




20 December 2024

National and International News

<p><b>Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four years after the Centre implemented a 5% sub-quota for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in admissions to Eklavya Model Residential Schools for tribal students nationwide, government data reveals that the quota is not being met.</li> <li>• Currently, only 3.4% of students in these schools belong to these communities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMRS started in the year 1997-98 to impart quality education to ST children in remote areas to enable them to access the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population.</li> <li>• EMRS are established in the States/UTs from the grants received under <b>Article 275(1)</b> of the Constitution of India.</li> <li>• <b>Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMRS are <b>co-educational residential schools from Class VI to XII.</b></li> <li>○ Eklavya schools will be on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas and will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development.</li> <li>○ Each school has a capacity of 480 students with equal number of seats for boys and girls.</li> <li>○ <b>Non-ST students can be admitted in these schools on seats up to 10% of the total seats.</b></li> <li>○ <b>CBSE curriculum</b> is followed in these schools, and education is completely free.</li> <li>○ The <b>National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)</b>, an autonomous organization, has been set up under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to establish and manage EMRS across the country.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>What is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PVTGs are <b>more vulnerable among the tribal groups.</b></li> <li>• In this context, in 1975, the Government of India declared 52 tribal groups as PVTGs on the recommendation of the Dhebar Commission.</li> <li>• Currently, there are <b>75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.</b></li> <li>• The PVTGs are spread over <b>18 states and one Union Territory (UT), in the country (2011 census).</b></li> <li>• <b>Odisha has the highest number (more than 2.5 lakh) of</b></li> </ul>
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<p><b>India France Relations</b></p> 	<p><b>PVTGs.</b></p> <p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India and France signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development of the new National Museum.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India and France have been strategic partners in the Indo-Pacific for a long time. They established diplomatic relations in 1947 and upgraded their partnership to the strategic level in 1998.</li> <li><b>Partnership for Security and Sovereignty:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Defense:</b> Continued collaboration on fighter jets and submarines, with 36 Rafale jets delivered and the completion of the P75 Scorpene submarine program.</li> <li><b>Space:</b> Strengthened partnership between ISRO and CNES on reusable launchers, Earth observation satellites, maritime surveillance, and satellite collision protection.</li> <li><b>Civil Nuclear Energy:</b> Progress on the 6-EPR power plant in Jaitapur and cooperation on small modular reactors.</li> <li><b>Indo-Pacific:</b> Joint actions and a development fund for sustainable projects in the region.</li> <li><b>Counter-terrorism:</b> Enhanced collaboration between France's GIGN and India's NSG.</li> <li><b>Critical Technology:</b> Partnerships in supercomputing, AI, cloud computing, and quantum computing.</li> <li><b>Civil Aviation:</b> New agreements to expand air routes and support India's aviation growth.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Asian Development Bank (ADB)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$42 million loan agreement to enhance coastal protection and strengthen community resilience in Maharashtra.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a <b>multilateral development bank established on 19th December 1966.</b></li> <li>It is the principal international development finance institution for the <b>Asia-Pacific region.</b></li> <li>It envisions a <b>prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific</b>, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty in the region.</li> <li><b>Functions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It provides assistance to its developing member countries, the private sector, and public-private partnerships through grants, loans, technical</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<p>assistance, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ADB maximizes the development impact of its assistance by facilitating policy dialogues, providing advisory services, and mobilizing financial resources through cofinancing operations that tap official, commercial, and export credit sources.</li> <li>● <b>Headquarters:</b> Manila, Philippines.</li> <li>● <b>Control:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ADB is run by a board of governors, which represents the member countries of the ADB.</li> <li>○ The ADB was modelled closely on the World Bank and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion to members' capital subscriptions.</li> <li>○ As of 2022, <b>ADB's five largest shareholders are Japan and the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares), the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Source of Funding:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It raises capital regularly through the international bond markets.</li> <li>○ The ADB also relies on member contributions, retained earnings from lending, and the repayment of loans for the funding of the organization.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All 17,130 police stations across the country are now connected through the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), a centralized online platform for filing first information reports (FIRs), chargesheets, and investigation reports.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) is a <b>centralized online platform conceptualized under the Ministry of Home Affairs.</b></li> <li>● Launched in 2009 with a budget of ₹2,000 crore, it is part of India's National e-Governance Plan.</li> <li>● It aims to establish a comprehensive and integrated system to enhance the efficiency and transparency of police operations at the police station level.</li> <li>● Classified as a <b>Mission Mode Project (MMP), the system provides law enforcement with tools for investigation, data analytics, policymaking, and delivering citizen-centric services.</b></li> <li>● <b>Key Features of CCTNS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Nationwide integration:</b> It connects all 17,130 police stations across 28 states and 8 Union Territories. Recently achieved 100% deployment, including in</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<p>remote areas like Manipur, Nagaland, and Lakshadweep.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Comprehensive crime database:</b> Stores records of accused persons, habitual offenders, proclaimed offenders, and crime-related data such as missing persons and stolen vehicles.</li> <li>○ <b>Analytical tools:</b> Generates crime statistics and detailed reports for analysis at the police station level.</li> <li>○ <b>Citizen services:</b> Enables tracking of complaints, verification requests, and case updates, making police processes more accessible.</li> <li>○ <b>Enhanced scope:</b> Integrated with the Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS), connecting police data with courts, prisons, prosecution, forensics, and fingerprint databases.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Himalayan Tree</b>      <b>Birch</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Climate change is shifting the tree line landscape in the central Himalayas, where Himalayan birch trees (<i>Betula utilis</i>) are being replaced by fir trees (<i>Abies spectabilis</i>).</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>About Fir Trees (<i>Abies spectabilis</i>):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is a slow-growing evergreen conifer commonly found in mountainous regions.</li> <li>○ <b>Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Needle-like leaves and conical shape.</li> <li>■ Adapted to colder climates with moderate moisture.</li> <li>■ Retains foliage year-round, contributing to high water-use efficiency.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Found in:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Mid to high altitudes of the Himalayas (2,500–3,700 meters).</li> <li>■ Prefers cooler and less moisture-stressed environments.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>About Himalayan Birch (<i>Betula utilis</i>):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is a deciduous broadleaved tree species native to the Himalayan region</li> <li>○ <b>Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Known for peeling bark and bright green leaves.</li> <li>■ Requires abundant water and cooler climates for survival.</li> <li>■ Sheds leaves in winter, contributing to nutrient cycling.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Found in:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Upper altitudes of the Himalayas (2,900–4,500 meters).</li> <li>■ Thrives in wetter, snow-fed environments.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

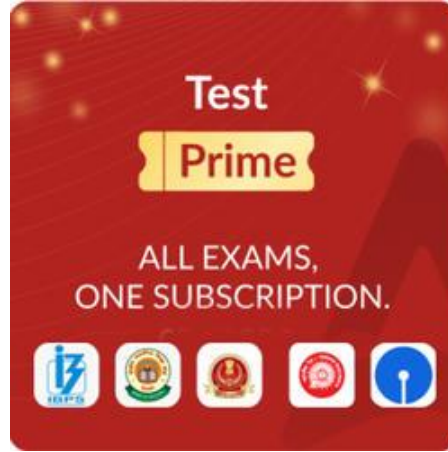


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