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National and International News


<p>Waqf Amendment Bill 2024</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lok Sabha passed the Waqf Bill after an extensive debate. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 8, 2024, proposes significant changes to the governance and management of Waqf properties in India. This legislation seeks to amend the Waqf Act of 1995, aiming to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the administration of Waqf properties while addressing long-standing issues within the system. A Waqf is a property donated by Muslims for a specific religious, charitable, or private purpose. Key Changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Waqf Amendment (Bill) 2024 proposes changing the name of the parent Act from the Waqf Act of 1995 to the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development Act of 1995. Government Property: Government properties identified as waqf will revert to state ownership. The District Collector will determine ownership in disputed cases. Waqf Property Determination: The Waqf Board's power to determine waqf properties is removed. Waqf Survey: Collectors will conduct waqf surveys under state revenue laws. Tribunal Composition: Muslim law experts are removed. Tribunals will include a District Court judge and a state officer of joint secretary rank.
<p>Places in news: North Sentinel Island</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 24-year-old U.S. national, Mykhailo Viktorovych Polyakov, was arrested in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for allegedly trespassing into the restricted tribal reserve area of North Sentinel Island. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Sentinel Island is one of the Andaman Islands, an Indian archipelago in the Bay of Bengal which also includes South Sentinel Island. The island is a protected area of India. It is home to the Sentinelese, an indigenous tribe in voluntary isolation



	<p>who have defended, often by force, their protected isolation from the outside world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Protection of Aboriginal Tribes Regulation 1956 prohibits travel to the island and any approach closer than five nautical miles (nine kilometres), in order to protect the remaining tribal community from "mainland" infectious diseases against which they likely have no acquired immunity. <p>About Sentinelese Tribe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentinelese also known as the Sentinelese are a negrito tribe who live on the North Sentinel Island of the Andaman. • They are hunter-gatherers, likely using bows and arrows to hunt and more rudimentary methods to catch local seafood. • It is known that the Sentinelese people speak their own language, known as the Sentinelese language. <p>Do you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Andaman Islands are home to four 'Negrito' tribes namely the Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa and Sentinelese. • The Nicobar Islands are home to two 'Mongoloid' tribes – the Shompen and Nicobarese.
<p>Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025, launched by NITI Aayog provides an in-depth analysis of the fiscal health of 18 major Indian states. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report covers 18 major States that drive the Indian economy in terms of their contribution to India's GDP, demography, total public expenditure, revenues, and overall fiscal stability. • It will be an annual publication and offers a systematic approach to assess the state's fiscal health, identify areas for improvement, and promote best practices across states. • Major Findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Top Performing: Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand and Gujarat have emerged as top-performing 'achievers' among the States. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It displays strong fiscal health, excelling in revenue mobilization, expenditure management, and debt sustainability. ○ Aspirational States: Haryana, Kerala, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Punjab. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ These states face high debt, large interest payments, weak revenue generation, and



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	<p>inefficiencies in capital expenditure, with reliance on non-tax revenue impacting their fiscal health and rankings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The FHI evaluates states across five sub-indices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quality of Expenditure: Efficiency in capital and social sector spending. ○ Revenue Mobilization: States' ability to generate revenue from taxes and other sources. ○ Fiscal Prudence: Adherence to fiscal deficit targets and financial management. ○ Debt Index: States' total debt burden. ○ Debt Sustainability: Debt-to-GSDP ratio and interest burden on revenue
<p>INS Tarkash</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Indian Navy frigate INS Tarkash, deployed in the western Indian Ocean for maritime security operations since January, has seized more than 2,500 kg of narcotics. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a state-of-the-art stealth frigate of the Indian Navy equipped with a versatile range of weapons. ● Tarkash belongs to the Talwar class of guided missile frigates. These are modified Krivak III class frigates built by Russia. ● It was built by the Yantar shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia. ● Key Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The ship has a length of 124.8 meters, a beam of 15.2 meters, and a draught of 4.2 meters (13 feet 9 inches). Its top speed is 32 knots (59 km/h or 37 mph). ○ It is equipped with a weapon sensor system capable of addressing threats in all dimensions. ○ The ship utilizes stealth technologies and a special hull design to reduce its radar cross-section. ○ It can carry either a Ka-28 Helix-A antisubmarine helicopter or a Ka-31 Helix-B airborne early warning helicopter. ○ Unlike earlier Talwar-class ships, it is fitted with BrahMos missiles instead of the Klub-N missiles.
<p>UGC Draft Regulations 2025</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The University Grants Commission (UGC) has received feedback on its contentious draft guidelines for faculty appointments. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Key features of the guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Chancellor or Visitor of the university will have the authority to form a three-member



	<p>Search-cum-Selection Committee responsible for appointing the Vice-Chancellor (VC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Composition of the Search-cum-Selection Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chairperson: A nominee of the Visitor/Chancellor. ○ Nominee from UGC: A nominee from the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC). ○ Nominee from University's Apex Body: A nominee from the university's apex body (e.g., Syndicate, Senate, Executive Council, Board of Management, or equivalent). ● Eligibility Criteria for Vice-Chancellor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Professional Background: Minimum of 10 years of senior-level experience in academia, industry, public administration, public policy, or public sector undertakings, with a proven track record of significant academic or scholarly contributions. ○ Inclusivity: Encourages candidates from economically weaker sections (EWS), SC, ST, OBC, and persons with disabilities. ○ Academic Background: Candidates no longer need to be professors but must show leadership in academic or research fields.
<p>Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai stated in the Rajya Sabha that "thousands have been granted citizenship" under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) of 2019, aims to grant citizenship to illegal migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who belong to the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian faiths. ● The citizenship laws in India derived their origins from the constitution under Articles 5-11 and the Citizenship Act of 1955. ● This Act provided provisions for citizenship by birth, descent, registration and naturalisation. ● Key Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It amended the Citizenship Act of 1955 to make illegal migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, eligible for Indian citizenship. ○ Those from these communities who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, would not be treated as illegal immigrants, providing a path to naturalisation. ○ The amendment relaxed the residency requirement



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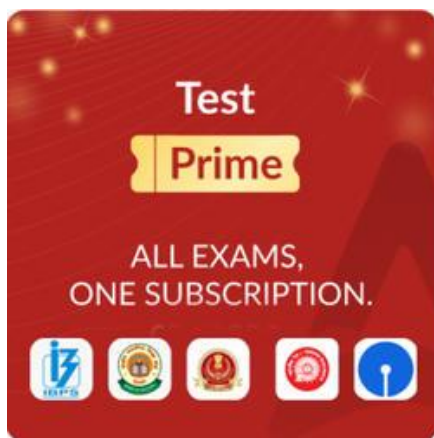
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	<p>from 11 years to 6 years for these communities to acquire Indian citizenship by naturalization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exception: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The amendments for illegal migrants will not apply to certain tribal (under Sixth Schedule) areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura, as well as states regulated by the “Inner Line” permit under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations 1873. ○ The 1955 Act allows the central government to cancel OCI registrations on various grounds, with the amendment adding a new ground for cancellation if the OCI violates a government-notified law.
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