

- He was appointed as the first Commander-in-Chief of an independent Indian Army on 15 January 1949 which is celebrated as Indian Army Day.
 - He took over the command of the Indian Army from General Sir FRR Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief.
 - In 1947, Cariappa was the first Indian who was selected to undergo a training course at Imperial Defence College, Camberley, UK on the higher directions of war.
 - He was awarded the 'Order of the Chief Commander of the Legion of Merit' by American President, Harry S. Truman.
 - The Government of India conferred the rank of Field Marshal on Cariappa in 1983.
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WHAT IS A LOCAL BUBBLE?

Researchers from the Center for Astrophysics (CfA) Harvard & Smithsonian have recently generated a 3D magnetic map of the cavity called Local Bubble.



About Local Bubble:

- The Local Bubble is a 1,000-light-year-wide cavity or a super bubble. Which exist in the Milky Way.
- It is thought to have originated from supernovae roughly 14 million years ago.

What is a supernova?

- It is a class of **violently exploding stars** whose luminosity after eruption suddenly increases many millions of times its normal level.
 - Supernovae explosions release tremendous amounts of radio waves and X-rays and also cosmic rays.
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INDIA TO HAVE DOPPLER WEATHER RADAR NETWORK BY 2025

Why in news?

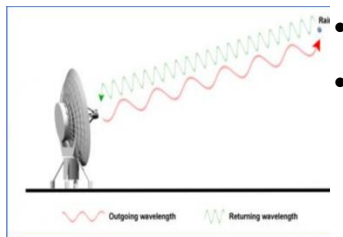
- Union Minister of State for Earth Sciences has said that the entire country will be covered by Doppler Weather Radar Network by 2025 to predict extreme weather events more accurately.
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- He made this announcement while delivering the keynote address on the occasion of 148th Foundation Day of India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Weather Radars

- Weather radar is also known as **Doppler weather radar**.
 - It is different from normal radar as it uses the Doppler Effect principle to provide information about weather forecast.
 - Doppler Effect refers to the change in wave frequency during the **relative motion** between a wave source and its observer.
 - Doppler radar systems provide accurate information regarding the movement of targets as well as their position.
- It is an instrument that sends pulses of electromagnetic energy into the atmosphere to find precipitation, determine its motion and intensity, and identify the precipitation type such as rain, snow or hail.
- When the electromagnetic pulse strikes an object such as a raindrop or a snowflake, the wave reflects back to the radar with data that can be analysed by meteorologists.

Working



- Weather radar utilizes either a solid-state or tube transmitter to send energy pulses (also known as radar beams) into the air to detect precipitation.
 - This focused beam radiates outward from an antenna (also known as a radar dish).
- If the radar beam bounces off precipitation such as rain or hail, the beam will return to the weather disk, where the data is processed into various parameters.
- This enables a meteorologist to analyse and interpret the type of weather occurring dozens of miles away from the radar.

Types

- **S-Band radars**
 - Wavelength: 8 – 15 cm

- Frequency: 2 – 4 GHz
- **Use cases:**
 - This radar's longer wavelength allows the beam to penetrate through several bands of precipitation, expanding the range for analysis.
 - These radars help the meteorologist generate weather alerts further in advance.
- **C-Band radars**
 - Wavelength: 4 – 8 cm
 - Frequency: 4 – 8 GHz
 - Use cases:
 - C-Band radars are often intended for short-range weather observation but can be used in medium- to long-range precipitation analysis.
 - However, the beam does attenuate (loses its strength) much more than the longer wavelength S-Band and therefore does not recognize precipitation rates as accurately as the S-Band.
 - These radars are generally smaller and less expensive than S-Band weather radars, but more expensive than the smaller X-Band radar.
- **X-Band radars**
 - Wavelength: 2.5 – 4 cm
 - Frequency: 8 – 12 GHz
 - Use cases
 - Because of the smaller wavelength, the X band radar is more sensitive and can detect smaller particles.
 - Hence, these radars are used for studies on cloud development.
 - Most major airplanes are equipped with an X band radar to pick up turbulence and other weather phenomena.

India Meteorological Department (IMD)

- Formed in 1875, the IMD is a principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.
- It works under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt of India.

- Headquartered at Delhi, IMD operates hundreds of observation stations across India and Antarctica.
 - IMD became a member of the World Meteorological Organisation in April 1949.
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PERSONAL LAWS IN MARRIAGE

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court has decided to examine whether girls as young as 15 years can enter into wedlock on the basis of custom or personal law when such marriages constitute an offence in statutory law.

Laws on Marriage in India:

- In India, there is no single legal framework governing the institution of marriage.
 - This is done so with the intent of upholding the tenets of religious freedom and safeguarding the fundamental practices of various faiths and beliefs.

Hindu Marriage Laws:

- The matrimony of a Hindu couple is governed by the **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**.
- The Act deals with the registration of the marriage (after its solemnization) of a man and woman belonging to **Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, or Jain**
- The inclusion of the other three religions within the ambit of the term 'Hindu' is in pursuance of the definition of the term under **Article 25(2)(b)** of the Indian Constitution.
- The conditions laid down in the Act are as follows –
 - There should not be an already existing spouse (of either of the parties) alive at the time of formalization of the marriage.
 - No party is incapacitated to give consent to their marriage due to unsound mind.
 - The legal age permitting marriage between a man and wife are being met; **21 for men, 18 for women**.

Muslim Marriage Laws:

- There is no codified law for governing Muslim marriages in India.

- The main difference that lies between Hindu and Islamic perception about marriages is that **the former believes the institution to be a sacrament while the latter believes that it a civil contract (nikahnama) between a Muslim man and woman.**

Christian Marriage Laws:

- Christians are the second-largest religious minority community after Muslims in India.
- The marriage of Christian couples is governed by the **Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872.**
- The Act stipulates the primary condition of the presence of a priest of the Church or minister for the solemnization of the wedding.
- **Age of the bride and groom:** The age of the bride and groom, just like other marriage laws, has been set as 18 and 21 respectively within the Act.

Parsi Marriage Laws:

- Parsis are members of a religious minority community that follow the tenets of Zoroastrianism.
- Their marriages are regulated by the **Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act of 1936.**

Special Marriage Act, 1954:

- The Special Marriage Act, 1954 unlike its communal counterparts discussed above, applies to Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Buddhists, and Parsis.
- In fact, this Act is a regulatory law governing both **inter-caste** and **inter-religious marriages in India.**
- Special Marriage Act, 1954 is **also applicable in cases where an Indian marries a foreigner in India.**

Are same-sex Marriage Legal in India?

- Same-sex marriage is not legally recognized in India.

WHO ARE THE THARU PEOPLE?

Forest department, NABARD to give skill-development training to Tharu people.

- Forest officials of the Katarniaghat division say a plan is in the works for the financial inclusion of the Tharu groups that live near the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS) and are much affected by human-wildlife conflicts.



About Tharu people

- They are an ethnic group **indigenous to the Terai region** of the Himalayan foothills, located in **southern Nepal and in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India**.
- Tharu in Nepal officially numbered about 1.5 million and those in India about 170,000.
- They speak various dialects of **Tharu, a language of the Indo-Aryan subgroup** of the Indo-Iranian group of the Indo-European family, and they are largely Indian in culture.
- Most Tharu **practice agriculture, raise cattle, hunt, fish, and collect forest products**.
- Although they are **Hindu**, the Tharu use their own traditional ritual specialists in addition to the Hindu Brahman priests.
- Each **Tahru village is governed by a council and a headman**.

Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS):

- **Location:** It is situated in the **Upper Gangetic plain** falling in the Terai of **Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh**.
- It is part of **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve Lakhimpur kheri**.
- The Katarniya Ghat Forest provides **strategic connectivity between tiger habitats of India and Nepal**.
- **Flora:** The sanctuary has a mosaic of **Sal and Teak forests**, lush grasslands, numerous swamps and wetlands.
- **Fauna:** It is home to a number of endangered species including **gharial, tiger, rhino, Gangetic dolphin, Swamp deer, Hispid hare, Bengal florican, the White-backed and Long-billed vultures**.

WHAT IS NATIONAL DIGITAL UNIVERSITY (NDU)?

During the Education ministers session of ‘Voice of Global South’ summit held recently,



Indian Union minister of Education talks about establishing a National Digital University, which will transform access to higher education drastically reducing all direct and opportunity costs.

Why in News:

- The UGC Chairman recently revealed the framework of India's first-ever National Digital University (NDU) as envisioned under the National Education Policy, 2020.

About National Digital University (NDU):

- **What is it?** The Central Government in its Budget 2022-23 announced the establishment of a digital university that provides access to students for world-class quality universal education with personalized learning experiences at their doorsteps.
- **Structure of NDU:**
 - The institution will function under a **hub-and-spoke model**, which is where one product is delivered to various stakeholders from a central location.
 - The **digital content for various courses will be hosted** on the Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) platform.
 - The **IT and administrative services will be provided through** the government's **Samarth portal**.
- **Facilities offered:**
 - The university will offer **exclusively online courses** from its partner institutes, which could be **both private and public universities**, so far as they follow the NDU's model.
 - The students **can opt for certificate, diploma, or degree courses**.
 - NDU will **allow students to pursue multiple courses at a time** from the various partner institutes of NDU.
 - Students will be **able to register for programmes of individual universities** through this Digital University.
 - NDU aims to give students the liberty to design their own courses.
- **How are academic credits granted?**
 - Students will have the **option of earning credits from multiple institutions** and will have **multiple exit points throughout the course**.

- Courses will hold a certain number of credits, and students will be eligible for a degree from a particular institute when they have accumulated 50% of the credits of a programme from the institute concerned.
 - In case the student earns credits from multiple institutions and crosses the credit threshold, the degree awarded will be by NDU.
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RETAIL INFLATION EASES TO A 12-MONTH LOW

Why in news?

- Data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), rose an annual 5.7% in December 2022.
- With this, the retail inflation has moderated to a one-year low in December.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- CPI is a metric that measures retail inflation by collecting data on the **prices of goods and services** that are consumed by the retail population of the country.
- The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation releases CPI.
 - CPI is released for all-India and States/UTs separately for rural, urban and combined (national).
 - Currently, CPI is calculated using 2012 as a base year.
 - Items for the CPI basket of goods and services classified across categories.
 - Few of the categories are; food and beverages, clothing, housing, fuel and light, recreation and etc.
 - All categories are assigned weights (as shown in the diagram).
 - Currently, CPI is calculated by taking into consideration **299 items**.

Why is economic growth a bigger worry in 2023?

- The elevated level of core inflation will curtail consumption and dampen the demand among businesses to invest in new capacities.
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- Even while inflation hasn't completely gone away, the RBI's tighter monetary policy will take effect and drag down growth by making credit costlier.
 - Higher interest rates will bring down demand for money (both by consumers and producers) in the economy.
 - The **domestic slowdown** will likely to be exacerbated by the likely **global slowdown**.
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G-20 INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP

The first G20 Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) meeting under G20 India Presidency will take place in Pune, Maharashtra on 16th -17th January 2023.



About the G20 Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) meeting:

- The meeting will be joined by the IWG member countries, guest countries and international organizations.
 - The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Government of India will host the two-day IWG meetings, along with Australia and Brazil as the co-chairs.
 - The first IWG meeting in Pune would be attended by 65 delegates across the G20 membership, invitee countries and International Organizations.
 - **Theme:** Financing Cities of Tomorrow: Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable.
 - The theme will focus on various facets of making cities economic **centres of growth**, financing urban infrastructure, building future-ready urban infrastructure, directing fiscal investments for unlocking private financing for energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable infrastructure and mitigating social imbalances.
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