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BORDER SECURITY FORCE (BSF)



- Known as the **First Line of Defence of Indian Territories**, BSF is a **primary border-guarding organisation of India**.
- BSF is one of the seven **Central Armed Police Forces (CSPFs)** of the Union of India under the **administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- It was **raised in the wake of the 1965 War** on 1 December 1965, "for ensuring the security of the borders of India and for matters associated therewith."
- **Role:**
 - The **primary role** of BSF is to **protect the country's land borders during peacetime and prevent transnational crime**.
 - They **help the Indian Army during wartime** as they are familiar with local people and topography.
- **Currently**, BSF is **deployed at the Indo-Pakistan International Border, the Indo-Bangladesh International Border, and Line of Control (LoC) along with the Indian Army, and in Anti-Naxal Operations**.
- **Logo:**
 - The Logo of BSF has **two spikes of grains, embracing the National Emblem of India, and the typeface BSF**.
 - The **motto** of BSF, "**DUTY UNTO DEATH**" is placed at the bottom.
- BSF currently stands as the **world's largest border guarding force** with 186 battalions and 2.57 lakh personnel including an expanding air wing, marine wing, artillery regiments, and commando units.
- The BSF has a **separate camel and dog wing** that lets them expand their reach into varied terrain such as the India-Pakistan border in the Rann of Kutch.

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- BSF is the **only CAPF to have its own Air Wing, Marine Wing, and artillery regiments**, which support the General Duty Battalions in their operations.
- The force **also maintains a Tear Smoke Unit (TSU)**, which is unique in India. The TSU is responsible for producing tear gas munitions required for the Anti-Riot Forces.
- BSF has been given **powers of arrest, search, and seizure under various Acts**. “These Acts include Passport Act 1967, Passport Act (Entry into India) 1920, Customs Act, NDPS Act and Arms Act.
- The **head of the BSF** is known as the **Director General (DG)**, and he should be an **officer from Indian Police Services (IPS)**.

WORLD FOOD PRIZE 2025



- It is an international award recognizing the **achievements of individuals** that have **advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food** in the world.
- It is also known as the **Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture**.
- It recognizes contributions **in any field involved in the world food supply**, such as food and agriculture, science and technology, manufacturing, marketing, nutrition, economics, poverty alleviation, political leadership, and the social sciences.
- The Prize was **founded in 1986 by Dr. Norman E. Borlaug**, recipient of the **1970 Nobel Peace Prize**.
- It is now **administered by the World Food Prize Foundation** with support from numerous sponsors.
- It is a **\$500,000 award** formally **presented at the Laureate Award Ceremony** in **mid-October**, on or around **World Food Day**, in **conjunction with the Borlaug Dialogue international symposium** in **Des Moines, Iowa, USA**.

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- **S. Swaminathan** was named the **first World Food Prize Laureate**, receiving the award in **1987** for developing and spearheading the introduction of high-yielding wheat and rice varieties into India during the 1960s.
- **World Food Prize 2025:**
 - **Brazilian microbiologist Mariangela Hungria** is the winner of the 2025 World Food Prize for her **work with biological seed and soil treatments**.
 - Hungria's **research enables crops to utilize soil bacteria for nutrients**, increasing yields and **reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers**.

WHAT IS TYPE 2 DIABETES (T2D)?



- T2D, the **most common type of diabetes**, is a disease that occurs when the **blood glucose**, also called **blood sugar**, is **too high**.
 - Blood **glucose** is the **main source of energy** and comes mainly from the food.
 - **Insulin**, a hormone made by the pancreas, **helps glucose get into the cells to be used for energy**.
 - **In T2D**, the **body doesn't make enough insulin or doesn't use insulin well**.
 - **Too much glucose then stays in the blood**, and not enough reaches the cells.
- Type 2 diabetes may be **caused by a combination of factors**:
 - Being **overweight** or having **obesity**
 - **Not being physically active**
 - **Genetics** and family history
- **How common is T2D?**
 - Researchers estimate that T2D affects about **3% of the world's population**.
 - T2D **most commonly affects adults over 45**, but people younger than 45 can have it as well, including children.

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- **Symptoms:** Many people with type 2 diabetes have **no symptoms** at all. If you do have them, the symptoms **develop slowly over several years**. They might be so mild that you do not notice them. The **symptoms can include:**
 - Increased thirst and urination
 - Increased hunger
 - **Feeling tired**
 - **Blurred vision**
 - Numbness or tingling in the feet or hands
 - **Sores that do not heal**
 - Unexplained **weight loss**
- **Treatment:**
- Treatment for T2D involves **managing your blood sugar levels**.
- Many people are able to do this by living a **healthy lifestyle**.
- Some people may also need to take **diabetes medicines**, which may include pills or medicines you inject under your skin, **such as insulin**.

E-PASSPORTS



- An e-passport (electronic or biometric passport) is an upgraded version of the traditional passport. It combines a conventional booklet with an embedded Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip and antenna in the back cover.
- This chip securely stores the holder's personal and biometric data, including:
 - Name, date of birth, passport number, and other demographic details
 - Biometric facial data and fingerprints
 - Digital signature for secure authentication
- **Security Features of E-Passports**

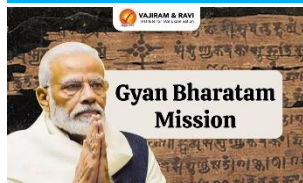
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- **RFID Chip & Antenna:** Stores encrypted personal and biometric data, making unauthorized access or tampering extremely difficult.
- **Basic Access Control (BAC):** Stops unauthenticated access to the chip by restricting scanning equipment to only authorized devices.
- **Passive Authentication (PA):** Authenticates stored information and identifies tampering.
- **Extended Access Control (EAC):** Introduces an additional layer of security to biometric data such as fingerprints.
- **Public Key Infrastructure (PKI):** Digitally signs the data, ensuring authenticity and preventing forgery or unauthorized data changes.
- **Benefits of E-Passports**
 - **Enhanced Security:** Strong protection against forgery, duplication, and identity theft due to encrypted biometric data and digital signatures.
 - **Faster Immigration:** Automated e-gates and digital verification reduce manual checks and waiting times at airports.
 - **Global Acceptance:** Compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards ensures smooth travel and easier visa processing worldwide.
 - **Privacy:** New e-passports no longer print the residential address on the last page; it is stored digitally and accessible only to authorised officials.

GYAN BHARATAM MISSION



Gyan Bharatam Mission

- The Gyan Bharatam Mission is a comprehensive national initiative under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, dedicated to the systematic survey, documentation, conservation, and digitisation of India's vast manuscript heritage.

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- The mission builds upon and revamps the earlier National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), which was established in 2003 and functions under the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
- **Objective of Gyan Bharatam Mission**
 - To survey, document, conserve, and digitize over one crore (10 million) manuscripts housed in academic institutions, museums, libraries, and private collections across India.
 - To create a **National Digital Repository of Indian Knowledge Systems**, making ancient wisdom accessible to researchers, students, and the public worldwide.

Key Features of Gyan Bharatam Mission

- **Massive Coverage:** Targets more than one crore manuscripts, making it the largest manuscript preservation initiative in India's history.
- **Digital Repository:** Establishment of a centralized, accessible digital platform for India's traditional knowledge systems, enabling AI-driven archiving, metadata tagging, and translation tools.
- **Collaboration:** Active engagement with academic institutions, museums, libraries, private collectors, and international organizations for research, preservation, and dissemination.
- **Modern Conservation:** Adoption of advanced scientific techniques for restoration, preservation, and digitization, including AI and 3D imaging.
- **Budgetary Support:** Budget allocation for the mission increased from ₹3.5 crore to ₹60 crore, with a total outlay of ₹482.85 crore for 2024-31.
- **Public Access:** Manuscripts will be made accessible for academic research, education, and public knowledge, both nationally and globally.

What are Manuscripts?

- A manuscript is a handwritten document crafted on materials like paper, bark, or palm leaves, which is at least 75 years old and holds notable scientific, historical, or artistic importance.

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- For example, the **Bakhshali manuscript**, dating back to the third or fourth century BCE, is an ancient Indian text on mathematics written on birch bark.
- Research has revealed that the Bakhshali manuscript features the earliest known instance of the mathematical symbol 'zero'.

JAMMU & KASHMIR PUBLIC SAFETY ACT, 1978



- The Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978, is a preventive detention law originally enacted by the J&K State Legislature and now applicable to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
- Its primary objective is to empower authorities to detain individuals to prevent actions prejudicial to the security of the state or maintenance of public order.

Public Safety Act Key Provisions

- **Detention Without Trial:** The PSA permits authorities to detain individuals without formal charges or a trial, even if they are already in custody or recently granted bail.
- **No Right to File Bail Application:** Detainees under the PSA cannot seek bail or appoint a lawyer to represent them, leaving them with limited legal representation options.
- **Limited Legal Remedies:** The only way to challenge a PSA detention is through a habeas corpus petition filed by the detained person's relatives in higher courts.
- **Re-Detention Possibility:** Even if a PSA detention order is quashed by the High Court or Supreme Court, the government can issue a fresh detention order.
- **Discretionary Powers:** The District Magistrate who issues the detention order is legally protected, as the PSA considers such actions done "in good faith."
- **Section 8 of the PSA:** It broadly defines grounds for detention, including promoting enmity, instigation, or any acts threatening public harmony, with final decisions left to district authorities.
- **No Distinction Between Offences:** The PSA allows **detention for up to one year** for disturbing public order and two years for activities harmful to state security.

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INDIA PLACES CURBS ON BANGLADESH EXPORTS TO NORTH-EAST AND ABROAD

- India has announced new restrictions on Bangladeshi products being exported to North-East India and beyond, in a move widely seen as a reciprocal response to Bangladesh's persistent non-tariff barriers on Indian exports.
- **Scope of the Restrictions**
 - The Directorate General of Foreign Trade issued a notification specifying:
 - Restrictions apply across all Land Customs Stations (LCSs) and Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
 - LCS Changrabandha and Fulbari in North Bengal are also included to prevent re-routing of goods through the Siliguri Corridor.
 - Products affected include:
 - Readymade garments
 - Wooden furniture
 - Plastic and PVC goods
 - Fruit-flavoured and carbonated drinks
 - Baked goods, snacks, and confectionery
 - Cotton yarn, among others.
- **Exempted Items and Routes**
 - Certain categories are exempted from restrictions:
 - Fish, LPG, edible oil, and crushed stone
 - Exports to Nepal/Bhutan transiting through India
 - Readymade garments can still be imported via Kolkata and Nhava Sheva seaports.
- **Background and Trigger**

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- The decision follows remarks by Bangladesh's interim government head Muhammad Yunus in Beijing, where he described North-East India as “landlocked” and Bangladesh as its “only guardian to the ocean.”
- India interpreted this, along with persistent trade restrictions, as a disregard for mutual trade balance.
- **India's Rationale and Concerns**
 - According to Indian officials:
 - Bangladesh continues to restrict Indian exports via land ports, especially those bordering the North-East, despite earlier bilateral agreements.
 - North-East India's industrial growth suffers due to:
 - High transit charges by Bangladesh
 - Lack of reciprocal access to Bangladeshi markets
 - Over-dependence on Bangladeshi imports
 - Port restrictions are meant to support local manufacturing and ensure a level playing field for Indian industries.
- **India's Position**
 - India asserts that Bangladesh cannot cherry-pick trade benefits and must engage in fair, reciprocal trade practices.
 - While open to dialogue, Delhi insists that Dhaka must create a constructive atmosphere for engagement.

Conclusion: India's Strategic Pushback

India views these actions as damaging to the manufacturing sector in the Northeast, creating a one-sided dependency.

To promote 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and support local manufacturing, India is imposing port restrictions on Bangladeshi exports through all LCSs and ICPs in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.

The move aims to ensure fair trade practices and protect regional industrial growth.