

### *Committee to Oversee Situation on Bangladesh Border*

The Indian government announced a five-member committee to monitor and assess the situation along the India-Bangladesh border.

#### *Key Points*

- ❖ The decision was made by the *Border Management Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)* through a formal order.
- ❖ *Chairman:* Ravi Gandhi, Additional Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF), Eastern Command, will chair the committee.
- ❖ *Committee Members:* Inspector General (IG) of BSF Frontier Headquarters South Bengal, IG of BSF Frontier Headquarters Tripura, A Member from the Planning and Development division of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) and Secretary of LPAI.

### *Clean Plant Programme*

The Union Cabinet approves the Clean Plant Programme under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture.

#### *More on News*

- ❖ It was announced in the Budget Speech by the finance minister in February 2023, the CPP represents a major leap forward in enhancing the quality and productivity of fruit crops across the nation.

#### *Key Points*

- ❖ The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the Clean Plant Programme (CPP) proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- ❖ It will be implemented by the *National Horticulture Board* in association with *Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)*.

- ❖ With a substantial investment of Rs.1,765.67 crore, this pioneering initiative is set to revolutionize the horticulture sector in India and expected to set new standards for excellence and sustainability.

#### **Core Components of the CPP:**

- ❖ **Clean Plant Centers (CPCs):** Nine world class state-of-the-art CPCs, equipped with advanced diagnostic therapeutics and tissue culture labs, will be established across India. These include Grapes (NRC, Pune), Temperate Fruits – Apple, Almond, Walnuts etc. (CITH, Srinagar & Mukteshwar), Citrus Fruits (CCRI, Nagpur & CIAH, Bikaner), Mango/Guava/Avocado (IIHR, Bengaluru), Mango/Guava/Litchi (CISH, Lucknow), Pomegranate (NRC, Sholapur) and Tropical/Subtropical Fruits in Eastern India.
- ❖ **Certification and Legal Framework:** A robust certification system will be implemented, supported by a regulatory framework under the Seeds Act 1966, to ensure thorough accountability and traceability in planting material production and sale.
- ❖ **Enhanced Infrastructure:** Support will be provided to large-scale nurseries for the development of infrastructure, facilitating the efficient multiplication of clean planting material.

#### **Key Benefits of the Clean Plant Programme (CPP):**

- ❖ **Farmers:** The CPP will provide access to virus-free, high-quality planting material, leading to increased crop yields and improved income opportunities.
- ❖ **Consumers:** The initiative will ensure that consumers benefit from superior produce that is free from viruses, enhancing the taste, appearance, and nutritional value of fruits.
- ❖ **Exports:** By producing higher-quality, disease-free fruits, India will strengthen its position as a leading global exporter, expanding market opportunities and increasing its share in the international fruit trade.

- ❖ **Affordability:** The Programme will prioritize affordable access to clean plant material for all farmers, regardless of their landholding size or socioeconomic status.
- ❖ **Women participation:** The Programme will actively engage women farmers in its planning and implementation, ensuring their access to resources, training and decision-making opportunities.
- ❖ **Agro- Climate:** The Programme will address the diverse agro-climatic conditions across India by developing region-specific clean plant varieties and technologies.

### Way Forward

- ❖ The Clean Plant Programme is set to significantly boost India's horticultural sector while aligning with **Mission LiFE** and the **One Health** initiatives.
- ❖ It will promote sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices and reduce dependence on imported planting materials.
- ❖ This programme will be a crucial step toward establishing India as a leading global exporter of fruits and driving transformative change across the sector.

### Short News

- ❖ The UP government, in collaboration with the Indian Railways, is **operating Kakori Shaurya Gatha Express** to mark the **100th anniversary of the Kakori Train Action**.
  - The Kakori Shaurya Gatha Express, to be run as part of the Kakori Train Action Centenary Festival, will introduce the public to the historic Kakori incident. This special train will travel across the state for the next two months, educating people about the event.

### Important Days/Dates

August 10	World Biofuel	World Biofuel Day is observed on August 10 annually. It is to create awareness about the importance of biofuels that
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	Day	are made from biological materials like agricultural waste, animal waste, algae, trees, crops, or even grass.  <b>Theme:</b> The theme for World Biofuel Day 2024 is “ <b>Sustainable Biofuels: Fueling a Greener Future</b> ”, emphasizing the importance of developing and utilizing biofuels sustainably to ensure long-term environmental benefits
August 10	World Lion Day	It was established by Big Cat Rescue, the largest accredited sanctuary for big cats.  It is a global occasion to honor lions and raise awareness about their declining numbers and the urgent need for conservation

## Sports

### Paris Olympics 2024

#### India's Performance

- ❖ A total of 117 Indian athletes made up the contingent that went on the hunt for medals and sporting immortality at the Paris 2024 Olympics, which ran from July 26 to August 11.
- ❖ **Medal won:** In all, India won six medals: a silver and five bronze at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

#### Medal winner from India:

- ❖ **Manu Bhaker:** Manu Bhaker won the first medal for India at the Paris 2024 Olympics. She bagged a bronze and became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic shooting medal.
- ❖ **Sarbjot Singh:** Manu Bhaker then created history by becoming the first Indian to win two medals at a single edition of the Olympics after she clinched a mixed team 10m air pistol bronze with Sarabjot Singh.

- ❖ **Swapnil Kusale:** He added a third medal in shooting to make it India's biggest haul in a sport in a single edition of the Olympics.
- ❖ **Indian Men's hockey team:** The Indian men's hockey team matched their Tokyo 2020 success with the bronze in Paris.
- ❖ **Neeraj Chopra:** Neeraj Chopra became the most successful individual Olympian after he claimed a silver medal in the javelin throw.
- ❖ **Aman Sehrawat:** He became India's youngest Olympic medallist when he won bronze in wrestling.

### Highest Medal Winning countries

Country	Medals	Gold	Silver	Bronze
USA	126	40	44	42
China	91	40	27	24
Great Britain	65	14	22	29

### Important Facts

- ❖ Overall, India have won **41 medals** at the Olympics to date.
- ❖ Interestingly, it was **Norman Pritchard's** dual silver which opened India's account in Paris 1900.
- ❖ **KD Jadhav**, with a wrestling bronze at Helsinki 1952, was the first individual athlete from independent India to get on the Olympic medal winners list.
- ❖ Weightlifter **Karnam Malleswari** became the first woman to win an Olympic medal at Sydney 2000.
- ❖ Rifle shooter **Abhinav Bindra** was the first Indian to win an Olympic gold medal in an individual event at Beijing 2008 and was the only one to do so for over a

decade before Neeraj's javelin triumph at Tokyo 2020.

- ❖ **Men's hockey**, with **13 medals** including eight golds, has been the biggest contributor to India's Olympic medals tally followed by wrestling with eight medals.

### Awards/ Titles

#### Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste



- ❖ President José Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste conferred the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the country's highest civilian award, upon **President Droupadi Murmu**.
- ❖ The award is in recognition of her achievements in public service and dedication to education, social welfare and empowerment of women.

#### Olympics Order



- ❖ **Abhinav Bindra**, India's first Olympic individual gold medalist, has been honored with the prestigious **Olympic Order** for his remarkable contributions to the Olympic movement.
- ❖ The Olympic Order is one of the **highest honors bestowed within the Olympic community**, recognizing individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the Olympic movement.

### Miscellaneous

- ❖ The **Union Cabinet Approved eight new railway projects** at an estimated cost of ₹24,657 crore to provide connectivity, facilitate ease of traveling, minimise logistics cost, reduce oil imports and lower carbon dioxide emissions.

- Expected to be completed by 2030-31, the projects cover 14 districts in the seven States of Odisha, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Telangana and West Bengal, which will increase the existing network of the railways by 900 km.
- ❖ The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a **Bullet Proof Jacket (BPJ)** consisting of the **lightest Front Hard Armour Panel (FHAP)**.
  - This jacket has been developed in two configurations viz. In-Conjunction-With (ICW) and Standalone with different areal density of FHAP.
- ❖ Three underwater geographical structures located in the Indian Ocean have been awarded names proposed by India. Named after the rulers of the Mauryan dynasty are the **Ashoka seamount** and the **Chandragupt ridge** **Kalpataru ridge** is the third structure for which the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) have recently awarded names originally proposed by India.

### Important News- Other States

<b>Nagaland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Nagaland has become the <b>first state in India</b> to start a disaster management insurance scheme by signing an agreement with SBI General Insurance.</li> <li>❖ This new program is called the <b>Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS)</b>.</li> </ul>
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