



16 Oct 2024

**National and International News**

<p><b>Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile system</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>United States</b> announced the deployment of its <b>Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) missile defense system</b> to <b>Israel</b> as Israel intensifies its military operation against Hezbollah militants in Lebanon.</li> </ul> <p><b>About THAAD Missile System:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Missile Interception:</b> THAAD is <b>designed to intercept and destroy ballistic missiles</b> using kinetic energy (<b>hit-to-kill technology</b>) rather than explosives. It <b>engages missiles during their terminal phase</b>, i.e., <b>when they are descending toward their target</b>.</li> <li><b>Defense Coverage:</b> THAAD provides a protective shield against ballistic missile threats to military forces, population centers, and infrastructure.</li> <li><b>Target range:</b> Covers 150-200 kilometers (93-124 miles).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Inter-Parliamentary Union</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Lok Sabha Speaker, leading an <b>Indian Parliamentary Delegation</b> at the <b>149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly</b> in <b>Geneva</b>, highlighted the significance of multilateralism in his address.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Inter-Parliamentary Union:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Establishment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Founded in <b>1889</b> in <b>Paris</b> to <b>promote representative democracy and world peace</b>.</li> <li>The <b>first multilateral political organization</b> promoting international cooperation and dialogue.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Mission:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitates <b>parliamentary diplomacy</b>.</li> <li><b>Empowers parliaments and parliamentarians</b> to promote peace, democracy, and sustainable development globally.</li> <li><b>Promotes democracy and strengthens parliaments</b> to become more diverse, gender-balanced, and inclusive.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Membership:</b></li> </ul>

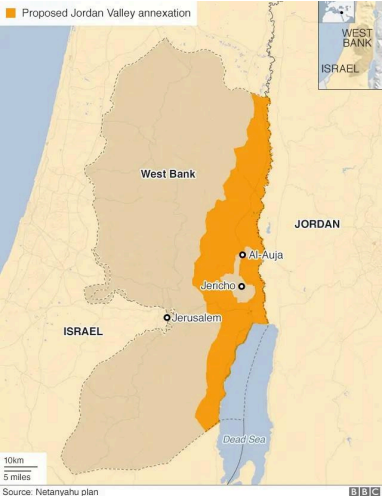


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Comprises 180 member parliaments and 15 associate members.</li> <li>○ <b>Defends the human rights of parliamentarians</b> through a dedicated committee made up of MPs from around the world.</li> <li>● <b>Headquarters:</b> Moved to <b>Geneva</b> in 1921.</li> <li>● <b>IPU Assembly:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Principal statutory body</b> expressing the IPU's views on political issues.</li> <li>○ Brings together parliamentarians to <b>study international problems and make recommendations for action.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)</b>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>UNICEF</b> recently stated that <b>Indian suppliers are the third-largest providers</b> of the organization's <b>global health and nutrition support for children.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About UNICEF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Establishment:</b> UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) was established in <b>1946</b> in the aftermath of World War II.</li> <li>● <b>Mandate:</b> To <b>assist children and young people</b> whose lives and futures are at risk, regardless of their country's role in the war.</li> <li>● <b>Global Reach:</b> Operates in over 190 countries and territories to <b>protect children's rights.</b></li> <li>● <b>Awards:</b> Nobel Peace Prize (1965), Indira Gandhi Prize (1989), Princess of Asturias Award (2006).</li> <li>● <b>Headquarters:</b> New York City, USA.</li> </ul>
<b>Article 142 of the Indian Constitution</b>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>Supreme Court</b> recently <b>declined to consider a PIL requesting directions under Article 142 to include sexual offenses against men, trans persons, and animals</b> in the newly enacted <b>Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About Article 142:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Purpose:</b> Provides the Supreme Court with the power to pass orders necessary for delivering "<b>complete justice</b>" in any case or matter pending before it.</li> <li>● <b>Extraordinary Power:</b> This power is special and extraordinary, <b>intended to address situations where</b></li> </ul>



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	<p>existing laws or provisions are inadequate to deliver justice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Application:</b> Article 142 allows the Supreme Court to deliver justice in exceptional cases where existing legal provisions may not be applicable or sufficient.</li> <li>● <b>Limitations:</b> While Article 142 provides wide powers, it cannot be used to override or "supplant" substantive laws applicable to the case under consideration.</li> <li>● <b>Significant Cases:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Babri Masjid Case</li> <li>○ Bhopal Gas Tragedy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Places in news: Jordan Valley</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Shiite militia group, Islamic Resistance in Iraq, recently claimed responsibility for <b>two drone strikes on Israeli sites in the Jordan Valley.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About Jordan Valley:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Location:</b> The Jordan Valley is a rift valley in the Middle East, part of the <b>East African Rift System</b>, located in southwestern Asia.</li> <li>● <b>Geography:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Extends from the <b>Sea of Galilee</b> in the north to the <b>Dead Sea</b> in the south.</li> <li>○ <b>Lies along the Jordan River</b>, forming part of Jordan's western border with <b>Israel</b> and the <b>West Bank.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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