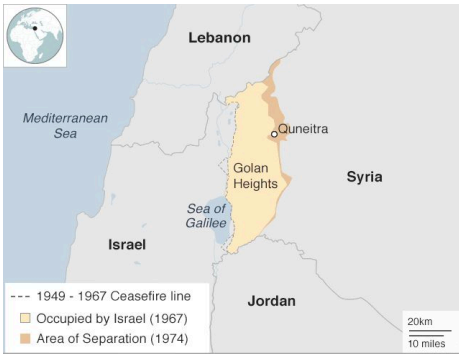




01 August 2024

National and International News

Places in News: Golan Heights



Why in the news?

- A **deadly strike** on a playing field in the **Israeli-occupied Golan Heights** has escalated fears of a new war in the region.

About Golan Heights:

- **Geography:**
  - **Rocky plateau** in southwestern **Syria**, 60 km southwest of Damascus.
  - **Occupied territory** under **international law and UN Security Council resolutions**.
- **Boundaries:**
  - West: **Jordan River** and the **Sea of Galilee**.
  - North: **Mount Hermon**.
  - East: **Seasonal Wadi Al-Ruqqad River**.
  - South: **Yarmuk River**.
- **History: Seized by Israel from Syria** during the **1967 Six-Day War**.
- **Strategic Importance:**
  - Overlooks **Damascus** and northern **Israel's Galilee region and Sea of Galilee**.
  - **Dominates the route to Damascus** on the Syrian-controlled side.
  - **Shares borders with Jordan and Lebanon**.
  - Key water source: Rainwater feeds into the **Jordan River**.

Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH)

Why in the news?

- A recent report submitted to the **Education Ministry** by **PARAKH** recommends incorporating student performance from **Classes 9, 10, and 11** into the **final Class 12 marks**.

About PARAKH:

- **PARAKH** (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) is a **unit established**



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	<p>within NCERT in 2023 to standardize school board assessments nationwide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>PARAKH team</b> will consist of <b>leading assessment experts</b> with a deep understanding of the education system in India and internationally.</li> <li>● <b>Objective:</b> To fulfill the basic objectives of setting norms, standards, guidelines and implement activities related to student assessment along with other tasks as mandated by the <b>National Education Policy (NEP) 2020</b>.</li> <li>● The mandate of <b>PARAKH</b> is to work on bringing the school boards across the States and the Union Territories to a common platform.</li> <li>● <b>Major areas of focus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Capacity Development</b> in Competency Based Assessment</li> <li>○ Large-Scale Achievement Survey</li> <li>○ Equivalence of School Boards</li> <li>○ <b>Holistic Progress Cards</b> for the Foundational, Preparational, Middle and Secondary Stages.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Advanced Land Navigation System	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)</b> was recently accorded for the procurement of <b>Advanced Land Navigation System (ALNS) Mk-II</b> for Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) of the Indian Army.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Advanced Land Navigation System:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>System:</b> Ring Laser Gyro (RLG) based navigation system.</li> <li>● <b>Purpose:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Used for traversing paths defined by military map coordinates in ESM format.</li> <li>○ Provides Inertial, GPS, and Hybrid Navigation data.</li> <li>○ <b>Security:</b> Spoof-proof with high levels of encryption.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Modes of Operation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Inertial Mode:</b> Operates completely on inertial sensor inputs.</li> <li>○ <b>Hybrid Mode:</b> Uses inputs from both inertial sensor and GPS receiver, selecting the most accurate data.</li> <li>○ <b>GPS Mode:</b> Operates independently of inertial sensor inputs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Compatibility:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Compatible with <b>Indian Regional Navigation Satellite</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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	<p><b>System (IRNSS) and NAVigation using Indian Constellation (NavIC).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Also compatible with <b>Global Positioning System (GPS)</b> and <b>Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS)</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Applications:</b> Offers high accuracy in navigational applications for AFVs (Armored Fighting Vehicles) with Defence Series Maps compatibility.</li> <li>● <b>Procurement:</b> To be procured from <b>Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)</b>, Chennai under Buy [Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured (IDDM)] category.</li> </ul>
Vattezhuthu script	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Archaeologists recently discovered a <b>Vattezhuthu script</b> and <b>eight Tamil inscriptions</b> in the <b>1,000-year-old Thalikiswarar Temple</b> in Tirupur district, <b>Tamil Nadu</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Vattezhuthu script:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Origin and Name:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vatteluttu, also known as <b>Vattezhuthu</b>, was a <b>syllabic alphabet used in South India (Tamil Nadu and Kerala) and Sri Lanka</b>.</li> <li>○ The name <b>Vatteluttu</b> means 'rounded script', 'northern script', or 'chiseled script'.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Historical Development:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>First appeared in stone inscriptions in southern India</b> around the 4th century AD.</li> <li>○ Likely <b>developed from the Tamil-Brahmi script</b>, a <b>variant of the Brahmi script</b> used for Old Tamil from the 3rd century BC to the 1st century AD.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Usage Timeline:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Used for writing Tamil and Malayalam in Tamil Nadu until the 9th century</b>.</li> <li>○ Continued to be used in Kerala until the 15th century.</li> <li>○ <b>Evolved into the Malayalam script over time</b>, incorporating some letters from the Grantha script.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Variants and Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vatteluttu developed into the <b>Koleluttu script</b>.</li> <li>○ Koleluttu was particularly <b>used by Christians and Muslims in Kerala until the 19th century</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
National Culture Fund	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recently, the <b>Union Minister for Culture and Tourism</b> informed Lok Sabha about the <b>National Culture Fund</b>.</li> </ul>



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### About National Culture Fund:

- **Establishment:**
  - Under the **Charitable Endowment Act, 1890**
  - **Purpose: Mobilize extra resources through Public Private Partnerships (PPP)** to promote, protect, and preserve India's cultural heritage
- **Objectives:**
  - **Conservation and Preservation:** Administer and apply the Fund for the conservation, maintenance, promotion, protection, preservation, and upgradation of monuments (protected or otherwise)
  - **Training and Development:** Impart **training and facilitate the development of a cadre of specialists and cultural administrators**
  - **Museum Space:**
    - Facilitate the provision of additional space in existing museums
    - Construct new museums to accommodate or create new and special galleries
  - **Documentation:** Document cultural expressions and forms that have lost relevance in contemporary scenarios and are either fading out or facing extinction.

**MPSC GAZETTED CIVIL SERVICES 2024**  
संयुक्त पूर्व परीक्षा  
(पेपर 1 आणि पेपर 2)  
20 Total Tests  
Test Series

**MPSC GROUP B & C 2024**  
संयुक्त पूर्व परीक्षा  
(अराजपत्रित)  
27 Total Tests  
Test Series



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