



23 November 2024

National and International News

<p><b>Manipur as a case for imposing Article 356</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The continued violence in Manipur since May 2023 shows a failure of governance, making it necessary for the <b>President to use Article 356</b>, even without waiting for the Governor’s report.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Provision of President’s Rule:</b> Article 356 allows the President of India to take direct control of a state if its constitutional machinery fails, typically leading to the dissolution or suspension of the state government.</li> <li><b>Conditions for Invocation:</b> It can be invoked based on the Governor’s report or if the President is otherwise satisfied that the state cannot be governed under constitutional provisions.</li> <li><b>Recent Issues and Challenges Related to Manipur:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ethnic Violence:</b> Continuous clashes between the Meitei and Kuki communities have resulted in significant casualties and widespread destruction.</li> <li><b>Displacement:</b> More than 60,000 individuals have been displaced from their homes, living in precarious conditions in relief camps.</li> <li><b>Government Inaction:</b> Reports indicate a lack of effective response from both state and central governments, leading to accusations of complicity or negligence.</li> <li><b>Human Rights Violations:</b> Numerous reports highlight serious human rights abuses, including gender-based violence, extrajudicial killings, and the destruction of property.</li> <li><b>Political Instability:</b> The ruling party’s inability to manage the crisis has led to calls for accountability and demands for the Chief Minister’s resignation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Italy-India Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India and Italy outlined their vision for deepening bilateral cooperation in the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29. The document covers various key sectors, including defense, trade, energy and space.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political relations between India and Italy were established in <b>1947</b>.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Italy is India's 4th largest trading partner</b> in the EU, after Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.</li> <li>● <b>Italy is the 18th largest foreign investor in India</b> with a cumulative FDI inflow of USD 3.53 billion from January 2000 to December 2023.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Highlights:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Political Dialogue</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Regular meetings between Heads of Government, Foreign, Trade, and Defence Ministers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Economic Cooperation and Investments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Strengthen bilateral trade, investment, and joint ventures in high-potential sectors (e.g., green technologies, sustainable mobility, food processing, semiconductors).</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Connectivity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhance maritime and land infrastructure cooperation, including the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Science, Technology, IT, Innovation, and Start-ups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expand partnerships in critical technologies like AI, telecom, and digital services.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Space Sector</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expand ASI-ISRO collaboration on Earth observation, heliophysics, and lunar exploration.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Energy Transition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Organize "Tech Summits" to foster industrial partnerships.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Security Cooperation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhance cybersecurity, counterterrorism, and capacity-building efforts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recently, innovative protectionist ideas, such as the <b>European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (EU-CBAM)</b>, the <b>Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive</b>, and the EU Deforestation Regulation, have led to concerns in developing nations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It is a <b>European Union (EU) tariff</b> on carbon intensive products.</li> <li>● <b>Purpose:</b> To put a fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon intensive goods that are entering the EU and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries.</li> <li>● If implemented as planned, <b>EU importers will have to buy carbon certificates corresponding to the carbon price</b> that would have been paid in the EU if the goods had been produced locally.</li> <li>● The price of the certificates would be calculated according to the <b>auction prices in the EU carbon credit market.</b></li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of certificates required would be defined yearly by the quantity of goods and the embedded emissions in those goods imported into the EU.</li> <li>• Companies in countries with a domestic carbon pricing regime equivalent to the EU's will be able to export to the EU without buying CBAM certificates.</li> <li>• CBAM will apply in its definitive regime from 2026, while the current transitional phase lasts between 2023 and 2025.</li> <li>• CBAM will initially cover several specific products in some of the most carbon-intensive sectors at risk of "carbon leakage": iron and steel (including some downstream products such as nuts and bolts), cement, fertilizers, aluminum, electricity and hydrogen.</li> </ul>
<p>Places in news: Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve</p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change informed the Nation about the notification of the <b>Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh, as the 56th Tiger Reserve of the country.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is located in the northern part of the state Chhattisgarh, bordering Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.</li> <li>• It is the third largest tiger reserve in the country after Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh and Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam.</li> <li>• This tiger reserve is connected to the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh to the West and Palamau Tiger Reserve in Jharkhand to the East.</li> <li>• It is nestled in the Chota Nagpur plateau and partly in Baghelkhand plateau.</li> <li>• It is contiguous with the Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.</li> <li>• <b>Rivers:</b> It serves as the origin of significant rivers such as Hasdeo Gopad and Baranga and a catchment area for rivers like Neur, Bijadhur, Banas, Rehand, and numerous smaller rivers and rivulets.</li> <li>• <b>Terrain:</b> It is blessed with varied terrains, dense forests, streams and rivers favorable for harboring a rich faunal diversity and contains critical habitats for the tiger.</li> <li>• <b>Other Tigers reserves in Chhattisgarh:</b> Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, and Indravati Reserves.</li> </ul>
<p>PM-Vidya Scheme Laxmi</p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, the union cabinet approved the PM Vidyaxmi scheme, which seeks to provide financial support to meritorious students in their pursuit of higher education.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a <b>Central Sector Scheme.</b></li> </ul>



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- **Features**

- Under this scheme any student who gets admission in a **Quality Higher Education Institution (QHEIs)** will be **eligible to get collateral free, guarantor free loan from banks and financial institutions to cover full amount of tuition fees and other expenses related to the course.**
- The scheme will be administered through a simple, transparent and student-friendly system that will be inter-operable and entirely digital.
- It will be applicable to the top quality higher educational institutions of the nation, as determined by the **NIRF rankings - including all HEIs, government and private, that are ranked within the top 100 in NIRF in overall, category-specific and domain specific rankings; state government HEIs ranked in 101-200 in NIRF and all central government governed institutions.**
- This list will be updated every year using the latest NIRF ranking.
- The Department of Higher Education will have a unified portal **“PM-Vidyalaxmi”** on which **students will be able to apply for the education loan as well as interest subvention, through a simplified application process to be used by all banks.**
- Payment of interest subvention will be made through **E-voucher and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) wallets.**

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