

Bihar Special

Anand Kumar appointed Honorary Ambassador of Korea Tourism Organization

Why in the news?



- ❖ The Korea Tourism Organization (KTO) has appointed Anand Kumar, the founder of Super 30, as its honorary ambassador for the year 2024.

Polity And Governance

Supreme Court's Landmark Decision on Sub-Categorization of SC/ST Reservations

Why in the news?:

- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that reservations can be made within sub-categories of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).
- ❖ This verdict, with a 6:1 majority, overturns the 2004 decision by a five-judge bench, which had barred sub-categorization.

Background:

- ❖ In 2006, Punjab passed a law giving priority to two castes within SC for half of the reserved seats.
- ❖ Previously, such reservations required the presence of the entire SC category.

New Guidelines for State Governments:

- ❖ States cannot allocate 100% reservation to any one sub-caste within SCs.
- ❖ States must base sub-categorization on empirical data of representation.

Rationale Behind the Decision:

- ❖ Addressing complaints that the benefits of SC/ST reservations were being monopolized by a few sub-castes, leaving others disadvantaged.
- ❖ The court aims to ensure equitable distribution of reservation benefits among all sub-castes.

Impact of the Verdict:

- ❖ States can now provide sub-categories within SC reservations, ensuring that marginalized sub-castes also receive benefits.
- ❖ Example: In 2006, Punjab prioritized Valmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs within SC reservations.

Judges' Statements in Favor:

- ❖ **CJI D.Y. Chandrachud:** Sub-classification does not violate Article 14, as it ensures no sub-caste is excluded.
- ❖ **Justice B.R. Gavai:** Sub-categorization must be data-driven, acknowledging historical discrimination faced by certain sub-castes.
- ❖ **Justice Gavai's Emphasis:** Recognizes the ground reality of discrimination within SCs and the necessity for sub-categorization to address these disparities.
- ❖ **Justice Sharma:** Supports the need for identifying creamy layers within SC/ST to ensure fair distribution of reservation benefits.

Dissenting Opinion:

- ❖ **Justice Bela M. Trivedi:** Argued that sub-categorization interferes with the presidential notification under Article 341, which defines SCs as a homogenous group.
- ❖ Believed that sub-categorization would undermine the unity of the SC category and violate the constitutional framework.

Key Points of the Decision:



- ❖ Sub-categorization of SC/ST reservations is permissible.
- ❖ States cannot grant 100% reservation to any one sub-caste.
- ❖ Sub-categorization must be justified with empirical data on representation.
- ❖ Aims to ensure equitable distribution of reservation benefits among all sub-castes.

Schemes In News

'Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan' Scheme

Why in the news?

Goa has launched the 'Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan' scheme, which is designed to enhance solar rooftop installations.

- ❖ This initiative aims to empower residential households in Goa to generate their own electricity, in alignment with the Prime Minister's Surya Ghar Muft scheme.



Places In News

World's Greatest Places of 2024'

Why in the news?

TIME magazine's 'World's Greatest Places of 2024' includes three Indian destinations:

- ❖ Manam Chocolate in Hyderabad,
- ❖ Naar restaurant in Himachal Pradesh,
- ❖ Museum of Solutions (MuSo), a unique children's museum in Mumbai.



Sports

Swapnil Kusale Secures India's Third Bronze at Paris Olympics 2024

Why in the news?

Swapnil Kusale won a bronze medal in the Men's 50m Rifle Three Positions event at the Paris Olympics 2024 on August 1st, 2024.



- ❖ This victory marked India's third bronze medal in these Olympics, following achievements by Manu Bhaker in the Women's 10m Air Pistol and the Manu Bhaker-Sarabjot Singh duo in the Mixed 10m Air Pistol.

Index and Report

Decline in Hunger Prevalence in India

Why in the news?

- ❖ Hunger prevalence in India decreased from 16.6% (2020-22) to 13.7% in 2023, thanks to improved data access for UN agencies.

Revised Report

- ❖ **39.3 million people:** Escaped hunger in one year.
- ❖ **Prevalence of hunger:** Fell to 194.6 million (2021-23) from 233.9 million (2020-22).
- ❖ **Impact:** The goal of zero hunger by 2030 is more achievable.

Government and Agency Efforts

- ❖ Data from State of Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI) indicates significant improvement.
- ❖ Efforts included better data availability and government initiatives.

Government Initiatives

- ❖ Provided additional 5 kg of rice or wheat monthly under free ration schemes.
- ❖ Subsidized food grains under the National Food Security Act.

Global and Local Cooperation

- ❖ Collaborations with FAO, IFAD, WFP, and UNICEF supported progress.

Future Goals

- ❖ Zero hunger by 2030 is within reach with sustained measures.

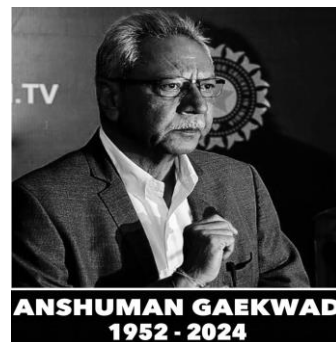
Obituary

Anshuman Gaekwad

Why in the news?

Anshuman Gaekwad, the former India batter and national head coach, has died aged 71, following a long battle with blood cancer.

- ❖ **Cricket Career**
- ❖ **International Career:**
 - **Tests:** Played 40 matches
 - **ODIs:** Played 15 matches
 - **First Class Matches:** Played 205 First Class matches
 - **Career Span:** 22 years
- ❖ **Coaching Career**
- ❖ **Indian Team Coach:**
 - **2000 ICC Champions Trophy:** Team finished as runner-up



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