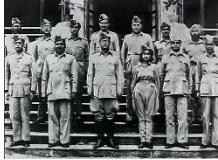


### AZAD HIND GOVERNMENT



Recently, there was a controversy regarding the first prime minister of India by mentioning that Subhash Chandra Bose had declared himself the PM of 'Azad Hind' in 1943.

- In 1943, on October 21, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose announced the formation of the 'Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind' or the provincial government of free India in Singapore and declared war on the British Empire.
  - Under the provisional Government, **Bose** was the **Head of State, Prime Minister** and **Minister of War**.
  - **Captain Lakshmi** headed the women's organisation while SA Ayer headed the publicity wing in the newly formed government.
  - Revolutionary leader **Ras Behari Bose** was designated as the supreme adviser by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- The government was **supported by the Axis powers** of Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany, the Italian Social Republic and their allies.
- **Significance of the Azad Hind government:**
  - Soon after the formation of the government, the Azad Hind government **proclaimed authority over Indian civilian and military personnel** in Southeast Asian British colonial territory and prospective authority over Indian territory to fall to the Japanese forces and the Indian National Army during the Second World War.
  - The provisional government not only enabled Bose to negotiate with the Japanese on an equal footing but also allowed him to **mobilise Indians living in East Asia** to join and support the Indian National Army (INA).
  - The **Indian National Army** drew ex-prisoners and thousands of civilian volunteers from the Indian expatriate population in Malaya (present-day Malaysia) and Burma (now Myanmar).

- The provisional government was also formed in the Japanese-occupied **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**. The islands were reoccupied by the British in 1945.
- The Azad Hind government under Bose had in fact started its **own bank, currency, civil code and stamps**.
- Bose had even formed the **first women's regiment of the INA, the Rani Jhansi Regiment**, thus laying the foundation for equal opportunity for women in armed forces.

## WHY IS WORLD HEALTH DAY CELEBRATED?



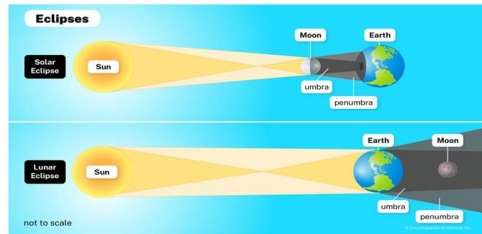
**What is the History of World Health Day?** In 1948, WHO held the **First** World Health Assembly. The Assembly decided to celebrate 7 April of each year, with effect from 1950, as the World Health Day.

**What is the Significance of the Day - April 7?** The WHO was established on April 7, 1948, and the day is seen as an opportunity by the organisation to draw worldwide attention/awareness to a subject of major importance to global health each year. **For example**, from addressing the importance of mental health (in 2017) to highlighting the link between climate change and health (2022), the day has been a **standing platform to address all health-related issues in this changing world**.

**What are the Concerns Raised by the WHO?** Around the world, **the right to health of millions is increasingly coming under threat**. Diseases, disasters and conflicts loom large as causes of death and disability. **The burning of fossil fuels is simultaneously driving the climate crisis** and taking away the right to breathe clean air, with indoor and outdoor air pollution claiming a life every 5 seconds.

**What is the Theme of World Health Day 2024?** It is 'My Health, My Right' - championing the right of everyone, everywhere to have access to quality health services, education and information.

## WHAT MAKES A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE SO RARE?



**Why in News?** On April 8, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

**What is a Solar Eclipse?** It takes place when the **Moon moves in the middle of Earth and the Sun** and blocks the light of the Sun (fully or partially), which casts a huge shadow on some parts of the world. A solar eclipse is witnessed **only during the new moon** (occurs about 29.5 days) - when the Moon and Sun are aligned on the same side of Earth.

**Does a Solar Eclipse Happens Every Month?** No. It is because the **Moon does not orbit Earth in the same plane as the Earth orbits the Sun**. However, there will be two points/nodes (on the Moon's orbit) at which the intersection occurs and whenever the new moon crosses one of these nodes, there is an opportunity for solar eclipses.

**What is a Total Solar Eclipse?** There are **four different types of solar eclipses**, including total, annular (periphery of the Sun is visible), partial (crescent shaped sun) and hybrid (some parts see a total, while others see an annular solar eclipse) solar eclipses. **When the Moon blocks the Sun entirely**, the areas in the centre of the Moon's shadow at the time witness a total solar eclipse.

**Why is a Total Solar Eclipse so Rare?** While there can be between two and five solar eclipses every year, **total eclipses only happen about once every 18 months or so**. A particular spot-on Earth witnesses a total solar eclipse **only once in 400 years**, because a total eclipse is only visible if one is standing in the **umbra** shadow, which will only cover less than 1% of the globe. Hence, only very few people will get to see a total eclipse at a time.



## WHAT IS AGNIBAAN SORTED?

For the second time, the launch of AgniKul 'Agnibaan SORTeD' has been postponed.

- Agnibaan SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator (SORTeD) is a **single-stage launch vehicle** powered by AgniKul's patented Agnilet engine.

- It is the world's first single piece 3D printed semi-cryogenic rocket engine.
- It will be **launched from India's first private launchpad, ALP-01**, located inside the Indian space agency ISRO's Sriharikota spaceport.
- **Features:**
  - It is **India's first ever vehicle equipped with a semicryogenic engine**, the Agnilet, a subcooled liquid oxygen-based propulsion system developed indigenously.
  - The rocket engine will **burn kerosene in liquid oxygen** and can be directly used in the rocket.
  - It can carry a **100-kg payload** up to a height of 700 km with a lift of mass of 14,000 Kgs.
  - It can **access both low- and high-inclination orbits** and is completely mobile.
  - It will also have the **first ever Ethernet-based avionics architecture** and fully in-house developed autopilot software from India.
  - To ensure its compatibility with multiple launch ports, AgniKul has built a **launch pedestal named 'Dhanush'** that will support the rocket's mobility across all its configurations.

### Points to Remember:

- AgniKul Cosmos is an **IIT Madras incubated space start up** based in **Chennai**.
- It became the first company in the country to sign an **agreement with ISRO under the IN-SPACE initiative** to have access to the space agency's expertise and its facilities to build Agnibaan in December 2020.
- In 2022, Agnikul inaugurated India's first private launchpad and mission control centre at Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

### PHANIGIRI

Recently, the Department of Archaeology and Museums have unearthed a coin hoard at the Phanigiri in Suryapet district, Telangana.

## About Phanigiri:



hillock.

- It is a famous **Buddhist site located** 110 km away from Hyderabad. It derived its name from the shape of the hillock, which appears to be like a **snake hood**. The word Phani in Sanskrit means snake and Giri means hillock.
- It is believed to be one of the important Buddhist monasteries strategically located on the **ancient trade route** (Dakshinapatha) connecting the west and the east coast of the Deccan.
- **Other findings of the excavation:**
  - **Coins:** Lead coins with elephant symbol on one side and Ujjain symbol on the other side are found. According to the archaeologists, the coins belong to the **Ikshvaku period** dated between 3rd century and 4th century Common Era.
  - Also, stone beads, glass beads, shell bangle fragments, stucco motifs, broken limestone sculptures, a wheel of a toy cart, final nails and pottery are excavated.
  - Mahastupa, apsidal Chaityagrihas, Votive stupas, pillared congregation halls, Viharas, platforms with staircases at various levels, octagonal stupa chaitya, 24-pillared mandapam, circular chaitya and cultural materials that included **terracotta beads, semi-precious beads, iron objects, Brahmi label inscriptions** and holy relic casket are also excavated.
  - All the cultural material is datable from the **1st century BCE to 4th century CE**.

## NEW SOLAR POWER RULES BOOST PRODUCTION

### Why in news?

To encourage the production of **solar panels** in India, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has brought an executive order starting from April 1.

This order is called "The Approved Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic **Modules** (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019."

### The executive order

- **About**

- This order was first issued by the MNRE in 2019.
- It requires makers of **solar modules** to **voluntarily** submit to an inspection of their manufacturing facilities by the National Institute of Solar Energy.
  - Modules are multiple solar panels joined together. Solar panels are an assembly of solar cells.
- **Being on the list as an approved manufacturing facility** certifies a company as a legitimate manufacturer of solar panels and not a mere importer or assembler.

- **Voluntary nature of the list**

- The major advantage of being on the list is eligibility to compete for tenders issued by the government for its flagship solar energy programmes.
- This includes among others the recently announced **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana**.
  - The scheme envisages subsidising rooftop solar installations for nearly one crore households in the country involving an estimated subsidy of ₹75,000 crore.
  - However, only domestic manufacturers, certified as part of the Approved Models and Manufacturers list, would be eligible.
- There is also another scheme called the **PM KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyaan)**.
  - It aims to provide solar pumpsets and rural electrification.
  - For manufacturers to be eligible to provide components under this scheme, they have to be certified as genuine local manufacturers.
- The government also has a ₹24,000 crore scheme, called the **Production Linked Incentive Scheme**.
  - This is targeted at incentivising domestic manufacture of solar panels and their components.
  - Eligibility for this scheme too requires one to be a bona fide local manufacturer.

## India's solar manufacturing capacity

- **Current status**
    - It is estimated that nearly half of India's solar modules are imported from China and the demand-supply mismatch is expected to persist.
    - The government, however, has claimed that beginning this year, there will be a significant rise in manufacturing capacity.
    - While the list of certified manufacturers on the Approved Models and Manufacturers (AMM) list has grown to 82 according to the MNRE, there is yet no list of such manufacturers of solar cells.
    - This means that India is still far away from achieving a comfortable degree of self-reliance.
  - **Export situation**
    - 2023-24 was a fortunate year for Indians in the solar business.
    - China which supplies over 80% of solar components globally saw a curb in orders from the U.S. on the grounds that the former relied on forced labour by Uyghur Muslims in the Xinjiang province.
    - Europe too scaled back imports from China and a **beneficiary of this was India which exported nearly \$1 billion worth of modules in six months of 2023-24.**
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## WHAT IS WELL-KNOWN TRADEMARK?

Recently, the Delhi High Court declared that the “Haldiram” mark is a well-known trademark with respect to food items, restaurants not only in India but globally also.



- The **Trade Marks Act, 1999**, provides protection to well-known trademarks to prevent misuse and obligates the Registrar to safeguard them against similar trademarks.
- Once a mark is declared well-known, the owner can prevent others from registering or using identical or similar marks for different goods and services. It **can be licensed or franchised** to others, providing the owner with an additional source of revenue.

- **Factors** that can be considered when determining whether a trademark is well-known are:
  - The **degree of knowledge** or recognition of the mark
  - The **duration, extent and geographical area** of any use of the mark
  - The duration, extent and geographical area of any promotion of the mark
  - The degree of inherent or acquired distinctiveness of the mark
  - The extent to which the mark has been registered in India or in other countries.
- **Significance of Well-known Trademark:**
  - They are highly valuable assets for businesses. They contribute to brand recognition, consumer trust and market competitiveness.
  - The recognition of a trademark as "well-known" grants it **additional protection against unauthorized use**, even for goods or services not directly related to the original trademark. This protection helps prevent consumer confusion and safeguards the reputation and distinctiveness of the mark.

## What is a trademark?

- It is a **distinctive sign** or indicator used by a **business organisation** to distinguish its products or services from those of other entities.
- It serves as a badge of origin exclusively identifying a particular business as a source of goods or services.

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## Green Credit Programme (GCP)

### Why in News?

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has recently issued the Green Credit Rules 2023, which formally established the Green Credit Programme (GCP) for India.

### What is the Green Credit Programme (GCP)?

- Green Credit Initiative was launched by the Indian PM on the side-lines of **COP 28** (held in 2023 at Expo City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates).



- It is an initiative within the government's **Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)** movement.
    - The concept of LiFE was introduced by the Indian PM at COP26 (Glasgow) in 2021, to drive an international mass movement towards “**mindful and deliberate utilisation**” to protect and preserve the environment.
  - **The GCP introduces a market-based approach** to incentivise 8 identified environmental activities.
  - The main objective was to establish a mechanism where **participants could earn incentives in the form of ‘Green Credits’**.
  - The proposed GCP will be implemented in phases, with the **initial phase** focusing on **water management and afforestation**.
  - **Subsequent phases** will cover activities such as
    - Sustainable agriculture,
    - Waste management,
    - Air pollution reduction,
    - Mangrove conservation and restoration,
    - Eco mark label development, and
    - Sustainable building and infrastructure.
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