

CHINOOK HELICOPTER

A Chinook helicopter of the Indian Air Force made a precautionary landing following a "technical snag" near Punjab's Barnala recently.



About Chinook Helicopter:

- Chinook/CH-47F is the S. Army's primary heavy troop and supply transport aircraft.
- It is an advanced **multi-mission helicopter**.
- It is **manufactured** by the American aerospace and defence firm **Boeing** for the **US Army** and international defence forces.
- It is used for the **transportation of troops, artillery, supplies**, and equipment to the battlefield.
- **India** has about **15 CH-47 Chinook** helicopters.
- **Features:**
 - It is a **twin-engine, tandem-rotor heavy-lift helicopter**.
 - It contains a fully **integrated digital cockpit** management system.
 - It has advanced cargo-handling capabilities that complement the aircraft's mission performance and handling characteristics.
 - It has a **monolithic airframe** with vibration reduction.
 - **Maximum Speed: 160 knots (296 kmph)**.
 - It has a **triple hook system**, which **provides stability for large external loads** or the capacity for multiple external loads.
 - It can carry up to 55 troops or approximately **10 tonnes of mixed cargo**.



DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION (DGCA)

- It is the **regulatory body in the field of civil aviation** primarily

dealing with safety issues.

- It is an **attached office** of the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- It is responsible for the **regulation of air transport services to/from/within India** and for the **enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards**.
- It also **coordinates all regulatory functions with the International Civil Aviation Organisation**.
- **Headquarters: New Delhi**
- **Functions and Responsibilities of the DGCA:**
 - One of the main functions of the DGCA is to **ensure the safety of passengers and crew members** on all flights operating in India.
 - The organisation **conducts regular safety inspections** of all airlines and aircraft to meet the required safety standards.
 - It also **investigates any incidents or accidents** that occur within the Indian airspace and **takes appropriate action to prevent similar incidents** from happening in the future.
 - In addition to safety, the DGCA also plays a crucial role in the growth and development of the Indian aviation industry. The organisation works closely with airlines and airport operators to **promote the industry's growth and improve the overall travel experience for passengers**.
 - The DGCA also plays a crucial role in **developing new airports and modernising existing facilities** to ensure that they can meet the growing demands of the aviation industry.
 - The DGCA is also responsible for the **regulation of air traffic in India**. It works closely with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to ensure air traffic is managed safely and efficiently.
 - The DGCA also plays a key role in **developing new air traffic control systems** and technologies to improve the overall efficiency of Indian airspace.
 - The DGCA is also **responsible for issuing licences and certificates to pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers, and other aviation personnel**.

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL



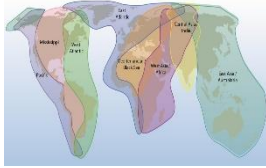
- The Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) and Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs) were established under the **Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act (RDB Act), 1993.**
- **Objective:** These are established to provide expeditious adjudication and recovery of **debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions.**
- At present, 39 Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) and 5 Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs) are functioning across the country.
- Each DRT and DRAT are headed by a **Presiding Officer and a Chairperson respectively.**
- Under section 22(2) in the Recovery of Debts Due To Banks And Financial Institutions Act, 1993 DRT has the **following powers:**
 - summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
 - requiring the discovery and production of documents;
 - receiving evidence on affidavits;
 - issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;
 - any other matter which may be prescribed.

Composition:

- It is headed by the **Presiding Officer** to be appointed, by notification, by the **Central Government.**
- **Qualification of Presiding Officer:** A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the Presiding Officer of a Tribunal unless he is, or has been, or is qualified to be, a **District Judge.**
- **Tenure:** The Presiding Officer of a Tribunal shall hold office for a term of **five years** from the date on which he enters upon his office and **shall be eligible for reappointment.**

CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY

A UN convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS) adopted India's initiative for the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) and agreed to list 14 additional migratory species from across the globe for conservation in the CMS appendices.



Central Asian Flyway covers a large continental area of Eurasia between the **Arctic and Indian Oceans** and the associated island chains.

- A flyway is a geographical region within which a single or group of migratory species completes its annual cycle — breeding, moulting, staging and non-breeding.
- There are nine flyways in the world.
- Geographically the flyway region covers **30 countries of North, Central and South Asia and Trans-Caucasus**.
- There is an overlap between the CAF and the area of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), which was concluded in 1995, at the Hague, the Netherlands.
- Sixteen out of the thirty countries encompassed by the CAF are located in the **AEWA Agreement Area**.
- CAF migration routes include the steppes and cold deserts of Central Eurasia, and much of the Himalayan chain, where unique, high-altitude migrations such as those of the Bar-headed Goose, *Anser indicus*, take place.
- **India's Initiative:** The 14 species which will be listed in CMS appendices include
 - Eurasian Lynx, Peruvian Pelican, Pallas's Cat, Guanaco, Laulao Catfish, Balkan Lynx, Lahille's Bottlenose Dolphin, Harbour Porpoise, Magellanic Plover, Bearded Vulture, Blackchin Guitarfish, Bull Ray, Lusitanian Cownose Ray and Gilded Catfish.
 - The adopted initiative includes the establishment of a coordinating unit in India with financial support from the Indian Government.

GSLV ROCKET NICKNAMED NAUGHTY BOY

Why in news?

- Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a new-generation meteorological satellite, INSAT-3DS.
 - INSAT-3DS is meant to carry out enhanced monitoring of the Earth's surface, atmosphere, oceans and environment.
 - It will boost India's weather and climate prediction services, early warnings, and disaster management services.
- But more than the satellite, it was the rocket that was the focus of attention of this launch.
 - The INSAT-3DS satellite rode on the GSLV-F14 rocket to reach its intended geostationary orbit.
- GSLV has had a rather patchy track record thus far, because of which it has been described as the 'naughty boy'.

Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV):

- It is a space launch vehicle designed, developed and operated by the ISRO to launch satellites and other space objects into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbits (GTO).
 - A satellite in the GTO, orbits (at an altitude of ~37,000 km) the Earth once per day, keeping the satellite in roughly the same area over the ground.
- GSLV has the capability to put a heavier payload (up to 5,000 kg up to 37,000 km) in orbit than the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV can carry up to 2000 kg into space up to 600-900 km).
 - PSLV is designed mainly to deliver earth observation or remote sensing satellites, whereas GSLV has been designed for launching communication satellites.
 - GSLV delivers satellites into a higher elliptical orbit - GTO.
- GSLV is a **3-stage launcher with strap-on motors**.
 - The first stage - uses the solid rocket motor with four liquid engine strap-on motors. This stage generates maximum thrust.
 - The second stage uses a liquid rocket engine which is known as Vikas engine.

- The third stage uses a **Cryogenic engine**, which uses liquefied oxygen and hydrogen as fuel.
- **GSLV-D5** - launched in 2014 - was the first successful flight of the GSLV using the indigenous cryogenic engine (CE-7.5).

GSLV MKIII (now known as Launch Vehicle Mark-III, LVM3):

- GSLV MKIII Project was approved in 2002, with a mandate of achieving the capability to launch a 4-ton (4000 kg) class satellite to Geo-Synchronous orbit, by realizing an indigenously developed launch vehicle.
- GSLV MKIII is configured as a 3-stage vehicle with two solid strap-on motors (S200, among the largest in the world), one liquid core stage and a high thrust Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS).
- **Characteristics of GSLV MKIII:**
 - Performance capability of 4.3 ton to GTO
 - Payload capability to support 10 ton to LEO missions
 - Cost effective
 - Improved reliability, operability and redundancy management
 - Future growth potential of payload with minimal design changes
 - To support manned missions (like Gaganyaan mission) of Indian Space Programme
- The maiden operational flight of GSLV MKIII has successfully launched **Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft** into the Super Geo-Synchronous Transfer Orbit in 2019.

Why GSLV was known as naughty boy?

- GSLV had flown 15 times before the recent launch, and four of these had been unsuccessful, a very high failure rate for any rocket.
 - PSLV, the rocket that ISRO has used the maximum number of times, has failed only twice in its 60 launches.
 - The LVM3 rocket has flown seven times and never failed.

- GSLV's most recent failure was in August 2021, when it was attempting to carry an earth observation satellite EOS-03 into space.
- It did have a successful launch after that, in May last year, but the uncertainty over its performance had not dissipated completely.

Indigenous cryogenic technology

- India has managed to develop its own cryogenic engine as well, a result of decades of research and development.
- This engine has an entirely Indian design, developed within ISRO, and uses a different process to burn the fuel.
- This indigenously developed cryogenic engine is deployed in Launch Vehicle Mark-III(LVM3).
 - LVM3 is ISRO's most powerful rocket so far, which carried the Chandrayaan-2 and Chandrayaan-3 missions, among others.
 - LVM3 has had seven flights till now, without any trouble.
- ISRO scientists have a much better grip on this home-grown technology.

WHAT IS DISINFLATION?



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor recently said recurring food price shocks and renewed flash points on the geo-political front pose a challenge to the ongoing disinflation process.

- Disinflation is a **decrease in inflation rates**.
- In simple terms, a **decline in the rate of increase in the general price level of goods and services in the gross domestic product (GDP) of a country over time** is called disinflation.
- Unlike inflation and deflation, which refer to the direction of prices, disinflation **refers to the rate of change in the rate of inflation**.

- Disinflation is not considered problematic because **prices do not actually drop**, and disinflation does not usually signal the onset of a slowing economy.
 - A **healthy amount of disinflation is necessary** since it represents economic contraction and prevents the economy from overheating.
 - Disinflation is **considered the opposite of reflation**, which occurs when a government stimulates an economy by increasing the money supply.
 - **Causes of Disinflation:**
 - If a central bank wants to enforce a **tighter monetary policy** and the **government starts selling off some of its assets**, the **supply of money** in the economy **could be limited, causing a disinflationary effect**.
 - Similarly, disinflation can also be caused by **a contraction in the business cycle of recession**. For instance, companies may choose not to raise prices to gain a more significant market share, leading to disinflation.
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MONEY BILL ROUTE TO BRING IN THE LAWS

Money Bill

- Article 110 defines a money Bill as one containing provisions dealing with taxes, regulation of the government's borrowing of money, and expenditure or receipt of money from the Consolidated Fund of India, among others.
- Article 109 delineates the procedure for the passage of such a Bill and confers an overriding authority on the Lok Sabha in the passage of money Bills.
- The **Speaker certifies a Bill as a Money Bill, and the Speaker's decision is final**.
- Over the last seven years, the government has introduced multiple legislations through the money Bill route, the most notable of which are the **Aadhaar Act, 2016**, and the Finance Act, 2017.

Difference between money Bills and financial Bills

- While all Money Bills are Financial Bills, all Financial Bills are not Money Bills.

- E.g., the Finance Bill which only contains provisions related to tax proposals would be a Money Bill.
- However, a Bill that contains some provisions related to taxation or expenditure, but also covers other matters would be considered as a Financial Bill.
- The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015, which establishes funds under the Public Account of India and states, was introduced as a Financial Bill.
- The procedure for the passage of the two bills varies significantly.
 - **The Rajya Sabha has no power to reject or amend a Money Bill.**
 - After being passed by the Lok Sabha, money Bills are sent to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations.
 - Within 14 days, the Upper House must submit the Bill back to the Lower House with its non-binding recommendations.
 - If the Lok Sabha rejects the recommendations, the Bill is deemed to have passed by both Houses in the form in which it was passed by the Lok Sabha without the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha.
 - Even if the Rajya Sabha doesn't respond with its recommendations within 14 days, the same consequences would follow.
 - However, a Financial Bill must be passed by both Houses of Parliament.
- While an ordinary Bill can originate in either house, **a money Bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha**, as laid down in Article 117 (1).
- Additionally, no one can introduce or move money Bills in the Lok Sabha, except on the President's recommendation.
- Amendments relating to the reduction or abolition of any tax are exempt from the requirement of the President's recommendation.
- The two prerequisites for any financial Bill to become a money Bill are that
 - It must only be introduced in the Lok Sabha and not the Rajya Sabha.
 - These bills can only be introduced on the President's recommendation.