

WHAT IS NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (NIA)?



- NIA is the **Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency** of India.
- **Parent Ministry:** Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Establishment:**
 - It was created after the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, as the need for a central agency to combat terrorism was realised.
 - It was established under the **National Investigation Agency Act, 2008**.
 - The NIA, with its **headquarters in New Delhi**, has 18 branch offices across the country.
- **It investigates and prosecutes offences that affect:**
 - the **sovereignty and integrity** of India;
 - the **security** of our country;
 - **friendly relations with foreign countries**; and
 - our **implementation of international treaties**, agreements, etc. of the United Nations and other international organisations.

What offences does the NIA regulate?

- It investigates and prosecutes offences **related to explosive substances, atomic energy, nuclear weapons, unlawful activities, terrorist activities, hijacking**, etc.
- The NIA has the power to regulate any offence given in the Schedule of the NIA Act.
- The **NIA Act was amended in 2019** to enlarge the mandate of the NIA by inclusion of offences related to human trafficking, manufacture and sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism, and offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.
- **Jurisdiction:**

- The agency is empowered to deal with terror-related crimes **across states without special permission from the states.**
 - It works under a written proclamation from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - **Special Courts:**
 - Various special courts have been **notified by the Govt. of India** for trial of the cases arising out of offences committed in various states of the Union.
 - The **Central government can choose session courts** in different States to function as special courts for the trial of offences under the Act.
 - These Special Courts are chosen in **consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court** of the respective State.
 - Every offence investigated by the NIA is tried by the Special Court, which **has authority in the local area where the offence was committed.**
-

[KERALA ASSEMBLY PASSES RESOLUTION TO CHANGE STATE'S NAME](#)

Process of Changing the Name of a State

- **Constitutional provision**
 - Article 3 of the Indian Constitution outlines the process for changing the name of a state. Article 3 also empowers the Parliament to:
 - Form new states by separating territory from existing states, uniting states or parts of states, or attaching a territory to a state.
 - Increase or decrease the area of a state.
 - Alter the boundaries of a state.
- **Proposal by the State Legislature**
 - The proposal to change the name of a state typically begins with a resolution passed by the state legislature.
- **Recommendation by the President**
 - Once the state legislature passes the resolution, it is sent to the central government.

- If the proposal is initiated by the Central govt, it must be submitted to the President of India.
- The President of India must recommend the proposal to the Parliament before any action can be taken.
- **Introduction of a Bill in Parliament**
 - A bill to alter the name of a state is introduced in either house of Parliament (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha).
 - The bill can only be introduced with the prior recommendation of the President.
- **Referral to the State Legislature**
 - Before the bill is taken up for consideration in Parliament, the President is required to refer it to the legislature of the state concerned for expressing its views within a specified period.
 - This is done to seek the opinion of the state legislature on the proposed change.
- **Passage of the Bill in Parliament**
 - The bill must be passed by a simple majority in both houses of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha).
 - This means more than half of the members present and voting must approve the bill.
- **Assent of the President**
 - Once both houses of Parliament pass the bill, it is sent to the President for assent.
 - Upon receiving the President's assent, the bill becomes law, and the name of the state is officially changed.
- **Notification in the Official Gazette**
 - The change in the state's name is then notified in the Official Gazette of India. This marks the formal and legal change of the state's name.

Resolution passed by the Kerala Assembly

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan moved a resolution stating that the state's name should be changed to "Keralam" in the Constitution to match its Malayalam name.
- The Kerala Assembly unanimously requested the Union Government to make this change under Article 3.
- A similar resolution was passed on August 9 last year but needed reintroduction due to technical issues.
 - The previous resolution aimed to amend the First Schedule (list of states) and inadvertently omitted a demand to amend the Eighth Schedule (list of official languages).
 - This oversight led to the reintroduction of the modified resolution.
- **Why Keralam**
 - Kerala is the English version of the Malayalam word "Keralam," with several theories about its etymology.
 - The earliest mention is in **Emperor Ashoka's Rock Edict II** from 257 BCE, referring to "Keralaputra" or "son of Kerala," associated with the Chera dynasty.
 - German linguist Dr. Herman Gundert noted that "keram" in Kannada corresponds to "cheram," describing the coastal land from Gokarna to Kanyakumari.
 - The term "cher" in Old Tamil means to join, possibly indicating the origin of the name.
 - **Kerala was officially formed on November 1, 1956.**

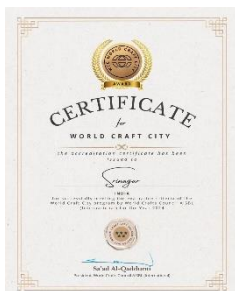
KEY FACTS ABOUT VADHAVAN PORT



The Union Cabinet recently approved the Rs 76,220 crore Vadhavan Port project in Maharashtra after months of deliberations.

- It is an approved **greenfield deep-sea port** in Vadhavan, Palghar District, Maharashtra.

- The port will be developed as an **all-weather deep draft major port**, which will include the development of core infrastructure, terminals, and other commercial infrastructure in **public-private partnership (PPP) mode**.
- The project will be constructed by **Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL)**, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) **formed by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB)** with a shareholding of 74% and 26%, respectively.
- The total estimated cost for the project, including land acquisition is Rs. 76,220 crores.
- The port will have **nine container terminals**, each 1000 meters long, four multipurpose berths, including the coastal berth, four liquid cargo berths, a Ro-Ro berth, and a Coast Guard berth.
- The Project involves the **reclamation of 1,448 hectares of area in the sea** and the construction of 10.14 km of offshore breakwater and container/cargo storage areas.
- The project **will be connected to the Delhi–Mumbai Expressway** via a link expressway.
- It is expected to serve as a gateway port for the upcoming India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) and International North-South Transportation Corridor (INSTC).
- It's a key project within the Indian government's **Sagarmala initiative** to enhance the performance of the country's logistics sector.



WORLD CRAFT CITY

Recently, Srinagar has earned the World Craft City (WCC) tag from the World Crafts Council (WCC).

- It is a groundbreaking **initiative launched** in 2014 by the **World Crafts Council AISBL (WCC-International)** in recognition of the pivotal role local authorities, craftspeople, and communities play in cultural, economic, and social development worldwide.

- It establishes a **dynamic network of craft cities** across the globe, aligning with the principles of the creative economy.
- Under the World Craft City Programme, **Jaipur**(Rajasthan), **Mammalapuram** (Tamil Nadu) and **Mysore** (Karnataka) have been added as craft cities from India.

Some of the famous crafts from Srinagar

- **Papier-Mache:** It refers to the art of making an object from **mashed and molded paper pulp**. The object so made is traditionally painted and usually covered with a layer of lacquer or varnish.
- **Pashmina:** Shawls, Kani, Sozni: The **Pashmina fabric**, hand spun and hand woven, emerged from the picturesque landscape of Kashmir.
- **Sozni shawls:** Sozni embroidery is one of such arts that have its origin into the geography of Kashmir. The word Sozni is a Persian derived word which means needle and sozankari, the needle work. The person who performs this craft is called the sozankar.

Key facts about World Crafts Council

- It was founded by Ms.Aileen O.Webb, Ms.Margaret M.Patch, and **Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay** in 1964, as a non-governmental and non-profit organization.
- The main objective of the World Crafts Council is to **strengthen the status of crafts** in cultural and economic life.
- **Aim:** The Council aims to promote fellowship among crafts persons by offering them encouragement, help, and advice.
- It fosters and assists cultural exchange through conferences, international visits, research study, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and other activities.



WHAT IS THE ENEMY AGENTS ORDINANCE?

- The **J&K Enemy Agents Ordinance** was first issued in **1917** by the

then **Dogra Maharaja** of J&K. It is referred to as an ‘ordinance’ since laws made during the Dogra rule were called ordinances.

- After Partition in **1947**, the ordinance was **incorporated as a law** in the erstwhile state and was also amended.
- In 2019, when Article 370 of the Constitution was repealed, J&K’s legal framework also underwent several changes.
- **Punishments**
 - According to the ordinance, “whosoever is an enemy agent or, with an intent to **aid the enemy, conspires with any other person** to any act which is designed or likely to give assistance to the enemy or to impede the military or air operations of Indian forces or to endanger life or is guilty of incendiarism shall be **punishable with death or rigorous imprisonment** for life or with **rigorous imprisonment** for a term which **may extend to 10 years** and shall also be liable to fine”.

How are trials conducted under ordinance?

- Trials are **conducted by a special judge** who is **appointed by the “government in consultation with the High Court”**.
- Under the ordinance, the **accused cannot engage a lawyer** to defend herself unless permitted by the court.
- There is **no provision for appeal** against the verdict, and the decision of the special judge can only be reviewed “by a person chosen by the Government from the judges of the High Court and the decision of that person shall be final”.
- The ordinance also **bars any disclosure or publication** of the case tried under it.
 - “Any person who, without the previous authorisation of the Government, discloses or publishes any information with respect to any proceedings or with respects to any person proceeded against under this Ordinance, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may **extend to two years, or with fine, or with both,**”

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR ORGANISATION



India is hosting a global event in sugar sector ‘International Sugar Organisation (ISO) Council Meeting’ in New Delhi from 25th till 27th June, 2024.

- It is an **inter-governmental body** completely devoted to improving conditions in the world sugar market.
- It was established in 1968 and it is also a **UN affiliated body**.
- It has about 85 countries as members covering almost 90% of sugar production in the World.
- **Mandate:** It is mandated to bring major sugar producing, consuming and trading nations together to bring mutual understanding and progressive approach in dealing with issues pertaining to the sugar sector.
- It has also been working on biofuels, especially ethanol as sugarcane is the second major feedstock for ethanol production in the world.
- The ISO exists to administer the internationally negotiated 1992 **International Sugar Agreement (ISA)**, the objectives of which are:
 - To ensure enhanced international cooperation in connection with world sugar matters and related issues.
 - To provide a forum for intergovernmental consultations on sugar and on ways to improve the world sugar economy.
 - To facilitate trade by collecting and providing information on the world sugar market and other sweeteners.
 - To encourage increased demand for sugar, particularly for non-traditional uses.
- **Headquarters:** London

Sugar industry in India

- India is the **largest consumer** and **second largest producer** of sugar in the world with about 15 per cent share in global sugar consumption and about 20 per cent in production.
- **Brazil is the top sugar producer** in the world.

WHAT IS CLOUDBURST?



Recently, a cloudburst triggered several landslips and a flood-like situation in Itanagar.

- It is a **localised but intense rainfall** While it can also occur in plains, the phenomenon is most common in hilly regions.
- A cloudburst has a very specific definition: Rainfall of 10 cm or more in an hour over a roughly 10 km x 10 km area is classified as a cloudburst event.
- Cloudbursts are **not uncommon events**, particularly during the monsoon months.
- Most of these happen in the **Himalayan states** where the local topology, wind systems, and temperature gradients between the lower and upper atmosphere facilitate the occurrence of such events.

How does it occur?

- It is found that during a cloudburst, the **relative humidity and cloud cover will be at the maximum level** with low temperature and slow winds because of this situation a high amount of clouds may get condensed at a very rapid rate and result in a cloudburst.
- As **temperatures increase the atmosphere** can hold more and more moisture and this moisture comes down as a short very intense rainfall for a short duration.

Forecasting of Cloudbursts: The India Meteorological Department forecasts rainfall events well in advance, but it does not predict the quantum of rainfall — in fact, no meteorological agency does.
