

COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA (CAG)

A US Congressional Committee recently recommended strengthening NATO Plus by including India in the five-member grouping.



About Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG):

- CAG is the apex authority responsible for external and internal audits of the expenses of the National and state governments in the country.
- The Constitution of India provides for an independent office of the CAG in Chapter V.
- The CAG is mentioned in the Constitution of India under Article 148 – 151.

Constitutional Provisions:

- Article 148 broadly deals with the CAG appointment, oath and conditions of service.
- Article 149 deals with duties and powers of the CAG.
- Article 150 says that the accounts of the Union and of the States shall be kept in such form as the President may, on the advice of the CAG, prescribe.
- Article 151 says that the reports of the CAG relating to the accounts of the Union shall be submitted to the President, who shall cause them to be laid before each House of Parliament.
- As per Article 279, Calculation of "net proceeds" is ascertained and certified by the CAG, whose certificate is final.

Appointment and Terms of Service:

- As per Article 148 of the Constitution, there shall be a Comptroller and Auditor-General of India who shall be appointed by the President and can be removed from office only in the manner and on the grounds that a Judge of the Supreme Court is removed.
- He holds office for a period of six years or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

• Functions of CAG:

- CAG audits the accounts related to all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, Consolidated Fund of each state and UT's having a legislative assembly.

- He audits all expenditure from the Contingency Fund of India and the Public Account of India as well as the Contingency Fund and Public Account of each state.
- He audits all trading, manufacturing, profit and loss accounts, balance sheets and other subsidiary accounts kept by any department of the Central Government and the state governments.
- CAG audits the receipts and expenditure of all bodies and authorities substantially financed from the Central or State revenues; government companies; other corporations and bodies, when so required by related laws.
- He audits the accounts of any other authority when requested by the President or Governor e.g. Local bodies.
- He advises the President with regard to prescription of the form in which the accounts of the Centre and States shall be kept.
- **Reports by CAG:** The CAG submits his audit reports relating to the accounts of the Centre to the President, who shall, in turn, place them before both the houses of Parliament. He submits 3 audit reports to the President-
 - Audit report on **appropriation accounts**;
 - Audit report on **finance accounts**;
 - Audit report on **public undertakings**;
- He also submits his audit reports relating to the accounts of a State to the Governor, who shall, in turn, place them before the state legislature.

WHAT IS SPEAR PHISHING?

According to a recent report, as many as 53 per cent of organisations studied in India were victims of spear phishing in 2022.



About Spear Phishing:

- It is an email or electronic communications scam targeted towards a specific individual, organization or business.

- It is a targeted attempt to **steal sensitive information** such as account credentials or financial information **from a specific victim, often for malicious reasons.**
- This is achieved by **acquiring personal details on the victim** such as their friends, hometown, employer, locations they frequent, and what they have recently bought online.
- **Working:**
 - A spear **phishing email uses social engineering techniques** to urge the victim to click on a malicious link or attachment.
 - Additionally, the **email will blatantly ask the recipient to respond urgently**, such as transferring a specific sum of money or sending personal data such as a banking password.
 - Because the emails are **written in a highly familiar tone** and **refer to personal information about the recipient**, victims mistakenly believe they know and trust the sender and respond to the request.
 - **Once the victim completes the intended action, the attacker can steal the credentials** of a targeted legitimate user and enter a network undetected.
- This is the **most successful form of acquiring confidential information on the internet**, accounting for 91% of attacks.

[INDIA TO TRAIN ASEAN WOMEN IN UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS](#)

Why in news?

- On May 29, the Indian Army commemorated the **75th International Day of UN Peacekeepers.**
- On this day, India also announced that it will organize two initiatives later this year for women personnel from South East Asia as part of defence cooperation with ASEAN.
 - This announcement follows Indian Defence Minister's suggestion last year to focus on "women in United Nations Peacekeeping (UNPK) operations" as an important initiative.

UN Peacekeeping

- The UN Charter gives the **Security Council** primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- In fulfilling this responsibility, the Council can establish a UN peace operation.

Peacekeeping mandates

- UN peace operations are deployed on the basis of mandates from the United Nations Security Council.
- These mandates differ from situation to situation, depending on the nature of the conflict and the specific challenges it presents.
- Depending on their mandate, peace operations may be required to:
 - Deploy to prevent the outbreak of conflict or the spill-over of conflict across borders;
 - Stabilize conflict situations after a ceasefire;
 - Assist in implementing comprehensive peace agreements;
 - Lead states or territories through a transition to stable government, based on democratic principles, good governance and economic development.

India's contribution in peacekeeping missions

- **Current status**
 - India is one of the largest troop contributing nations to UNPK.
 - Currently, India has around 5,900 troops deployed in 12 U.N. Missions.
 - India's contribution to the peacekeeping budget stands at 0.16%.
- **Contribution so far**
 - India has been actively participating in peacekeeping right from 1950 when it supplied medical personnel and troops to the UN Repatriation Commission in Korea.
 - India has contributed approximately 2,75,000 troops to peacekeeping missions so far and 159 Indian Army soldiers have lost their lives across the globe.
- **Joint training of U.N. peacekeepers from African countries**
 - In 2016, India and the U.S. had begun an annual training programme for joint training of U.N. peacekeepers from African countries.
- **Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK)**
 - Indian Army has established a CUNPK in New Delhi to impart training in peacekeeping operations and the Centre trains more than 12,000 troops every year.
- **Women deployment**

- India has deployed Female Engagement Teams in United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei.
 - This is the second largest women contingent after Liberia.
 - India has also deployed Women Military Police in United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and women staff officers and military observers in various missions.
 - **Other contributions**
 - In August 2021, India, in collaboration with the UN launched UNITE AWARE platform.
 - It is a technology platform to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers.
 - India has also proposed a 10-point plan, including making those targeting UN peacekeepers more accountable.
 - It also suggested to build a memorial wall to honour peacekeepers.
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WHAT IS A FOUCAULT'S PENDULUM?

Why in News?

- A Foucault pendulum that rotates on its axis is suspended from the ceiling of the entrance hall of the Constitution Hall of India's new Parliament building, signifying the **integration of the idea of India with the idea of the cosmos**.
- Created by the **National Council of Science Museum** (NCSM, Kolkata), the pendulum is being dubbed as the largest such piece (22 m in height, and 36 kg in weight) in India.

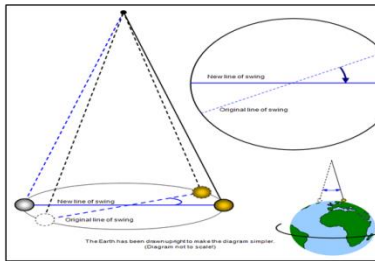
What is a Foucault's Pendulum?

- The original Foucault's pendulum, named after 19th century French physicist **Leon Foucault**, is a **simple experiment to demonstrate earth's rotation**.
- When Foucault carried out this experiment for the public in 1851, it was the **first direct visual evidence of the fact that the earth rotates on its axis**.
- The experimental set-up involves a heavy object hung from a height with a string, free to swing in any direction.
- Once set in to-and-fro motion, **the pendulum is seen to change its orientation slowly over time**.

- **For example**, if the initial motion imparted to it was in the **north-south direction**, after a few hours it could be seen moving in the east-west direction.

Working of a Foucault's Pendulum:

- According to **Newton's First Law of motion**, every object will remain in uniform motion in a straight line unless compelled to change its state by the action of an external force.
- Thus, **when a pendulum is set to swing** it will continue to swing in the same direction unless it is pushed or pulled in some other direction.
- **The earth**, on the other hand, will rotate once every 24 hours underneath the pendulum.
- This means, **if one stands to watch the pendulum**, s/he would be likely to notice that the line of the pendulum's swing has changed to a different direction.
- This is because observers too are rotating with the earth, but can notice the change in orientation of the pendulum.



- **Time to Change Orientation at Different Latitudes:**

- **At the equator**, the pendulum is perpendicular to the axis of rotation, and hence it never changes its orientation of the swing.
 - **At other latitudes**, it will, and would return to the original course after fixed time periods.
- **At the north and south poles**, when the pendulum is aligned with the axis of rotation of the earth, the pendulum's back-and-forth motion comes back to its original plane in **exactly 24 hours**.
 - At other latitudes (because the pendulum is not aligned to the axis of rotation of the earth), **it takes longer for the pendulum to return to its original orientation of swinging**.

News Summary Regarding Foucault's Pendulum at new Parliament Building:

- **Pendulum at the new Parliament:**
- All the components of the pendulum have been completely made in India.
- The piece, made using **gunmetal**, has been fixed with an electromagnetic coil to ensure hassle-free movement.

- The suspension system is mounted on the ceiling. There is continuous power supply so there are no obstacles (to the pendulum's movement).
 - **At the latitude of the Parliament**, it takes 49 hours, 59 minutes, and 18 seconds for the pendulum to complete one rotation.
 - **Significance:** It is a piece reflecting the spirit of **Article 51A of the Indian Constitution**, which enshrines every citizen “to develop the scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform”.
 - **The first such pendulum:** It was installed in **1991** at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) in **Pune**.
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KSS-III BATCH-II SUBMARINE

South Korea has recently come up with a special proposal to provide its advanced **KSS-III Batch-II** submarine to India.



About KSS-III Batch-II Submarine:

- The KSS-III, the **largest submarine to ever be built by South Korea**, is being developed in **two phases, Batch-I and Batch-II**.
- It is a series of **diesel-electric attack submarines**.
- KSS-III Batch-II is an **advanced version of its predecessor** in terms of combat management systems, firepower, and sonar capabilities.
- It is **jointly developed by Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME) and Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI)**.

Features:

- The submarine will be **89 metres long, 9.6 metres wide**, and have a **displacement of around 3,600 tonnes**.
 - The Batch-II series will be **equipped with lithium-ion batteries**, which will reportedly make it capable of **cruising at higher speeds** with a greater period of underwater endurance, life expectancy, and durability.
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- Additionally, the submarines will be equipped with **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)** technology that will allow them to operate without access to atmospheric oxygen.
- It will also be **capable of carrying a crew of 50 members**.
- It can **fire missiles such as Hyunmoo-4-4 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM)**.
- The submarines can **attain a maximum operating speed of approximately 20 knots and cruising range of 10,000 nmi**.
- The navigation aids on board the submarine include an **inertial navigation system (INS) and global positioning system (GPS)**.

SENKAKAU ISLANDS

Amid the rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific region, Japan Coast Guard (JCG) source recently revealed that a China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel has been navigating in Japan's territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands.



About Senkaku Islands:

• **Location:**

- The Senkaku Islands are an **uninhabited group of islands** situated in the **East China Sea**.
- It is approximately **90 nautical miles north from the Yaeyama Islands in Japan's Okinawa Prefecture** and **120 nautical miles northeast of the island of Taiwan**.
- They are also known as the **Diaoyu Islands** in Mainland China, the **Diaoyutai Islands** in **Taiwan** and the **Pinnacle Islands** by other observers.
- The islands **comprise Uotsuri Island, Kuba Island, Taisho Island** (also called Kumeakashima Island), **Kitakojima Island, Minamikojima Island, Tobise Island, Okinokitaiwa Island,** and **Okinominamiwa Island**.
- **Dispute:** The islands are the focus of a territorial dispute **between Japan and China** and **between Japan and Taiwan**.
- **Administration:**
 - They were **never administered by any other country before Japan** incorporated them into its territory in 1895.

- Currently, Japan administers and controls the Senkaku islands as part of the city of Ishigaki in Okinawa Prefecture.
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WHAT HAS INDIA DONE TO CURB UNNECESSARY HYSTERECTOMIES?

Why in News?

- The Union Health Ministry has recently urged State Governments to audit hysterectomy trends in public and private hospitals.
- This was done in response to a Supreme Court petition arguing that women from marginalised locations are at risk of unjustified hysterectomies for economic gains and exploitation.

What is Hysterectomy?

- A hysterectomy is a **surgical procedure that removes the uterus (womb)**.
- After surgery, woman can't become pregnant and no longer menstruate.

Criteria for Getting a Hysterectomy:

- After caesarean deliveries, hysterectomies are the second-most frequent procedure in women of the reproductive age group.
 - Reasons for this surgery include **abnormal bleeding, uterine prolapse, fibroids and cancer**.
 - In some cases, **oophorectomy**, the removal of ovaries (the primary source of oestrogen), is also frequently performed, which is a form of surgical menopause and linked to several chronic conditions.
 - The highest percentage of hysterectomies (51.8%) were to treat excessive menstrual bleeding or pain.
 - It's more common for **women aged 40 to 50**.
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