

DAILY PT POINTERS

10th February, 2024



HEADLINES OF THE DAY




The Hindu: Page 1_Miscellaneous

Swaminathan, Rao, Charan Singh to get Bharat Ratna

The Green Revolution pioneer and two former PMs join former Deputy PM L.K. Advani, former Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur in the list of awardees this year, the longest ever announced in a year

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The Bharat Ratna will be conferred on former Prime Ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, as well as Green Revolution pioneer M.S. Swaminathan, adding to the two awardees already announced earlier this year – socialist leader Karpoori Thakur, and former Deputy Prime Minister

		
Dr. M.S. SWAMINATHAN <i>(7 August 1925 - 28 September 2023)</i>	P.V. NARASIMHA RAO <i>(28 June 1921 - 23 December 2004)</i>	CHAUDHARY CHARAN SINGH <i>(23 December 1902 - 29 May 1987)</i>
■ Agricultural scientist & agronomist	■ Former Prime Minister of India (1991-96)	■ Former Prime Minister of India (1979-80)
■ Born in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu	■ Born in Warangal, Telangana	■ Born in Noorpur, Uttar Pradesh
■ Played an instrumental role in Green Revolution and towards food self-sufficiency in India	■ Credited with steering the liberalisation of Indian Economy	■ Leader of the Lok Dal, credited as a leader of farmers in north India

- The Bharat Ratna will be conferred on former Prime Ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, as well as Green Revolution pioneer M.S. Swaminathan, adding to the two awardees already announced earlier this year — socialist leader Karpoori Thakur, and former Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani.
- Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the country. It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.
- It is treated on a different footing from Padma Award.
- The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President of India. No formal recommendations for Bharat Ratna are necessary.

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The Hindu: Polity and Governance (GSII)-Page 10

Can Preamble be amended keeping date intact, asks SC



- The Supreme Court asked if the Preamble of the Constitution could have been amended without changing the date of its adoption on November 26, 1949.
- The Preamble was amended only once in December 1976 by the Indira Gandhi government to introduce the words 'socialist' and 'secular'.
 - The phrase "unity of the nation" was replaced with "unity and integrity of the nation".
- The changes were made in the Preamble through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment during the Emergency.
- Originally, the text of the Preamble declared India as a 'sovereign, democratic republic'. The words 'socialist' and 'secular' were inserted between 'sovereign' and 'democratic'.
- the largest Bench in the history of the Supreme Court (13 judges) in the *Kesavananda Bharati* case had held that the Preamble was an integral part of the Constitution and was subject to the amending power of the Parliament, provided the basic structure was not tinkered with.

The Hindu: Defence (GSIII)-Page 12

India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise ends

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The maiden joint military exercise, *Sada Tanseeq*, between the Indian Army and the Royal Saudi Land Force concluded at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Jaipur on Friday.

The 12-day exercise aimed to achieve interoperability between the two forces and acquaint each other with operational procedures and combat drills under the UN mandate, Col. Amitabh Sharma, Defence spokesperson, said in a statement.

The Indian contingent of the 20th Battalion of The Brigade of Guards Regiment and the Saudi Arabian contingent comprising a group of 45 soldiers of Royal Saudi Land Force participated in the exercise which was conducted in two phases.

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Indian Express: S&T (GSIII)-Page 1

Meet HAPS: India's very own UAV that can fly 20 km high and float for months

HAPS is a still-developing technology, and the successful test flight last week puts India among a very small group of countries currently experimenting with this technology.

- THE NATIONAL Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) in Bengaluru has successfully completed the first test of a solar-powered “pseudo satellite”, a new age unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that can significantly increase India’s surveillance and monitoring capabilities in the border areas.
- The high-altitude pseudo satellite vehicle, or HAPS, can fly at altitudes of 18-20 km from the ground, almost double the heights attained by commercial airplanes, and, thanks to its ability to generate solar power, can remain in air for months, even years, offering it advantages of a satellite

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Indian Express: Polity and Governance (GSII) (Page 9)

In 2023, HCs heard cases of 80 on death row, confirmed one

Second year when SC didn't confirm any death sentence: Project 39A report



- Appellate Courts — Supreme Court and all the High Courts together — confirmed only one death sentence in 2023 while the rest were either commuted or saw the prisoners acquitted altogether, according to a new report by a criminal reforms advocacy group that has raised concerns about the quality of probe and evidence in such cases.
- The Annual Death Penalty Report, 2023 was prepared by Project 39A, a criminal justice programme linked with the National Law University, Delhi.

Do you know?

Project 39A is a criminal justice initiative based out of the National Law University in Delhi. Project 39A draws inspiration from Article 39-A in the Indian Constitution on equal justice and signals the broadening of our work on the criminal justice system in India.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: IR(GSII)

Ministry of Finance



Government of India and ADB sign \$200 million loan to tackle flood and erosion risk along Brahmaputra river

Posted On: 09 FEB 2024 9:02PM by PIB Delhi



- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) today signed a \$200 million loan to strengthen flood and riverbank erosion risk management along the 650 kilometres (km) long main stem of the Brahmaputra river in the state of Assam.

Do you know ?

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.

Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members — 49 from the region.

ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.

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PIB: Economy(GSIII)



Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) are government securities denominated in grams of gold, and are substitutes for holding physical gold.

It was launched in November 2015.

Objective: To reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings (to purchase of gold) into financial savings.

Issuance: The Gold Bonds are issued as **Government of India Stock** under the Government Securities (GS) Act, 2006.

These are **issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on behalf of the Government of India.

The Bonds will be **sold through Scheduled Commercial Banks**

Eligibility: It is restricted for sale to resident individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), trusts, universities and charitable institutions.

Term: Maturity period is 8 years, with an option to exit the investment after the first five years.

The interest on Gold Bonds shall be **taxable as per the provision of the Income Tax Act, 1961.**