



30 November 2024

**National and International News**

<p><b>Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indian Chemical Council (ICC) received the 2024 OPCW The Hague Award at the 29th Session of the OPCW Conference of the States Parties in The Hague.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the implementing body of the <b>Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)</b>.</li> <li><b>Mission:</b> To implement the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in order to achieve the OPCW's vision of a world that is free of chemical weapons and of the threat of their use, and in which cooperation in chemistry for peaceful purposes for all is fostered.</li> <li>Its <b>headquarters are located in The Hague, Netherlands</b>.</li> <li>The OPCW receives states-parties' declarations detailing chemical weapons-related activities or materials and relevant industrial activities.</li> <li>The OPCW is authorized to <b>perform inspections to verify that signatory states are complying with the convention</b>.</li> <li>It also performs testing of sites and victims of suspected chemical weapons attacks.</li> <li>The OPCW was awarded the <b>Nobel Peace Prize in 2013</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The latest order available on the Supreme Court website regarding a pending case involving The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991 dates back a year.</li> <li>This law prohibits the alteration of religious site statuses and maintains their character as it was on August 15, 1947.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is described as an Act <b>to prohibit conversion of any place of worship and to provide for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship</b>.</li> <li>The Act declares that the religious character of a place of worship shall continue to be the same as it was on August 15, 1947.</li> <li>It says that <b>no person shall convert any place of worship of any religious denomination into one of a different denomination or section</b>.</li> <li><b>Exemption:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The disputed site at Ayodhya was exempted from the Act. Due to this exemption, the trial in the Ayodhya case proceeded even after the enforcement of this law.</li> <li>Any place of worship which is an ancient and historical</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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		<p>monument, or an archaeological site covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A suit that has been finally settled or disposed of.</li> <li>○ Any dispute that has been settled by the parties or conversion of any place that took place by acquiescence before the Act commenced.</li> </ul>
<p><b>International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Iran is set to begin enriching uranium using thousands of advanced centrifuges at its primary nuclear sites in Fordo and Natanz, according to the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, the IAEA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It is widely known as the world's "<b>Atoms for Peace and Development</b>" organization within the United Nations family.</li> <li>● <b>Mandate:</b> It is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field. It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.</li> <li>● <b>History:</b> Though established as an autonomous organisation, independently of the United Nations through its own international treaty, the IAEA Statute, the IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.</li> <li>● <b>Headquarters:</b> Vienna, Austria.</li> <li>● <b>Functions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.</li> <li>○ It applies nuclear safeguards – consisting of monitoring, inspection, information analysis, and other activities – to verify that nuclear activities remain peaceful and detect and deter their diversion, including to weapons-related purposes.</li> <li>○ In particular, the IAEA implements comprehensive safeguards agreements mandated by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which serve as a first line of defense against nuclear weapons proliferation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Around 1.4 million Ayushman Vay Vandana cards have been issued to senior citizens aged 70 and above under the expanded Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Launched in September 2018</b>, the scheme aimed to offer secondary and tertiary care services to the vulnerable population in the society.</li> </ul>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was launched as a <b>second component</b> of the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme.</li> <li>• This scheme aimed to <b>offer medical coverage of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to poor and vulnerable families.</b></li> <li>• The scheme covers over nearly 40% of the population targeted towards the poorest and the vulnerable.</li> <li>• <b>Eligibility</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The scheme is targeted to cover 10.74 crore poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational category of urban worker's families.</li> <li>○ The beneficiaries as identified by latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service, i.e., the hospital.</li> <li>○ Under the scheme every eligible family will be given Rs 5 lakh Insurance coverage benefit per year.</li> <li>○ It offers Health Benefit Packages which covers surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Foreign Investment (FDI)</b>      <b>Direct</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Union government has proposed <b>raising the FDI limit in the insurance sector to 100%.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is a <b>type of investment whereby residents of one country (home country) acquire ownership of assets of a firm in another country (host country) for controlling the production, distribution, and other activities.</b></li> <li>• <b>Example:</b> Some common ones include establishing a subsidiary in another country, acquiring or merging with an existing foreign company, or starting a joint venture partnership with a foreign company.</li> <li>• <b>Components:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Equity capital:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ It is the foreign direct investor's purchase of shares of an enterprise in a country other than its own.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Reinvested earnings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ It comprises the direct investors' share of earnings not distributed as dividends by affiliates, or earnings not remitted to the direct investor.</li> <li>■ Such retained profits by affiliates are reinvested.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Intra-company loans:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ These refer to short- or long-term borrowing and lending of funds between direct investors (or enterprises) and affiliate enterprises.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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