

### INTERPOL GLOBAL ACADEMY NETWORK

Recently, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Academy joined the Interpol Global Academy Network at a virtual event.



#### About Interpol Global Academy Network:

- It was **launched in 2019** with the aim of **supporting Interpol in leading a global approach** to Law Enforcement Training.
- It is a network of trusted law enforcement education institutions.
- Members of the Global Academy support the creation and delivery of select digital and face-to-face **training courses, covering INTERPOL's tools and services, crime areas**, and other law enforcement topics.
- They also help identify and coordinate responses to training needs and contribute to a knowledge exchange platform to advance law enforcement education through cutting-edge training tools and methodologies.

#### Key facts about Interpol

- **Mandate:** It is an international organization facilitating international police cooperation against cross-border terrorism, trafficking, and other crime.
- **Governance:** All decisions regarding the activities of INTERPOL are made by the General Assembly which is its supreme governing body which meets annually.
- **Status:** It is 'NOT' a unit or part of a united nation system. **It is an independent international organization.**
- In each country, **an INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB)** provides the central point of contact for the General Secretariat and other NCBs.
- Each NCB is run by police officials of that country and usually sits in the government ministry responsible for policing. (Union Home Ministry in India.)
- **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) represents Interpol in India** as the country's national central bureau.

## WHAT IS THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES IN PARLIAMENT?

Rajya Sabha Chairman recently directed the Rajya Sabha Privileges Committee to investigate the complaints filed by four MPs who accused another member of proposing their name for a House panel without their consent in violation of rules.



### What is parliamentary privilege?

- Parliamentary privilege refers to rights and immunities enjoyed by Parliament as an institution and MPs in their individual capacity, without which they cannot discharge their functions as entrusted upon them by the Constitution.
- Are these parliamentary privileges defined under law?
  - According to the Constitution, the powers, privileges and immunities of Parliament and MP's are to be defined by Parliament.
  - No law has so far been enacted in this respect. In the absence of any such law, it continues to be governed by British Parliamentary conventions.

### What is breach of privilege?

- A breach of privilege is a violation of any of the privileges of MPs/Parliament.
- Among other things, any action 'casting reflections' on MPs, parliament or its committees; could be considered breach of privilege.
- This may include publishing of news items, editorials or statements made in newspaper/magazine/TV interviews or in public speeches.

### About Committee of Privileges:

- This committee consists of 15 members in Lok Sabha (10 in case of Rajya Sabha) nominated by the Speaker (Chairman in case of Rajya Sabha).
- In the Rajya Sabha, the deputy chairperson heads the committee of privileges.

## THE ASSAM RIFLES

### • **About**

- Assam Rifles is one of the 7 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) that come under the MHA's administrative control.
- The other forces being: the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the Border Security Force (BSF), the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), National Security Guard (NSG) and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- Besides maintaining law and order in the Northeast (a task it performs together with the Army), the Assam Rifles also guards the border with Myanmar in theregion.

### • **Historical Background**

- Its history dating back to 1835 when its precursor, **Cachar Levy**, was formed in the Northeast to protect British Tea estates and their settlements against tribal raids.
- Over the period of time, it was expanded and rechristened Assam Military Police Battalion, with additional battalions.
- It was later renamed as Assam Rifles. This is where the dual structure was perhaps born.
- This is because even as it continued to operate as a police force, the 'Rifles' tag indicated it was on a par with Army units.

### **Uniqueness of Assam Rifles: Dual Control**

- It is the only paramilitary force with a dual control structure.
- The administrative control of the force is with the MHA.
- Its operational control is with the Indian Army, which is under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- Hence, salaries and infrastructure for this force is provided by the MHA, but the deployment, posting, transfer and deputation of the personnel is decided by the Army.

### **What are the Issues associated with dual control of Assam rifles?**

#### • **Problems of coordination**

- Many analysts believe that this dual control structure is arbitrary, unreasonable and in violation of the rights of Assam Rifles personnel.

- It also leads to problems of coordination.
  - **Disparity in pay scale**
  - Although, the Assam Rifles personnel operate alongside the Army on similar duties, there is a disparity in the pay scale.
  - Army personnel enjoy better perks and retirement benefits which are far higher compared to CAPFs under MHA.
  - On the other hand, Army personnel also retire early, at 35, while the retirement age in CAPF is 60 years.
  - Army personnel also get one rank one pension which is not available to CAPFs.
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## WHAT IS UDYAM ASSIST PLATFORM (UAP)?

As per latest data, the government's new Udyam Assist Platform (UAP) has 35 lakh units registered as of August 3, 2023.



### **About Udyam Assist Platform:**

- The Government launched UAP under the MSME formalization project on 11.01.2023 to bring Informal Micro Enterprises (IMEs) under the formal ambit for availing benefits under Priority Sector Lending.
- The platform has been developed by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- The Government of India has clarified that IMEs are those enterprises which are unable to get registered on the Udyam Registration Portal (URP) due to lack of mandatory required documents such as Permanent Account Number (PAN) or Goods and Services Tax Identification Number (GSTIN).
- **Benefits:**
  - A large number of IMEs aren't registered under GST. To facilitate such IMEs to get a registration certificate through Assist mode of Designated Agencies (Das) such as banks/NBFCs/MFIs, who have information about IMEs available with them.

- The certificate issued on the Udyam Assist Platform (UAP) would be treated at par with Udyam Registration Certificate for IMEs for availing of the benefits of Priority Sector Lending (PSL).
- **Implementation Process:**
- **Registration of DAs**, who are eligible regulated entities to assist IMEs for generation of Udyam Registration in the UAP.
- **Registration of IMEs by the DAs.** IMEs are not required to share any documents for registration with DAs separately.
- **DAs have to share the required information as available with them of IMEs on UAP.**
- The registered IMEs can then download their certificate from UAP.
- The Udyam Registration Number (URN) generated for enterprises via UAP is of an exclusive number series called the Udyam-I.

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## [KERALA ASSEMBLY PASSES RESOLUTION TO RENAME STATE AS KERALAM](#)

### Why in news?

- The Kerala Assembly has passed a resolution urging the Centre to rename the state as “Keralam” in the Constitution and all office records.

### What is the process to rename a state?

- **Constitutional provision**
  - The Parliament has the power to change the name of a state.
  - The Constitution of India gives the parliament power to alter the name of a state under Article 3.
    - Article 3 of the Constitution explicitly lays down a procedure to alter the area, boundaries, or name of a state.
- **Proposal**
  - The process of renaming of a state can be initiated by either the Parliament or the state assembly.
    - The state legislature sends a proposal in the form of a resolution to the Central government.
  - In Parliament, the bill cannot be presented without a recommendation from the President.

## News Summary:

- The Kerala Assembly unanimously passed a resolution urging the Central government to officially change the name of the State from Kerala to Keralam.

## What does the resolution say?

- The name of our state in Malayalam is Keralam. States were formed on the basis of language on November 1, 1956. That day is also observed as Kerala formation day.
- The demand for a united Kerala for all Malayalam-speaking communities has been strongly raised right from the days of the freedom struggle.
- However, the name of our state in the first Schedule of the Constitution has been written as Kerala.
- This Assembly is unanimously requesting the Union Government to take immediate steps under Article 3 of the Constitution to change the name of the state to Keralam.

## Origin of the names

- **Origin of Kerala**
  - There are several theories about the origin of the name ‘Kerala’.
  - The earliest epigraphic record that mentions Kerala is emperor Asoka’s Rock Edict II of 257 BC.
  - The inscription refers to the local ruler as Keralaputra (Sanskrit for “son of Kerala”), and also “son of Chera” referring to the Chera dynasty.

## Origin of Keralam

- About ‘Keralam’, scholars believe it could have originated from ‘Cheram’.
- Scholars observed that the word ‘keram’ is the Canarese (Kannada) form of cheram.
- They described Keralam as Cheram — the region between Gokarnam and Kanyakumari.
- The origin of the term could possibly be from the root ‘cher’, which means to join.
- This meaning is clear in the compound word ‘Cheralam’, in which alam means region or land.



## AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

Recently, assembling in the Brazilian city of Belem, the members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization sought to chart a common course on how to combat climate change.



### About Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization:

- It is an intergovernmental organization formed by the **eight Amazonian countries** by signing the **Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT)**.
- The Amazon Cooperation Treaty was **drafted and signed on July 3, 1978**.
- In 1995, the eight nations decided to create the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), to strengthen and implement the objectives of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.
- **Member countries:** Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.
- It was founded to **promote the preservation of the Amazon basin** and regulate Amazonian development through international cooperation.
- It is the only **socio-environmental block in Latin America**.
- It works in different dimensions within the framework of the implementation of the ACT: political-diplomatic, strategic, and technical, building synergies among governments etc.
- It has **four official languages:** Dutch, English, Portuguese, and Spanish.
- The **Directorate of the Permanent Secretariat** and the coordination of the projects plan and execute their activities in close collaboration and through consultations with the Member Countries.

### Key facts about Amazon Rainforest

- It is large **tropical rainforest occupying the drainage basin of the Amazon River** and its tributaries in northern South America.
- It is bounded by the **Guiana Highlands to the north**, the **Andes Mountains to the west**, the **Brazilian central plateau to the south**, and the **Atlantic Ocean to the east**.

## EXERCISE ZAYED TALWAR

Indian Navy and United Arab Emirates to conduct bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar from 8th to 11 August 2023.



### About Exercise Zayed Talwar:

- Two ships of the Indian Navy, INS Visakhapatnam, and INS Trikand are participating in the exercise.
- During the visit, the ships will undertake **professional interactions with UAE Naval Force** on multiple elements of maritime operations.
- They will further share best practices to enhance cooperation and strengthen ties between the two navies.
- This exercise will boost the **maritime partnership between the two navies** and foster a common understanding of the security challenges in the region.

### Key facts about INS Visakhapatnam

- It is the lead ship and **the first of the Indian Navy's Visakhapatnam-class** stealth guided-missile destroyers.
- It was commissioned on November 21, 2021, is one of the largest destroyers in Indian Navy service.
- **Features:**
  - Displacement: 7,400 tonnes.
  - **Propulsion:** It is propelled by four powerful Gas Turbines, in a Combined Gas and Gas (COGAG) configuration.
  - **Speed:** It is capable of achieving speeds in excess of 30 knots.
  - The ship has enhanced stealth features resulting in a reduced Radar Cross Section (RCS) achieved through efficient shaping of hull, full beam superstructure design, plated masts and use of radar transparent materials on exposed decks.
  - The ship is equipped to **fight under Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) warfare conditions.**



## WHAT IS THE GRAND CANYON?

US President made another gaffe recently when he inaccurately said that the Grand Canyon is one of the "nine" wonders of the world.



### About Grand Canyon:

- **Location:** It is a massive geological formation located in the state of Arizona, USA.
- The canyon was carved by the Colorado River over millions of years and exposes a stunning cross-section of Earth's geological history.
- It cuts across the Grand Canyon National Park.
- The 1.5-kilometer deep gorge ranges in width from 500 m to 30 km.
- **Distinct Rock Layers:**
  - The exposed rock layers in the Grand Canyon represent different periods of Earth's geological history.
  - The rocks date back as far as 1.8 billion years, providing a unique record of the planet's past.

### What is a Canyon?

- A canyon is a deep, narrow valley with steep sides or cliffs, often carved by the erosional forces of a river or other natural processes over a long period of time.
- Canyons can vary in size from small, winding gorges to massive, awe-inspiring chasms like the Grand Canyon.
- **Geological Layers:** Canyons often expose layers of different rock types and geological formations, providing a glimpse into the Earth's history.