



12 July 2024

National and International News

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| <p>Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)</p> | <p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India hosts BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers amid the raging Myanmar crisis. <p>About BIMSTEC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment: BIMSTEC was established on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. ● Member Countries: The member countries of BIMSTEC are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. ● Objective: The primary objective of BIMSTEC is to promote regional cooperation and create an enabling environment for rapid economic development through identification and implementation of specific projects in the areas of mutual interest. ● Sectors of Cooperation: BIMSTEC focuses on 14 sectors, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trade and investment, ○ Technology, ○ Energy, ○ Transportation, ○ Tourism, ○ Fisheries, ○ Agriculture, ○ Public health, ○ Poverty alleviation, ○ Counter-terrorism and transnational crime, ○ Environment and disaster management, ○ People-to-people contact, ○ Cultural cooperation, and ○ Climate change. ● Secretariat: The BIMSTEC Secretariat is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was established in 2014. ● Key Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement: Aimed at boosting trade and investment among member countries. ○ BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection: Focuses on enhancing energy cooperation and electricity grid connectivity. ○ BIMSTEC Coastal Shipping Agreement: To facilitate coastal shipping and boost maritime trade. |
| <p>Classical Language Status</p> | <p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Central Government has recently decided to modify the criteria for granting classical language status. |



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| | <p>About Classical Language Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Criteria for Declaration of Classical Language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Antiquity: High antiquity in early texts/recorded history over 1,500-2,000 years. ○ Literature: A body of ancient literature or texts considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers. ○ Originality: The literary tradition should be original and not borrowed from another speech community. ○ Distinctiveness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The language and literature should be distinct from its modern format. ■ There may be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots. ● Benefits of Classical Language Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Awards: Two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in the classical languages. ○ Centers of Excellence: A centre of excellence for studies in the classical language is set up. ○ Academic Support: The University Grants Commission is requested to create a certain number of Professional Chairs in Central universities for the languages that get the classical tag. ● Classical Languages in India: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tamil: Declared in 2004. ○ Sanskrit: Declared in 2005. ○ Telugu: Declared in 2008. ○ Kannada: Declared in 2008. ○ Malayalam: Declared in 2013. ○ Odia: Declared in 2014. |
| World Population Day | <p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● World Population Day aims to raise awareness about global population issues and their societal impact. <p>About World Population Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Date of Observation: Celebrated annually on July 11. ● Purpose: To raise awareness about global population issues, including the impacts of overpopulation and the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health, and human rights. ● History: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989. ○ Inspired by the interest generated by "Five Billion Day" on July 11, 1987, when the world's population reached approximately five billion. ● 2024 Theme: Leave no one behind; count everyone. ● World population reached 8 billion on November 15, 2022 |



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| | according to the United Nations . |
| GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme | <p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raksha Raja Mantri recently launched the “GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024)” by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata. <p>About Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Objective: To find solutions to shipyard-related problems and promote technology development through startups. ● Focus: Encourages MSMEs and Start-Ups to develop innovative solutions for technological advancement. ● Impact on Defence: Aims to enhance the strength of armed forces and maritime security with technological advancements. ● National Scheme: Targets MSMEs and Start-Ups for developing innovative solutions for GRSE's technological needs. ● Industry Focus: Leverages MSMEs and Start-Ups to address challenges in the ship design and construction industry. ● Alignment with Policies: Supports the 'Make in India' and 'Start-up India' policies of the Government of India. ● Goal: Achieve Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in the shipbuilding sector. |
| National Gopal Ratna Award for 2024 | <p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nominations for the National Gopal Ratna Award for 2024 will open on July 15th. <p>About National Gopal Ratna Award for 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Awarded Under: Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) ● Since 2021: Conferred annually by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. ● Objective: To encourage milk-producing farmers, dairy cooperative societies/MPC/FPOs, and Artificial Insemination Technicians (AITs). ● Award Categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Best Dairy Farmer rearing Indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds. ○ Best Dairy Cooperative Society (DCS)/Milk Producer Company (MPC)/Dairy Farmer Producer Organization (FPO). ○ Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT). ● Special Award: Introduced for North Eastern Region (NER) States to encourage and boost dairy development activities in the NER. |



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