

### India, US Sign Cultural Property Agreement To Repatriate Stolen Indian Artifacts



#### KEY POINTS

- ❖ India and the United States of America have signed a Cultural Property Agreement to repatriate stolen Indian artifacts from the USA.
- ❖ Under the agreement, both countries will work together to also prevent and prohibit illicit trade, import, export and trafficking of archaeological and ethnological materials.
- ❖ This is India's first-ever Cultural Property Agreement with the US.

### Centre clears urban flood management projects worth ₹2,514.36 cr of 5 states



#### KEY POINTS

- ❖ A high-level committee (HLC), chaired by the union home minister, approved six proposals of five states, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, West Bengal and Maharashtra — for urban flood management at a total cost of ₹2,514.36 crore.
- ❖ The funds would be utilised for flood management in six metro cities of Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Pune.
- ❖ Earlier in its meeting on November 27, 2023, the HLC approved the project proposal for integrated solutions for flood management in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, at a cost of ₹561.29 crore.

### Amit Shah led High-level committee Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme (YAMS)



#### KEY POINTS

- ❖ Amit Shah led High-level committee approved a proposal of Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme (YAMS) at an outlay of Rs 470.50 crore from NDRF.

- ❖ It will be implemented in 315 most disaster-prone districts of the country for training of 1300 trained Aapda Mitra Volunteers as Master Trainers and 2.37 lakh volunteers exclusively from NCC, NSS, NYKS and BS&G (Bharat Scouts & Guides) in disaster preparedness and response.
- ❖ Earlier, the government implemented "Aapda Mitra" scheme under which around 1 lakh community volunteers have been trained for disaster response in 350 most disaster-prone districts of the country.
- ❖ These skilled and trained 'Aapda Mitras' and 'Aapda Sakhis' are playing an important role in assisting the local administration in responding to any disaster.
- ❖ During the current financial year, the Centre has released Rs 6348 crore to 14 states under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and Rs 672 crore to six states under State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF). In addition, an amount of Rs 4265 crore has been released to 10 states under NDRF.

Ajit Doval Represents India At 4th Annual BIMSTEC Security Chiefs Meeting In Naypyitaw



KEY POINTS

- ❖ National Security Advisor NSA Ajit Doval led the Indian delegation at the 4th Annual Meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation BIMSTEC Security Chiefs in Naypyitaw, Myanmar.
- ❖ He met with the Myanmar NSA Admiral Moe Aung and BIMSTEC Security Chiefs called on Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Govt sets a target to open 25,000 PMBJKs by 31st March 2027 across India



### KEY POINTS

- ❖ The government has set a target to open 25,000 Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) by 31st March 2027 across the country.
- ❖ In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Anupriya Patel said, 547 PMBJ Kendras have been opened in Primary Agricultural Credit Societies across the country till June last month.
- ❖ Under Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, 2047 medicines and 3000 surgical and medical consumables have been brought under the product basket for wider availability.

Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates India's  
 500th Community Radio Station- Apna  
 Radio 90.0 FM at IIMC Aizawl



### KEY POINTS

- ❖ Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the winners of 10th National Community Radio Awards.
- ❖ The Minister has also inaugurated India's 500th Community Radio Station in presence of Union Minister of State for I&B Dr. L. Murugan and Chief Minister of Mizoram Shri Lalduhoma.
- ❖ The station 'Apna Radio 90.0 FM' is a station run by Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Aizawl.
- ❖ This initiative will bring a substantive change in the lives of people in the coverage area of Apna Radio station.
- ❖ This launch is also a significant milestone in the Government's policy of Act East.

ADB Approves Support to Improve  
 Urban Mobility in India



**KEY POINTS**

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to expand metro rail corridors and improve transport connectivity in Nagpur, India.
- ❖ The Nagpur Metro Urban Mobility Project will improve transport connectivity within and to Nagpur's new and growing urban areas.
- ❖ The project will finance the extension of four metro rail corridors in Nagpur.

**About Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

- **Founded** – 19 December 1966
- **Headquarters** – Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- **President** – Masatsugu Asakawa
- **Vice President** – Ashok Lavasa
- **Director of ADB for India** – Mio Oka (replace Takeo Konishi)
- **Executive Director** – Vikas Sheel
- **Adviser to the Executive Director** – Smita Sarangi
- **Member Countries** – 68 (Niue)

**First Stamp on Ram Lalla unveiled by EAM S.Jaishankar in Vientiane**



**KEY POINTS**

- ❖ External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar unveiled the first postage stamp on Ram Lalla of Ayodhya during his three-day visit to Vientiane, the capital city of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, from 25 to 27 July 2024.
- ❖ He was in Vientiane to attend ASEAN related foreign minister meeting. Dr Jaishankar left for Tokyo, Japan, to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of QUAD.
- ❖ During his visit to Vientiane, S Jaishankar and the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Laos, Saleumxay Kommasith, jointly unveiled two sets of postal stamps.
- ❖ The stamps' theme was "Celebrating the shared cultural heritage of Lao PDR and India." One postal stamp depicted Ram Lalla's idol from Ayodhya, and the other was released to commemorate Lord Buddha from Luang Prabang.
- ❖ Luang Prabang is the ancient capital of Lao. Lao is now a predominantly Buddhist country, but its culture and traditions have been deeply influenced by Hinduism also. In Laos, Ramanaya is known as Ramakien or the story of Phra Lak Phra Ram, and it is performed during important cultural events.



### 2024 CRPF Raising Day



#### KEY POINTS

- ❖ The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is observing its Raising Day on 27 July 2024. It was on this day the central government's largest paramilitary force, CRPF was raised as Crown Representative Police in 1939 by the British rulers of India.
- ❖ CRPF is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) of the government of India, the others being the Assam Rifles, Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Police Force (ITBP), National Security Guard (NSG), and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). CRPF is the largest CAPF and is dedicated to the task of internal security.

#### Formation of CRPF

- ❖ The CRPF was established as Crown Representative Police on 27 July 1939 by the British as a specialised force to maintain law and order in the country, especially in the princely states.
- ❖ After Independence, the provisional Indian parliament passed the Central Reserve Police Force Act in 1949.
- ❖ On 28 December 1949 the name of the force was changed to Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) as per the provision of the CRPF Act 1949.
- ❖ CRPF was made a force of the government of India under the Home Ministry. CRPF Role In india After Independence CRPF played a multifaceted role apart from helping the state government in maintaining law and order .
- ❖ The CRPF helped the central government in the integration of princely states in India after independence.
- ❖ It was deployed on the international borders with Pakistan and China . It fought alongside the Indian Army in the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak war and in the 1962 India-China war in Arunachal Pradesh. Later on its role was redefined as the government set up more specialised para-military forces.

## Specialised Units of CRPF

The CRPF has four specialised units- Mahila Battalion, CoBRA, RAF and VIP Security.

### Mahila Battalion

CRPF was the first CAPF in the country to raise a Mahila Battalion in 1986. At present it has 6 mahila battalions. These battalions have been deployed within the country and abroad. CRPF deployed its first Mahila Battalion along with the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka in 1987.

### CoBRA Unit

- ❖ In 2008, CRPF raised a specialised force, Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), to tackle the naxals or left wing extremist challenge in the country.
- ❖ It is a specialised unit trained in guerrilla and jungle warfare, It is deployed in the Left Wing Extremist regions of Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and Meghalaya

### Rapid Action Force (RAF)

The Rapid Action Force (RAF) was raised by the CRPF in October 1992 as an anti-riot force. It is a quick response force that can be quickly deployed in areas experiencing riots or public disturbances. The RAF also trains male and female contingents for UN peacekeeping missions.

### VIP Security

- ❖ CRPF also has a specialised VIP (Very Important Person) wing that provides security to persons as ordered by the Union Home Ministry.
- ❖ It provides security to the ministers of the government of India, State Governors, Chief Ministers, Politicians, Government officials, Spiritual leaders, Business tycoons and other prominent individuals.

### CRPF Deployment Outside India

CRPF has also been deployed outside as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission.

It has been deployed in Liberia, Haiti, Namibia, Somalia, Maldives, Kosovo, and Liberia.

**CRPF Motto: Service and Loyalty**

**Headquarters of CRPF: New Delhi**

**Director General : Anish Dayal Singh**

## 9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI

### Aayog



#### KEY POINTS

- ❖ The Niti Aayog 9th Governing Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday under the theme 'Viksit Bharat at 2047' had few pivotal discussions, including the formulation of an investment friendly charter index for states, setting of zero poverty goals, demographic management plans, and linking of river grids.
- ❖ Leaders of 26 states/Union Territories took part in the meeting in Delhi, while 10 states, including INDIA bloc leaders, who "boycotted" the meet over alleged discrimination in the Union Budget against them, remained absent.
- ❖ NITI Aayog CEO BV Subramanyam, addressing the media on Saturday, said, "We had 10 absentees and 26 participants. We had absentees from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Bihar, Delhi, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Puducherry.

#### ABOUT NITI AAYOG

- ❖ The NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India (GoI), playing a pivotal role in shaping the strategic long-term policies and programs for the country.
- ❖ The Government of India established the Planning Commission in March 1950 to oversee the nation's economic strategy through centrally devised five-year plans.
- ❖ A new body named the NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was established on January 1, 2015, as a successor to the erstwhile Planning Commission.
- ❖ Similar to the Planning Commission, the NITI Aayog was established by an Executive Resolution of the Government of India. Thus, the NITI Aayog is neither a Constitutional Body (i.e. not created by the Constitution) nor a Statutory Body (i.e. not created by an Act of Parliament).

#### Chairperson of NITI Aayog

The Prime Minister of India is the ex-officio chairman of NITI Aayog.

#### Governing Council of NITI Aayog

The Governing Council of the NITI Aayog comprises of:

- ❖ Chief Ministers of all the States,

- ❖ Chief Ministers of the Union Territories with Legislatures (i.e. Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir)

and

- ❖ Lt. Governors of the Union Territories without Legislatures.

### World Hepatitis Day



#### KEY POINTS

- ❖ World Hepatitis Day, observed on 28th July, raises awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes severe liver disease and cancer.
- ❖ The date of 28th July was chosen because it is the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for the virus.
- ❖ Theme 2024: “It’s time for action.”
- ❖ Hepatitis symptoms include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, clay coloured bowel movements, joint pain, and jaundice.
- ❖ Hepatitis has 5 main strains - A, B, C, D, and E, each with distinct transmission methods and health effects. Hepatitis B and C are the most common, causing 1.3 million deaths and 2.2 million new infections annually.
- ❖ With a person dying every 30 seconds from a hepatitis-related illness. Additional causes include drug and alcohol misuse, fatty liver hepatitis, and autoimmune response targeting the liver.

