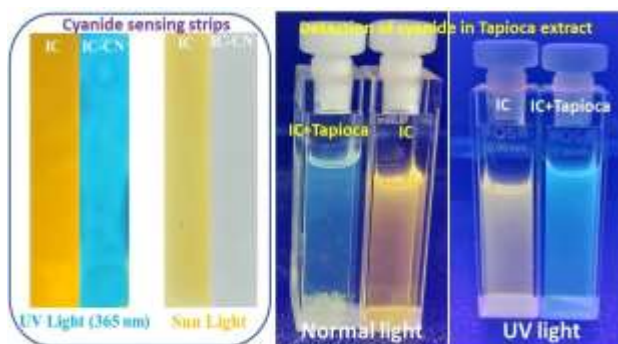


### Cyanide Sensor

The Central University of Kerala has come up with a cyanide sensor that is highly sensitive and selective to cyanide and the materials that are affected change from yellow color to colorless when it is triggered by cyanide presence.



#### Key Points

- ❖ The material can identify presence of toxic cyanide even at really low concentration; thus, enhancing the safety of water and food products.
- ❖ It will work for the identification of cyanide in tapioca extract (As the sensor color transformed from Yellow to bluish green) And it is useful in preparing of a strip for qualitative detection which will be more appropriate in case of Cyanide poisoning.
- ❖ Cyanide is a poisonous chemical compound used by different plant, fruits and microorganisms.

- ❖ It is identified in automobile emissions, processed foodstuffs such as cassava, apples, apricots, potatoes that have started to sprout and almonds.
- ❖ The WHO has prescribed very low limits to be maintained in drinking water for cyanide to be 0.19 mg/L.

### Croatia to Reintroduce Compulsory Military Service

Croatia will reintroduce a two-month compulsory military service starting January 1 next year, the country's Defense Minister Ivan Anusic announced



#### Key Points

- ❖ The move comes amid heightened tensions in Europe following the Russian aggression against Ukraine as well as an apparent arms race and military buildup in the Balkans which went through a bloody war in the 1990s.

- ❖ This decision marks a return to conscription, which was suspended in 2008 when the country shifted to a volunteer-based system.

### About Balkan Region

- ❖ The Balkans was a region in Europe that was associated with a large geographical and ethnical variety.
- ❖ This region comprised of the present day countries of Romania, Bulgaria Greece, Albania, Republic of Macedonia, Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro.
- ❖ The autochthonous inhabitants of the Balkans were termed the Slavs.

### Croatia

- ❖ Capital - Zagreb
- ❖ Currency - kuna
- ❖ President - Zoran Milanović

### Thailand's Parliament Elects Paetongtarn Shinawatra As Country's New Prime Minister

Thailand's Parliament elected Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the youngest daughter of former leader Thaksin Shinawatra, as the country's new prime minister. The 37-year-old political new comer is the leader of the ruling Pheu Thai party and is the youngest prime minister of Thailand..



### Key Points

- ❖ Paetongtarn's nomination followed the removal of Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin after less than a year in office.
- ❖ The Constitutional Court found him guilty of a serious ethical breach in connection with an alleged bribery attempt.
- ❖ The same court last week dissolved the progressive Move Forward party, which won last year's general election but was blocked from taking power.
- ❖ Paetongtarn becomes country's third leader from the Shinawatra family, after her father, who was ousted by coup before returning from exile last year, and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra, who lives in exile

### Thailand

Capital - Bangkok

Currency - Thai baht (THB)

President - Paetongtarn Shinawatra

### The Green Tug Transition Program

The Union Minister of Port Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal officially launched the SOP for Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP) in New Delhi.



#### Key Points

- ❖ This landmark initiative is set to drive the transition from conventional fuel-based harbour tugs to greener, more sustainable alternatives, marking a major step in India's commitment to environmental sustainability and the advancement of its maritime sector
- ❖ The GTTP is designed to phase out conventional fuel-based harbour tugs operating in Indian Major Ports and replace them with green tugs powered by cleaner and more sustainable alternate fuels.
- ❖ Phase 1 of the GTTP will begin on October 1, 2024, and continue until December 31, 2027. During this

phase, four Major Ports—Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, Deendayal Port Authority, Paradip Port Authority, and V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority—will procure or charter at least two green tugs each, based on standardized designs and specifications issued by the Standing Specification Committee (SSC).

- ❖ By the end of 2040, all tugs operating in Indian Major Ports are envisioned to transition to green tugs, ensuring a standardized, eco-friendly fleet across the country. Furthermore, beyond 2033, any new tug built in India for use in Indian ports will need to comply with the ASTDS-GTTP standards.

### Six New Parliamentary Committees for 2024-25

The Lok Sabha Speaker on 17 August announced the members of the six newly formed Parliamentary Committees, including the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) responsible for scrutinizing government spending.



### Key Points

- ❖ Ganesh Singh, BJP MP from Satna, Madhya Pradesh, has been named as the chairperson of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes.
- ❖ Dr. Faggan Singh Kulaste, Lok Sabha MP from Mandla constituency, has been appointed as the chairperson of the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- ❖ Baijyant Panda, Lok Sabha MP from Kendrapara, Odisha, has been appointed as the chairperson of the Committee on Public Undertakings.
- ❖ Senior Congress MP KC Venugopal has been appointed as the chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which examines the appropriation accounts for the government's railways, defence

services, P&T department, and other civil ministries.

### About Parliamentary Committee:

- ❖ Parliamentary Committee that is: Appointed or elected by the house or nominated by speaker or chairman + Works under speaker/Chairman + Presents its report to house or to the speaker/chairman + Has a secretariat provided by Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha.

Parliamentary committees are of two kinds:-

- ❖ **Standing Committees:** Permanent (constituted every year or periodically), work on a continuous basis.
- ❖ **Ad Hoc Committees:** Temporary and cease to exist on completion of the task assigned to them. These are of two types: Inquiry Committees and Advisory Committees.

Criteria	Estimates Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Committee on Public Undertakings
Origin	1950- recommendation of John Mathai	set up first in 1921 under Govt. of India Act 1919	Krishna Menon Committee 1964

Composition	30 members all from Lok Sabha (largest Parliamentary Committee) Minister cannot be member	22 (15 Lok Sabha + 7 Rajya Sabha) Elected for one year – proportional representation by single transferable vote. Chairman – from Opposition Minister cannot be member	Same as PAC  Minister cannot be member
Function	To examine budget – suggest economies of public expenditure	Examine CAG Audit report and discover the irregularities	To examine reports and accounts of public sector undertakings.  Don't involve day to day affairs of PSU

### Short News

- ❖ Ex-Army Chief General Sundararajan Padmanabhan passed away at his residence in Chennai.
- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched an innovative project to tackle the growing concern of microplastic contamination in food on August 18, 2024, in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Vice President of Zimbabwe, Constantino Gubeva Dominic Nyikadzino Chiwenga, has arrived in New Delhi.
- ❖ Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, Rakesh Pal, died of a severe cardiac arrest in Chennai on 18 August.
- ❖ Yogi Adityanath launches Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana to empower youth and boost entrepreneurship in Uttar Pradesh
- ❖ Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav inaugurate Directorate of Religious trust and Endowments at Simhastha Mela Office, Kothi Palace Ujjain on 19th August.

- ❖ The CRPF received the highest number of police gallantry medals on Independence Day, totaling 52. DRDO and the Indian Army successfully tested the Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) at Pokhran Field Firing Range.
- ❖ Recently, the Union Minister for Jal Shakti launched version 2.0 of the 'FloodWatch India' mobile application.
- ❖ Uttarakhand has become the first Indian state to launch a Gross Environment Product Index (GEPI).

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Who has been appointed as the new prime minister of Thailand?
- (a) Abhisit Vejjajiva
  - (b) Yingluck
  - (c) Prayutg Chan - Ocha
  - (d) Paetongtarn Shinawatra

Answer- (d)

2. Which of the following country reintroduce compulsory military service?
- (a) Croatia
  - (b) Macedonia
  - (c) Bosnia Herzegovina
  - (d) Slovenia

Answer- (a)

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