

16th October 2024

President Rule

President's rule was revoked in J&K after almost 6 years paving a way for the formation of a new government.

What is the President Rule?

- ❖ Article 356 of the Constitution relates to imposing President's Rule.
- ❖ **Imposition:** Article 356(1) allows the President, on receiving a report from the governor of a state or even otherwise, to, by proclamation, declare his or her rule if he or she is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the state government cannot be carried on in accordance with constitutional provisions.
 - This provision allows the President to "assume to himself all or any of the functions of the government of the state and all or any of the powers vested in or exercisable by the governor or anybody or authority in the state other than the legislature of the state".
- ❖ **Revocation:** Article 356(2) allows for President's Rule to be revoked/withdrawn or modified at any time through a subsequent proclamation.
 - Nearly all proclamations, except revocatory ones, cease to operate once two months lapse, unless they are approved by both Houses of Parliament before the expiry period.
- ❖ **Conditions for extension:** The following are the conditions for extending the duration of President's Rule for more than one year from the date on which it was issued.
 - **First, a proclamation of Emergency should be in operation, in the entire country or, any part of it,** at the time the resolution is being passed.

- **Second,** the Election Commission must certify that the continuance in force of the proclamation is justified or "necessary on account of difficulties in holding general elections" to the concerned legislative assembly.

What is the situation in J&K right now?

- ❖ The **National Conference-Congress alliance won the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections** and is now all set to form a government.
- ❖ Nearly five years ago, President's Rule was imposed in Jammu and Kashmir, following the division of the erstwhile state into two UTs, that is, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, on 31 October 2019.
- ❖ There have been at least nine instances of the imposition of President's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir, between the years 1977 and 2019.
- ❖ In **December 2018, President's Rule was imposed in the state.** This marked the first instance of imposition of central rule in the state, since 1996.

Dragon Drone

Dragon drones have been deployed in the Russia-Ukraine war as advanced weapons.

What are Dragon Drones?

- ❖ Dragon drones essentially release a substance called **thermite (a mixture of aluminium and iron oxide)** developed a century ago to weld railroad tracks.
- ❖ When ignited (usually with the help of an electrical fuse), thermite triggers a **self-sustaining reaction that is quite difficult to extinguish.** It can burn through almost anything, from clothes to trees to military-grade vehicles, and can even burn underwater. On humans, it causes severe, possibly fatal, burns and bone damage.

Thermite was used in both world wars. During World War I, German zeppelins dropped thermite-laden bombs which were considered an innovation at the time.

Northern Lights/Aurora borealis

Northern lights, or aurora borealis, were observed in parts of the world including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, and even Hanle village in Ladakh, India.

What are Auroras?

- ❖ Auroras are essentially natural lights that appear as **bright, swirling curtains in the night sky** and can be seen in a range of colours, including blue, red, yellow, green, and orange.
- ❖ These lights primarily appear near the poles of both the **northern and southern hemispheres** all year round but sometimes they expand to lower latitudes.
- ❖ When witnessed near the North, these bright and colourful lights are called **Aurora Borealis**, while those in the South are called **Aurora Australis**.
- ❖ They are formed due to an active interaction in space between charged solar winds and the Earth's magnetosphere.

India's first dark-sky preserve is the **Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO)**, a high-altitude astronomy station in Hanle (Ladakh) operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics.

Recently, in January 2024, **Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR)** in Maharashtra was designated as **India's first Dark Sky Park in India**.

Leptospirosis

Punjab Chief Minister has been diagnosed with leptospirosis and has been put on medication.

What is Leptospirosis?

- ❖ **Causing Agent:** According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Leptospirosis is an infectious disease caused by **bacteria belonging to the genus Leptospira**.
- ❖ It is also called **Weil disease**.
- ❖ It is mainly a disease of animals that occasionally infect humans.
- ❖ The bacteria can be transmitted to humans through cuts and abrasions of the skin, or the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth with water contaminated with the urine of infected animals.
- ❖ **Common animals that transmit Leptospirosis include farm animals such as cattle, pigs, and horses** but can range from wild animals such as raccoons and porcupines to domesticated dogs.

Yakshagana

The Sri Idagunji Mahaganapati Yakshagana Mandali Keremane of Karnataka has been honoured with global recognition from UNESCO.

Key Points

- ❖ It has **become the first Yakshagana institution** to achieve this distinction.
- ❖ The recognition comes as part of UNESCO's efforts to promote and preserve intangible cultural heritage worldwide.



What is Yakshagana?

- ❖ The Yakshagana art form, which combines dance, music, and drama, is a traditional performance art that is deeply rooted in the culture of Karnataka.
- ❖ It is known for its vibrant storytelling and elaborate costumes.

Murine Typhus

Aman from Kerala who recently traveled to Vietnam and Cambodia was diagnosed with the bacterial disease murine typhus.

What is Murine Typhus?

- ❖ **Causing agent:** Murine typhus is an infectious disease caused by the flea-borne bacteria *Rickettsia typhi*.
- ❖ The disease is also known as endemic typhus, flea-borne typhus or flea-borne spotted fever.
- ❖ **Transmission:** It is transmitted to humans through the bites of infected fleas.
- ❖ **Rodents like rats, mice and mongoose, are known to be reservoirs of the disease.** The disease-carrying fleas can also live on other small mammals, including pets such as cats and dogs. Once a flea is infected, it can spread the disease for the rest of its life.
- ❖ **Spread:** The disease is spread when infected flea faeces come into contact with cuts or scrapes in the skin.
- ❖ **Symptoms:** The symptoms usually appear **seven to 14 days after the exposure** and include fever, headaches, body aches, joint pains, nausea, vomiting, and stomach aches.

Person In News- Appointment

Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin



She became the first woman doctor to hold the position of the **Director General of the Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS)**.

Person In News- Worldwide

Mark Rutte



He has been appointed as the **14th Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization**.

Places in News

Chagos Island



- ❖ The United Kingdom announced that it would **cede sovereignty of the strategically important Chagos Islands to Mauritius**.
- ❖ The Chagos archipelago, comprising 58 islands, lies roughly 500 km to the **south of the Maldives archipelago in the Indian Ocean**.

- ❖ These islands were used by the French for their coconut plantations. They ceded the island to the British in 1814.
- ❖ In 1965, it became part of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) and attached to Mauritius. Even when Mauritius gained independence in 1968, Chagos remained with Britain.

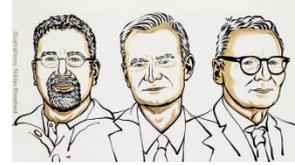
Awards/Titles

Nobel Peace Prize 2024



- ❖ The Nobel Peace Prize 2024 has been awarded to a **Japanese organisation named Nihon Hidankyo**.
- ❖ It is a grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, also known as Hibakusha.
- ❖ The **Japanese organisation Nihon Hidankyo was formed in 1956** with an aim to raise global awareness regarding the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. Nihon Hidankyo has shared personal stories of the survivors of the 1945 nuclear attack and has helped shape the international "nuclear taboo", a powerful norm stigmatising the use of nuclear arms as morally unacceptable.

Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences 2024



- ❖ The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences 2024 to three US-based economists **Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson**.
- ❖ This year's laureates in the field of economic sciences have provided new insights into why there are such vast differences in prosperity between nations. One important explanation is **persistent differences in societal institutions**.

Indexes/Reports

Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024



- ❖ The **Global Hunger Index is a tool used to measure and track hunger globally**.
- ❖ It is based on indicators like undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality.
- ❖ The index is **published by Concern Worldwide**, an Irish humanitarian organisation, and Welthungerhilfe, a German aid agency.
- ❖ **India has been ranked 105th out of 127 countries** in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024, **placing it in the "serious" category for hunger levels**.
- ❖ With a **GHI score of 27.3**, **India's performance remains concerning**, particularly when compared to its South Asian neighbours such as Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, which fall into the "moderate" category.

- ❖ India is listed alongside countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan, which also face severe hunger challenges.
- ❖ The report reveals alarming statistics: 13.7 percent of India's population is undernourished, 35.5 percent of children under five are stunted, 18.7 percent suffer from wasting, and 2.9 percent of children die before their fifth birthday.

Living Planet Report

- ❖ Recently, the World Wildlife Fund released the biennial Living Planet report.
- ❖ According to the report, global wildlife populations have declined by 73 per cent in the last 50 years, owing to habitat loss, degradation, impacts of climate change, and invasive species.
- ❖ In India, the decline of three vulture species – white-rumped vulture, Indian vulture, and slender-billed vulture, has been alarming.

Important Days/Dates

October 16

World Food Day



- ❖ World Food Day is celebrated annually on 16th October.
- ❖ It is to commemorate the establishment of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 1945.
- ❖ Dr. Pal Romany, the former Hungarian Minister of Agriculture and Food, proposed

the creation of World Food Day in November 1979. This global observance is now celebrated by over 150 countries worldwide. In commemoration of the establishment of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

- ❖ **Theme of 2024 World Food Day:** “Right to Foods for a Better Life and a Better Future”.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ **Nirdeshak (Yard 3026) the second of four Survey Vessel (Large) ships** has been delivered to the Indian Navy. The first ship of the class, INS Sandhayak, was commissioned on 03 Feb 24.
 - The SVL ships are designed and built as per classification rules of Indian Register of Shipping by M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- ❖ **15th October is celebrated as the birth anniversary of former President Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam.** It was on this day in 1931 that the former President was born in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. He was Known as the Missile Man of India, Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam specialized in Aeronautical Engineering and made significant contributions as **Project Director to develop India’s first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle.** He was awarded the **Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, and the highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna.** In 2002, he became the 11th President of India.

