

HINDI DIWAS

Hindi Diwas is being celebrated across the country on September 14.



It was on this day in 1949 that the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the country.

Today, Hindi is one of the widely spoken languages in the world and the first language of more than 520 million people.

10 Interesting Facts about Hindi language

1. The word Hindi is derived from the Persian word 'Hind'. It means the land of the Indus River.
2. The first Hindi journal was published in 2000. It was the debut of the Hindi Language on the World Wide Web.
3. Bihar was the first state in India to declare Hindi as its official language by replacing Urdu.
4. Hindi is the native language of around 600 million people worldwide.
5. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in 1977, proudly showed respect for the Hindi Language and presented a speech in the Hindi language to the United Nations.
6. Hindi language is spoken in New Zealand, Nepal, UAE, Uganda, Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Bangladesh, Trinidad, Tobago, and Pakistan.
7. Several Hindi words which are spoken frequently such as 'Achha' and 'Surya Namaskar' have been included in the Oxford Dictionary.
8. Amit Khusro, a renowned poet, was the first writer who composed and released the first poem in Hindi.
9. Hindi language was deemed as a primary language under Article 343 of the Parliament on January 26, 1950.
10. The first Hindi Typewriters were made in the 1930s.

INDIA TO HOST G20 LEADERS' SUMMIT IN SEPT NEXT YEAR

In News:

- India will host the G20 leaders' summit next year on September 9-10. It will assume the presidency for one year — from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023.

In Focus: G-20



- G-20, a group of finance ministers and central bank governors from 19 individual countries and European Union, was established in 1999.
- G20 was elevated to a forum of Heads of State/Government in 2008 to effectively respond to the global financial crisis of 2008.
- G-20 is a forum, not a legislative body, its agreements and decisions have no legal impact, but they do influence countries' policies and global cooperation.

Significance of G20

- **Carries significant weight**
 - G20 members represent around 85% of global GDP, over 75% of global trade, and two-thirds of the world's population.
 - G20 members contribute 79% of the world carbon emissions and hence this platform assumes significance in shaping the discussion on climate change.
- **Promotes Multilateralism**
 - Since 2011, the G20 summit has been held annually, under a rotating presidency.
 - The practice of rotating the chair gives all the members a chance to shape the global agenda.
- **A number of overarching themes**
 - Initially, the G20 focused on broad macroeconomic policy, but has since expanded its ambit to include trade, climate change, sustainable development, energy, environment, climate change, anti-corruption etc.

- Eg., 2021 summit decided to stop funding coal-fired power plants in poor countries by the end of 2021.
- It also committed to seek carbon neutrality “by or around mid-century”.
- 2021 summit endorsed the Two-Pillar Solution to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy.
- **United Fight against COVID-19 Pandemic**
 - In March 2020, G20 leaders pledged to inject \$5 trillion into the global economy to reduce the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.
 - In addition to this, they also agreed to contribute to WHO’s COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund on voluntary basis.

News Summary

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced that G20 Leaders’ Summit will be held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10 in 2023.

WHAT IS WINDFALL TAX AND WHY ARE COUNTRIES IMPOSING IT ON THE ENERGY SECTOR RIGHT NOW?

In News:

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman defended the windfall tax imposed by the Centre on domestic crude oil producers.
- She said the introduction of the windfall tax as a way to rein in the phenomenal profits made by some oil refiners.
 - These refiners chose to export fuel to reap the benefits of skyrocketing global prices while affecting domestic supplies.

Background

- The Central government on July 1, introduced a windfall profit tax of ₹23,250 per tonne on domestic crude oil production.
- This was subsequently revised fortnightly four times so far.

- Analysts believe that the windfall tax in India was targeted mainly at Reliance Industries Ltd and Russian oil major Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy.
- As per the government, these companies were making a killing on exporting large volumes of fuel made from discounted Russian oil at the cost of the domestic market.
- Keeping the national interest in mind, India started to import cheap Russia oil after the Ukraine war.

Windfall tax

- Windfall taxes are designed to tax the profits a company derives from an external, sometimes unprecedented event— for instance, the energy price-rise as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- The United States Congressional Research Service defines a windfall as an unearned, unanticipated gain in income through no additional effort or expense.
- These are profits that cannot be attributed to something the firm actively did, like an investment strategy or an expansion of business.
- Governments typically levy a one-off tax retrospectively over and above the normal rates of tax on such profits, called windfall tax.

Rationale behind imposing windfall taxes

- Redistribution of unexpected gains when high prices benefit producers at the expense of consumers,
- To fund social welfare schemes,
- As a supplementary revenue stream for the government,
- As a way for the Centre to narrow the country's widened trade deficit.

Why are countries levying windfall taxes now?

- Prices of oil, gas, and coal have seen sharp increases since late last year and in the first two quarters of the current year, although having reduced recently.
- The increase stems from a combination of factors, including a mismatch between energy demand and supply during the economic recovery from COVID-19, further amplified by the Russian war in Ukraine.

- The rising prices meant huge and record profits for energy companies while resulting in hefty gas and electricity bills for household bills in major and smaller economies.
- Eg., the combined profits of Shell, Exxon Mobil, Total Energies, BP, Chevron Corp and Saudi Aramco went from \$45.09 billion in Q2 2021 to \$107.64billion in Q2 2022.
- Since the gains stemmed partly from external change, multiple analysts have called them windfall profits.

'CHEETAH MITRAS' TO WATCH TOWERS, KUNO READY TO HOST AFRICAN GUESTS

In News:

- The Prime Minister of India will soon release 3 Cheetahs (two male siblings and a female) into an enclosure at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park to initiate the species' reintroduction in India.
- Soon after releasing the 3 Cheetahs, the PM will address a group of '**Cheetah mitras,**' who have been trained to educate villagers about Cheetahs and how they differ from leopards in behaviour and appearance.

Cheetah - Distribution; extinction, reintroduction in India:

About the species:

- The Cheetah (a carnivore) is the **world's fastest land animal** historically ranging throughout most of Sub-Saharan Africa and extending eastward to **India**.
- The Cheetah plays **an important part in the ecosystem**. They maintain prey species healthy (by killing the weak and old) and control the population of prey, helping plants-life by preventing overgrazing.
- Today, Cheetahs are found in **only 9% of their historic range**, occurring in a variety of habitats such as **savannahs in the Serengeti**, arid mountain ranges in the Sahara and hilly desert terrain in **Iran**.

- **Namibia** has the largest population of Cheetahs in the world, earning it the title "**The Cheetah Capital of the World.**"
- Currently, Cheetahs (African) are listed as **Vulnerable** on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, as there are fewer than 7,100 adult and adolescent Cheetahs in the wild.

Distribution of Cheetahs in India:

- **Historically**, Asiatic Cheetahs had a very wide distribution in India, occurring from as far north as **Punjab to Tirunelveli** district in southern Tamil Nadu, from **Gujarat and Rajasthan** in the west to **Bengal** in the east.
- Thus, the Cheetah's habitat was very diverse - scrub forests, dry grasslands, savannas and other arid and semi-arid open habitats.
- In 1952, the cheetah was declared officially extinct in the country.

Cheetah Reintroduction Plan:

- Discussions to bring the Cheetah back to India were initiated in **2009** by the Wildlife Trust of India.
- **Recommended sites:**
 - **Kuno Palpur National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh:** Amongst the surveyed sites of the central Indian states, KNP has been rated the highest, because of its suitable habitat and adequate prey base.
 - It is assessed to be capable of supporting **21** Cheetahs and is likely the **only wildlife site in the country** where villages have been completely relocated from within the park.
 - Kuno also provides the possibility of **harbouring four of India's big cats** - tiger, lion, leopard and Cheetah, enabling them to coexist as they have in the past.
 - **The other sites recommended are** – Other sites of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan were also recommended.

Why are Cheetahs coming from southern Africa?

- The locally extinct Cheetah-subspecies of India is found in Iran and is categorised as critically endangered.

- Since it is not possible to source the critically endangered Asiatic Cheetah from Iran without affecting this subspecies, **India will source Cheetahs from Southern Africa.**
- Southern African Cheetahs have the **highest observed genetic variety** among extant Cheetah lineages, which is critical for a founding population stock.
- Furthermore, Southern African Cheetahs have been determined to be the ancestors of all other Cheetah lineages, making them suitable for India's reintroduction programme.

Significance of bringing back Cheetahs:

- Besides conserving the big cat, the initiative in itself is a **boon to the ecosystem.**
- In saving Cheetahs, it is **necessary to save not just its prey base** (including certain threatened species), but also other endangered species of grasslands.
- They are not a threat to humans and do not attack large livestock either.

Challenges:

- Based on the evidence available, it is **impossible to conclude** that the choice to bring the African Cheetah into India is scientifically sound.
- As a result, the Supreme Court of India (in 2020) permitted an experimental release of Cheetahs in a suitable habitat.

News Summary:

- A quarantine enclosure of 50×30-metre, located within the core area of the 748-square-km Kuno National Park, is ready to receive **8 Cheetahs from Namibia.**
- The Cheetahs, who are all between the ages of five and six, **will be quarantined in the enclosures** for the next month and will be constantly monitored.
 - The Cheetahs need not hunt during their quarantine period.
- The goal is to ensure that no other animal enters, **allowing the big cats to adjust** well to their new environments.
- After the quarantine period is over, the Cheetahs will be released into a 550-hectare enclosure divided into nine compartments, inter-connected through gates.
- The Cheetahs will have to hunt for their survival in the bigger enclosure where they will stay for another month

- To deter poachers, two drone squads have been formed, five CCTV-equipped watchtowers have been erected, and at least 24 retired military personnel have been hired.

JIMEX 2022

The sixth edition of Japan India Maritime Exercise 2022 (JIMEX 22) hosted by Indian Navy commenced in the Bay of Bengal on 11 September 2022.



About:

- The Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) ships are being led by R Adm Hirata Toshiyuki, Commander Escort Flotilla Four, and Indian Naval ships by R Adm Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.
- JIMEX 22 involves two Phases; exercises at sea and a harbour phase at Visakhapatnam.
- This edition marks the 10th anniversary of JIMEX, which began in Japan in 2012.
- It also coincides with the 70th anniversary of establishing of diplomatic relations between India and Japan.
- JIMEX 22 seeks to consolidate the high degree of interoperability that exists between maritime forces of the two countries, through complex exercises in the surface, sub-surface and air domains.

EXERCISES KAKADU

INS Satpura and a P8 I Maritime Patrol Aircraft of the Indian Navy reached Darwin in Australia on 12 September 2022, for participation in the multinational Exercise Kakadu –



2022, hosted by the Royal Australian Navy.

About:

- The two week-long Exercise, both in harbour and sea, involves ships and maritime aircraft from 14 navies. During the harbour phase of the

exercise, the ship's crew will engage in operational planning interactions and sports activities with participating Navies.

NATIONAL LISTS OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES (NLEM) 2022

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, launched National Lists of Essential Medicines (NLEM) 2022.



About:

- 384 drugs have been included in this list with addition of 34 drugs, while 26 from the previous list have been dropped. The medicines have been categorized into 27 therapeutic categories.
 - The following criteria are followed for inclusion in NLEM:
 - be useful in diseases which is a public health problem in India
 - be licensed/ approved Drugs Controller General (India) (DCGI)
 - have proven efficacy and safety profile based on scientific evidence
 - be comparatively cost effective
 - be aligned with the current treatment guidelines
 - recommended under National Health Programs of India. (e.g. Ivermectin part of Accelerated Plan for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis 2018).
 - when more than one medicine are available from the same therapeutic class, one prototype/ medically best suited medicine of that class to be included.
 - price of total treatment is considered and not the unit price of a medicine
 - fixed dose combinations are usually not included
 - vaccines as and when are included in Universal Immunization Program (e.g. Rotavirus vaccine).
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INSTANT LOAN APPS

The arrest of a Chinese national by the Chandigarh Police for allegedly blackmailing and extorting money from people through instant loan mobile applications has raised several concerns.



About:

- The racket of luring people to take instant loans via mobile apps and then extorting money from them gained momentum during the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - These mobile applications provide small amounts in instant loans at a higher interest rate, ranging from 15 per cent to 20 per cent. These applications do not follow the strict procedures followed by banks before giving out loans, such as customer verification.
 - A person who installs the application and wants a loan has to fill out an online form.
 - To get the loan, the mobile user has to allow the application to access the contacts, photos, videos and all other digital content of the mobile phone.
 - Many mobile applications provide the loan amount after deducting the interest from the principal amount. Some of the applications even recover the interest on a daily or weekly basis.
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