



18 July 2024

National and International News

<p>PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) Scheme</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Punjab, West Bengal, and Delhi have refused to participate in the PM-SHRI scheme. ● As a result, the Education Ministry has halted funds to these three states under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Centre's flagship education program. <p>About PM SHRI Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish over 14,500 PM SHRI Schools. ○ Overseen by Central Government, State/UT Governments, local bodies, KVS, and NVS. ○ Create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students. ○ Ensure well-being, security, and enriching learning experiences. ○ Provide good physical infrastructure and appropriate resources. ○ Nurture students into engaged, productive, and contributing citizens. ● Alignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aligns with National Education Policy 2020. ○ Aims to build a society characterized by equity, inclusivity, and pluralism. ● Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on cognitive development and holistic growth. ○ Equip students with key 21st-century skills. ○ Experiential, holistic, integrated, play/toy-based pedagogy. ○ Inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centred, discussion-based, flexible, and enjoyable learning. ○ Upgraded with labs, libraries, and art rooms. ○ Developed as green schools with water conservation, waste recycling, and energy-efficient infrastructure. ○ Integration of organic lifestyle into the curriculum. ● Quality Assurance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of a School Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF). ○ Regular quality evaluations to ensure standards. ○ Key performance indicators to measure outcomes.
<p>ASMITA Project</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p>



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ASMITA Project, recently launched by the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission (UGC), aims to enhance the availability of educational resources in Indian languages. <p>About ASMITA Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative: ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing) • Objective: Develop 22,000 books in Indian languages within five years. • Collaborative Effort: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UGC (University Grants Commission) ○ Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti (High-powered committee under the Ministry of Education) • Primary Goal: Promote and integrate Indian languages into the education system to enrich learning and enhance inclusivity. • Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Created by UGC for the book-writing process in each assigned language. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identification of nodal officers and authors. ○ Allocation of title, subject, and programme. ○ Writing and editing. ○ Submission of the manuscript. ○ Review and plagiarism check. ○ Finalisation. ○ Designing. ○ Proofreading. ○ E-publication.
Srijan portal	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence, has recently notified the fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL), which includes 346 items. • These items will be exclusively procured from the Indian industry following the indigenisation timelines specified on the Srijan portal. <p>About Srijan portal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenization Portal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developed by the Department of Defence Production. ○ Provides information on items suitable for indigenization by the private sector. ○ Allows DPSUs/OFB/S HQs to display items currently imported or planned for import. ○ Enables Indian Industry to design, develop, and manufacture these items. • Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Defence.
Jerdon's Courser	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The critically endangered Jerdon's Courser has not been



	<p>visually spotted in over a decade.</p> <p>About Jerdon's Courser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Common Name: Eastern Ghats Courser ● Scientific Name: <i>Rhinoptilus bitorquatus</i> ● Habitat: Open patches within scrub forests ● Distribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Endemic to the Eastern Ghats of India ○ Found only in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana ● Diet: Insectivorous, hunting invertebrates by sight ● Conservation Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered ● Rediscovery: Considered extinct since the early 20th century, rediscovered in 1986
<p>Bhojshala Complex</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) scientific survey report states that the existing structure at the Bhojshala complex was constructed using remains from an earlier temple at the site. <p>About Bhojshala Complex:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location: Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh. ● Construction: Built by Raja Bhoja (1000-1055 A.D.) in 1034 AD, greatest monarch of the Paramara dynasty. ● Purpose: Served as a university teaching music, Sanskrit, astronomy, yoga, Ayurveda, and philosophy. ● History: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1305 AD: First attacked by Alauddin Khilji. ○ 1514 AD: Mehmudshah Khilji II attacked and attempted to convert the complex into a dargah; built 'Kamal Moulana' Makbara encroaching on land outside Saraswati Temple. ● Inscriptions Found: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prakrit Hymns: Two hymns of the Karmavatar or crocodile incarnation of Vishnu engraved in rocks. ○ Sanskrit Grammar: Two Sarpabandha pillar inscriptions, one with the Sanskrit alphabet and noun/verb endings, and the other with individual declensions of the ten tenses and moods.

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