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National and International News

<p>"secular" and "socialist" are integral parts of the Constitution</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Supreme Court has ruled that "secular" and "socialist" are integral parts of the Constitution and must remain in the Preamble. The order was based on a batch of petitions challenging the inclusion of the words 'socialist, secular' into the Preamble of the Constitution in 1976 with retrospective application. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The concepts of socialism and secularism are explicitly mentioned in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. Both principles emphasize the democratic and inclusive framework of the Constitution. These terms were added through the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976. Socialism signifies the commitment to social and economic justice, aiming to reduce inequality in wealth, status, and opportunities. Secularism ensures that the state treats all religions equally without favoring or discriminating against any faith. Socialism and secularism in Indian Constitution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundamental rights: The Indian Constitution reflects its commitment to socialism and secularism through various provisions. Socialism is upheld via Fundamental Rights like Article 14 (equality before law), Article 21 (right to life and socio-economic rights), and Article 23 (prohibition of forced labor). Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP): It is also mentioned as Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) such as Article 38(1) (justice-based social order), Article 39 (equitable wealth distribution), Article 41 (right to work and education), and Article 46 (upliftment of weaker sections). Public sector undertakings and welfare schemes under Articles 39(b) and 39(c) further embody socialism. Secularism is supported by Fundamental Rights like Article 15 (no religious discrimination), Article 25 (freedom of religion), Article 27 (no taxes for
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	<p>religious promotion), and Article 28 (restrictions on religious instruction in state institutions).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Article 44 in the DPSP advocates a Uniform Civil Code, and Article 51A(e) emphasizes harmony beyond religious divides.
<p>Waqf Amendment Bill 2024</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opposition members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to ask BJP MP Jagdambika Pal not to rush the report. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 8, 2024, proposes significant changes to the governance and management of Waqf properties in India. ● This legislation seeks to amend the Waqf Act of 1995, aiming to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the administration of Waqf properties while addressing long-standing issues within the system. ● A Waqf is a property donated by Muslims for a specific religious, charitable, or private purpose. ● Key Changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Waqf Amendment (Bill) 2024 proposes changing the name of the parent Act from the Waqf Act of 1995 to the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development Act of 1995. ○ Government Property: Government properties identified as waqf will revert to state ownership. The District Collector will determine ownership in disputed cases. ○ Waqf Property Determination: The Waqf Board's power to determine waqf properties is removed. ○ Waqf Survey: Collectors will conduct waqf surveys under state revenue laws. ○ Tribunal Composition: Muslim law experts are removed. Tribunals will include a District Court judge and a state officer of joint secretary rank.
<p>Atal Innovation Mission</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), managed by NITI Aayog, with an increased allocation of ₹2,750 crore. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is the Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country and was set up in 2016. ● Objective: To create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the initiatives of AIM are currently monitored and managed systematically using real-time MIS systems and dynamic dashboards. Implementing Agency: NITI Aayog AIM has multiple programs to encourage and support innovation in the country. Some of the components of AIM: Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centres, Atal New India Challenge, Mentor of Change Program, Atal Community Innovation Center and Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE)
<p>Inflation</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Finance Ministry says inflation outlook remains benign. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It refers to a steady rise in the prices of various goods and services in the economy. Rate of Inflation = (Price in this Period – Price in the Previous Period) X 100/Price in the Previous Period To effectively monitor and control the level of inflation in an economy, policymakers use various kinds of instruments. In India, inflation is mainly measured through 2 price indices – the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Another measure of inflation frequently used across the world is – GDP Deflator.
<p>COP 29</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The finance deadlock threatens to push COP29 to the brink. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Conference of Parties (COP) serves as the main governing body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Agreement on Global Carbon Markets at COP29: Carbon market overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The global carbon market, outlined under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, allows countries to trade carbon credits - certified reductions in carbon emissions. This market aims to provide financial incentives for emission reductions, with prices set by emission caps established by participating nations. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It facilitates international collaboration to lower carbon emissions. It offers two pathways for countries and companies to trade carbon offsets, supporting the achievement of emission reduction targets set in their climate action plans, or nationally determined contributions (NDCs).



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The first option, known as Article 6.2, allows two countries to establish a bilateral carbon trading agreement under their own terms.○ The second, Article 6.4, seeks to develop a centralized, UN-managed system to enable both countries and companies to offset and trade carbon emissions.● Progress at COP29:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ In a landmark decision at the first day of the global climate talks here, COP29 have officially adopted the new operational standards for a mechanism of the Paris Agreement under Article 6, setting the stage for a global carbon market.○ This adoption of Article 6.4, achieved during the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), sets the stage for operationalising Article 6, which has faced years of deadlock.
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