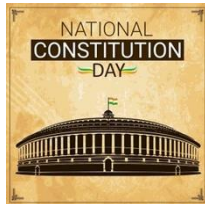


### CONSTITUTION DAY

India celebrates Constitution Day, or Samvidhan Divas, on November 26.



#### About Constitution Day:

- Constitution Day, also known as **Samvidhan Divas** or **National Law Day**, is celebrated in India on **November 26th** each year.
- This day **commemorates the adoption of the Constitution** of India on November 26, **1949**. The Constitution **came into force on January 26, 1950**.
- In 2015, the government decided to celebrate this day to promote constitutional values among citizens.

#### Constituent Assembly (CA) of India:

- The Constituent Assembly (CA) was set up in 1946 **under the Cabinet Mission Plan** of 1946.
- The Assembly held its first meeting on December 9, 1946, and elected Dr. Sachhidanand Sinha, the oldest member of the Assembly, as the Provisional President.
- On December 11, 1946, the Assembly elected **Rajendra Prasad** as its **permanent Chairman**.
- The CA **took 3 years (1946-49) to complete the drafting**.
- The CA had **299 elected members from provincial legislative assemblies**.
- The CA had **13 committees, including the drafting committee headed by B.R. Ambedkar**.
- The **Constitution was adopted in 1949** when 284 members signed it, marking the completion of the Constitution-making process.

#### Interesting facts about the Indian Constitution:

- It is the **world's longest**: The original copy of the Indian Constitution is 251 pages long; it is the most detailed in the world.
- It is **completely handwritten** and designed.

- **Prem Behari Narain Raizada**, a master of calligraphic art, **singlehandedly handwrote the Constitution.**
  - **Nand Lal Bose**, a pioneer of modern Indian art, designed the borders of every page of the Constitution and **adorned it with art pieces.**
  - The **original manuscript** of the Constitution was **written on parchment sheets** measuring 16 x 22 inches and **having a lifespan of a thousand years.** It weighed **3.75 kg.**
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## LACHIT BORPHUKAN

Recently, the Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Lachit Borphukan on Lachit Diwas.



### About Lachit Borphukan:

- He has been revered in Assam as the warrior who defeated Mughal armies in **the Battle of Saraighat in 1671.**
- He was **commander of the Ahom armies** during the battle of Saraighat and fought on the banks of the Brahmaputra in Guwahati.
- He was a brilliant military commander.
- He was chosen as one of the five Borphukans of the Ahom **kingdom** by **King Charadhwaj Singha** and given administrative, judicial, and military responsibilities.
- Borphukan **preferred guerrilla tactics**, which provided an edge to his smaller but fast-moving and capable forces.
- He **died a year after the Battle of Saraighat** from a long-festering illness.

### Key points about the AHOM Kingdom

- The Ahom kings ruled large parts of what is now known as **Assam for nearly 600 years**, from the early 13th century to the early 19th century.
- This was a **prosperous, multi-ethnic kingdom** that spread across the upper and lower reaches of the Brahmaputra valley, surviving on rice cultivation in its fertile lands.

- The Ahoms engaged in a series of conflicts with the Mughals from 1615-1682, starting from the reign of Jahangir until the reign of Aurangzeb.
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## WHAT IS RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA)?

According to a new observational study, anti-rheumatic medicines used to treat rheumatoid arthritis may help reduce the development of autoimmune thyroid disease.



### About Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA):

- It is an **autoimmune and inflammatory disease**, which means that your **immune system attacks healthy cells** in your body by mistake, **causing inflammation** (painful swelling) in the affected parts of the body.
- RA **mainly attacks the joints**, usually many joints at once. RA commonly affects joints in the hands, wrists, and knees.
- In a joint with RA, the **lining of the joint becomes inflamed, causing damage to joint tissue**. This tissue damage **can cause** long-lasting or **chronic pain, unsteadiness** (lack of balance), **and deformity (misshapeness)**.
- RA can also affect other tissues throughout the body and cause problems in organs such as the lungs, heart, and eyes.
- **Cause:** RA is the **result of an immune response** in which the body's **immune system attacks its healthy cells**. The **specific causes of RA are unknown**, but some factors can increase the risk of developing the disease.

### Treatment:

- RA can be effectively treated and managed **with medication(s) and self-management strategies**.
  - Treatment for RA usually includes the **use of medications** that slow the disease and prevent joint deformity, **called disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs)**.
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## 15 YEARS OF MUMBAI TERROR ATTACK

### Why in the news?

- India had witnessed many terror attacks over the years but the one that rocked Mumbai in 2008 was a turning point.
- 10 Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) gunmen traveled by sea from Karachi to Mumbai and carried out attacks for four days.
- The ease with which they carried out the attack revealed:
  - significant weaknesses in India's maritime security,
  - flaws in its internal security system, and
  - shortcomings in its counter-terrorism infrastructure and local police.

### How Mumbai terror attacks change India's security infrastructure?

- Soon after the attacks, some key decisions on the security front were taken by the government.
- These included:
  - tightening of maritime security,
  - fixing of loopholes in the intelligence grid,
  - strengthening of the legal framework to deal with terrorism, and
  - creation of special agencies to probe terror cases.
- **Maritime security revamped**
  - Post 26/11, the **Indian Navy** was given overall charge of maritime security.
  - The **Indian Coast Guard** was given the responsibility for territorial waters and to coordinate with hundreds of new **marine police stations** that came up along India's coastline.
  - The government also made it mandatory for all vessels longer than 20 meters to have an Automatic Identification System (AIS).
    - AIS transmits its identification and other information.
- **Intelligence coordination**

- A decision was taken to strengthen the Intelligence Bureau's (IB's) Multi-Agency Centre (MAC).
  - The primary job of MAC is to coordinate the exchange of intelligence between central agencies, the armed forces, and the state police.
  - Its charter too has been expanded to include radicalization and terror ecosystems.
  - **Change in laws: UAPA and NIA Act**
    - The **Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)** was amended to expand the definition of terrorism.
    - The **National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act** was passed by Parliament to create the first truly federal investigation agency in the country.
  - **Modernisation of police forces**
    - Given the spectacular failure of local police, the Centre trained its focus on the modernization of state police forces.
    - More funds were allocated by the MHA to state governments to:
      - make their police stations state-of-the-art,
      - equip them with modern technology,
      - train their policemen to deal with challenges of modern-day policing that include terrorism, and
      - give them better weapons.
  - **Isolation of Pakistan**
    - The real success was in organizing the international community, isolating Pakistan, and making counterterrorism cooperation against the LeT effective.
    - The global understanding of the need to deal with Pak-sponsored terrorism helped put Pakistan on the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF's) grey list in 2018.
    - This forced the country to take action against the terror infrastructure of the LeT and Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM).
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## CYBER SECURITY, CERT-IN & RTI ACT

### Why in the News?

- The Central government has exempted the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) from the purview of the **Right to Information Act, 2005**.

### What is Cybersecurity?

- Computer security, Cybersecurity, or Information Technology Security is the protection of computer systems and networks from cyber-attacks that cause information disclosure, theft of, or damage to their hardware, software, or electronic data.

### About Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In):

- CERT-In has been operational since **2004**.
- It is an office within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- It is the nodal agency to deal with cyber security threats like **hacking** and **phishing**. It strengthens the security-related defense of the Indian Internet domain.
- In the Information Technology Amendment Act, 2008, **CERT-In has been designated to serve as the national nodal agency to perform various functions in the area of cyber security**
- It performs the following functions in the area of cyber security:
  - Collection, analysis, and dissemination of information on cyber incidents
  - Forecast and alerts of cyber security incidents
  - Emergency measures for handling cyber security incidents
  - Coordination of cyber incident response activities
  - Issue guidelines, and advisories relating to information security practices, procedures, prevention, etc.

### About the Right to Information Act, 2005:

- The Right To Information is derived from the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression under **Article 19** of the Constitution.



- If we do not have information on how our Government and Public Institutions function, we cannot express any informed opinion on it.
- The basic object of the Right to Information Act is to empower the citizens and promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government.
- The Act and its rules define a format for –
  - requisitioning information,
  - a period within which information must be provided,
  - a method of giving the information,
  - charges for applying and
  - exemptions of information that will not be given.

## Who is Covered under the RTI?

- **The RTI Act, of 2005 extends to the whole of India.**
- All bodies, which are constituted under the Constitution or any law or under any Government notification or all bodies, including NGOs, which are owned, controlled, or substantially financed by the Government are covered.
- All private bodies, which are owned, controlled, or substantially financed by the Government are directly covered.

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## BLENDING SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL IN ATF FROM 2027

- The National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC) has set the initial indicative targets for blending sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) with aviation turbine fuel (ATF), setting the stage for the eventual implementation of mandatory blending.
- The decision is in line with the mandatory phase of the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), which will take effect in 2027.

## What is the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)?

- The ICAO is a specialized agency (est. in **1947**) of the UN that coordinates the principles and techniques of international air navigation. Its headquarters are located in **Quebec, Canada**.
- It fosters the planning and development of international air transport to ensure safe and orderly growth.

## What is the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA)?

- CORSA is a **global market-based measure** designed to offset international aviation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to stabilize the levels of such emissions.
  - CORSA, **which does not apply to domestic aviation**, would require airlines globally to offset any growth in carbon dioxide emissions beyond the 2020 levels.

## What is the National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC)?

- NBCC was constituted (in 1960) under the Chairmanship of the Minister, of Petroleum & Natural Gas to **provide overall coordination, effective end-to-end implementation, and monitoring of biofuel programs**.
- NBCC has been active in the implementation of many projects in areas such as Institutional, Housing, Industrial and Environmental, Transportation, Power, etc.
- Various public welfare projects have also been undertaken and completed by the business, though not using CSR money.

## What are the ATF and SAF?

- Jet fuel or aviation turbine fuel (ATF) is a type of aviation fuel designed for use in aircraft powered by gas turbine engines.
- **ATF is a mixture of a variety of hydrocarbons**. Because the exact composition of jet fuel varies widely based on petroleum source, it is impossible to define jet fuel as a ratio of specific hydrocarbons.



- **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** is a fuel that is produced from sustainable feedstocks and has chemistry similar to conventional ATF, which is derived from crude oil. **Its carbon footprint is significantly lower than ATF.**
  - A committee on SAF constituted by the petroleum ministry had recommended an initial SAF blending mandate of **1% from 2025**, and scaling it up over subsequent years in phases.
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## WHAT ARE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (REITS)?

The SEBI Board recently approved amendments to the SEBI (Real Estate Investment Trusts) Regulations 2014 (REIT Regulations) to create a new regulatory framework for small and medium REITs.



### About Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs):

- A REIT is a **company that owns** and typically operates **income-producing real estate** or related assets.
  - They **pool money from the investors and invest** it in commercial **real estate projects**.
  - These may **include office buildings, shopping malls**, apartments, hotels, resorts, self-storage facilities, **warehouses**, and mortgages or loans.
  - Unlike other real estate companies, a REIT **does not develop real estate properties to resell**. Instead, a **REIT buys** and develops properties **primarily to operate** them as part of **its investment portfolio**.
  - REITs provide a way for **individual investors** to **earn a share of the income** produced through commercial real estate ownership without actually having to go out and buy commercial real estate.
  - In general, REITs **specialize in a specific real estate sector**. However, **diversified and specialty REITs** may hold **different types of properties** in their portfolios, such as a REIT that consists of both office and retail properties.
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