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### LALIT KALA AKADEMI



• It was inaugurated on **5th August 1954** by the then Minister for Education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

- The Akademi was given the **status of statutory authority in 1957, under the Societies Registration Act 1860.**
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Governance:** It functions through its General Council, Executive Board, and other Committees.
- **Regional Centres:** It has regional centres situated at Chennai, Lucknow, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Garhi.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Culture.
- **Functions of Lalit Kala Akademi**
  - It has been at the **forefront of promoting and nurturing visual arts in India** through national and international exhibitions, artists' camps, workshops, scholarships, publications, documentation, research initiatives and collaborative cultural programmes.
  - It has preserved and documented a permanent collection of the highest order that reflects the vitality, complexity, and unfolding patterns of contemporary, modern, folk, and tribal art in India.
  - It **promotes the Visual Art of India** in various countries of the world through Cultural Agreements and Cultural Exchange Programmes.
  - The **National Exhibition of Art** is the most prestigious annual event of the Lalit Kala Akademi.
  - It continues to provide an important platform for artists and remains committed to strengthening India's visual arts ecosystem.

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

## School of Research Based Learning & Competition

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#### JEEVAN RAKSHA PADAK



It is conferred on individuals who undertake life-saving efforts during incidents such as drowning, fire accidents, electrocution, natural calamities including landslides, animal attacks, and rescue operations in mines.

**Categories:** The Jeevan Raksha Padak series comprises three categories.

- **Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak:** It is awarded for conspicuous courage in saving life under circumstances of **very great danger to the rescuer**.
- **Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak:** It is conferred for courage and promptitude in saving life **under conditions of great danger**.
- **Jeevan Raksha Padak:** It is awarded for courage and promptitude in life-saving acts where the **rescuer sustains grievous bodily injury**.

#### **Eligibility:**

- The awards are open to **individuals from all walks of life**.
- Members of the Armed Forces, Police Forces and recognised Fire Services are also eligible, provided the act of bravery is performed beyond the call of normal duty.
- Personnel of Central Armed Police Forces and Central Police Organisations are also eligible under the revised framework.
- It is **presented to the awardees by the respective Union Ministries/Organizations/State Government** to which the awardee belongs.

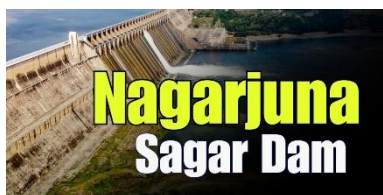
#### **Features of Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards:**

- Its **nominations are invited annually** from States/UTs and Union Ministries.
- The recommendations of the award are considered by the Awards Committee within a period of **two calendar years** from the date of performance of the act.

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- Final approval is given by the **Prime Minister and the President of India**.
- **Award:** The decoration of the award consists of a **Medal, Certificate, along with a one-time monetary allowance:** Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak (₹2 lakh), Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padam (₹1.5 lakh) and Jeevan Raksha (₹1 lakh).
- No other facility/benefit in terms of any concession in Railways, Airfare etc. is provided by the Government.

### NAGARJUNA SAGAR DAM



Nagarjuna Sagar, one of the most significant multipurpose irrigation projects in the country, recently completed 59 years of its existence.

- It is the **largest and highest masonry dam in the world** built between the Nalgonda district of **Telangana** and the Guntur district of **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Built across the Krishna River**, it boasts of **one of the largest networks of canal systems** in the world.
- It derives its name from a **nearby hillock and island called Nagarjunakonda**, where an **ancient Buddhist Guru** had once lived.
- The dam has a storage capacity of nearly 11,472 million cubic meters.
- It is **one of the earliest projects built in post-independence India** for irrigation and hydroelectricity generation.
- The construction of the dam commenced in 1956 and was **completed by 1967**.
- This dam **supports the national grid with its electric power**.
- The dam plays a crucial role for **irrigation in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh**
- As per the provisions of the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**, the Nagarjunasagar dam is **controlled and supervised by Telangana**.

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### WHAT IS A HEXAVALENT VACCINE?



Introducing the hexavalent (six-in-one) vaccine into India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) could improve the efficiency of the country's childhood immunisation programme, according to a recent study conducted by the Union Health Ministry.

- It is a **combination vaccine** that **protects infants against six different diseases** with a single injection.
- It combines **six different antigens** through special manufacturing processes.
- The hexavalent vaccine **protects against**:
  - **Diphtheria**
  - **Tetanus**
  - **Pertussis (Whooping Cough)**
  - **Hepatitis B**
  - **Polio**
  - **Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) infections**
- Hexavalent vaccine could deliver several **benefits**, including:
  - **Fewer injections** for infants, making vaccination more convenient for children and caregivers.
  - **Lower cold-chain storage requirements.**
  - **Reduced use of syringes** and other vaccination supplies.
  - **Less time spent** by Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) **administering vaccines** and maintaining records.
  - Lower workload for cold-chain handlers and vaccine managers.
  - **Time savings** for parents and caregivers during immunisation visits.

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### INDIAN PHARMACOPOEIA COMMISSION



- It is an autonomous institution of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- It is created to set standards of drugs in the country.
- **Functions of Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission:**
  - Its basic function is to **regularly update the standards of drugs** commonly required for treatment of diseases prevailing in this region.
  - It publishes official **documents for improving Quality of Medicines** by way of adding new and updating existing monographs in the **form of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)**.
  - It further promotes rational use of generic medicines by publishing National Formulary of India.
  - It prescribes standards for identity, purity and strength of drugs essentially required from the health care perspective of human beings and animals.
  - It also **provides IP Reference Substances (IPRS)** which act as a fingerprint for identification of an article under test and its purity as prescribed in IP.

### Key Facts about World Health Organization South-East Asia Regulatory Network

- It is a **collaborative platform** established by the **World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO)** to strengthen regulatory systems across Member States.
- It was **established in 2016**.
- SEARN has facilitated **cooperation among National Regulatory Authorities** through knowledge sharing, regulatory convergence, capacity building, and reliance mechanisms.
- The network **operates through thematic working groups** focusing on key regulatory functions, including quality assurance, pharmacovigilance, clinical trials oversight, regulatory preparedness, and medical device regulation.

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### ASIATIC LION CONSERVATION - ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD

- The Asiatic lion is one of the world's most endangered large cat species and is found only in India in the wild.
- Once distributed across West Asia and northern India, the species is now confined to the **Gir landscape** in Gujarat.
- **Conservation Status**
  - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable [IUCN moved the Asiatic lion from “Endangered” (2008) to Vulnerable (2025)]
  - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I
  - **CITES:** Appendix I
- The Asiatic lion is slightly smaller than its African counterpart and is distinguished by a prominent fold of skin along its abdomen.

#### **Recovery of the Asiatic Lion Population**

- The recovery of the Asiatic lion is regarded as one of India's major wildlife conservation successes. Around six decades ago, the wild population had declined to nearly **100-150 individuals**. Continuous conservation efforts have resulted in the population increasing to **more than 1,000 lions**
- An equally significant development is that **nearly half of the lion population now lives outside protected areas**, indicating successful natural dispersal beyond Gir National Park and Sanctuary.

#### **Major Conservation Challenges**

- **Concentration in a Single Landscape**
  - The most significant challenge is that the entire wild population continues to remain concentrated within a single geographical landscape.
  - Such concentration exposes the species to the risk of catastrophic events that could affect the entire population simultaneously.

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- **Disease Outbreaks**

- The vulnerability became evident in 2018, when more than 20 Asiatic lions died due to an outbreak of Canine Distemper Virus (CDV).
- Although the Gujarat Forest Department responded through disease surveillance, veterinary interventions, and improved monitoring, the outbreak demonstrated the risks associated with maintaining a geographically concentrated population.

- **Habitat Fragmentation**

- As lions continue to expand outside protected areas, maintaining habitat connectivity has become increasingly important.
- Rapid infrastructure development, urbanisation, and changing land use patterns can fragment wildlife corridors, making dispersal more difficult and increasing the likelihood of human-wildlife conflict.

- **Need for Long-Term Planning**

- Conservation should not focus only on protecting Gir National Park but must also safeguard the wider network of habitats and movement corridors used by dispersing lions.

### Need for a Second Free-Ranging Population

- One of the central arguments is the need to establish a **second free-ranging population** of Asiatic lions.
  - At present, the species remains restricted to a single landscape despite repeated concerns expressed by wildlife scientists.
  - Developing an alternative habitat would:
    - Reduce the risk from disease outbreaks
    - Protect the species against natural disasters
    - Improve long-term genetic security
    - Enhance the resilience of the wild population
  - Resistance to creating such a second home continues despite growing scientific evidence supporting the need for geographical diversification.
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### SUPREME COURT'S NEW GENDER SENSITIVITY HANDBOOK: A SHIFT FROM LANGUAGE TO COMPASSION

Recently, the Supreme Court has released a new report, "**Judgments and Gender: Sensitivity and Compassion in Writing Judgments**".

It replaces the 2023 "**Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes**" issued during CJI D.Y. Chandrachud's tenure. The new document shifts focus from correcting judicial language to reforming how courts treat victims and witnesses.

#### **Linguistic Reform: Two Different Targets**

- Both handbooks provide glossaries of terms to avoid, but their focus differs:
  - 2023 Handbook replaced stereotype-promoting terms:
    - "Adulteress" → "woman who engaged in relations outside marriage"
    - "Housewife" → "Homemaker"
    - "Eve teasing" → "Street sexual harassment"
  - 2026 Report replaced **moralistic and dramatic** courtroom phrases:
    - "Body of women as playground" → "Violated bodily autonomy"
    - "Destroys the very soul of a helpless woman" → "Caused severe trauma to the survivor"
    - Avoids terms like "lost her chastity" and "helpless female"
    - Explicitly discourages religious or cultural references such as "Where women are honoured, there the gods rejoice"
  - Notably, the 2026 report also asks judges to be alert to offensive expressions in **local and regional dialects**, not just English or foreign legal terms — a first for such guidelines.

#### **Compassionate Court Practices: The Core Innovation**

- This is the most significant addition in the 2026 report, aimed at **preventing "secondary victimisation."** Key recommendations include:

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- **Witness as Guest:** Treating witnesses with respect so they do not "tremble on getting summons," avoiding long waits and poor treatment that discourage testimony.
- **Legal aid and support persons:** Judges must proactively check if victims have legal assistance; if not, direct the District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) to ensure compliance within 48 hours. Support Persons must be available from the FIR stage onward, especially for child victims.
- **Pre-trial counselling** for victims to reduce anxiety before trial.
- **Courtroom environment:** Simple courtesies like offering a chair and water; removing unnecessary people from court during sensitive testimony.
- **Controlling cross-examination:** Judges must not be a "silent spectator" while victims face insulting or intimidating questioning. The report invokes the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam's bar on indecent, scandalous, or irrelevant questions, particularly about a survivor's sexual history.
- **Privacy safeguards:** In-camera trials, confidentiality of victim identity using initials or pseudonyms, and video-link testimony to avoid direct confrontation with the accused.
- **Victim Compensation Scheme, 2018:** Its full text is annexed for ready reference — absent in the 2023 version.

### Target Audience and Intent

- The 2023 handbook was aimed primarily at **judges and the legal community**.
- The 2026 report is designed to be understood by **laypersons, victims, and children**, explicitly avoiding "foreign" legal jargon in favour of simple, accessible language.

### Conclusion

The 2026 report moves judicial reform beyond vocabulary to lived courtroom experience, embedding compassion, privacy, and dignity into trial procedure. By grounding guidelines in empirical data and regional realities, it aims to build a more empathetic, victim-centric criminal justice system for India.