

# DAILY PT POINTERS

23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2024



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Page 8\_Governance (GSII)

## On equal access to benefits for all SCs

Why has a high-level committee been formed post Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise to the Madiga community in Telangana? What has the community been demanding since 1994? Can Parliament sub-categorise castes within the Scheduled Castes?



- The Union government has formed a high-level committee of secretaries, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, to evaluate and work out a method for the equitable distribution of benefits, schemes and initiatives to the most backward communities among the over 1,200 Scheduled Castes (SCs) across the country, that have been crowded out by relatively forward and dominant ones.
- This committee's formation is the result of a meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired in December, 2023, weeks after promising to look into the demand for sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes as raised by the Madiga community in Telangana in the run-up to the Assembly elections there last year.
  - The Madiga community constitutes at least 50% of the SC population in Telangana, where SCs comprise around 15% of the total population (2011 Census).

### Do you know ?

Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution of India define as to who would be Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with respect to any State or Union Territory



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Page 10\_Culture (GSI)

## Rahul stopped from visiting shrine of saint-reformer by Assam Police



- The Batadrawa Than, also known as Bordowa Than, the birthplace of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva (1449-1568) the great Vaisnavite saint of Assam, founded by him in 1494 A.D.
- The Than holds immense importance for Vaishnav followers of Assam.
- Mahapurush Sankardeva founded the first ever Kirtan Ghar at Bordowa to practice and preach neo Vaishnavite faith during fifteenth century in Assam and propagated the EK SARAN NAAM DHARMA.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Page 12\_Environment (GSIII)

## PM announces solar rooftop scheme for 1 crore households



- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has announced 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana' under which 1 crore households will get rooftop solar.
- This will not only reduce the electricity bill of the poor and middle class, but will also make India self-reliant in the field of energy.

### Do you know ?

- India stands 5th in solar PV deployment across the globe at the end of 2022 (Ref. REN21's Global Status Report 2023 & IRENA's Renewable Capacity Statistics 2023).
- Solar power installed capacity has reached around 70.10 GW as on 30-06-2023.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Page 12\_Environment (GSIII)

Odisha govt. seeks urgent deployment of *kumki* elephants from Tamil Nadu



- **Kumki** is a term used in India for trained captive Asian elephants used in operations to trap wild elephants, sometimes to rescue or to provide medical treatment to an injured or trapped wild elephant.
- Kumkis are used for capturing, calming and herding wild elephants or to lead wild elephants away in conflict situations.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## The Hindu: Page 13\_Economy (GSIII)

### Govt. expands financial services scope at IFSC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA,  
NEW DELHI

The government has expanded the scope of activities that can be undertaken at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) by including services such as book keeping, and accounting.

As per a notification from the Finance Ministry, many services, including book-keeping, accounting, taxation, and financial crime compliance, have been included as part of financial services.

"Provided that the financial services shall be offered by units in an International Financial Service Centre regulated by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to non-residents whose business is not set up either by splitting up of business already in existence in India; or reconstructing/reorganising of business already in existence in India," it said in a notification on January 18.

The notification stipulates the units should not offer services by way of transferring or receiving existing contracts or work arrangements from their group entities in India.

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has been established on April 27, 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019. It is headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
- **Role of IFSCA**
- The IFSCA is a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Page 18\_Health (GSII) / S&T (GSIII)

## Jammu CSIR lab finds cannabis compound that has antibiotic effects

CSIR-IIIM Jammu researchers have found a compound, THCBD, to have potent antibiotic effects against *Staphylococcus aureus*, a bacteria responsible for the second most number of deaths due to antimicrobial resistance, whereby microbes stop responding to medicines, worldwide

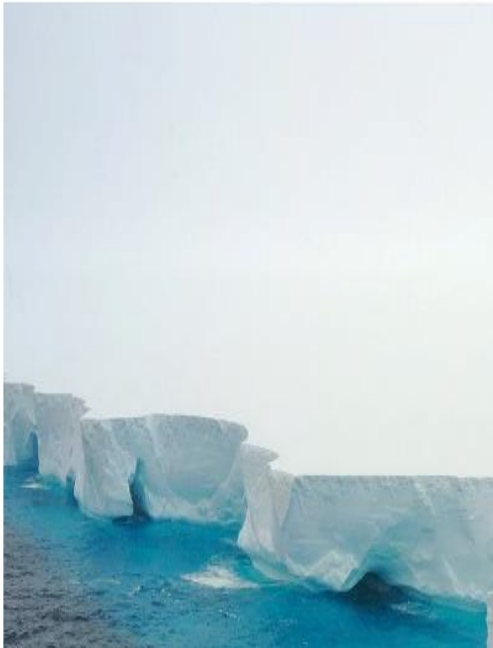


- Cannabis has the potential to make a dent in India's fight against the escalating threat of antibiotic resistance.
- Scientists at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, have found that phytocannabinoids, a class of compounds found in the cannabis plant, possess some hitherto unexplored antibiotic properties.
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major health concern worldwide. It refers to when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites no longer respond to medicines used to treat them.
- According to one estimate, India reported 2.97 lakh deaths in 2019 that could be attributed to AMR and 10.42 lakh others that could be associated with AMR.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Page 18\_Geography (GSI)

## World's biggest iceberg battered by waves as it heads north



- The world's largest iceberg, named A23a, seen in Antarctica
- The iceberg named A23a is nearly more than twice the size of Greater London. After decades stuck to the Antarctic ocean floor, it is now heading north on what could be its final journey
- It contains an estimated one trillion tonnes of freshwater that is likely to melt off into the ocean along the way.
- The iceberg, which is up to 400 metres thick in places, is currently drifting between Elephant Island and the South Orkney islands.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: Page 18\_IR (GSII)

## India-Myanmar border will be fenced like that of Bangladesh, Centre reconsidering Free Movement Regime: Amit Shah

With the end of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) and the fencing of the border, it will be mandatory for anyone coming into India from across the border to get a visa.



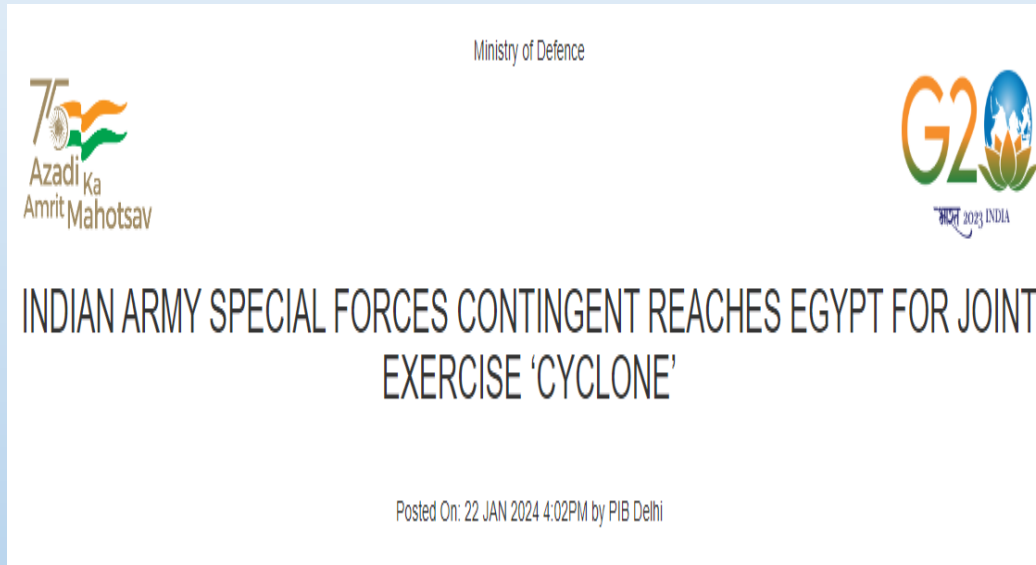
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday announced that the Centre has decided to **fence the entire length of the currently porous India-Myanmar border** to stop free movement of people.
- The FMR with Myanmar, formalised in 2018 following the agreement between India and Myanmar on land border crossing, allows tribes living along the border on either side to travel up to 16 km inside the other country without a visa and stay up to two weeks.

### Do you know ?

- India shares a 1,643 km-long border with Myanmar, which passes through the States of Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km), and Mizoram (510 km).

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB: Defence (GSIII)



- The Indian Army contingent comprising 25 personnel reached Egypt to take part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise will be conducted at Anshas, Egypt from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024. The first edition of the exercise was conducted last year in India.
- Exercise CYCLONE is designed to develop bilateral military cooperation and strengthen bond between two armies through conduct of discussions and rehearsal of tactical military drills.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB: Defence (GSIII)

Ministry of Defence



### INDIAN – KYRGYZSTAN JOINT SPECIAL FORCES EXERCISE KHANJAR COMMENCES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Posted On: 22 JAN 2024 3:56PM by PIB Delhi



- The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024. It is an annual event conducted alternatively in both the countries.