

### MILLETS AND SHREE ANNA

The Ministry of Home Affairs has recently decided to introduce Millets, Shree Anna in the meals of personnel of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).



#### **About:**

- The decision to introduce 30 per cent Millets in the meals.
- The Ministry had asked all the forces to take action for the introduction of Millets based menu.
- The Ministry informed that Millets will also be made available in Kendriya Police Kalyan Bhandar, Grocery Shops of the campuses and Ration Store by setting up the dedicated counters and corners.
- The forces will organize training of cooks in preparing millets based dishes through reputed institutes in this field.

#### **International Year Millets:**

- The United Nations had declared 2023 the International Year Millets as recognizing the importance of millets, and creating a domestic and global demand along with providing nutritious food to the people, at the behest of the Government of India.
  - Millets are good source of proteins, gluten-free, low in Glycemic Index (GI) and rich in dietary fibre, micronutrients including calcium, iron, phosphorus etc, and phyto-chemicals.
  - The campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote Shree Anna will fulfill nutritional requirements of crores of people of the country.
  - International Year of Millets (IYOM) - 2023 will provide an opportunity to increase global production, efficient processing and better use of crop rotation and promote millets as a major component of the food basket.
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## QUAD

Indian Australian Diaspora Foundation (IADF) is set to host a grand community reception in honour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of the QUAD Leaders' Summit slated to take place in Sydney in May 2023.



### What is Quad Grouping?

- The grouping of four democracies –India, Australia, US and Japan– is known as the quadrilateral security dialogue or quad.
- The aim of this grouping is to ensure a free and open international order based on the rule of law in the Indo- Pacific.

### Evolution of Quad:

- Following the Indian Ocean tsunami, India, Japan, Australia, and the US created an informal alliance to collaborate on disaster relief efforts.
- Quad as a formal group was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007.
- However, due to Chinese resistance and reluctance shown by India, it could not move ahead.
- Later, during the 2017 ASEAN Summits, all four former members re-joined negotiations to revive the quadrilateral alliance.
- The Quad was upgraded to the ministerial level in September 2019.
- In March 2021, the first-ever summit of QUAD leaders took place virtually.
- It was participated by the PMs/Presidents of all the member countries. The summit was hosted by US.
- Later, in September 2021, the first in-person meeting of Quad leaders was hosted by the US.

## KHELO INDIA UNIVERSITY GAMES 2022

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the Logo, jersey, mascot, torch and anthem of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2022 in Lucknow recently.



## About:

- The 3rd edition of the Khelo India University Games will take place from May 23 to June 3.
- The opening ceremony is scheduled for May 25 at the Babu Banarasi Das University in Lucknow.
- The KIUG 2022 Games will be held in Varanasi, Noida and Gorakhpur, besides the state capital of Lucknow.
- The Shooting competition will be organized in New Delhi at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range.
- For the First time, water sports such as Rowing will be a part of the Khelo India University Games.
- Two indigenous Sports Disciplines namely Mallakhamb and Yogasana, were part of the last edition of the Khelo India University Games held in Karnataka and will also be part of this edition.

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## WHAT IS A CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY (CBDC)?

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor recently said that Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) platforms could bring about a substantive change in the sphere of cross-border payments.



### About Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC):

- CBDCs are a **form of digital currency issued by a country's central bank.**
- Examples of central banks include the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the US Federal Reserve System, the Bank of Japan.
- CBDCs are **similar to stablecoins**, except that **their value is fixed by the central bank and equivalent to the country's fiat currency.**
- **Advantages:**
  - It provides businesses and consumers with **privacy, transferability, convenience, accessibility, and financial security.**

- It also **decreases the cost of maintenance** that a complex financial system requires.
- It **reduces cross-border transaction costs**.
- It would also **reduce the risks associated with using digital currencies, or cryptocurrencies, in their current form**. CBDCs, backed by a government and controlled by a central bank, would give households, consumers, and businesses a **secure means of exchanging digital currency**.

## What are Stablecoins?

- They are **cryptocurrencies whose value is pegged or tied to that of another currency, commodity, or financial instrument**.
- Stablecoins aim to provide an **alternative to the high volatility of the most popular cryptocurrencies**, including Bitcoin (BTC).
- **Unlike cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, stablecoins' prices remain steady** in accordance with whichever fiat currency backs them.
- E.g., **USDC stablecoin is backed by dollar-denominated assets**.

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## WHAT IS THE 'WASHINGTON DECLARATION'?

The President of South Korea and the US President recently signed the Washington Declaration on the anniversary of 70 years of their bilateral relationship.



### About Washington Declaration:

- It was **signed between the US and South Korea** on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of U.S.-South Korea bilateral relations.
- The declaration **outlines the cooperation towards nuclear deterrence**.
- **Purpose: Protect the Korean Peninsula from a nuclear attack**.
- **According to the declaration,**
  - A **US nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) would be deployed in the Korean peninsula;**
  - A **joint Nuclear Consultative Group would be formed** to formulate principles of **joint response tactics;**

- **South Korea would receive intel from the US** regarding nuclear advancements;
  - The US will strengthen South Korea's nuclear deterrence capabilities through joint **military training programs** and an annual intergovernmental simulation.
  - The **declaration reaffirmed the non-proliferation Treaty** implying that **South Korea would not venture into the creation of its own independent nuclear capabilities** and would instead focus on deterrence measures through an alliance-based approach.
  - **It also mandates the US President as the only 'sole authority' to use the nuclear arsenal of the US** in the event of a nuclear confrontation.
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## VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR

### Why in news?

- Violence between Manipur's Kuki tribe and the majority Meitei community continued to rage in several parts of the Manipur.

### What's behind the violence in Manipur?

- **Manipur was boiling since February 2023**
  - Manipur has been restive since February when the state government launched an eviction drive seen as targeting a specific tribal group.
  - The drive led to protests but not on the scale of the one seen recently.
- **High Court's order as a tigger point**
  - The recent protests were triggered by the Manipur High Court's direction to the State to pursue a 10-year-old recommendation to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the non-tribal Meitei community.
  - The Court's order has brought the historical tensions between the valley-dwelling Meitei community and the state's hill tribes to a boil.
- **Violence started**
  - A 'tribal solidarity march' was organised by the All Tribal Students' Union of Manipur (ATSUM) against the order of the High Court.
  - Violent clashes broke out at various places in Manipur during the course of this march.

## Why does the Meitei community want ST status?

- There has been an organised push in support of this demand since 2012, led by the Scheduled Tribes Demand Committee of Manipur (STDCM).
- **Recognised as tribe before merger with India**
  - In their plea before the High Court, it was argued that the Meitei community was recognised as a tribe before the merger of the princely state of Manipur with the Union of India in 1949.
  - It lost its identity as a tribe after the merger.
- **Need to preserve tradition and culture**
  - The demand for ST status arose from the need to preserve the community, and save the ancestral land, tradition, culture and language of the Meiteis.
  - As per the arguments forwarded by the community in the court:
    - The community has been victimised without any constitutional safeguards to date.
    - The Meitein/Meetei have been gradually marginalised in their ancestral land.
    - Their population which was 59% of the total population of Manipur in 1951 has now been reduced to 44% as per 2011 Census data.

## Why are tribal groups against ST status for Meiteis?

- The tribal groups say the Meiteis have a demographic and political advantage besides being more advanced than them academically and in other aspects.
  - The Meiteis are a dominant group controlling the state and its apparatuses.
  - Hence, the claim that Meiteis need ST status to protect their culture and identity is self-defeating.
- They feel the ST status to the Meiteis would lead to loss of job opportunities and allow them to acquire land in the hills and push the tribals out.
- The Manipuri language of the Meiteis is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- Sections of the Meitei community — which is predominantly Hindu — are already classified under Scheduled Castes (SC) or Other Backward Classes (OBC).

## Is this demand the only reason for the conflict rocking the state currently?

- Unrest has been brewing among the hill tribes of the state for a number of reasons.

- Pro-government groups in Manipur claim that some tribal groups with vested interests are trying to scuttle Chief Minister's crusade against drugs.
- The anti-drug drive began with destroying poppy fields and the theory that illegal settlers from Myanmar are behind clearing forests and government lands to grow opium and cannabis.
  - These settlers are ethnically related to the Kuki-Zomi people of Manipur.
- The first violent protest in March was against the eviction of the residents of a Kuki village.
  - Kuki groups have claimed that the survey and eviction is a violation of Article 371C, which confers some administrative autonomy to the tribal-dominated hill areas of Manipur.
- The large-scale arson and violence, on May 3 and 4, followed a tribal solidarity rally against the reported move to include the Meiteis in the ST list.

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## CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS NOW UNDER AMBIT OF MONEY LAUNDERING LAW

### Why in News?

- The Union Finance Ministry has notified changes to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

### About Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002:

- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 was enacted in January, 2003.
- The Act seeks to combat money laundering in India and has three main objectives –
  - To prevent and control money laundering
  - To confiscate and seize the property obtained from the laundered money; and
  - To deal with any other issue connected with money laundering in India.
- **Section 3** of the Act defines offence of money laundering as –
  - whosoever directly or indirectly attempts to indulge or knowingly assists or knowingly is a party or is actually involved in any process or activity connected with the proceeds of crime and projecting it as untainted property shall be guilty of offence of money-laundering.
- The Act was amended by the **Prevention of Money Laundering (Amendment) Act, 2009** and by the **Prevention of Money Laundering (Amendment) Act, 2012**.
- Most recently, the PMLA was amended through the -

- Finance Act, 2015 ('2015 Amendment')
- Finance Act, 2018 ('2018 Amendment')
- Finance Act, 2019 ('2019 Amendment')

### Major Provisions of the Act:

- The Act prescribes obligation of banking companies, financial institutions and intermediaries for verification and maintenance of records of the identity of all its clients and also of all transactions.
- PMLA empowers the **Directorate of Enforcement (ED)** to carry out investigations in cases involving offence of money laundering and also to attach the property involved in money laundering.
  - ED is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India.
- PMLA envisages setting up of an **Adjudicating Authority** to exercise jurisdiction, power and authority conferred by it essentially to confirm attachment or order confiscation of attached properties.
- It also envisages setting up of an **Appellate Tribunal** to hear appeals against the order of the Adjudicating Authority
- PMLA envisages designation of one or more courts of sessions as **Special Court** or Special Courts to try the offences punishable under the Act.
- **PMLA also allows Central Government to enter into an agreement with Government of any country outside India for enforcing the provisions of the PMLA.**

### Criticism of the Act:

- Certain provisions of the PMLA have received criticism on the grounds of legal and constitutional principles.
- These provisions include –
  - **Stringent bail conditions,**
  - Arrest of persons without supply of Enforcement Case Information Report (similar to FIR),
  - Non-communication of grounds of arrest to the accused,
  - Statement given by accused during investigation made admissible as evidence during trial, and





# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- Broad definitions of money laundering and proceeds of crime under the Act.
  - Critics argue that the **amendments to the Act have not yielded the desired results of improved convictions** but has only resulted in a procedure that takes away an individual's liberty depriving them of all constitutional guarantees and procedure laid down under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
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