

AYUSHMAN AROGYA MANDIR



Recently, the Union Government has decided to rename the existing Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) as 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir.

About Ayushman Arogya Mandir:

- The Government of India announced in 2018 that 1.5 lakh HWCs would be created in the country by transforming existing sub-health centres and primary health centres to deliver comprehensive primary health care and declared this as one of the two components of Ayushman Bharat.
- It was decided the **Centre would provide 60% of the funding** and, in turn, states would follow its design manual.
- The AB-HWCs **provide maternal and child healthcare services, including** primary-level care for emergencies and trauma, including free drugs and diagnostic services, among other things.
- The new tagline of AB-HWCs is **Arogyam Parmam Dhanam**'.

Key facts about Ayushman Bharat (AB)

- The Union government announced in 2018 two major initiatives in the health sector, as part of the Ayushman Bharat programme.
 - **Curative care - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY):** For hospitalisation at secondary- and tertiary-level private hospitals
 - **Primary care - Health and Wellness Centres (HWC):** To strengthen primary healthcare
- PMJAY will provide a cover of up to **5 lakhs per family** per year to poor and vulnerable people, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- The **National Health Authority (NHA)** is responsible for the **implementation of PMJAY**.

X-RAY POLARIMETER SATELLITE (XPOSAT)

Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that India is set to launch its first X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat).



About X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat):

- It is India's first **dedicated polarimetry mission** to study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions.
- **Aim:** It is aiming to investigate the **polarisation of intense X-ray sources**.
- The spacecraft will carry two scientific payloads in a low earth orbit.
 - **POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays):** It will measure the polarimetry parameters (degree and angle of polarisation) in a medium X-ray energy range of 8-30 keV for **photons of astronomical origin**.
 - **XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing) payload:** It will give spectroscopic information in the energy range of 0.8-15 keV.
- It is designated for **observation from a Low Earth Orbit** (non-sun synchronous orbit of ~650 km altitude, low inclination of approximately six degrees).
- The mission life is expected to be **approximately five years**.
- The payloads onboard XPoSat will observe the X-ray sources during the spacecraft's transit **through the Earth's shadow, i.e., during the eclipse period**.
- It will be **launched by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

SINDHUDURG FORT

The Indian Navy is preparing to demonstrate its operational capabilities in a grand 'Operational Demonstration' on Navy Day at Sindhudurg Fort in Maharashtra.



About Sindhudurg Fort:

- It is a historical fort that occupies an islet in the Arabian Sea,

just off the coast of Maharashtra in western India.

- The fortress lies on **Kurte Island**, very near the coast of **Malvan town** in Sindhudurg District in the **Konkan region of Maharashtra**, 450 kilometres south of Mumbai.
- The fort was **built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** of the Maratha Empire.
- The **construction** of the fort **began in 1664** and took three years to complete.
- The main objective was **to counter the rising influence of foreign colonisers** (English, Dutch, French, and Portuguese merchants) and to curb the rise of the Siddis of Janjira.

Features:

- It is spread over **48 acres** with **fortified walls** that are **29 feet high and 12 feet thick and stretch for two miles**.
- As many as **52 bastions** with embrasures for cannons **guard its walls**.
- **One can enter the fort through the Dilli Darwaja, the main gate**. Because of its architectural design, the gate is **visible only from close quarters** and seems to be part of the walls.
- It is **surrounded** by several **smaller forts**, such as **Padmagad, Rajkot, and Sarjekot Forts**.
- A **handprint and footprint of the Maratha King** are **embedded on a slab** within the fort.
- A **small temple dedicated to the Chhatrapati** also finds a place within the bounds of the fort.

[FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURT \(FTSC\)](#)

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the continuation of fast-track courts dedicated to the dispensation of justice in cases of sexual offences, for a period of three years.



About Fast Track Special Court (FTSC):

- It was formulated as a **centrally sponsored scheme** to establish FTSCs for the timely disposal of cases related to **rape and**

the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) in August 2019.

- Initially commenced in October 2019 for one year, the scheme was extended for an additional two years until March 31, 2023.
- Now it has been further extended until March 31, 2026, with a financial outlay of Rs. 1952.23 crore.
- **Fund:** The Central Share is funded **from the Nirbhaya Fund**.
- These are designed as dedicated courts which are expected to ensure swift dispensation of justice, offering quick relief to victims while strengthening the deterrence framework for sexual offenders.

Nodal Ministry: It is implemented by the Department of Justice, **Ministry of Law & Justice**.

- It augments State Government resources for establishing FTSCs across the country, ensuring the swift disposal of cases related to rape and the POCSO Act.
- All States/Union Territories have participated in the Scheme, operationalizing 761 FTSCs, including 414 exclusive POCSO Courts.
- The expected outcomes of the scheme are:
 - Reflect the nation's commitment to ending sexual and gender-based violence.
 - Substantially reduce pending cases of Rape & POCSO Act, relieving the burden on the judicial system.
 - Ensure swift access to justice for victims of sexual crimes through improved facilities and expedited trials.
 - Reduce the burden of cases to a manageable number.

UNLF SIGNED PEACE DEAL WITH CENTRE

Why in news?

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the signing of a peace agreement with the Meitei separatist group **United National Liberation Front (UNLF)** in Manipur.

- The Home Minister also expressed the hope that this would encourage other **valley-based insurgent groups (VBIGs)** to participate in a peace process.

What is Insurgency in Manipur?

- **About**
 - There is an ongoing armed conflict between India and a number of separatist rebel groups in Manipur.
 - This insurgency in Manipur is part of the wider Insurgency in Northeast India which combines elements of a national liberation war as well as an ethnic conflict.
- **Historical background of Manipur**
 - Following the brief Anglo-Manipur War of 1891, the Kingdom of Manipur was conquered by Britain.
 - After this war, Manipur kingdom became a British protectorate.
 - Manipur became a part of India in October 1949 and became a separate state in 1972.
- **Rise of insurgency**
 - Manipur's incorporation into the Indian state led to the formation of a number of insurgent organisations.
 - These groups demanded the creation of an independent state within the borders of Manipur, and dismissed the merger with India as involuntary.
 - The insurgency problem in Manipur came into existence in the late 1960s and 1970s.
 - There was no problem of insurgency when Manipur merged into India.
 - The first separatist faction, **United National Liberation Front (UNLF)**, was founded in November 1964.
 - Now, the region is infested with many insurgent groups.

What is the UNLF?

- **About**

- The UNLF was formed on November 24, 1964, and is the oldest valley-based insurgent group.
- It was formed with the demand of secession from India under **the leadership of Arembam Samarendra Singh**, who was the general secretary of the group.
- It was a proscribed group, banned under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

Current status

- **One faction opposed to the talks**

- The UNLF faction under Koireng continues to be opposed to talks.

- **Manipur government withdrew from the Suspension of Operations (SoO) in March 2023**

- A tripartite Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement between the Centre, Manipur state and the Kuki-Zomi insurgent groups had been reached in 2008.
- The primary objective of this pact was to initiate political dialogue.
- However, in March 2023, the Manipur government pulled out of the agreement with the Zomi Revolutionary Army and the Kuki National Army.
 - It said that they were influencing agitation among forest encroachers.

KEY FACTS ABOUT GOLAN HEIGHTS

India has voted in favour of a draft resolution in the UN General Assembly that expressed deep concern over Israel not withdrawing from the Golan Heights.



About Golan Heights:

- It is a **rocky plateau in south-western Syria**, about 60km (40 miles) **south-west** of the Capital, **Damascus**.
- It is **bounded** by the **Jordan River** and the **Sea of Galilee** on the west, **Mount Hermon** on the north, the seasonal **Wadi Al-Ruqqād River** on the east, and the **Yarmūk River** on the south.

- The Golan extends about 44 miles (71 km) from north to south and about 27 miles (43 km) from east to west at its widest point.
- It is **roughly boat-shaped** and has an area of **1,150 square kilometres**.

History:

- **Israel seized** the Golan Heights from Syria **in the closing stages of the 1967 Six-Day War**.
- Most of the Syrian Arab inhabitants fled the area during the conflict.
- An armistice line was established, and the region came under Israeli military control. Almost immediately, Israel began to settle the Golan.
- **Syria tried to retake** the Golan Heights **during the 1973 Middle East** Despite inflicting heavy losses on Israeli forces, the surprise **assault was thwarted**.
- **Both countries signed an armistice in 1974**, and a **UN observer force has been in place** on the ceasefire line **since 1974**.
- **Israel unilaterally annexed the Golan Heights in 1981**.
- There are more than **30 Israeli settlements** in the Golan. The settlements are **considered illegal under international law**, although Israel disputes this.
- About **20,000 Syrians and 20,000 Israelis** live in the Golan.
- **Strategic Importance:**
 - The **Syrian capital, Damascus**, can be clearly seen from the **top of the Golan Hills**.
 - **When it rains** here, its **water goes to the Jordan River**, which supplies water in dry areas. It is believed that **this water supplies one-third of Israel's water**.
 - Apart from this, the **land here is very fertile**, which is very good for farming.



WHAT IS ANGKOR WAT?

Angkor Wat temple, located in Cambodia, has defeated Pompeii in Italy to become the eighth Wonder of the World.

Why in the News?

The unofficial title “Eighth Wonder of the World” is sometimes given to buildings, structures, projects, designs, or even people who are thought to be comparable to the Seven Wonders of the World.

About Angkor Wat:

- It is the **largest religious monument** in the world.
- It was **built by the Khmer King Suryavarman II** in the first half of the **12th century**.
- It was **originally dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu** before becoming a **Buddhist temple** by the end of the 12th century.
- In 1992, the temple complex was named a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- **Features:**
 - **Sandstone blocks** were used to build the structure.
 - It is protected by a **15-foot-high wall** and a **wide moat**.
 - It covers an area of **200 acres**.
 - The temple has **five major towers** symbolising the **peaks of Mount Meru**, believed to be the abode of the gods in Hindu and Buddhist mythology.
 - **Thousands of bas-reliefs** depicting important **deities and figures in Hindu and Buddhist religions**, as well as key events in their narrative traditions, adorn the temple walls.

Where is Angkor Wat?

- It is located in the northwestern province of Siem Reap in **Cambodia**.
- The city of Angkor, home to Angkor Wat, was the **capital of the Khmer Empire** and **thrived between the 9th and 15th centuries**.
- Angkor itself **stretches over 400 km²** and is now home to the **magnificent remains of a variety of temples, including Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom, Bayon Temple, and Ta Prohm**.

FINANCE COMMISSION

About Finance Commission:

- The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under **Article 280** of the Constitution.
- **Objective:** To give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States and amongst the States themselves.
- Two distinctive features of the Commission's work involve:
 - Redressing the vertical imbalances between the taxation powers and expenditure responsibilities of the Centre and the States respectively;
 - Equalization of all public services across the States.
- Any other matter referred to the Commission by the President in the interests of sound finance.

Qualifications for Members?

- The chairman and members of the commission are selected as per the provisions contained in the **Finance Commission [Miscellaneous Provisions] Act, 1951** and the **Finance Commission (Salaries & Allowances) Rules, 1951**.
- The chairman of the commission is selected from among persons who have had experience in public affairs.
- Four other members are selected from among persons who:
 - are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as Judges of a High Court; or
 - have special knowledge of the finances and accounts of Government; or
 - have had wide experience in financial matters and in administration; or
 - have special knowledge of economics