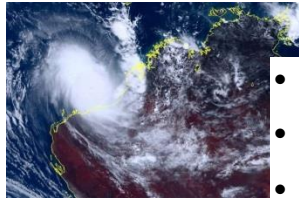


### CYCLONE MOCHA

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) recently issued a bulletin forecasting that cyclone Mocha is expected to intensify into a severe storm.



- **About Cyclone Mocha:**

- It is a **tropical cyclone** formed over the southern Bay of Bengal.

- The cyclone's name 'Mocha' is suggested by Yemen and was named after the Red Sea port city, which is known to have introduced coffee to the world.

- **How a Tropical Cyclone Formed?**

- A tropical cyclone is **formed only over warm ocean waters near the equator.**
- Warm, **moist air rises up** and away from the ocean surface, **creating an area of low pressure.**
- It **causes the air from surrounding areas with higher pressure to move towards the low-pressure area.**
- This leads to the **warming up of air and causes it to rise above.**
- **As the air rises & cools, the water in the air forms clouds.**
- This **complete system of clouds and wind spins & grows**, along with the ocean's heat.
- As the wind rotation speed increases, **an eye gets formed in the middle.**

- **Characteristics of a Tropical Cyclone:**

- The **centre of a cyclone is very calm** and clear with **very low air pressure.**
- The **average speed is 120 kmph.**
- They have **closed isobars** which leads to **greater velocity.** Isobars are imaginary lines on a weather map that connect locations with equal atmospheric pressure.
- They **develop over oceans and seas only.**
- They **move from east to west** under the **influence of trade winds.**
- They are **seasonal in nature.**

- **How are Cyclones Classified?** Cyclones are classified on the basis of wind speed by the **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD):**

- **Depression:** Wind speeds of between **31–49 km/h**

- **Deep Depression:** Between 50-61 km/h
  - **Cyclonic Storm:** Between 62–88 km/h
  - **Severe Cyclonic Storm:** Between 89-117 Km/h
  - **Very Severe Cyclonic Storm:** Between 118-166 Km/h
  - **Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm:** Between 166-221 Km/h
  - **Super Cyclonic Storm:** Above 222 Km/h
- 

## UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC)

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) recently adopted a resolution that aims to further scrutinize human rights violations taking place in Sudan.



### About United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

- It is an **inter-governmental body** within the United Nations system, which is responsible for **strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights** around the world.
- **Mandate:** To promote “universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all” and “address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon.”
- **Establishment:** It was **founded in 2006**. It replaced the former **United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR)**.
- **Functions:**
  - It **investigates allegations of breaches of human rights** in UN member states.
  - It **addresses important human rights issues** such as freedom of expression, women's rights, LGBT rights, and the rights of racial and ethnic minorities.
  - The UNHRC works closely with the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**.
- **Membership:**
  - The Council is made up of **47 Member States**, which are **elected by UN General Assembly** through direct and secret ballot.

- The Council's Membership is **based on equitable geographical distribution**. African and Asia-Pacific states have 13 seats each, Latin American and Caribbean states have 8 seats, Western European and other states have 7 seats, and Eastern European states have 6 seats.
- **Members of the Council serve for a period of three years** and are **not eligible for immediate re-election** after serving two consecutive terms.

---

## US PRESIDENT BIDEN TO HOST PM MODI FOR STATE VISIT

### Why in news?

- For the first time in nine years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to the US for an official state visit from June 21 to 24.
- This will be PM Modi's **first state visit to the US** since he assumed office in 2014.
- His previous visits to the US to meet then Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump at the White House were not classified as state visits.
- The last official state visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the US was undertaken by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in November 2009.

### India-US Bilateral Relations

#### Defence Cooperation between India and US

- India-US defence cooperation is based on "New Framework for India-US Defence Cooperation", which was renewed for a period of ten years in 2015.
- In 2016, the defence relationship was designated as a **Major Defence Partnership** (MDP) to build a comprehensive, enduring and mutually beneficial defence partnership.
- In July 2018, India was moved into the **Tier-1 of the US Department of Commerce's Strategic**
- **Strategic Energy Partnership/ Climate & Clean Energy Agenda 2030**
- India and US have a strong bilateral partnership in energy sector.
- In April 2021, the US and India launched "U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership," with two tracks:
  - Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP); and
  - Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD).

- The SCEP has five pillars:
  - Power & Energy Efficiency,
  - Renewable Energy,
  - Responsible Oil & Gas,
  - Sustainable Growth, and
  - Emerging Fuels and Technologies (hydrogen bio-fuels and waste to energy).
- USA joined the International Solar Alliance in November 2021 and ratified the ISA Agreement in September 2022.

### **S&T and Space Cooperation between India and US**

- The Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement signed in October 2005, was renewed for 10 years in September 2019.
- ISRO and NASA are working together to realize a joint microwave remote sensing satellite for Earth observation, named **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)**.
- ISRO availed NASA/JPL's Deep Space Network Antenna support for its Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) and Chandrayaan-2 mission. Both sides are currently exploring the possibility of availing similar support for Chandrayaan-3 satellite.
- On commercial front, ISRO has launched more than 200 satellites from US, on-board Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), as co passengers.

### **SUPREME COURT RULES IN FAVOUR OF DELHI GOVT IN TUSSE WITH CENTRE**

#### **Why in News?**

- A five-judge constitutional bench of the Supreme Court held that the Delhi Govt will have legislative and executive control over administrative services in the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD) except with regard to public order, police and land.

#### **Background of the Case:**

- A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court was hearing the dispute between the Delhi government and the Central government.

- The dispute was over matters pertaining to **control over the transfers and the overall functioning of administrative services in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.**
- The administrative services include appointments and transfers, in the national capital.

### **What gave Rise to this Dispute?**

- **Article 239 AA** was inserted in the Constitution by the **69<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991.**
  - Based on the recommendations of **S Balakrishnan Committee**, it gave special status to Delhi.
- It says that the **National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi will have an Administrator and a Legislative Assembly.**
  - The Legislative Assembly “shall have power to make laws for the whole or any part of the NCT w.r.t. any of the matters in the State List or Concurrent List in so far as any such matter is applicable to Union territories”.
  - However, the legislative assembly of Delhi cannot legislate on the following three subjects – **Police, Public Order, and Land.**
- However, in the past few years, governance in the NCT has often been a subject of conflict between the Delhi government and the L-G.

### **Control over Administrative Services:**

- In 2019, a two-judge bench of the SC delivered a split verdict on the aspect of who controls administrative services in Delhi.
- The two-judge bench had recommended that a three-judge bench be set up to decide the issue of control of administrative services.
- Further, in May 2022, a three-judge Bench had referred this case to a larger Bench on the Central government’s plea.
- The three-judge Bench had decided that the question of control over administrative services required “further examination”.

### **Central & State Government’s Arguments:**

- The Central Government has consistently maintained that because Delhi is the national capital and the face of the country, it must have control over administrative services, which include appointments and transfers.

- On the other hand, the Delhi government has argued that in the interest of federalism, the elected representatives must have power over transfers and postings.
- The Delhi government had also contended that the recent amendments to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, **violate the doctrine of basic structure of the Constitution.**

### What were the Legal Issues before the SC?

- There were two legal issues before the court –
  - The first arises from a reference made by a two-judge Bench in February 2019.
    - While deciding on the distribution of powers between the Delhi government and Centre, left the question of who will have control over the administrative services for consideration by a larger Bench.
  - Second issue is the **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act 2021**, passed by the Parliament.
    - The Act provided that the term “government” referred to in any law made by the Legislative Assembly of Delhi will imply the Lieutenant Governor (L-G).
    - However, the Delhi government has challenged the constitutional validity of the Act.

---

### 'YUVA PRATIBHA - CULINARY TALENT HUNT'

**MyGov, in collaboration with Institute of Hotel Management, Pusa will launch - YUVA PRATIBHA - Culinary Talent Hunt on May 13, 2023.**



#### About:

- The purpose of this competition is to bring out the lost recipes and promote the culinary talents of young and aspiring chefs and home cooks.
- The aim to create awareness and increase the production and consumption of millet, the year 2023 has been declared as the International Year of the Millets by the United Nations.



- The fusion of millets in this competition provides a unique opportunity for participants to showcase their creativity and innovation in cooking with healthy and sustainable ingredients.
  - This will create awareness of the contribution of nutri-cereals (millets) for food security and nutrition.
  - The contest is open to the citizens of India within the age group of 18 to 40 years.
  - The dish should be home-cooked, wherein 50 percent of the ingredients should be of millet.
- 

## INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE (IOC)

**Bangladesh will host the 6th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) scheduled to be held between May 12-13 in Dhaka.**



### **About:**

- It will discuss aspects strengthening cooperation between the countries of the Indian Ocean region.
  - The 6th edition of the Conference is being organised by India Foundation in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.
  - **Theme:** “Peace, Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future”
  - The Conference endeavours to bring critical states and principal maritime partners of the region together on a common platform to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).
  - The first edition of the Conference was held in Singapore in 2016.
- 

## AGNIVEERS

**Railway will provide several relaxations in recruitment to Agniveers completing four years of defence service.**



### **About:**

- The features and benefits offered under Agniveer Salary Package are similar to the Defence Salary Package.
-

- The first batch of Agniveers under the "Agnipath Scheme" will be joining Training Centres by January 2023.

## **Agnipath scheme**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently announced the "Agnipath" scheme, for recruitment of youth in the armed forces for four years.
  - **Enrolment:** Enrolment to all three services will be through a centralised online system, with special rallies and campus interviews at recognised technical institutes.
  - **Eligibility criteria:** The new system is only for personnel below officer ranks
  - **Recruitment:** It will be carried out on an 'All India All Class' basis with the eligibility age ranging from 17.5 to 21 years, with medical and physical fitness standards in accordance with existing norms.
  - **Salary package:** Agniveers will receive Rs 33,000 in the second year, Rs 36,500 in the third year and Rs 40,000 in the fourth year. They will get Rs 11.71 lakh as Seva Nidhi Package after four years.
  - **Qualification:** The required educational qualification will be Class X-XII.
  - **Reselection:** For those who are re-selected, the initial four-year period will not be considered for retirement benefits.
  - **Permanent Commission:** Up to 25% of each batch will be enrolled as regular cadre as under permanent commission and would be required to serve for a further minimum period of 15 years.
-