

17<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### International Abhidhamma Divas

On 17th October, International Abhidhamma Divas is being celebrated at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

#### Key Points

- ❖ **Organised By:** International Abhidhamma Divas is organized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the International Buddhist Confederation.
- ❖ **Participants:** Academicians, monks from 14 countries and a significant number of young experts on Buddha Dhamma from various Universities across India will participate in the divas.
- ❖ **Chief Guest:** Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi.
- ❖ The recent recognition of Pali as a classical language enhances the significance of this year's Abhidhamma Divas celebrations as Buddha's teachings on Abhidhamma are originally available in Pali language.

#### What is the Abhidhamma Divas?

- ❖ Abhidhamma Divas commemorates the descent of Lord Buddha from the celestial realm of the thirty-three divine beings (Tāvātimsa-devaloka) to Sankassiya, known today as Sankisa Basantapur in the Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh, India.
  - The significance of this location is underscored by the presence of the Asokan Elephant Pillar, an enduring marker of this historic event.
- ❖ According to the Pali texts, Buddha preached the Abhidhamma first to the Gods of the Tavatimsa heaven, who were headed by his mother. After having returned to the earth again, he conveyed the message to his disciple Sariputta. This auspicious Day coincides with the end of the (first) Rainy Retreat and the Pavāraṇā festival.

### International Buddhist Confederation

- ❖ It is the **biggest religious Buddhist confederation**, based in Delhi and is named the first organisation that unites Buddhists from the world.
- ❖ IBC aims to make Buddhist values and principles a part of the global discourse and a medium for conflict resolution.

### Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement

India and Columbia have signed the Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement.

#### Key Points

- ❖ Colombia is the 17th Country to sign Audio Visual co-production Agreement with India.
- ❖ The agreement will enable Indian and Colombian film producers to utilize a platform for collaboration on various facets of film making.
- ❖ The agreement is expected to **deepen the engagement between the critical sectors of the film industries of both countries** thereby, unfolding a new chapter of collaboration.
- ❖ The agreement between India and Columbia is expected to benefit producers from both the countries in pooling their creative, artistic, technical, financial and marketing resources for the co-production.

#### Audio-visual co-production agreements with various countries

- ❖ Earlier, the Government of India had signed similar agreements with the Government of Italian Republic and Government of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2005, Federal Republic of

Germany in 2007, Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil in 2007, Republic of France in 2010, Republic of New Zealand in 2011, Republic of Poland and Republic of Spain in 2012.

- ❖ More recent agreements were signed with Canada and China in 2014, Republic of Korea in 2015, Bangladesh in 2016, Portugal in 2017, Israel in 2018, Russia in 2019 and Australia in 2023.

### 23rd Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government

The 23rd Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) was held in Pakistan on 16th October 2024.

#### Key Points

- ❖ **Host:** The 23rd Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) was hosted in Islamabad under the chairmanship of Pakistan.
- ❖ **Focus:** The meeting is focussed on enhancing trade and economic cooperation among member states.
- ❖ External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar led the Indian delegation at the meeting.
- ❖ The SCO CHG meeting is held annually and focuses on the trade and economic agenda of the organization.
- ❖ **Attendees:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired the CHG meeting. Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Belarusian Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko, and heads of government from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan attended the meet. Iran was represented by First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber.

- **Foreign ministers and officials from Turkmenistan, attending as special guests, also participated.**
- Mongolia's Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsan Namsrai was present as an **observer**.

### Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- ❖ It is a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation. Having begun as the Shanghai Five in 1996 by the leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, it was rechristened as the SCO in 2001.
- ❖ The SCO entered into force on 19 September 2003.
- ❖ It aims to enhance cooperation in trade, economy, science, technology, and regional security among its member states.
- ❖ **Currently, ten countries enjoy the status of the SCO full members:** India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus
  - Two countries: Afghanistan and Mongolia have an **observer status** with the SCO.

### India Mobile Congress (IMC)

The 8th edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC) was held in New Delhi recently.

#### Key Points

- ❖ It was a four-day event showcasing India's innovation ecosystem.
- ❖ The event **featured over four hundred exhibitors, around 900 startups, and participation from 120 countries.**
- ❖ The event spotlights 6G, 5G use-case, cloud and edge computing, IoT, semiconductors, cyber security, green tech, sat com and electronics manufacturing.

### What is India Mobile Congress?

- ❖ India Mobile Congress is **Asia's largest digital technology forum for showcasing innovative solutions**, services and state-of-the-art use cases for industry, government, academics, startups and other key stakeholders in the technology and telecom ecosystem.

### PMECRG and MAHA EV Mission

The newly operationalised Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has announced the launch of first two of its initiatives: the **Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PMECRG)** and the **Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas - Electric Vehicle (MAHA- EV) Mission**.

#### Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PMECRG)

- ❖ The **Grant is designed with a flexible budget** and incorporates progressive initiatives to facilitate ease of research.
- ❖ It will **foster high quality innovative research, enable researchers** to expand knowledge boundaries, drive technological progress and contribute to positioning India as Global leader in S&T.
- ❖ PMECRG reflects ANRF's commitment to nurturing young researchers and by investing in early career researchers, it will help seed, grow, and foster a robust culture of research and innovation across India.

#### Mission Electric Vehicle (EV) under Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA) Scheme

- ❖ The MAHA-EV mission **focuses on the development of key EV technologies to reduce dependency** on imports, promote domestic innovation, and position India as a global leader in the EV sector.

- ❖ The MAHA- EV Mission is part of ANRF's Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA) program designed to catalyze multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary, and multi-investigator collaboration to tackle critical scientific challenges.
- ❖ It aligns with the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) vision and aims to accelerate technological advancement in key sectors that have a high impact on the nation's future growth to create a global standing in the area.

### Bone Ossification Test

One of the accused in the murder of former Maharashtra MLA Baba Siddique claimed before a court in Mumbai that he was 17 years old and should thus be tried under the Juvenile Justice Act. To determine whether the accused was a minor, the magistrate ordered a bone ossification test.

#### What is the Bone Ossification Test?

- ❖ Ossification is the natural process of bone formation.
- ❖ This starts from the **early developmental stage of the foetus and continues until late adolescence**, but differs slightly from individual to individual.
- ❖ Based on the **stage of development of the bones, experts can determine the approximate age of the person**.
- ❖ In a bone ossification test, **X-rays of a few bones**, such as those of hands and the wrists, are conducted to determine skeletal and biological development.
- ❖ The images may be compared with X-rays of standard development, which can assist in determining the age.

- ❖ The analysis could be also based on a scoring system that looks at individual bones on the hands and wrists and their growth, and compares them with the standard of maturation of bones among a certain population.

**Why is age determination significant in the criminal justice system?**

- ❖ In India, a person who is below 18 years of age is considered a minor. The criminal law differentiates between a child and an adult when it comes to procedure, correction and rehabilitation, and punishment.
- ❖ Anyone below the age of 18 is governed by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. A child who is found to be in conflict with the law cannot be sent to a prison meant for adults, and is instead sent to an observation home.

**Centre of Excellence**

The Union Education Minister has unveiled the establishment of 3 Artificial Intelligence Centres of Excellence focused on Health, Agriculture, Sustainable cities.

**Background**

As part of the vision to "Make AI in India and Make AI work for India," the establishment of these centres was announced in the Budget Announcement for 2023-24.

**Key Points**

- ❖ Three AI Centres of Excellence, with a total financial outlay of Rs. 990.00 Cr over the period of FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28.
- ❖ They will conduct interdisciplinary research, develop cutting-edge applications, and create scalable solutions in these three areas.

- ❖ **CoE in Healthcare:** The CoE in healthcare will be led by the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Delhi, **CoE in Agriculture:** The IIT in Ropar, Punjab will lead the CoE in agriculture. **CoE in Sustainable cities:** IIT Kanpur has been given the charge of developing CoE in sustainable cities.
- ❖ The CoEs will function with industries and start-ups.

**Person In News- Appointments**

**DG Paramesh Sivamani**



He took over as the **26th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).**

**Omar Abdullah**



He took an oath as the **first Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.**

In Jammu and Kashmir, the National Conference (NC)-Congress alliance won the maiden assembly elections held in the post-Article 370 era. The alliance secured a spectacular victory in the elections. In the 90-member Assembly, the NC won 42 seats, BJP 29, Congress 6, PDP 3 and the rest went to others, including independents (7).

**Important Days/Dates****October 16****National Security Guard Raising Day**

- ❖ Every year on October 16, National Security Guard Raising Day is observed.
- ❖ On October 16, 1984, the **National Security Guard was established following Operation Blue Star.**
- ❖ The goal of the military operation was to drive Sikh extremists out of Amritsar's Golden Temple. The operation proved to be successful, but it also made clear that India needs a dedicated counterterrorism force.
- ❖ Under the **National Security Guard Act of 1986**, the NSG was established.
- ❖ Under the Ministry of Home Affairs, it is a federal contingency force.
- ❖ **Headquarter:** Haryana's Manesar. In India, it has six regional headquarters.

**Miscellaneous**

- ❖ The **Scientific and Technological Hub, Martyr Ihaddaden Abdelhafid University of Algeria** conferred the **Degree of Honorary Doctorate on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu** at a function held at Sidi Abdellah on October 15, 2024. President Droupadi Murmu was conferred the degree of **Honorary Doctorate in Political Science** in recognition of her advocacy of science and knowledge for all social groups in India.
- ❖ **India has reached a significant milestone in its renewable energy journey**, with the country's total renewable energy capacity crossing the **200 GW (gigawatt) mark as of October 10, 2024.** According to the Central Electricity Authority, the total renewable energy-based electricity generation capacity now stands at 201.45 GW. This achievement underscores India's growing commitment to clean energy and its progress in building a greener future.

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