

### INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION (ICAO)

India is among the top 50 countries with best aviation safety in the latest ICAO rankings.



ICAO: International Civil Aviation Organization

#### About:

- In the rankings by the ICAO, **India is now at the 48th position**, a "quantum leap" from the 102nd rank it had in 2018. The rankings are for 187 countries and assessments were done at different points of time.
- Under its **Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach**, an ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) was undertaken from November 9 to 16.
- The rankings are **topped by Singapore with a score of 99.69 per cent**. It is followed by the **UAE at the second position** and the Republic of Korea is at the third place.
- With a score of **49 per cent each, India and Georgia are at the 48th position**. Neighbouring Pakistan is at the 100th spot with a score of 70.39 per cent.

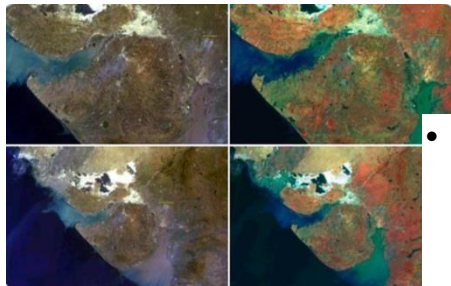
#### What is ICAO?

- ICAO is **funded and directed by 193 national governments** to support their diplomacy and cooperation in air transport as signatory states to the **Chicago Convention (1944)**.
- **'Chicago Convention'** established the core principles permitting international transport by **air**, and led to the creation of the specialized agency which has overseen it ever since – the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- ICAO develops standards for global air transport and assists its 192 Member States in sharing the world's skies to their socio-economic benefit.
- **Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada
- **Functions:**
  - to maintain an administrative and expert bureaucracy (the ICAO Secretariat) supporting diplomatic interactions

- conducts educational outreach, develops coalitions, and conducts auditing, training, and capacity building activities worldwide per the needs and priorities governments identify and formalize.
- Once governments achieve diplomatic consensus around a new standard's scope and details, it is then adopted by those same 193 countries in order to bring worldwide alignment to their national regulations, helping to realize safe, secure and sustainable air operations on a truly global basis.

## OCEANSAT-3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently shared the first satellite images of Gujarat and Arabian Sea sent by the newly launched Oceansat-3 satellite from space.



### About:

- ISRO's PSLV-C54 rocket launched the Oceansat-3 along with eight nano satellites, including the Bhutan-SAT, from Sriharikota.
- Oceansat-3 is the **third in its set of ocean satellites that are part of India's ocean observation programme.**
- It is a **multi-sensor observation satellite**, which is expected to operate till 2027.
- The Oceansat-3 is envisaged to **observe ocean colour data, sea surface temperature (SST) and wind vector data** to use in oceanography, climatic and meteorological applications. It also supports **value-added products such as potential fishing zones.**
- Oceansat-3, in tandem with Oceansat-2, will improve the receptivity of ocean colour measurements to every 24 hour and wind vector measurements to every 12 hour and help predict cyclones better.

## IN A FIRST, NAVY DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD OUT OF DELHI

### In News:

- In a first, the celebrations for the Navy Day was held out of Delhi.

- President **Droupadi Murmu** was the Guest of Honour as the naval combat prowess is demonstrated at the ‘Operational Demonstration’ at **Visakhapatnam**.
- The day is celebrated each year to mark the Indian Navy's achievements in ‘**Operation Trident**’ during the **1971 Indo-Pak War**.

### About Operation Trident (1971):

- Every year, India celebrates December 4 as Navy Day to commemorate Operation Trident – a key offensive during the 1971 India-Pakistan War, when the **Indian Navy inflicted heavy damage on Pakistani vessels in Karachi harbour**.
- The same day also marks the end of **Navy Week**, which, too, is celebrated annually.

### What happened during Operation Trident?

- The India-Pakistan War of 1971 had begun on December 3, when the Pakistan Air Force launched pre-emptive strikes on airfields in Western India.
- India responded by formally declaring war in the wee hours of December 4.
- On December 4, under Operation Trident, the Indian Navy sank three vessels near the Pakistani port city of Karachi.
- The Indian Air Force also played a crucial role during Operation Trident, when Karachi’s Kemari oil tanks were strafed by the IAF on the same day in an independent operation which it did not claim.
- The 1971 War ended on December 16, as India sealed its victory when the instrument of surrender was signed by **Lt Gen A A K Niazi** of Pakistan with **Lt Gen J S Aurora** watching, at Dhaka at 4.55 pm that day.
- That remains the abiding image of the 1971 War.

### News Summary:

- President of India **Droupadi Murmu** participated in the Navy Day celebrations at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- She said that oceans will play a vital role in India’s growth and prosperity with the future linked to the waters, as in the past.

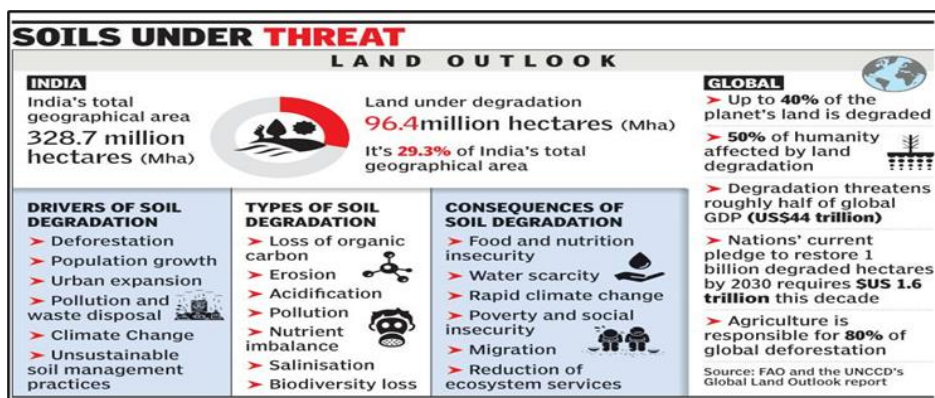
## OVER-EXPLOITATION OVER CENTURIES HAS DEGRADED 96M HECTARES OF INDIA'S LAND

### In News:

- As World Soil Day (WSD) 2022 arrives on December 5, over 29% (96.4 million hectares) of India's entire geographical area (328.7 million hectares) is degraded, with the level of degradation in terms of soil fertility reaching 40% globally.
- WSD 2022, with the guiding theme "**Soils: Where Food Begins**," aims to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining healthy soils, ecosystems and human well-being.

### Land degradation:

- Meaning:**
  - Land degradation is the deterioration or **loss of the productive capacity of the soils** for present and future.
  - It is a global challenge contributing to a dramatic decline in the **productivity of croplands and rangelands worldwide**, affecting everyone through **food insecurity**, climate change and the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Scenario in India and the world:**



- Reasons for the large land degradation in India:** Over-exploitation of land through unsustainable farming practices, mining and deforestation over the centuries.
- Threats:** If the current trends continue,

- It would disrupt food supply and lead to **rapid biodiversity** loss and species extinctions in this century itself.
- The world's topsoil could **become unproductive within 60 years**.

### Global efforts:

- Under a **UN Convention**, the countries have already agreed to restore one billion hectares of degraded land by 2030 by achieving **land degradation neutrality (LDN)**.
- Under LDN, the quantity and quality of **land resources stay steady or increase**, taking into account degradation and restoration. If a country achieves LDN, there will be **no net loss in terms of land degradation**.

### Indian efforts:

- The Government of India is implementing a **five-pronged strategy** for soil conservation, including,
  - Making soil chemical-free,
  - Saving soil biodiversity,
  - Enhancing SOM,
  - Maintaining soil moisture,
  - Mitigating soil degradation and preventing soil erosion.
- India has been working to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land throughout the country by 2030 and voluntarily pledged to achieve LDN by 2030.
- India is currently pitching for **fertilizers/pesticides-free ZBNF** and **soil health cards (SHC)** scheme informs farmers of the status of soils, providing a ground for multiple actions for restoring soil fertility.
- The **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana** prevents soil erosion, regeneration of natural vegetation, rainwater harvesting and recharging of the groundwater table.
- In addition, the **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)** has schemes promoting traditional indigenous practices such as **organic farming and natural farming**.
- The FAO is collaborating with the -

- National Rainfed Area Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to develop forecasting tools to make informed decisions on crop choices.
  - The Ministry of Rural Development, supports the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission's (DAY-NRLM) Community Resource Persons to increase their capacities.
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## PARAKRAM DIWAS

**Parakram Diwas will be celebrated at Jaisalmer Military Station and Longewala War Memorial in Rajasthan on December 5.**



### **About:**

- It is observed to mark the 51st anniversary of India's victory in the Longewala battle during the 1971 war.
  - The Longewala battle between India and Pakistan in 1971 was one of the biggest and most decisive battles.
  - On the night of 04/05 Dec 1971, Pakistan forces comprising 4000 soldiers, T-59 & Sherman tanks, and a medium artillery battery attacked Longewala border post held by 23 PUNJAB.
  - In spite of being outnumbered, Indian soldiers gallantly held the post and requisitioned support of IAF.
  - At the dawn of 5th Dec 1971, the Hunter aircraft based at Jaisalmer wreaked havoc on the Pakistani troops with their devastating fire power.
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## MOUNT SEMERU VOLCANO

**Mount Semeru volcano erupted recently triggering top alert status.**



### **About:**

- It is located in Indonesia.
  - It is one of the East Java Island's tallest volcano.
  - Semeru's last major eruption was in December 2021.
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- Semeru, also known as Mahameru, has erupted numerous times in the past 200 years.

## Indonesia:

- An archipelago of 270 million that sits along the Pacific Ring of Fire, Indonesia is one of the most disaster-prone nations on earth.
- Pacific “Ring of Fire”: It is a horseshoe-shaped series of fault lines, and is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity.
- With 142 volcanoes, Indonesia has the largest population globally living in close range to a volcano, including 8.6 million within 10km (6.2 miles).

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## NEW RAILWAY MANAGEMENT SERVICE (IRMS) EXAMINATION

The Ministry of Railways recently announced that from 2023 onwards, recruitment to the Indian Railways Management Service (IRMS) will be done through a specially designed examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).



### About:

- This will be a major departure from the current system of recruitment, which does not have a unique examination for IRMS.
- Like the Civil Services Exam (CSE), the new IRMS exam will be two-tiered —
  - a preliminary screening examination and
  - a main written examination and interview.
- It will be used to recruit officers to **Group A services of the Indian Railways**.
- Group A IRMS officers can serve in any of the **10 different organised railway services**, divided into three separate cadres: technical services, administrative and accounts services, and medical services.
- Candidates need to appear for the Civil Services (Prelim) exam.
- This will be followed by a specific IRMS (Main) examination which will consist of four papers of conventional essay-type questions.

### Exam Pattern:

- **Part 1 (Qualifying papers)** will comprise two separate essay-type papers for 300 marks each.
  - One will be a test on any Indian language included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution (at present, 22 languages).
  - The other will be an English language test.
- **Part 2 (Papers to be counted for merit)** will comprise two optional papers for 250 marks each.
  - The candidate is supposed to choose any one optional subject.
  - The list of subjects available are:
    - Civil Engineering
    - Mechanical Engineering
    - Electrical Engineering
    - Commerce and Accountancy
- **Part 3 will be a personality test.**
  - This will be for 100 marks.

### Eligibility:

- The minimum educational qualifications include a degree in engineering, commerce, or chartered accountancy.
- This means that the IRMS will no longer have officers with a background in social sciences or the pure sciences.

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## IRAN SCRAPS MORALITY POLICE AFTER 2 MONTHS OF RAGING PROTESTS

### In News:

- Iran has scrapped its morality police after more than two months of protests triggered by the death of Mahsa Amini following her arrest for allegedly violating the country's strict female dress code.

### Background:

- In mid-September, Iran's so-called morality police arrested 22-year-old Jina Mahsa Amini in Tehran for wearing what they deemed inappropriate clothing.



- They then took her to a police station, where she slipped into a coma. Three days later, she died in hospital.
- Amini's death sparked widespread anger, leading to anti-government rallies and protests against the mandatory rule of wearing Hijab.

## The morality police of Iran

- "Gasht-e-Ershad," which translates as guidance patrols, is widely known as the morality police.
- It is a unit of Iran's police force established under former hardline president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.
- It is supervised by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. However, the elected government has a say in their activities through the Interior Ministry.
- Both men and women officials are part of the morality police.



## Functions

- Not only the enforcement of hijab, but the implementation of other rules on public appearance and conduct
- In 2010, for instance, Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance issued a template for suitable haircuts for men in order to halt Western influence on culture.
- The morality police were tasked with enforcement at salons.

## Criticism

- Over the years, the strictness with which the morality rules have been enforced has increased which has affected personal freedoms and dignity of individuals.
- There are no clear guidelines or details on what types of clothing qualify as inappropriate. This leaves a lot of room for interpretation leading to arbitrary detention of women.
- A major part of Iran's social regulations are based on the state's interpretation of Islamic Sharia law, which requires both men and women to dress modestly.
- However, in practice, the "morality police" have in the past primarily targeted women.

## India's response

- India chose not to react on this issue in any manner. India has termed these incidents as an internal issue of Iran.
- One of the key components of India's foreign policy in non-interference in the internal affairs of the countries.

### **Reasons behind India's response**

- India and Iran have traditional ties and each government has worked to improve this relationship further.
- India's ties with Iran are part of its commitment to non-alignment, and balance India's strong relations with Iran's enemies US, Saudi Arabia and Israel.
- New Delhi would not like to open flanks with Iran, which doesn't criticize India on the international stage.
- Indian government has been particularly sensitive over criticism for the hijab ban in colleges in certain states like Karnataka.
- At present India's most important project in Iran is connectivity- through India-developed Chabahar port, as well as over the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) to Russia.
- Iran is an important partner when it comes to India's desire to circumvent Pakistan, to connect to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- With the price of oil rising, and US and EU placing more restrictions on Russia, India has been exploring the possibility of reviving oil imports from Iran.
- Iran was one of India's major suppliers, until the Trump administration threatened sanctions against India for buying Iranian oil.
- India stopped buying Iranian oil in 2019.