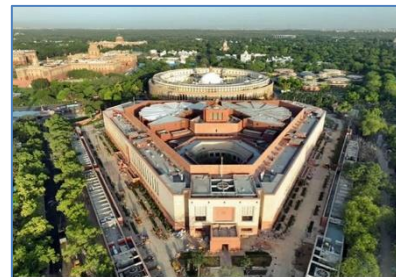


New Parliamentary Committees Formed for 2024-25

Six new Parliamentary Committees were established by the Lok Sabha Speaker, one of which is the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which will be chaired by prominent Congressman K.C. Venugopal and closely monitors government spending.

Key Points-

- ❖ The recently established committees consist of members from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and their term is for one year. The 18th Lok Sabha's committees have mostly been established by consensus, in contrast to the previous Lok Sabha, where committee composition frequently entailed elections.
- ❖ One of the three important financial committees charged with monitoring the government's finances is the Public Accounts Committee, which is often led by a prominent Lok Sabha member from the main opposition party.
- ❖ Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, a congressman, oversaw the Public Accounts Committee for five years. Mallikarjun Kharge, the president of Congress, led the Public Accounts Committee prior to him.



The new committees are:

- ❖ Public Accounts Committee
- ❖ Estimates Committee
- ❖ Public Undertakings Committee
- ❖ Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes
- ❖ Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Nepal to export 1,000 MW electricity to India

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced on August 19 that Nepal will sell about 1,000 MW of electricity to India following a meeting with his counterpart Arzu Rana Deuba in New Delhi.



Key Points:

- ❖ This was announced after a meeting with his Nepalese counterpart Arzu Rana Deuba who was in India for an official visit. Aside from energy, the two officials also talked about areas of cooperation in trade, connectivity, and infrastructure development.

- ❖ Previous to this, the \$6.95 billion investment for the 669 megawatt (MW) Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project in Nepal was approved by the Indian Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, according to state-owned company SJVN.

Centenary Commemorative Coin Honouring M. Karunanidhi

On August 18, Dr Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi's centenary commemorative coin was unveiled in Chennai by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.



About M. Karunanidhi

- ❖ Indian writer and politician Muthuvel Karunanidhi led Tamil Nadu as chief minister for nearly 20 years, covering five terms in office from 1969 to 2011. Because of his contributions to Tamil literature, he is known by the terms Kalaingar (Artist) and Mutthamizh Arignar (Tamil Scholar).
- ❖ He held the longest stint as Tamil Nadu's chief minister. In addition, he served as the Dravidian movement's long-time leader and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam political party's president.

Malabar Tree Toad

According to a recent study, climate change may cause the endemic Malabar Tree Toad (MTT) population in India's Western Ghats to drop by 68.7% by 2080, especially in protected areas (PAs).



Climate change is predicted to cause the Malabar Tree Toad's habitats to move from the central to the southern Western Ghats, potentially improving conditions for certain wildlife sanctuaries while decreasing them for others.


About Malabar Tree Toad:

- ❖ The monotypic genus *Pedostibes* has only one species.
- ❖ The species was initially identified in 1876, and it was nearly a century before any sightings were reported.
- ❖ In 1980, it was found again in Kerala's Silent Valley National Park.
- ❖ Only the Western Ghats of India are home to it.

Person In News:

<p>Ashok Kumar Singh</p>	<p>On August 19, the Government of India's Ministry of Labour & Employment appointed Shri Ashok Kumar Singh, IAS, as Director General of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), with headquarters located in New Delhi.</p>	
---------------------------------	---	---

Person In News- Obituary

<p>Leonard Hayflick</p>	<p>Leonard Hayflick, a biomedical researcher, passed away recently. He discovered that normal somatic cells may divide (and so reproduce) only a limited number of times.</p>	
--------------------------------	---	---

