

### Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement

India signed an international agreement to protect marine biodiversity on the high seas at the United Nations General Assembly.

#### Background

The Union Cabinet approved India's participation in the agreement in July.

#### Key Points

- ❖ The pact, formally known as the **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement**, was signed by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
- ❖ The BBNJ Agreement, or the '**High Seas Treaty**', is an international treaty under the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.
- ❖ **Aim:** It aims to address the growing concerns over the long-term protection of marine biodiversity in the high seas. It sets precise mechanisms for the sustainable use of marine biological diversity through international cooperation and coordination.
- ❖ **Sovereign rights:** Parties cannot claim or exercise sovereign rights over marine resources derived from the high seas and ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits.
- ❖ **Principle followed:** It follows an inclusive, integrated, ecosystem-centric approach based on the precautionary principle and promotes using traditional knowledge and the best available scientific knowledge.
- ❖ It helps minimise impacts on the marine environment through area-based management tools and establishes rules for conducting environmental impact assessments. It would also contribute to achieving several SDGs, particularly SDG14 (Life Below Water).

### UNCLOS

- ❖ It was adopted on **December 10, 1982**, and came into force on **November 16, 1994**.
- ❖ It is crucial for the environmental protection of the seas and addressing maritime boundaries, rights to marine resources, and dispute resolution.
- ❖ It establishes the International Seabed Authority to regulate mining and related activities on the ocean floor beyond national jurisdiction.
- ❖ As of today, more than 160 countries have ratified UNCLOS. It is vital to maintaining order, equity, and fairness in using the world's oceans.

The BBNJ Agreement was agreed upon in March 2023 and is open for signature for two years starting September 2023. It will be an international legally binding treaty after it enters force 120 days after the 60th ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. As of June 2024, 91 countries have signed the BBNJ Agreement, and eight Parties have ratified it.

### National Health Account estimates

The Union Health Ministry recently released the National Health Account estimates for India 2020-21 and 2021-22.

#### Key Points

- ❖ **Out-of-Pocket expenditure:** The Out-of-Pocket expenditure in total health expenditure has declined from 64.2 per cent in 2013-14 to 39.4 per cent in 2021-22.
- ❖ **Share of health expenditure:** The report highlighted that the government health expenditure's share in the country's total GDP has also increased from 1.13 per cent to 1.84 per cent.

- ❖ As per the release, more than one lakh crore rupees savings have accrued from the Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. Other schemes like the Free Dialysis scheme, launched in 2015-16 have benefited 25 lakh people.

#### Way Ahead

- ❖ A substantial increase has been noticed in the health expenditure of the government, while out-of-pocket expenditure has come down which is a good sign. The total health expenditure has also made a significant increase which reflects the emphasis of the government towards health.

#### ABHED

DRDO signs MoU with IIT Delhi to develop Light-Weight Bullet Proof jackets.

#### Key Points

- ❖ **MoU:** Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Delhi to develop Light Weight Bullet Proof Jackets.
- ❖ **Naming:** These jackets are named Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat.
- ❖ **Material Used:** The jackets have been created from **polymers and indigenous boron carbide ceramic material**.
- ❖ **Capabilities:** These jackets have met the **highest threat levels and are lighter than the maximum weight limits** stipulated in the respective General Staff Qualitative Requirement of the Indian Army.
- ❖ These jackets exemplifies the effective ecosystem of successful defence Research and Development by DRDO, academia and the industry.

#### Locomotive Manufacturing

India is set to become a global locomotive manufacturing hub with first-ever exports from Bihar's Marhowra Plant.

#### Key Points

- ❖ Wabtec Locomotive Private Limited, a joint venture between Indian Railways and Wabtec, is expanding the capabilities of its plant to export locomotives to Africa.
- ❖ **First time:** This for the first time the plant will manufacture locomotives for export to a global customer.
- ❖ **ES43ACmi locomotives:** The plant will supply Evolution Series ES43ACmi locomotives to global customers. The ES43ACmi is a locomotive featuring a 4,500 HP Evolution Series engine, offering best-in-class fuel efficiency and proven performance in high-temperature environments.
- ❖ The Marhowra plant will begin exporting these locomotives from next year.

#### Way Forward

- ❖ This project holds strategic importance as it positions India as a global locomotive manufacturing hub and aligns with the **"Make in India" and "Make for the World"** initiatives under the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" vision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❖ It will also enable the Marhowra plant to export standard-gauge locomotives globally, expanding the local supplier footprint and fostering long-term job creation, thereby benefiting the Indian economy.

### 155- Hours Cleanliness Campaign

The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a 155-hour non-stop mega cleanliness campaign on 26th September 2024.

#### Key Points

- ❖ The drive will end on **October 2**.
- ❖ It will coincide with the **155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**.
- ❖ **Theme:** Under the theme “**Swabhaav Swachhata-Sanskar Swachhata**,” the campaign aims to promote hygiene and environmental consciousness across urban areas.

### New World Record at Mahakumbh

The Prayagraj Mela Authority (PMA) aims to set four new world records during the 45-day Mahakumbh 2025, a once-in-12-years mega religious fair.

#### Key Points

- ❖ The initiative includes breaking three records from Kumbh 2019 and establishing a new record for mass cleaning of river ghats.
- ❖ A **budget of ₹4.87 crore has been allocated for this purpose**.
- ❖ **First record:** This time, four new world records will be attempted, **including a fresh attempt at the Most people sweeping the floor (multiple venues)**, with a goal of involving 15,000 participants, thereby breaking their own previous record.
- ❖ **Second record:** The second record will be for the "**Largest parade of e-rickshaws, with a target of running 1,000 e-rickshaws** simultaneously, compared to the shuttle buses used in 2019.

- ❖ **Third record:** A **new handprint painting record is also planned**, aiming to engage 10,000 participants in an event at the Ganga Pandal in the Mela area.
- ❖ **Fourth record:** Additionally, a new record for '**Most participants in a river cleanup**' will be attempted at various locations, with around 300 people expected to take part

### Radiation Treatment Plant for Mangoes

In a move to elevate Uttar Pradesh's standing in global exports of local varieties of mangoes, the UP govt will establish a radiation treatment plant near Jewar international airport in Noida.

#### Key Points

- ❖ The **first of its kind facility for North India**.
- ❖ It will help UP meet the stringent export standards set by the United States and European countries.
- ❖ Currently, such plants exist only in Mumbai and Bengaluru, whose local mango varieties, such as Alphonso, Bombay Green, Totapari, and Banganapalle.
- ❖ The new plant, to be built on a **public-private partnership (PPP) model**.
- ❖ Although India is the world's top mango producer, with **UP accounting for over a third of the nation's yield**, its performance in terms of exports remains much below expectations.
- ❖ It will employ advanced radiation treatment technology to effectively eliminate harmful bacteria and pests and extend the shelf life of fruits, vegetables, and grains, making them suitable for international export.

### Short News- Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ In a significant move aimed at boosting tourism in Uttar Pradesh, the historic **Kothi Roshan-ud-Daula in Lucknow** will soon be managed by the MRS Group, which is renowned for its portfolio of luxury heritage properties. The state government has also approved the leasing of Barsana Jal Mahal in Mathura and Shukla Talab in Kanpur Dehat to the Redwood Group of Hotels.

### Person In News- Appointment

**Justice Shriram K. Rajendran**



He has sworn in as **Chief Justice of Madras High Court.**

**B Vanlalvawna**



He will serve as India's next **Ambassador to Cambodia.** Vanlalvawna, a seasoned diplomat from the 1998 batch of the Indian Foreign Service, currently holds the position of Joint Secretary in the ministry.

### Person In News- Sports

**David Miller**



South African middle-order batter **David Miller** played his **500th T20 match**, becoming only **sixth player in the format to do so.** Miller accomplished this milestone during his team Barbados Royals' match against Guyana Amazon Warriors in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL).

Other players are: **Kieron Pollard (684 matches), Dwayne Bravo (582 matches), Shoaib Malik (542 matches), Sunil Narine (525 matches) and Andre Russell (523 matches)**

### Important News- Other States

**Gujarat**

The Centre has published a revised draft notification for eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around Gir Forest, proposing a buffer area of more than 2,061 sq km dotted by 196 villages and 17 rivers.

**Maharashtra**

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister said that the government's policy aims to **achieve zero carbon emissions by 2070.**

**Punjab**

The Supreme Court condemned the **expansion of the non-resident Indian (NRI) quota in Punjab's medical colleges.** The Apex Court, calling it a fraud, observed that such steps give way to backdoor entries and force meritorious students out of the admission process.

The bench comprising **CJI DY Chandrachud, Justices JB Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra** quashed the 20th August notification, widening the definition of non-resident Indian for MBBS admissions.

**Telangana**

Telangana government to open a '**Pravasi Prajavani**' counter later in Hyderabad to address the grievances of Gulf workers and NRIs.

## Important News- Worldwide

### Dubai

The **seventh edition of the Global Aerospace Summit, a premier forum for the world's aerospace supply chain**, was held in Abu Dhabi. **Key themes included** aerospace technology, policy, and investment, with a focus on emerging technologies such as AI, electric propulsion, and hydrogen-powered aircraft.

### Nepal

**India continues to be the largest trading partner of Nepal.** According to Nepal Trade Statistics released by the Department of Customs, Nepal's trade deficit stood at NPR 237.45 billion till mid-September of fiscal year 2024-25. Nepal continues to have the highest trade deficit with its two neighbours India and China to the amount of 144.67 billion and 51.80 billion respectively. Nepal exports Hydroelectric power, resin, agricultural produce, yarn, pashmina shawls, hide and skins, handicrafts items, silver and gold jewellery and other items to India.

While Nepal imports petroleum products, Chemical fertilizers, salt, sugar, rice, vehicles, copper, cotton and other items from India.

### Sri Lanka

**Sri Lanka has reinstated the previous ETA based visa issuing system** allowing all foreigners to apply for visas under this system. In April this year (2024), Sri Lanka's Department of Immigration and Emigration switched to a new visa portal, roping in a private consortium under which visa fees were raised.

In August month, the island's Supreme Court had suspended a contract given to the private consortium to deal with visa issuance. The court had also ordered to reinstate the previous Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) system run by state owned Mobitel.

## Miscellaneous

- ❖ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in collaboration with the Media and Entertainment Association of India, **has officially launched the WAVES Anime and Manga Contest (WAM)**. This contest is a part of the Create in India Challenge, aiming to nurture local talent and tap into the growing interest in Japanese manga and anime among Indian audiences.



- ❖ The **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, AFSPA**, has been extended in three districts of **Arunachal Pradesh** and **a few areas in Namsai district for six months with effect from the 1st of October**.
  - Tirap, Changlang, and Longding districts in Arunachal Pradesh and areas falling within the jurisdiction of Namsai, Mahadevpur, and Chowkham police stations in Namsai district have been declared as disturbed areas. AFSPA has also been extended in eight districts of Nagaland and a few areas in five districts for 6 months. These districts are Dimapur, Niuland, Chumoukedima, Mon, Kiphire, Noklak, Phek, and Peren.

