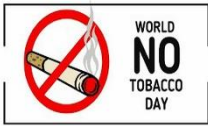


WORLD NO-TOBACCO DAY, 2024



Recently, The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (GoI), organized an event today to observe World No Tobacco Day 2024.

- The Member States of the **World Health Organization** created **World No Tobacco Day in 1987**.
- In 1988, a Resolution was passed, calling for the celebration of World No Tobacco Day, every year on 31 May.
- The annual campaign is an opportunity to **raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use** and second-hand smoke exposure and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form.
- The theme: “**Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference**”.

About tobacco cultivation:

- Tobacco cultivation in India was **introduced by the Portuguese in 1605**.
- **Area and production:**
 - In India tobacco is predominantly cultivated in **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, UP and Bihar**. Gujarat accounts for 45 per cent of the area (0.13 M ha) and 30 percent of production (0.16 M t). Productivity is also highest (1700 kg ha-1) in Gujarat followed by AP.
- **Types of tobacco:**
 - Anand area of Gujarat grows wholly **bidi tobacco**. Nipani area of Karnataka grows bidi tobacco. North Bihar and Bengal area has both **tabacum and rustica types** used in the manufacture of hookah and to a limited extent chewing and snuff types. Madurai and Coimbatore area of Tamil Nadu grow cigars, filter, binder and chewing tobacco.
- **Climate and soil:**
 - Tobacco is grown when the **mean temperature is 20° to 27°C**.

- When grown as a rainfed crop, it requires at least about 500 mm of well distributed rainfall during crop growing season.
 - It is not usually grown where rainfall exceeds 1200 mm during the season.
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EXIT POLL



Recently, Congress refrained from participating in Lok Sabha Elections-related debates in exit polls 2024.

What is an exit poll?

- An exit poll is a post-election survey that shows how many seats a political party will likely win.
- It is not the same as the official election results.
- **When will Exit polls be released?**
 - They can be released by media houses only after the voting ends for an election.
- **Methods of conducting:**
 - They are taken immediately after voters have cast their ballots.

Legal Regulations:

- The exit polls are regulated by Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
 - This law stipulates that no person shall conduct or publish exit polls via print or electronic media, or disseminate the results in any manner, during a period specified by the Election Commission of India.
 - Any person who contravenes the provisions of the Section 126A shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with a fine or with both.
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WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY



Recently at the 77th World Health Assembly, member states approved a draft resolution on improving organ transplantation availability, including human cells and tissues.

Why in news?

- On 29 May 2024, Member States (with the initiation of Spain) approved a new resolution on **increasing availability, ethical access and oversight of transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs.**

About the draft resolution:

- The draft urged member states to increase in line with the **World Health Organization (WHO) Guiding Principles** on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation.
- It emphasized on **encouraging donation after the neurological determination of death** and where appropriate, donation after the circulatory determination of death.
- It also mentioned that **insufficient access to transplantation therapies is one of the root causes of trafficking in persons** for organ removal and trafficking in human organs, practices that undermine human rights and pose serious risks to public health.
- The resolution urged the director-general to **establish an expert committee** under the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees, to help the Secretariat in developing the proposed global strategy and its implementation.
- The resolution tasked countries with developing a **global strategy to be presented for adoption in 2026.** It also encouraged the establishment of a World Donor Day to raise public awareness and donations.

About World Health Assembly:

- It is the **decision-making body of the World Health Organization.**
- It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the **Executive Board.**

- **Functions:**

- The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies and review and approve the proposed programme budget.
 - The Health Assembly is held **annually in Geneva, Switzerland.**
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INTERIM BAIL



An interim bail is a **short-term temporary relief** to individuals entangled in legal proceedings **before the hearing for the grant of regular or anticipatory bail.**

- The **period for interim bail can be extended**, but if the accused individual does not pay the court to confirm or extend the interim bail, they will **lose their freedom and may end up in jail or face a warrant.**
- **Grounds for Granting Interim Bail:**
 - In the **Parminder Singh and Ors. v. The State of Punjab** (November 02, 2001) case, the Delhi High Court listed certain scenarios where interim bail should be granted which are as follows:
 - No likelihood of the accused fleeing from justice,
 - No chance of tampering with the evidence,
 - A clear case for **custodial interrogation is not made out**,
 - The application for a grant of anticipatory bail cannot be heard at an early date.
- **Some common grounds:**
 - In case the accused has a **serious medical condition** requiring urgent or specialized treatment.
 - After considering the **humanitarian factors** such as familial responsibilities, age, health of the family members.

- If the **investigation is taking an unreasonable amount of time** despite his cooperation with authorities.
 - **Related Case Laws:**
 - Lal Kamendra Pratap Singh vs. State of U.P.& Ors (March, 2009)
 - Sukhwant Singh vs. State of Punjab (May, 2009)
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CONTROLLER GENERAL OF ACCOUNTS (CGA)



The government's fiscal deficit for 2023-24 stood at 5.63 per cent of the GDP, marginally better than the 5.8 per cent estimated in the Union Budget, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) recently.

- CGA, in the **Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance**, is the **Principal Accounting Adviser to the Government of India**.
- CGA is responsible for establishing and managing a **technically sound Management Accounting System** and preparation & submission of the accounts of the Union Government.
- CGA is also responsible for **exchequer control and internal audits** for the central government.
- The office of CGA was established in October 1975 to administer matters pertaining to the departmentalisation of the accounts of the Union.

Functions:

- The Office of CGA **prepares monthly and annual analysis** of expenditure, revenues, borrowings, and various **fiscal indicators for the Union Government**.
- It further **formulates policies** relating to general principles, forms, and procedures of accounting for the Central and State Governments.
- It **administers the process of payments**, receipts, and accounting in the Central Civil Ministries/ Departments.

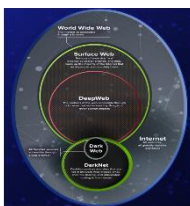
- Through its **Internal Audit Units** in the respective Ministries/Departments, it is responsible for maintaining the requisite technical standards of accounting in the departmentalized accounting offices and for **monitoring the financial performance and effectiveness of various programs**, schemes, and activities of the civil ministries.
- It also **administers banking arrangements** for the disbursements of Government expenditures and the collection of government receipts and interacts with the Central Bank for the **reconciliation of the cash balances** of the Union Government.
- CGA is also responsible for **coordination and monitoring the progress** of the submission of **corrective/remedial action taken notes (ATNs)** on the **recommendations** contained in the **Public Accounts Committee's (PAC) reports** as well as the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports** through its web-based **Audit Para Monitoring System (APMS)**.
- It also looks after the **pensions of Central government employees**.

ED ARRESTS DARK WEB DRUG VENDOR

Why in news? The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested a resident of Uttarakhand for allegedly operating an international drug trafficking group. He has been booked under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The accused operated a global dark web enterprise to send fentanyl and other deadly and dangerous drugs to communities across America – in all 50 States — as well as Canada, Europe, and the Caribbean.

Dark Web



- Dark Net, also referred to as dark web or darknet, is a maze of secret websites which can be accessed only through encrypted channels.
 - In other words, it is the hidden collective of internet sites only accessible by a specialized web browser.

- It is used for keeping internet activity anonymous and private, which can be helpful in both legal and illegal applications.

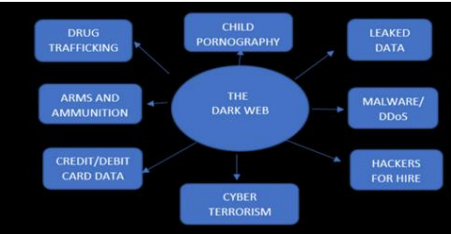
How it operates?

- The dark web operates in secrecy using **The Onion Router (ToR)**.
 - Tor is free and open-source software for enabling anonymous communication.
 - It is an Internet based system to prevent eavesdropping and traffic analysis attacks.
- Experts say darknet is very tough to penetrate owing to its end-to-end encryption.
 - The access to darknet is possible only through specialized browsers like Tor, Freenet, I2P and Tails to surf the darknet anonymously.
- The privacy-centric browser like Tor routes the web page requests through proxy servers thus making your IP address untraceable.

The dark web vs. the deep web

- Both the dark and deep web share one thing in common: Neither can be found in search engine results.
- The difference between them primarily lies in how their content is accessed.
 - Deep web pages can be accessed by anyone with a standard web browser who knows the URL.
 - Dark web pages, in contrast, require special software with the correct decryption key, as well as access rights and knowledge of where to find the content.

Use of Dark Net

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 - Nowadays, darknet has become a hidden platform meant for the sale and purchase of much of the contraband items like
 - drugs, arms, pornographic content
- and other illegal activities.

Legality of accessing the dark web in India

- **Accessing the dark web is legal in India.** The Indian government does not recognize it as an illegal activity.
- However, this doesn't mean one is free to do whatever he/she wants.
- Various activities like child pornography, buying guns, pistols, rifles, drugs, etc. are considered to be illegal.
- Hence, the dark web is not illegal. It is the activity or the intent of a person that is taken into account while using the dark web.

Regulatory Challenges

- The biggest challenge with respect to regulation of the dark web is its encryption technique and anonymity.
- Apart from the strong encryption techniques, most financial transactions on the dark web are performed in cryptocurrencies which provide further anonymity.
- The trans-border nature of the dark web further complicates the matter.
- Ensuring **right to freedom of information and online privacy** while eliminating while eliminating the illegal activities thriving on dark web is a challenge.

HEATWAVES ARE BECOMING MORE DEADLY

- A Heat Wave is a period of abnormally high temperatures, more than the normal maximum temperature.
- **Qualitatively**, heat wave is a condition of air temperature which becomes fatal to human body when exposed.
- **Quantitatively**, it is defined based on the temperature thresholds over a region in terms of actual temperature or its departure from normal.
- **Criteria**
 - As per IMD, heat wave is considered if maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C or more for Plains and at least 30°C or more for Hilly regions.
- **Heat Wave in coastal region**

- When maximum temperature departure is 45°C or more from normal, Heat Wave may be described provided actual maximum temperature is 37°C or more.

Threats Posed by heatwaves

- **Human Health**
 - Heatwaves are also associated with increases in heat-related illnesses, including cardiovascular and respiratory complications and kidney disease.
 - **Air quality**
 - In extreme temperatures, air quality is also affected. Hot and sunny days can increase the production of ground-level ozone.
 - This ozone is a harmful pollutant that is the main component of smog.
 - It can damage the respiratory system and is particularly harmful for those with asthma.
 - **Agriculture**
 - High temperatures can be damaging to agriculture. Plant growth is negatively impacted by high daytime temperatures and some crops require cool night temperatures.
 - Heat waves can exacerbate droughts and wildfires, which can lead to negative impacts on the agriculture sector.
 - **Energy**
 - Warmer temperatures affect many aspects of the energy system, including production, transmission, and demand.
 - While higher summer temperatures increase electricity demand for cooling, at the same time, they can lower the ability of transmission lines to carry power.
 - This can possibly lead to electricity reliability issues like rolling blackouts during heat waves.
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