

CABINET COMMITTEE ON SECURITY (CCS)



Prime Minister Modi took oath today along with 71 ministers of the new coalition government. Thirty of them are Cabinet Ministers, five independent charge, and 36 Ministers of State.

About Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)

- It is **headed by the Prime Minister**.
- The Committee discusses, debates, and is the apex body when it comes to the appointments of the officials in the national security bodies.
 - It also **makes all the important decisions** on defence policy and expenditure and, generally, all matters of India's security.
- **Members:** PM, Ministers of **Defence, Home Affairs, Finance and External Affairs**.
- **Functions:**
 - Deals with all the issues related to the defence and security of India.
 - The CCS deals with all issues related to the **law and order** and national security of India.
 - It discusses different initiatives to take to enhance the national security of India.
 - It also deals with policy matters of foreign affairs which may have a bearing on internal or external security implications, including cases relating to agreements with other countries on security-related issues.
 - The Committee discusses the political issues which can impact the security of our nation.

What are Cabinet Committees?

- Cabinet Committees are **extra-constitutional**, meaning, they are not mentioned in the Indian Constitution.
- They are partly designed to **reduce the burden on the Union Cabinet** by allowing smaller groups of ministers to make decisions on specific policy areas.

- They are **constituted or reconstituted** when a new government takes over or the Cabinet undergoes a reshuffle.
 - There are a total of **8** cabinet committees:
 - Cabinet Committee on **Economic Affairs**.
 - Cabinet Committee on **Political Affairs**.
 - Cabinet Committee on **Investment and Growth**.
 - Cabinet Committee on **security**.
 - Cabinet Committee on **Parliamentary Affairs**.
 - Cabinet Committee on **Employment and Skill Development**.
 - Cabinet Committee on **accommodation**.
 - **Appointments** Committee of the Cabinet
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WHAT IS QUANTUM DATA?



A new quantum computing study claims that a recent finding in the production, storage and retrieval of "quantum data" has brought us one step closer to the quantum internet.

- It refers to information that is stored and processed using the **principles of quantum mechanics**.
- Unlike classical data, which is represented by binary states (0s and 1s), quantum data is represented by **quantum bits or qubits**.
- Qubits **can exist in multiple states simultaneously** due to a property called superposition, and they can be entangled with other qubits, allowing for a kind of interconnectedness and correlation that classical bits cannot achieve.

Applications of Quantum Data:

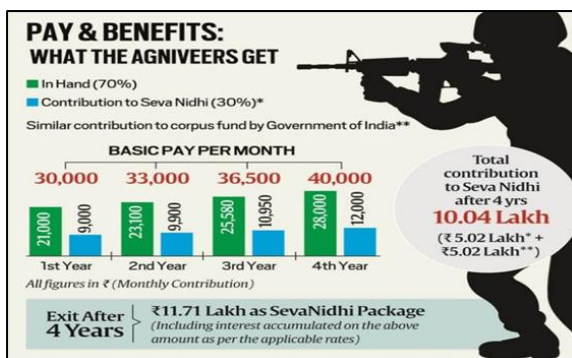
- **Cryptography:** Quantum key distribution (QKD) leverages the principles of quantum mechanics to create secure communication channels that are theoretically immune to eavesdropping.

- **Optimization problems:** Quantum algorithms can potentially solve complex optimization problems more efficiently than classical algorithms.
- **Simulating Quantum Systems:** Quantum computers can simulate other quantum systems, which is useful for understanding chemical reactions, materials science, and fundamental physics.
- **Machine Learning:** Quantum machine learning algorithms could handle large datasets and complex models more efficiently.

AGNIPATH SCHEME AND ITS OPPOSITION

Agnipath scheme

- It is a central government scheme launched in 2022 for recruitment to the armed forces.
- It is a recruitment process for individuals below the rank of officer, with the goal of deploying fitter, younger troops on the front lines, many of whom will be on four-year contracts.
 - The armed forces would also have the option to retain some of the best 'Agniveers.'
- **Eligibility**
 - Candidates between the age of 17.5 years to 21 years will be eligible for enrolling in the Agnipath scheme.
 - Girls under the given age limit are open for the agnipath entry, while there is no



such reservation for women under this scheme.

- The recruitment standards will remain the same, and recruitment will be done twice a year through rallies.

- **Pay & Benefits of Agniveers**

- If they die on duty, their family receives a lump sum of Rs 1 crore (including

the Seva Nidhi package, and full pay for the period which the soldier could not serve).

- In case of disability, an Agniveer can receive upto Rs 44 lakh as compensation, depending on the percentage of disability suffered which is attributed to, or aggravated by military service.
- **Agnipathis different from regular military service**
 - Unlike soldiers in regular service, Agniveers do not draw pensions post-retirement.
 - Only 25% of Agniveers who are absorbed into the forces after four years will receive pension benefits, excluding their initial four years of service.
 - This scheme aims to reduce the Armed Forces' permanent force levels and significantly cut the defence pension bill, a longstanding concern for governments.
- **Agniveers recruited so far**
 - In the Army, two batches of 40,000 Agniveers have completed training and are under posting.
 - The third batch of 20,000 began training in November 2023.
 - In the Navy, three batches of 7,385 Agniveers have completed training. In the IAF, 4,955 Agniveers have completed training.

Why was Agnipath introduced?

- The Agnipath scheme, beyond reducing the Armed Forces' wage and pension bill, aims to ensure a **youthful profile for the forces**.
- Defence Minister described the scheme as a game changer, intended to make the Armed Forces youthful, high-tech, and ultra-modern.
- The average age in the Armed Forces, currently 32 years, will be reduced to 26 years with Agnipath's implementation.
- The government also argues that Agniveers, after completing their service, will positively contribute to civil society with their skills, discipline, and education.

- This is expected to enhance workforce quality, productivity, and overall GDP growth.

Why has Agnipath seen such strong opposition?

- Critics argue that the Agnipath scheme creates a lesser cadre of soldiers who perform the same tasks as fully commissioned soldiers but with lower pay, fewer benefits, and limited prospects.
 - Recently, an opposition leader wrote to President, highlighting the discrimination in benefits for the families of fallen Agniveers compared to regular soldiers, calling for urgent attention to this issue.
- This disparity has caused significant dissatisfaction among those who view military recruitment as a means to economic stability and upward mobility.

OPERATION BLUESTAR



Slogans favouring Khalistan (sovereign state for Sikhs) were raised recently in the premises of the Golden Temple complex in Punjab's Amritsar during the 40th anniversary of 'Operation Bluestar'.

- It was an **Indian military operation** in June 1984 ordered by **Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to root out** a group of **militant Sikh separatists who had occupied the Golden Temple** in Punjab's Amritsar, the Sikhs' holiest shrine.
- The leader of the group was Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a Sikh fundamentalist, former head of the Sikh seminary Damdami Taksal, and a key figure in the then-emerging **separatist Khalistan movement**.
- The military operation was planned to **regain control of the complex** while minimizing civilian casualties.

Timeline of the operation:

- June 1-3, 1984: The operation **began on June 1, 1984**, with the deployment of Indian Army troops around the Golden Temple complex. Bhindranwale and his followers fiercely resisted the army's advance, leading to intense gun battles.
- June 3-6, 1984: The Indian Army intensified its assault on the complex, using heavy artillery, tanks, and helicopters. The fighting resulted in **extensive damage to the Akal Takht**, the highest temporal seat of Sikh authority, as well as other parts of the Golden Temple.
- June 6, 1984: The operation officially concluded on June 6, 1984, when the **Indian Army gained control of the Golden Temple complex**.
- While the army was successful in achieving its goals, some Sikhs were outraged as they saw the operation as an attack on their faith.
- According to the Indian government, about 400 people were killed, including 87 soldiers.
- Operation Blue Star **led to the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi**, who was killed by her Sikh bodyguards in revenge five months after the operation.

WORLD OCEANS DAY 2024



World Oceans Day was recently celebrated at UN Headquarters in New York, focused on “opening minds, igniting senses, and inspiring possibilities” to protect marine life worldwide.

- It is celebrated annually on **June 8**.
- This day aims to **raise awareness about the critical role oceans play** in our planet's ecosystem.
 - Oceans cover more than **70% of the Earth's surface** and are crucial for regulating the climate, providing food and oxygen, and supporting a diverse range of marine life.
 - They are also essential for human livelihoods, supporting industries such as fishing, tourism, and shipping.



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- The event encourages global collaboration for sustainable ocean management, addressing issues such as pollution, overfishing, and climate change.
- The theme for 2024 World Oceans Day is “**Awaken New Depth**”.

History:

- The concept of World Oceans Day was first proposed in 1992 at the **Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**.
- This global event, officially known as the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)**, highlighted the critical role oceans play in sustaining life on Earth.
- The idea gained momentum over the years, leading to its **official recognition by the United Nations in 2008**.
- The UN General Assembly designated June 8 as World Oceans Day, aiming to raise awareness about the importance of oceans and the urgent need to preserve them.
- Every year, the **UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea organises events** to create public awareness.

ARBITRATION IN INDIA

- Arbitration is a mechanism for resolving disputes between investors and brokers, or between brokers.
- It is overseen by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), and the decisions are final and binding.
- Arbitration is distinct from mediation, in which parties negotiate to reach a voluntary settlement, and decisions are not binding unless all parties agree to them.
- Arbitration is not the same as filing an investor complaint, in which an investor alleges wrongdoing on the part of a broker, but has no specific dispute with that broker, for which the investor seeks damages.

Types of Arbitration:

- There are many types of arbitration. Some of the major types of arbitration include:
 - **Commercial Arbitration:**
 - **Definition:** Used to resolve disputes arising from commercial contracts or transactions.
 - **Common Areas:** Business disputes, breach of contract, partnership disputes.
 - **International Arbitration:**
 - **Definition:** Involves parties from different countries and is often used in international commercial and investment disputes.
 - **Institutions:** Conducted under rules of institutions like the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) or the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA).
 - **Domestic Arbitration:**
 - **Definition:** Takes place within a single country and involves parties from the same jurisdiction.
 - **Common Areas:** Local business disputes, real estate conflicts, employment disputes.
 - **Ad hoc Arbitration:**
 - **Definition:** Conducted independently by the parties without the involvement of an institution, using rules agreed upon by the parties or established by the arbitrator.
 - **Flexibility:** Offers more flexibility but requires the parties to handle administrative tasks.
 - **Consumer Arbitration:**
 - **Definition:** Resolves disputes between consumers and businesses, often based on arbitration clauses in consumer contracts.

- **Focus:** Aims to provide a faster and less expensive resolution compared to court litigation.

Arbitration Laws in India:

- The primary legislation governing arbitration in India is the **Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996**.
- **Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2021** is the latest amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.
 - **Unconditional Stay on Awards:** Provided for an automatic stay on enforcement of arbitral awards if the arbitration agreement or contract is prima facie fraudulent or corrupt.
 - **Qualifications of Arbitrators:** Specified qualifications and experience required for arbitrators to ensure quality and competence.
- **Several institutions provide arbitration services in India, including:**
 - Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA)
 - International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR)
 - Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA)
 - Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC)

Recent recommendation by the Finance Ministry regarding arbitration:

- In order to streamline arbitration process to resolve commercial dispute having government or PSE is one party, Finance Ministry has set an upper limit of ₹10 crore for cases to be brought in.
- It has also said that arbitration clause should not be automatically included in large contracts.
- The Ministry has accepted that the **arbitration processes are expensive and time-consuming**, and that there are perceptions of wrong-doing including collusion about arbitrators.