



01 Aug 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 within NCERT in 2023** to **standardize school board assessments nationwide**.
- **PARAKH team** will consist of **leading assessment experts** with a deep understanding of the education system in India and internationally.
- **Objective: 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 **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.



- The mandate of **PARAKH** is to work on bringing the school boards across the States and the Union Territories to a common platform.
- **Major areas of focus:**
 - **Capacity Development** in Competency Based Assessment
 - Large-Scale Achievement Survey
 - Equivalence of School Boards
 - **Holistic Progress Cards** for the Foundational, Preparational, Middle and Secondary Stages.

Advanced Land Navigation System**Why in the news?**

- The **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** was recently accorded for the **procurement of Advanced Land Navigation System (ALNS) Mk-II** for Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) of the **Indian Army**.

About Advanced Land Navigation System:

- **System:** Ring Laser Gyro (RLG) based navigation system.
- **Purpose:**
 - **Used for traversing paths defined by military map** coordinates in ESM format.
 - **Provides Inertial, GPS, and Hybrid Navigation data.**
 - **Security:** Spoof-proof with high levels of encryption.
- **Modes of Operation:**
 - **Inertial Mode:** Operates completely on inertial sensor inputs.
 - **Hybrid Mode:** Uses inputs from both inertial sensor and GPS receiver, selecting the most accurate data.
 - **GPS Mode:** Operates independently of inertial sensor inputs.
- **Compatibility:**
 - Compatible with **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)** and **NAVigation using Indian Constellation (NavIC)**.
 - Also compatible with **Global Positioning System (GPS)** and **Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS)**.
- **Applications:** Offers high accuracy in navigational applications for AFVs (Armored Fighting Vehicles) with Defence Series Maps compatibility.
- **Procurement:** To be procured from **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, Chennai under **Buy [Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured (IDDM)]** category.



<p>Vattezhuthu script</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeologists recently discovered a Vattezhuthu script and eight Tamil inscriptions in the 1,000-year-old Thalikiswarar Temple in Tirupur district, Tamil Nadu. <p>About Vattezhuthu script:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Origin and Name: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vatteluttu, also known as Vattezhuthu, was a syllabic alphabet used in South India (Tamil Nadu and Kerala) and Sri Lanka. The name Vatteluttu means 'rounded script', 'northern script', or 'chiseled script'. Historical Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First appeared in stone inscriptions in southern India around the 4th century AD. Likely developed from the Tamil-Brahmi script, a variant of the Brahmi script used for Old Tamil from the 3rd century BC to the 1st century AD. Usage Timeline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used for writing Tamil and Malayalam in Tamil Nadu until the 9th century. Continued to be used in Kerala until the 15th century. Evolved into the Malayalam script over time, incorporating some letters from the Grantha script. Variants and Legacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vatteluttu developed into the Koleluttu script. Koleluttu was particularly used by Christians and Muslims in Kerala until the 19th century.
<p>National Culture Fund</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, the Union Minister for Culture and Tourism informed Lok Sabha about the National Culture Fund. <p>About National Culture Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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



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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.



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