

DAILY PT POINTERS

10th November, 2023



HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu: GS 2_Polity and Governance (Page 1)

Bihar Assembly passes Bills to increase quota from 50% to 65%

Bills providing for the same in educational institutions and government jobs also passed unanimously through voice vote; Supreme Court had set a quota cap of 50%

- The Bihar Assembly unanimously passed a Bill to increase reservation for Backward Classes, Extremely Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes from the existing 50% to 65%
- Together with the 10% Economically Backward Class (EWS) quota, the Bill will push reservation in Bihar to 75%
- In its 1992 decision in 'Indra Sawhney vs Union of India', the Supreme Court had fixed the reservation ceiling at 50%.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS 2_Polity and Governance (Page 4)

Online gambling ban won't apply to poker, rummy: HC



- The Madras High Court refused to strike down the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Act, 2022 in its entirety, but ruled that the prohibition would apply only to games of chance, and not to games of skill such as rummy and poker.
 - The Bench held that the definition of 'online gambling' under Section 2(i) of the Act should be restricted to games of chance.

A **game of skill** requires a player's skill and mental or physical strength to win. It does not depend on sheer luck. The players use several strategies to emerge victorious. Usually, the player with better skill or experience wins the game.

a game of chance

Here, the win depends on the luck of the player..Each player largely has the same chance of winning despite their experience or skill.These are easier to play than the games of skill as they do not require any technical knowledge. Lottery and roulette are some examples of such games.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS 2/Polity and Governance (Page 4)

Nagaland nod for 33% quota for women in urban local bodies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOHIMA



- Article 371(A) states that no act of Parliament shall apply to the State of Nagaland in respect of the religious or social practices of the Nagas, its customary law and procedure, administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Naga customary law and ownership and transfer of land and its resources.
- It shall apply to Nagaland only after the State Assembly passes a resolution to do so,

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu :Intellectual Property rights -GSIII (Page 5)

More than 15 products from Uttarakhand bag GI tags

SANGEETHA KANDAVEL,

CHENNAI

From a local brick-tea to textiles made from a Himalayan plant, over 15 products from Uttarakhand have been given the coveted GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.

- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.
- It is used to identify agricultural, natural or manufactured goods
- **This tag is valid for a period of 10 years following which it can be renewed.**
- India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 has come into force with effect from 15th September 2003.

The Hindu : GS2-IR (Page 10)

The Agartala-Akhaura rail link

How will this rail link benefit the travel time and distance between Agartala and Kolkata? What is the importance of Nischintapur in West Tripura in the context of this project? How long has the idea of the Agartala-Akhaura rail link been in discussions between the two countries?



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Agartala-Akhaura rail link, connecting India's northeast with Bangladesh.
 - The idea of the rail link dates back to 1974 and gained momentum in 2010 when the memorandum of understanding was signed.
- The rail link consists of a 12.24 km dual gauge rail line, reducing travel time between Agartala and Kolkata from 31 hours to 10 hours.
- The project aims to enhance connectivity, boost trade, and strengthen ties between the two countries.
- It supports India's 'Act East Policy' and 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and promotes small-scale industries and tourism in the region.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu : S&T (Page 10)

Why has the govt. issued a directive on deepfakes?

How do deepfakes work and what is the technology behind them? What are the implications of the increasing use of deepfakes by cybercriminals and scammers?

NARFI AHMED

- The Indian government has instructed social media intermediaries to remove deepfake videos within 24 hours, as required by the IT Rules 2021.
- Deepfakes have been around since 2017 and refer to videos, audios or images created using a form of artificial intelligence called deep learning. The term became popular when a Reddit contributor used publicly available AI-driven software to impose the faces of celebrities onto the bodies of people in pornographic videos.
- **What do laws in India say about deepfakes?**
India's IT Rules, 2021 require that all content reported to be fake or produced using deep fake be taken down by intermediary platforms within 36 hours. The Indian IT ministry has also issued notices to social media platforms stating that impersonating online was illegal under Section 66D of the Information Technology Act of 2000. The IT Rules, 2021, also prohibit hosting any content that impersonates another person and requires social media firms to take down artificially morphed images when alerted.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu : Security Agencies (Page 14)

'CBI an independent agency, not a limb of the Union govt.'

THE HINDU BUREAU
NEW DELHI

West Bengal filed a suit in SC alleging the Central agency was registering FIRs without prior consent of State govt.

CBI is a statutory body under the Delhi Special Police Establishment [DSPE] Act,”

CBI derives power to investigate from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946**

- Section 2 of the Act vests DSPE with jurisdiction to investigate offences in the Union Territories only.
- However, the jurisdiction can be extended by the Central Government to other areas including Railway areas and States under Section 5(1) of the Act, provided the State Government accords consent under Section 6 of the Act.
- The executive officers of CBI of the rank of Sub Inspector and above, exercise all powers of a station office in-charge of the police station for the concerned area for the purpose of investigation.
- As per Section 3 of the Act, Special Police Establishment is authorised to investigate only those cases, which are notified by the Central Government from time to time.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: Health (GSII) - Page 22

Psoriasis patients contend with lack of awareness, bad lifestyle choices and poor insurance cover



- Psoriasis is an autoimmune disease that manifests as rashes usually on the face, elbows, knees and later spreads across the skin.
- There are many kinds of psoriasis and among them the most common is psoriasis vulgaris

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: Economy (Page 12)

India Finance Report: A warning against repeating past mistakes

Express View: The RBI and the government should take the report's findings seriously. Back-to-back monetary shocks are catching businesses off-guard



- The **first edition of the India Finance Report** published by the Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL), an independent body set up by the Reserve Bank of India, has taken stock of India's non-bank financial companies sector — commonly called the shadow banking sector — and pointed out both the ongoing improvements and emerging risks.
- On the positive side, the CAFRAL report finds that after the liquidity crisis of 2018 and the Covid pandemic, the NBFC sector has improved, along all dimensions — capital position, asset quality, and profitability.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: S&T GSIII

100,000 GALAXIES IN A SINGLE FRAME: THE PROMISE OF EUCLID

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE EUROPEAN Space Agency Tuesday shared the first five images from its Euclid telescope, launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida in July.

Although the stunning celestial landscapes Euclid captured have been observed previously, most notably by NASA's iconic Hubble Space Telescope, Euclid's snapshots are at another level.

"I'm just overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the data," Michael Seiffert, a member of the Euclid mission told *The NYT*. "The ability to have really sharp images cover a wide field at the same time is just really astounding."

Comparing Euclid and JWST

In recent years, the James Webb Space Telescope, jointly operated by NASA, ESA and the Canadian Space Agency, has captured imaginations across the world with its ethereal space pictures. While it has a very different mission, the Euclid hopes to do the same.

Whereas the JWST zooms in on one part of the sky at a time, Euclid excels at imaging wide, but still detailed, swathes of the universe. That's perfect for "when

you want to look for a needle in a haystack," Seiffert said, including objects like free-floating worlds.

Universe's 'dark' secrets

Euclid is on a quest to map a third of the extragalactic sky. Scientists hope that with data Euclid sends home, researchers can learn about how the web of dark matter cementing our universe together influences the shapes and motions of visible objects in space. The telescope's detailed resolution is also expected to help scientists map the distribution of galaxies across cosmic time, aiding in understanding dark energy, the inexplicable force pulling the universe apart.

So far, the images have not disappointed. The images spanned four areas of the relatively nearby universe, including 1,000 galaxies belonging to the massive Perseus cluster just 240 million light years away, and more than 100,000 galaxies spread out in the background, ESA said. Scientists believe vast, seemingly organised structures such as Perseus could only have formed if dark matter existed.

In 2025, scientists plan to release Euclid's first maps of the universe, which will include more sky area than in all of the data collected so far by the Hubble Space Telescope, Seiffert said.

- Euclid is named after the Greek mathematician Euclid of Alexandria, who lived around 300 BC and founded the subject of geometry. As the density of matter and energy is linked to the geometry of the universe, the mission was named in his honour.
- ESA's Euclid mission is designed to explore the composition and evolution of the dark Universe. The space telescope will create a great map of the large-scale structure of the Universe across space and time by observing billions of galaxies out to 10 billion light-years, across more than a third of the sky.
- Euclid will explore how the Universe has expanded and how structure has formed over cosmic history, revealing more about the role of gravity and the nature of dark energy and dark matter.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Governance-GSII

Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey launched the “Annual Capacity Building Plan (ACBP)”

- Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) launched Annual Capacity Building Plan (ACBP) for 2023-24 outlining key strategic areas with focused capacity-building initiatives within the Ministry to enhance capability across all levels to achieve maximum governance to fulfill the PM’s vision of Mission Karmayogi (National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) Plan)

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: IR / GSII

6th India-Australia Joint Working Group Meeting on Cooperation in Water Resources Held

India-Australia Work Plan for 2024 - 25 Finalized



- The 6th India-Australia Joint Working Group Meeting on Water Cooperation between Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India and Department of Climate Change, Energy and Water, Government of Australia was held on 8th November, 2023.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Australia was signed on 10th November, 2009 and renewed on 5th September, 2014.
 - Subsequently, a fresh MoU was signed between Government of India and Government of Australia on 20th May, 2020 effective for a period of five years for Cooperation in the field of Water Resources Management.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: IR / GSII

During October 2023, RPF reunited over 601 children under Operation 'Nanhe Faristey'



Operation "Nanhe Faristey" - Rescuing Lost Children: Under the mission "Nanhe Faristey," RPF played a pivotal role in reuniting more than 601 children in need of care and protection with their families.

These children were separated from their families for various reasons, and RPF worked tirelessly to ensure their safe return.