

ALL INDIA SURVEY ON HIGHER EDUCATION (AISHE)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Ministry of Education released the All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-21 report.

About All India Survey on Higher Education Report:

- The AISHE report is being published by the Ministry of Education since 2011.
- Objective – **Identify & capture all the institutions of higher learning in the country.**
- For the purpose of this Survey, Higher Education is defined as the education, which is obtained after completing 12 years of schooling or equivalent.
- For the purpose of the All-India Survey on Higher Education, all the institutions of higher learning in the country have been divided in 3 categories –
 - **Category I:** University & University Level Institutions
 - **Category II:** Colleges/ Institutions affiliated to University
 - **Category III:** Institutions NOT affiliated to University called Standalone Institutions
- The survey collects detailed information on different parameters such as student enrollment, teacher's data, infrastructural information, financial information etc.

Key Highlights of All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-21:

- **Number of Institutions –**
 - The total number of Universities/University level institutions registered is 1,113, Colleges 43,796 and Standalone Institutions 11,296.
 - Since 2014-15, there has been increase of 353 Universities (46.4%).
 - The Institutes of National Importance (INIs) have almost doubled from 75 in 2014-15 to 149 in 2020-21.
 - 191 new Higher Education Institutions have been established in North Eastern States since 2014-15.
 - Highest number of universities is in **Rajasthan (92), Uttar Pradesh (84) and Gujarat (83).**
 - Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat are top 8 States in terms of number of colleges.

- 43% universities and 61.4% colleges are located in Rural Areas.
- **Student Enrolment –**
- The total enrolment in higher education has increased to nearly 4.14 crore in 2020-21 from 3.85 crore in 2019-20.
- The percentage of female enrolment to total enrolment has increased from 45% in 2014-15 to around 49% in 2020-21.
- The survey also highlighted an increase in enrolment of Schedule Caste (SC) students to 58.9 lakh in comparison to 56.5 lakh in 2019-20 and 46 lakh in 2014-15.
- The enrolment of students belonging to the Schedule Tribe (ST) increased to 24.1 lakh in 2020-21 from 21.6 lakh in 2019-20 and 16.4 lakh in 2014-15.
- The total Student Enrolment in North East States is 12.06 Lakh in 2020-21 as compared to 9.36 Lakh in 2014-15.
- As per response in AISHE 2020-21, **about 79.06% of the total students are enrolled in undergraduate level courses and 11.5% are enrolled in postgraduate level courses.**
- Of the total enrolment, 55.5 Lakh students are enrolled in Science Stream, with **female students (29.5 Lakh) out numbering male students (26 Lakh).**
- **Faculty –**
- The total number of faculty/teachers are 15,51,070 of which about 57.1% are male and 42.9% are female.
- The female per 100 male faculty has improved to 75 in 2020-21 from 74 in 2019-20 and 63 in 2014-15.

PRESIDENT OF 77TH SESSION OF UNGA VISITS INDIA

Why in news?

- President of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Csaba Korosi is on a three-day visit to India.
- This is his first bilateral visit to any country since he assumed UNGA Presidency in September 2022.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

- It was established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations and is headquartered in New York City.
- It is one of the six principal organs of the UN and serves as the main policy-making organ of the Organization.
- It provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter of the United Nations.
- Each of the 193 Member States of the United Nations has an equal vote.

Key decisions taken by the UNGA

- The UNGA also makes key decisions for the UN, including:
 - appointing the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Security Council
 - electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council
 - approving the UN budget

Important achievements of UNGA

- Millennium Declaration, adopted in 2000
- The 2005 World Summit Outcome Document
- 17 Sustainable Development Goals formulated in September 2015

Role and mandate of the PGA

- The PGA is the guardian of the GA Rules of Procedure but has no say in the actual decision-making of the GA – in fact, the PGA does not have a vote in the GA.
- Even on procedural matters, the PGA always remains under the authority of the GA.
- Hence, PGA has very little formal power. It depends on the moral authority and convening power of the office as main instruments to keep the 193 Member States working together.

News Summary: President of 77th Session of UNGA visit to India

- Current President of UN General Assembly, Csaba Korosi, has arrived in India on a three-day visit.
- Ahead of his visit, he criticised UN Security Council (UNSC) for not reflecting today's realities.

WHAT IS A SPIDER STAR SYSTEM?

Scientists at NASA have recently detected the first gamma-ray eclipses from a "spider" star system.



About Spider Star System:

- It is a **binary star system** in which a **superdense star (pulsar)** spins quickly, eats another star.
- The super-dense object that begins to pull a matter from the companion **resembles the habits of spiders of the genus Latrodectus**, in which the female eats the male after mating, hence the name came.
- Initially, the **dense pulsar strips material from the outer atmosphere of its companion**, periodically shedding the gathered material in violent explosions.
- In the **later stage** of their lifetimes, the **energetic particles streaming out** of the pulsar can **strip the atmosphere of its companion**.
- In either case, the **pulsar slowly erodes its companion over time**.
- **Two Types:**
 - **Black widows:** Binary pulsar systems, in which the **mass of a companion star is less than 5 percent of the pulsar**.
 - **Redback:** Binary pulsar systems in which mass of the **companion star is from 10 to 50 percent of the pulsar**.

What is a Binary star system?

- A binary system is one in which **two stars orbit around a common centre of mass**, that is they are **gravitationally bound to each other**.

What are pulsars?

- Pulsars are **rapidly spinning neutron stars, extremely dense stars** composed almost **entirely of neutrons** and having a **diameter of only 20 km (12 miles) or less**.
- They **emit concentrated streams of radiation** far across the cosmos.

What are neutron stars?

- They are the **remnants of giant stars that died in a fiery explosion known as a supernova**.

- After such an outburst, the **cores of these former stars compact into an ultradense object** with the mass of the sun packed into a ball the size of a city.
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WHAT ARE PADMA AWARDS?

Prime Minister urged the citizens of the country to read about the lives and stories of people who have been conferred with the prestigious 'Padma' Awards during his first 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme of 2023.



Key facts about Padma Awards:

- The Padma Awards are **one of the highest civilian honours of India announced** annually on the eve of **Republic Day**.
- The award seeks to **recognize works of distinction** and is given for **distinguished and exceptional achievements/service** in all fields of activities/disciplines.
- Padma Awards were **instituted in the year 1954**
- The award is **given in three categories**, namely,
 - **Padma Vibhushan**: for exceptional and distinguished service;
 - **Padma Bhushan**: for distinguished service of a high order; and
 - **Padma Shri**: for distinguished service.
- **Award**: The awardees are presented a **Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion**.
- **Eligibility**:
 - **All persons** without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex **are eligible for these awards**.
 - **Government servants** including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, **are not eligible for these Awards**.
 - The award is **normally not conferred posthumously**. However, in highly deserving cases, the Government could consider giving an award posthumously.
- The award does not amount to a title and cannot be used as a suffix or prefix to the awardees' name.

- **Who can nominate?**
 - Nominations are invited from Central Ministries/Departments, States/UT Governments, Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan awardees, Institutes of Excellence.
 - **All citizens can make nominations/recommendation including self-nomination.**
 - **Who Decides?**
 - All nominations received for Padma Awards are placed before the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
 - On the basis of the recommendations of the Awards Committee, and after approval of the Home Minister, Prime Minister and President, the Padma Awards are announced on the eve of the Republic Day.
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ENFORCING THE PATENT BARGAIN: IPR SENSITIVITY SHOULD NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF PUBLIC HEALTH OBLIGATIONS

Context:

- In 2016, the then Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (now known as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) under the Ministry of Commerce released the **National IPR Policy**.
- The overall purpose of this policy was to spell out the government's comprehensive vision for the IPR ecosystem in the country towards shaping **a more innovative and creative Bharat**.
- The article emphasizes how excessive IPR sensitivity might harm the public interest.



Broad Objectives of the National IPR Policy:

- **Legal and Legislative Framework:** The goal was to have **strong and effective IPR laws**, which balance the interests of right owners with larger public interest.
- **Administration and Management:** The objective was to **modernise and strengthen service-oriented IPR administration**.
- **Enforcement and Adjudication:** The focus was to strengthen the enforcement and adjudicatory mechanisms for combating IPR infringements.

How the Policy Aided in Making Legislative and Structural Changes?

- For instance, the **Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB)** was dissolved in (April) 2021 as part of tribunal reforms, and its jurisdiction was re-transferred to **High Courts**.
- This was followed by the establishment of **dedicated IP benches** (“the IP Division”) by the Delhi HC, arguably the country’s leading court on the IPR front, for speedier disposal of IPR disputes.
- These steps have gone hand in hand with a conscious effort to improve the **infrastructure and strength of the Indian Patent Office**.
- Such measures are intended to convey to investors and innovators that Bharat is an **IP-savvy and even IP-friendly jurisdiction** without compromising on national interest and public health commitments.

- This is evident from the **contribution of the Indian pharmaceutical sector** in enabling access to affordable medicines globally and its transformation to being the pharmacy of the world.

Issue of Evergreening of Patents:

- **What is the evergreening of patents?**
 - Provisions such as Sections 3(d), 53(4) and 107A of the **Patents Act 1970** were introduced between 2002 and 2005 to prevent the mischievous practice of “evergreening” of patents.
 - The evergreening of patents is a practice of **tweaking drugs in order to extend their patent** term and thus their profitability.
 - India's prohibition on evergreening **aids millions of people who can't afford the expensive modified drugs**, as well as the **development of domestic generic drug makers**.
 - However, evergreening patents on drugs which relate to treatment of diabetes, cancers, cardiovascular diseases, etc., **continue to be granted to pharmaceutical innovator companies by the Indian Patent Office** and enforced through courts.
- **Why is patent monopoly/evergreening of patents granted?**
 - The economic assumption behind the **Patent Bargain** (private risk is rewarded and incentivised in return for a limited private monopoly right) is to have a **trickle-down impact** that benefits the general population.
 - Therefore, patent monopolies are granted to innovators in the hope that **they disclose something new, inventive and of industrial value to the public**.
- **How is this misused by the patent owners?**
 - **The Patent Bargain becomes a Faustian bargain** (in which a person abandons his or her moral principles in order to obtain benefits) since it results in the illegal extension of the 20-year term of the monopoly.
 - This, in turn, **undermines competition in the market** and enables patentees to extract more from the society than permitted.
- **What is the Supreme Court's verdict in this regard?**
 - In *Novartis AG v. Union of India & Others* (2013), the apex court held that the legislative intent behind the insertion of Section 3(d) in the Act **is to prevent the evergreening of a patent monopoly** that in no way enhances the drug's therapeutic efficacy.

- However, the SC's verdict has **not yielded any positive outcomes** both from the Patent Office and subordinate courts, rather it delayed entry of generic versions.
- This, in turn, **adversely affects the availability of affordable medicines** to patients in countries such as Bharat where most middle-class or below families are on the verge of spending their hard-earned funds after a hospital visit.

WHAT IS ALBINISM?

Recently a partial albino dhole (*Cuon alpinus*) has been photo-documented in Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.



About Albinism:

- Albinism is the result of cells that can't **produce melanin**, the pigment needed to colour skin, scales, eyes and hair.
- This genetic condition gets passed to offspring when both parents carry the recessive gene. When albinism is present, the animal can appear white or pink.
- The production of melanin occurs within **melanocytes**, specialized cells that are present but not fully functional in albino mammals.

Key facts about Dhole

- The dhole or Asiatic Wild Dog is found in **three clusters** across India namely the Western and Eastern Ghats, the central Indian landscape and North East India.
- The Western and Eastern Ghats is a stronghold regions for dholes.
- **Conservation status**
- IUCN Red List: **Endangered**
- The Wildlife Protection Act 1972: **Schedule II**
- CITES: **Appendix II**

About Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

- It is extended over three districts, namely, Chamarajanagar, Mandya and Ramanagara in
- The sanctuary provides a vital link between Bannerghatta National Park in the north and BRT Tiger Reserve and Male Mahadev Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in the south.

- The area is drained by three rivers, namely, **Cauvery, Arkavathi and Shimsha.**
 - **Flora:** The forest is primarily of **dry deciduous and scrub types**, but a wide range of forest types including **moist deciduous, semi-evergreen, evergreen**, shola, riverine, Hardwicke forest, etc.
 - **Fauna:** Important animals found in the sanctuary are tigers, elephants, leopards, bison, wild dog etc.
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KAWAL TIGER RESERVE

During the recent Asian Water Bird Census (AWC) 2023, more than 340 birds of various species, were counted in the water bodies within the core area of the Kawal Tiger Reserve.



About Kawal Tiger Reserve:

- Kawal Tiger Reserve is located in North Eastern part of Telangana (Old Adilabad district) having the **Godavari river** on one side and the **Maharashtra border** on the other side.
 - Government of India declared Kawal wildlife sanctuary as Tiger Reserve in 2012.
 - This sanctuary is the catchment for the rivers **Godavari and Kadam**, which flow towards the south of the sanctuary.
 - It is a central Indian Tiger Landscape having – a southern **Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest.**
 - **Flora:** It consists of predominantly teak and bamboo are found here.
 - **Fauna:** Mammal species that have been sighted include tiger, leopard, Indian gaur, cheetal, sambar, nilgai etc.
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