

WHAT IS THE AGRICULTURE INSURANCE COMPANY OF INDIA (AIC)?

The public sector Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC) recently released meagre sums such as 4 paise, 1, 10, and 20 as compensation against claims for damage to kharif crops of 2021, leaving farmers in Rajasthan's Barmer area confused and unhappy.



About Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC):

- It was incorporated under the Indian Companies Act 1956 on 20th December, 2002.
- The company has an **authorized capital of Rs. 1500 crore** and paid-up share capital of Rs. 200 Crores.
- The Company is under **administrative control of the Ministry of Finance**.
- It is the **biggest crop insurance company in the world** (20 million farmers covered).
- It is **headquartered at New Delhi, India**.
- It is **promoted by 6 Public Sector Financial Institution** General Insurance Corporation, New India Assurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company, National Insurance Company, United India Insurance Company and NABARD.:
- AIC provides **weather & yield-based crop insurance schemes in over 500 districts of India**.
- AIC provides **insurance cover to the farmers for financial losses arising from the failure of the crop** (mentioned in insurance scheme) resulting from the pests, diseases, and natural calamities.

INDIA INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2022



The 8th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) was recently inaugurated at the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal.

About India International Science Festival:

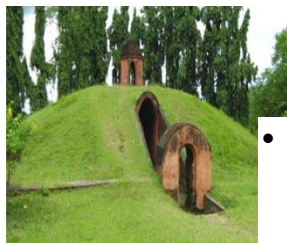
- It is an **initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Science of Government of India** in association with Vijnana Bharati which is a science movement with Swadeshi spirit led by eminent scientists of the country.
- It is a **festival to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements** with students, innovators, craftsmen, farmers, scientists and technocrats from India and abroad.
- ISF provides opportunities to people and scientific fraternity in the country and abroad to come together and work together.

IISF 2022:

- **Location:** Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- It is the **eighth edition** since its inception in **2015**.
- **Theme:** 'Marching towards Amrit Kaal with Science, Technology, and Innovation'
- IISF 2022 is a **four day festival** and will feature **14 thematic events**.

WHAT IS ASSAM'S CHARAIDEO MAIDAM?

Assam Chief Minister recently said that the Central Government has decided to send a proposal to UNESCO nominating Charaideo Maidam of Ahom Kingdom as a World Heritage Site.



What is Charaideo Maidam?

- Charaideo commonly known as 'Pyramids of Assam' was the **original capital of the Ahom Kings**.
- Charaideo remained the symbolic center of Ahom Kingdom even though the capital of the kingdom moved many times.
- It was **built by Chaolung Sukhapa the founder of the dynasty in about 1229 CE**.
- **Location:** Located at the foothills of Nagaland, it's situated at a distance of around **30 KM from the historical Sivsagar town in Assam**.
- **Why is Charaideo known as 'Pyramids of Assam'?**

- It contains sacred burial grounds of Ahom kings and queens and is also the place of the ancestral Gods of the Ahoms.
- Some 42 tombs (Maidams) of Ahom kings and queens are present at Charaideo hillocks.
- **Architecture:** It comprises a massive underground vault with one or more chambers having domical superstructure and covered by a heap of earthen mound and externally it appears a hemispherical mound.

Ahom Dynasty:

- It was **founded by Chaolung Sukapha** , who entered the Brahmaputra valley in 1228.
- They **ruled** Assam for **six centuries**.
- The Ahoms **created a new state by taking over the older political system of the bhuiyans (landlords)**.
- The Ahom **administration was a monarchical government** with democratic and aristocratic values as well.
- Ahom **society was divided into clans** and with the expansion of the kingdom, the clans moved and took charge of the designated territory.
- The Ahoms **followed stringent travel policies to protect their motherland** against the foreign invaders for inward travel.
- In the **17th century, the Ahom rule got weakened** due to multiple Burmese invasions and internal conflicts.
- Ahom Kingdom was **annexed by the British East India Company after the Treaty of Yandabo in 1826**.

1st Global Tourism Investors Summit

The Ministry of Tourism is organizing the 1st Global Tourism Investors Summit from 10th to 12th April 2023 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.



About 1st Global Tourism Investors Summit:

- It is organised under the aegis of India's G20 Presidency.
- The aim of the summit is to bring together global business leaders, and policymakers to understand and explore Tourism Business opportunities in India.
- The event focused on promoting India as an investment destination for travel, tourism, and hospitality by identifying State-Specific investment possibilities and discuss avenues to promote sustainable tourism.

FIRST G20 HEALTH WORKING GROUP

The first G20 Health Working Group meeting under India's presidency was held in Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.



About First G20 Health Working Group:

- Various discussions are being held focussing on international cooperation for Universal health care, in the three-day conference.
- Discussions on strengthening medical value travel enabling easy travel to countries with low cost treatment facilities and also on holistic health care through the integration of traditional methods of treatment like Ayurveda were held.

Three priorities for the G20 Health Track:

- **Priority I:** Health Emergencies Prevention, Preparedness and Response (with focus on One Health & AMR).
- **Priority II:** Strengthening Cooperation in Pharmaceutical Sector with focus on Access and Availability to safe, effective, quality and Affordable Medical Countermeasures (Vaccines, Therapeutics and Diagnostics).
- **Priority III:** Digital Health Innovations and Solutions to Aid Universal Health Coverage and Improve Healthcare Service Delivery.

History:

- The G20 Health Working Group (HWG) was established under the **German Presidency in 2017** to develop a shared international agenda on issues such as strengthening health-care

systems, reducing malnutrition, health-crisis management and scaling up the fight against pandemics.

- India assumed presidency of the G20 on 1st December 2022.
- India is currently part of the G20 Troika comprising Indonesia, India and Brazil, marking the first time that the troika is consisting of three developing and emerging economies.

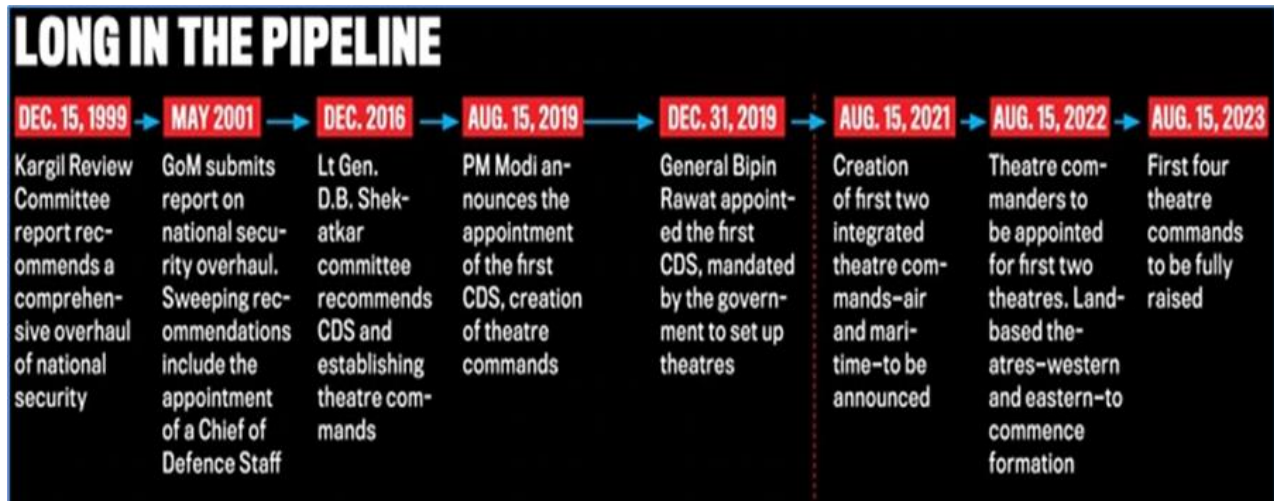
THEATRE COMMANDS: TO INTEGRATE THE ARMY, NAVY AND INDIAN AIR FORCE

Why in News?

- According to government officials, the armed forces are finalizing theaterisation plans that seek to integrate the Army, Navy and Indian Air Force, as well as their resources, into specific theater commands.

What does the Word 'Theatre' Mean and Where did it Come from?

- Theatre is used to refer the **entire land, sea and air areas** that is or may become involved directly in war operations.
- The word 'theatre warfare' became **more prominent during World War II** with the battles being fought across continents.
- As of now, **almost all major countries** like China, Russia, the US, the UK and France work on a theatre command concept.
 - **For example, China's** (latest entrant to a theatre concept) Western Theater Command looks after the entire borders with India.
 - **In India**, the need for a unified approach was brought out after the **1999 Kargil battle**.
 - **The Kargil Review Committee**, the Naresh Chandra Committee and the Group of Ministers had called for structural changes in higher defence management.
 - It was the **Shekatkar** committee, which had recommended the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and theatre commands.



Why does India Seek Theatre Commands?

- India currently has 19 military commands with **17 of them service-oriented** (7 each for Army and the Air Force and the Navy has 3).
- India also has a **Tri-Service Command** - Andaman and Nicobar Command, besides the **Strategic Forces Command** (SFC), which looks after the country's nuclear stockpile.
- The aim is to bring all the 17 individual commands **into four or five unified or theatre commands**. It might also have two more functional commands for training and logistics.
- The rationale is that this will aid in better planning and military response (a unified approach to fighting the future wars) by integrating 3-services as well as their resources, into specific theater commands.
 - While the initial cost may be higher, **it will be more cost-effective in the long run** because all acquisition will be unified.
- The acquisition of **Apache attack helicopters from the US** is a classic example of the dangers of not having a unified approach to acquisition.
 - While the Indian Air Force got 22 Apaches, the Army has also placed orders for six of these choppers.
 - The end result - **loss of at least Rs 2,500 crore** and haphazard operational planning.

News Summary with respect to the Theaterisation in India:

- **What are the theatre proposals?**

- There will be 4 theatres -
 - **Northern and Eastern Theatre (China centric)**
 - Western Land Theatre (Pakistan centric)
 - Maritime Theatre Command, will see a merger of the eastern and western naval commands, besides getting elements from the Army and the Air Force.
 - Air Defence Command
- Also under discussion is the creation of a **joint training command**. Three joint logistics nodes had already been operationalised until 2021.
- **Threats emanating from China, Pakistan and via the sea routes** are being factored in the plans for theatre commands which will integrate resources of the Army, Navy, IAF.
- **What are the concerns related to proposals?**
 - The previous plan called for the Army's Northern Command and the Indian Air Force's Air Officer Commanding Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh to **operate separately from the theatre commands**, as integration would divide their fighting assets.
 - Multiple studies were conducted over the last two years, but the plans were delayed after CDS General Bipin Rawat died in a helicopter crash in December 2021.
 - However, after the current CDS, General Anil Chauhan, took over in September last year, the plans picked up again.
- **Way ahead with respect to the theatre commands:**
 - The theatre commands should be future-ready to deal with the emerging forms of warfare in the **space and cyber domains**.
 - They **should not increase the decision-making chains** from the existing levels.
 - According to the former Army chief (General Naravane (retd)), a **national security strategy** should be in place, before theaterisation.
 - To get the most out of the theatre commands, the right tri-service structures must be in place.

[57TH CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS GENERAL OF POLICE / INSPECTORS
GENERAL OF POLICE](#)

Why in news?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the All India Conference of Directors General and Inspectors General of Police 2022 in New Delhi.
- The three-day conference was inaugurated by Home Minister Amit Shah on January 20, 2023.

57th Conference of Directors General of Police / Inspectors General of Police

- The three-day Conference, from January 20-22, 2023, is being held in hybrid format in New Delhi.
 - About 100 invitees including DGP of States/UTs and Heads of Central Armed Police Forces and Central Police Organizations will attend the Conference physically.
 - The remaining invitees will participate virtually from across the country.
- The conference is the culmination of extensive deliberations involving police and intelligence officers from the district, state and national levels on identified themes.
- Best practices from States and Union Territories will be presented at the Conference so that States can learn from each other.
- The conference will discuss a wide range of issues including Cyber Crime, Technology in Policing, Counter Terrorism challenges, Left Wing Extremism, capacity building, Prison Reforms, among others.
- Off late, the Conference has started discussions on futuristic themes in policing and security.
 - This is to ensure not only safety in the present times, but also to develop capability to meet emerging issues and challenges.

BALLAVPUR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Nature enthusiasts have voiced their concern over the recent decline in the number of migratory birds visiting the Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary.



About Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary:

- It was established in 1977.
- It is also known as Deer Park.



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- **Location:** It is located near **Santiniketan** in **Bolpur** subdivision of **Birbhum District** of **West Bengal**.
 - **Area:** **200 hectares**
 - **Elevation:** It has an average elevation of **56 meters**.
 - **Flora:** The sanctuary has dense local vegetation of **Sal, Akashmoni, Sishoo, Cashewnut, Amlaki, Bahera and Haritaki**.
 - **Fauna:** The sanctuary has a **deer conservation park** which is home to a large number of deer including **Cheetals (Spotted Deer)** and the **Blackbucks**. Other animals include **jackals, foxes** and a variety of **water birds**.
 - It is home to three large lakes which **hosts a large number of migratory birds** every year.
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