

### WHAT IS INTERPOL'S RED CORNER NOTICE?

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) recently said it has brought back an absconding life convict, against whom there was a Red Corner Notice (RCN) in a murder case.



- Criminals or suspects often flee a country to evade facing justice.
- A Red Corner Notice, also called a **Red Notice (RN)**, is a **request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest such fugitives**.
- It alerts the police forces across the world about these fugitives who are wanted internationally.
- A red notice **contains information that helps identify the wanted person**, including name, date of birth, nationality, and physical attributes like colour of hair, eyes, etc., along with pictures and biometric information.
- It **also includes information about the crimes** that they are wanted for.
- Interpol issues an RN at the request of a member country.
- The country which issues the request need not be the home country of the fugitive.
- Interpol acts at the request of the country where the alleged crime is committed.
- An RN request can also be raised by International Criminal courts and Tribunals.
- It is **not an international arrest warrant**. It is a request to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action.

### **Key Facts about Interpol:**

- The **International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO)**, commonly known as Interpol, is an **intergovernmental organisation that facilitates international police cooperation** to control crime.
- It has **195 member countries**, with its headquarters in **Lyon, France**.
- Each of the member countries has an **Interpol National Central Bureau (NCB)**.
  - CBI represents Interpol in India as the country's NCB.'

## INSAT-3DS

According to ISRO, The countdown for the launch of the INSAT-3DS meteorological satellite onboard a Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle has commenced.



- INSAT-3DS Satellite is a **follow-on mission of Third Generation Meteorological Satellite** from Geostationary Orbit.
  - Presently, meteorologists make extensive use of data generated by satellites like the INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR (launched in September 2016, still operational).
- It is fully funded by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.
- The **primary objectives** of the mission are:
  - To monitor Earth's surface, carry out **Oceanic observations** and its environment in various spectral channels of meteorological importance.
  - To provide the vertical profile of various meteorological parameters of the Atmosphere.
  - To provide the Data Collection and Data Dissemination capabilities from the Data Collection Platforms (DCPs).
  - To provide Satellite Aided **Search and Rescue services**.
- **Weight:** 2,274 kg.
- **Orbit:** Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- It will be launched by using the **Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F14)**.

## **What is GSLV-F14?**

- It is a more advanced rocket **utilising liquid propellant**.
- It is a **three-stage 51.7 m long launch** vehicle having a liftoff mass of 420 tonnes.
- The third stage (GS3) is a **cryogenic stage** with a 15-ton propellant loading of liquid oxygen (LOX) and liquid hydrogen (LH2).

---

## SOFIA (STRATOSPHERIC OBSERVATORY FOR INFRARED ASTRONOMY)

Scientists recently detected water molecules on the surface of two asteroids for the first time ever, using the data from NASA's now-retired SOFIA airborne observatory.



- SOFIA was a telescope mounted on a Boeing 747 SP aircraft that studied infrared light, essentially heat, emitted by objects in the universe.

- SOFIA was operated jointly by NASA and the German space agency.
- It is the world's largest airborne astronomical observatory, complementing NASA's space telescopes as well as major Earth-based telescopes.
- The observatory, fitted with an **8.9-foot-wide (2.7 metre) telescope** with a nearly 20-ton mirror, used a door in the side of the aircraft to peer at the sky.
- **Flying into the stratosphere** at 38,000-45,000 feet put SOFIA **above 99 percent of Earth's infrared-blocking atmosphere**, allowing astronomers to study the solar system and beyond in ways that are not possible with ground-based telescopes.
- SOFIA could **observe the universe in the widest range of infrared light**.
- The aeroplane is capable of ten-hour flights, with **flight paths chosen to keep ahead of the sunrise** and maximise the amount of darkness.
- The observatory's mobility **allowed researchers to observe from almost anywhere** in the world and **enabled studies of transient events** that often take place over oceans, where there are no telescopes.
  - For example, astronomers on SOFIA studied eclipse-like events of Pluto, Saturn's moon Titan, and Kuiper Belt Object MU69, the next flyby target for NASA's New Horizons spacecraft, to study the objects' atmospheres and surroundings.
- The SOFIA **project prematurely ended in 2022** after operating for 12 years.

---

## WHAT IS ANTI-DUMPING DUTY?

India has initiated an anti-dumping probe into imports of certain solar glass from China and Vietnam, following a complaint by domestic players.

## Anti-Dumping Duty



- Anti-dumping duty is a **tariff imposed on imports manufactured in foreign countries** that are **priced below the fair market value of similar goods in the domestic market.**
- The government imposes anti-dumping duty on foreign imports when it believes that the goods are being “dumped” – through low pricing – in the domestic market.
- Anti-dumping duty is imposed **to protect local businesses** and markets from unfair competition by foreign imports.
- Thus, the purpose of anti-dumping duty is **to rectify the trade distortive effect of dumping** and re-establish fair trade.
- The use of anti-dumping measures as an instrument of fair competition is **permitted by the World Trade Organization (WTO).**
  - **The WTO allows** the government of the **affected country to take legal action** against the dumping country **as long as there is evidence** of genuine material injury to industries in the domestic market.
  - The government **must show that dumping took place**, the **extent of the dumping** in terms of costs, and the **injury or threat to cause injury** to the **domestic market.**
- While the intention of anti-dumping duties is to protect local businesses and markets, these tariffs **can also lead to higher prices for domestic consumers.**

## What is Countervailing duty (CVD)?

- It is a specific form of duty that the government **imposes to protect domestic producers by countering the negative impact of import subsidies.**
- CVD is thus an **import tax by the importing country on imported products.**

## Countervailing duty v/s Anti-dumping duty:

- **Anti-dumping duty** is imposed to **prevent low-priced foreign goods** from damaging the local market. On the other hand, **CVD will apply to foreign**

products that have enjoyed government subsidies, which eventually leads to very low prices.

- While the Anti-dumping duty amount depends on the margin of dumping, the CVD amount will completely depend on the subsidy value of the foreign goods.

## INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL (ITAT)

Recently, the I.T. department froze Congress bank accounts over 2018-19 returns but the appellate tribunal provided partial relief.



- ITAT is a quasi-judicial institution set up in January 1941.
- It specialises in dealing with appeals under the Direct Taxes Acts.
- **Functions:**
  - It hears income tax appeals from taxpayers against orders passed by the Income Tax Authorities.
  - The orders passed by the ITAT are final, an appeal lies to the High Court only if a substantial question of law arises for determination.
- **Benches:**
  - Presently ITAT has 63 Benches in 27 different states covering almost all the cities having a seat of the High Court.
  - **Strength: One President**, who is assisted by ten (10) Zonal Vice Presidents and 115 Members (i.e. Accountant Members and Judicial Members).
  - The ITAT is headed by a President, who is appointed by the Central Government.
- **Monetary Limits set by the CBDT** are the following:
  - Before the ITAT – Rs 50 lakh.
  - Before the High Court – Rs 1 crore.
  - Before the Supreme Court – Rs 2 crore.
- ITAT is referred to as the 'Mother Tribunal' being the oldest tribunal in the country.

## WHAT IS APEDA?

The Union minister of state for commerce and industry addressed a gathering of farmers and Agri-produce buyers in the ‘Agri-Export: Capacity Building Cum Buyer-Seller Meet’ organised by APEDA in Mirzapur.



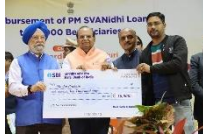
- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority **Act, 1985**.
- This Authority replaced the Processed Food Export Promotion Council (PFEPCC).
- The Authority with its **headquarters at New Delhi**, is headed by a Chairman.
- In order to reach out to the exporters in different parts of the Country, APEDA **has set up 15 Regional Offices** in different cities like- Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata etc.

**Functions:** The following functions have been assigned to the Authority:

- Registration of persons as exporters of the scheduled products on payment of such fees as may be prescribed;
- Fixing of standards and specifications for the scheduled products for the purpose of exports;
- Improving of packaging of the Scheduled products;
- Improving marketing of the Scheduled products outside India;
- Promotion of export-oriented production and development of the Scheduled products;
- Training in various aspects of the industries connected with the scheduled products;
- APEDA also functions as **the Secretariat to the National Accreditation Board (NAB)** for the implementation of accreditation of the Certification Bodies under the **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) for Organic exports**.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Trade.



## PM-SVANIDHI



Recently, the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Minister disbursed loans to 10,000 beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi scheme.

- The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) was launched on **June 01, 2020**, for providing affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to the Covid-19 lockdown.
- **Time duration:** Initially it was until March 2022. After that, it has **been extended till December 2024**.

**Eligibility:** The Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs which have notified Rules and Scheme under the **Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014**.

- **Benefits:** A micro-credit scheme, facilitating a working capital collateral-free loan of Rs. 10,000, with subsequent loans of Rs. 20,000 and 50,000 with 7% interest subsidy.
- **Implementation agency:** Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

---

## DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE PREVENTION OF MISLEADING ADS IN COACHING SECTOR

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), an arm of the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry, has released draft guidelines for the “Prevention of misleading advertisement in the coaching sector”.
- The draft guidelines will bring such offences under the radar of the Consumer Protection Act.

### **About the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA):**

- It is a **regulatory authority** set up under [Section 10(1)] the **Consumer Protection Act 2019** to regulate matters related to violation of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and misleading advertisements.

- It has an **investigation wing**, headed by a Director-General, which may conduct inquiry or investigation into such violations.
- **Functions of the CCPA:**
  - **Inquiring** into violations of consumer rights, **investigating** and launching **prosecution** at the appropriate forum;
  - Passing orders to **recall** goods or withdraw services that are hazardous, **reimbursement** of the price paid, and **discontinuation** of the unfair trade practices;
  - Issuing directions to the concerned trader/ manufacturer/ endorser/ advertiser/ publisher to **either discontinue a false or misleading advertisement or modify it**;
  - **Imposing penalties** (up to Rs 10 lakh and imprisonment for up to 2 years for a false/ misleading ad) and **issuing safety notices** to consumers against unsafe goods and services.

### Draft Guidelines for the Prevention of Misleading Ads in Coaching Sector:

- **It has defined coaching** as “tuition, instructions or academic support or learning programme or guidance” provided by any person.
- **Any individual who engages in coaching** shall be considered to be engaging in a misleading advertisement if important information related to the course (free/ paid, duration opted by the successful candidate) is concealed.
- **What will be considered as misleading under the new guidelines?**
  - **Making false claims regarding** success rates, number of selections, or rankings of students in any competitive exam without providing verifiable evidence;
  - **Falsely representing students’ success** as solely attributable to the coaching, without acknowledging the individual efforts of the students;
  - Stating or leading the consumers to believe that **enrollment in coaching will guarantee the student a rank**, etc., unless the coaching is able to substantiate the claims; and
  - **Creating false sense of urgency or fear** of missing out that may heighten anxieties amongst students or parents.
- **The objective of the Guidelines:** To protect consumers from misleading ads in the coaching sector by preventing such ads which affect consumers as a class.



## OPENAI LAUNCHES SORA

- **About**

- Sora is an AI model developed by OpenAI — built on past research in **DALL·E** and **GPT models** — and can generate videos based on text instructions.
  - DALL-E is a text-to-image model developed by OpenAI (introduced in January 2021) that creates digital images from natural language descriptions.
  - DALL-E can generate imagery in multiple styles, including photorealistic imagery, paintings, and emoji.
  - It can also manipulate and rearrange objects in its images, and can correctly place design elements in novel compositions without explicit instruction.
- It can also animate a static image, transforming it into a dynamic video presentation.
- Sora can create full videos in one go or add more to already created videos to make them longer.
- It can produce videos up to one minute in duration, ensuring high visual quality and accuracy.

- **Features**

- Sora can generate complex scenes with various characters, precise actions, and detailed backgrounds.
- Not only does the model understand the user's instructions, but it also interprets how these elements would appear in real-life situations.
- It is capable of generating compelling characters that express vibrant emotions.
- Sora can also create multiple shots within a single generated video that accurately persist characters and visual style.

### **Shortcomings of the model**

- OpenAI says that the current model of Sora has weaknesses.
- It may struggle with accurately simulating the physics of a complex scene, and may not understand specific instances of cause and effect.
  - For example, a person might take a bite out of a cookie, but afterward, the cookie may not have a bite mark.