




28 January 2025

National and International News

<p>World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting achieved a significant milestone ahead of the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) by launching key initiatives at the National Media Centre in New Delhi. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WAVES would be the first-ever global summit covering the entire gamut of the Media and Entertainment industry. The event will bring together industry leaders, stakeholders, and innovators to discuss prospects, challenges, promote trade to India, and influence the sector's future. Vision: To position India as an unparalleled global powerhouse in the dynamic Media & Entertainment landscape while setting new standards of creativity, innovation, and influence worldwide. Mission: Empowering global Media & Entertainment leaders with exclusive investment opportunities through the premiere platform of WAVES. Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position WAVES as a platform to provoke ideas, fuel conversations, facilitate knowledge exchange and engage in meaningful collaborations with M&E industry leaders from across the globe. To drive the country's Creative Economy through IP Creation for India & for the World. To position India as a business friendly investment destination. To develop India's M&E infrastructure and build capacity of the industry to ensure skilled workforce for global needs. To embrace and adapt to new trends, technology and transformations in the M&E landscape.
<p>Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS)</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently presented a model of the indigenously developed Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) as part of its display during the 76th Republic Day parade. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ATAGS is an indigenous 155 mm x 52 calibre howitzer gun. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Howitzers is an umbrella term for a category of



	<p>long-range artillery guns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with its Pune-based facility Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) being the nodal agency. • The ATAGS project was started in 2013 by DRDO to replace older guns in service in the Indian Army with a modern 155 mm artillery gun. • Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The ATAGS armament system includes a barrel, breech mechanism, muzzle brake, and recoil mechanism designed to fire 155 mm calibre ammunition, offering enhanced range, accuracy, precision, and greater firepower for the Army. ○ The system is equipped with an all-electric drive, ensuring maintenance-free and reliable operation over an extended period. ○ It features high mobility, quick deployability, an auxiliary power mode, advanced communication systems, and an automatic command and control system with the capability for night firing in direct fire mode. ○ The ATAGS is compatible with C4I systems, such as the Artillery Combat Command and Control System (ACCCS) called Shakti, for efficient technical fire control, fire planning, deployment management, and operational logistics for the Army.
<p>Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union Finance Ministry recently notified operationalisation of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) as an option under the National Pension System (NPS) for central government employees. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) is a contributory pension scheme offering government employees guaranteed retirement benefits, including 50% of their last drawn basic pay as a monthly pension. • Ministry: Introduced by the Ministry of Finance, it will be regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). • Launched in: The UPS was approved by the Cabinet on August 24, 2024, and will be operational from April 1, 2025. • Aim: The scheme aims to address employee grievances regarding the market-linked returns of the NPS by providing guaranteed benefits and ensuring financial security post-retirement. • Key Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guaranteed Pension: Employees will receive 50% of their average basic pay during the last 12 months



	<p>before retirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dearness Relief: Regular hikes to adjust pensions based on inflation trends. ○ Family Pension: In case of death, family members will receive 60% of the employee's pension. ○ Superannuation Benefits: A lump sum payout alongside gratuity at retirement. ○ Minimum Pension: A minimum of ₹10,000 per month for employees completing at least 10 years of service. ○ Contributions Under the Scheme: ○ Employees contribute 10% of their basic pay. ○ The government contributes 5% of the basic pay, which can be revised based on actuarial reviews to ensure sustainability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coverage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applicable to Central Government employees who were previously covered under the NPS. ○ Employees hired on or after January 1, 2004, including retirees, can opt to switch from NPS to UPS.
<p>Teesta Stage III Hydro Electric Project:</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fourteen months after a catastrophic glacier lake outburst flood in Sikkim destroyed the Teesta-3 dam, the state's largest hydropower project, resulting in the deaths of at least 100 people, an expert committee from the Environment Ministry has recommended the reconstruction of the dam. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a 1,200 MW hydro power project. ● It is located on the Teesta river/basin in Sikkim. ● It is a run-of-river project. ● The project's construction commenced in 2008 and subsequently entered into commercial operation in 2017. ● About Teesta River: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is a trans-Himalayan river flowing through the Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal and Rangpur in Bangladesh. ○ It is a tributary of Brahmaputra River. ○ Origin: It originates in the Himalayas and flows through the Indian States of Sikkim and West Bengal before entering Bangladesh, where it flows into the Brahmaputra. ○ It has a total length of about 309 kilometers. ○ Main Tributary: Rangeet River
<p>Places in news: Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve (NNP&TR)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An elephant has been captured on camera in India's easternmost tiger reserve, Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve in Changlang district for the first time in 12 years, boosting hopes for conservation efforts.



	<p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is located in the Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh, surrounded by Myanmar in the Southeast. • It is located at the junction of the Indian Sub-Continent Biogeographic Region And the Indo-China Biogeographic Region. • This protected area is wedged between the Dapha Bum ridge of Mishmi Hills, of North Eastern Himalayas and the Patkai Ranges. • The park spans a wide altitudinal range from 200 m to 4,571 m at Dapha Bum, the highest point in the park. • Namdapha is the name of a river which originates from Dapha Bum and meets the Noa-Dihing river (a tributary of the Brahmaputra River). • Vegetation: The Biomes recognized are evergreen Forests, Moist deciduous forests, subtropical forests, Temperate Forests and Alpine. • Flora: The park is home to 150 timber species, including the exclusive Pinus Merkusi and Abies Delavavi. It also features the rare and endangered Blue Vanda orchid and medicinal plants like Mishimi Teeta, used by local tribes for treating various diseases. • Fauna: It is the only park in the World to have the four Feline species of big cat namely the Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard, and Clouded Leopard, and numbers of Lesser cats. It is also home to the distinctive Hoolock Gibbons, highly endangered and only 'ape' species found in India.
Guillain-Barre Syndrome	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry dispatched a high-level multi-disciplinary team to Pune, Maharashtra, following the death of a man in Solapur district who is suspected to have contracted Guillain-Barré Syndrome. • This could be the first death in the state linked to the immunological nerve disorder. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's a neurological disorder in which the body's immune system attacks the peripheral nervous system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is the part of the nervous system outside the brain and spinal cord. ○ It controls muscle movement, pain signals, and temperature and touch sensations. • GBS is also called Acute Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyradiculoneuropathy (AIDP). • It can occur at any age, but it most commonly affects people between 30 and 50. • Cause: The exact cause of the disease remains unclear, but it is often observed following a viral or bacterial infection,



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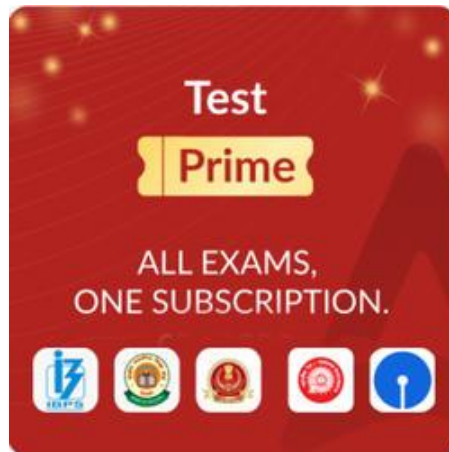
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	<p>vaccination, or major surgery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It begins with an unknown fever, followed by weakness and other nervous system-related symptoms. ○ It can increase in intensity over a period of hours, days, or weeks until certain muscles cannot be used at all. ● Treatment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is no known cure for this syndrome. ○ The most commonly used treatment is intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG), which is made from donated blood that contains healthy antibodies. ○ This helps calm down the immune system's attack on the nerves.
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