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CONSOLIDATION

JAMMU & KASHMIR

**SEPTEMBER
2024**

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Voting Turnout in Jammu & Kashmir

Why in News?

Recently, Jammu & Kashmir recorded a **56.79% voter turnout** in the second phase of its **2024 assembly elections**.

- This election is the first since the **abrogation of Article 370** in 2019 and marks the first assembly elections in a decade for the **Union Territory**.

Key Points

- **Second Phase of Voting:**
 - Voting took place in **26 assembly seats** across **six districts** (three in Jammu division, three in **Kashmir Valley**).
 - A total of **56.79% voter turnout** was recorded in this phase.
 - **2.5 million voters** were eligible to vote, including **1.20 lakh** first-time voters aged 18-19.
- **Key Districts & Constituencies:**
 - **Kashmir Valley:** 15 seats including **Ganderbal, Srinagar, Budgam**.
 - **Jammu Division:** 11 seats including **Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch**.
- **Highest Turnout:** Reasi (71.81%) and Poonch (71.59%).
- **Lowest Turnout:** Srinagar (27.31%) and Habbakadal (11.1%).
- **Polling Stations:**
 - A total of **3,502 polling stations** were set up across the 26 constituencies.
 - **100% webcasting** was conducted at all polling stations for transparency.
- **Phases of Election:**
 - **First phase** held on **18th September** recorded a **61% turnout**.
 - The **final phase** of voting will be held on **1st October, 2024**.

Kashmir Valley

- **Geography and Climate:**
 - The Kashmir Valley is situated between the **Himalayas and the Pir Panjal range**, covering approximately **55,538 square kilometers**. It experiences a temperate climate with distinct seasons.

➤ Cultural Diversity:

- The region is home to a diverse population, including **Kashmiri Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists**, renowned for its rich cuisine, handicrafts like Pashmina shawls, and vibrant festivals.

➤ Protected Areas:

- The Kashmir Valley is home to several protected areas, including **Gulmarg Biosphere Reserve** and **Hemis National Park**, which are vital for conserving its unique flora and fauna, including **critically endangered species like the Hangul deer**.

Electronic Voting Machines (EVM)

Why in News?

Recently, elections are being conducted in **Jammu and Kashmir**, with **Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)** playing a crucial role in the polling process.

Key Points

- **About:** EVM is a device used to record votes electronically. They were first used in the **Paravur Assembly Constituency of Kerala in the year 1982**.
 - **Since 1998**, the Election Commission has increasingly used EVMs instead of ballot boxes.
 - **In 2003**, all state elections and by-elections were held using EVMs.
 - **Encouraged by this, in 2004**, the Commission took a historic decision to use only EVMs for the Lok Sabha elections.
- **Development:** It has been devised and designed by the **Technical Experts Committee (TEC)** of the **Election Commission** in collaboration with two Public Sector undertakings: **Bharat Electronics Ltd, Bangalore (under Ministry of Defence)** and **Electronic Corporation of India Ltd, Hyderabad (under Department of Atomic Energy)**.
- **Functionality:** It has two parts, a Control Unit and a Balloting Unit connected by a cable.
 - The Control Unit stays with the polling officer, while the Balloting Unit is in the voting booth.
 - The voter has to simply press the blue button on the **Ballot Unit** against the candidate and symbol of his choice and the vote is recorded.

Note:



➤ Key Features:

- An EVM being used by ECI can record a maximum of 2,000 votes.
- They do not require electricity. They run on an ordinary battery assembled by Bharat Electronics Limited/Electronics Corporation of India Limited.
- The microchip used in EVMs is a **one-time programmable/masked chip**, which can neither be read nor overwritten.
 - Furthermore, the EVMs are stand-alone machines and there is no operating system used in these machines.

➤ Benefits:

- **Accuracy:** EVMs eliminate the occurrence of 'Invalid Votes' seen frequently with **paper ballots**, ensuring a more accurate reflection of voter choice and reducing complaints and legal disputes.
- **Efficiency:** EVMs streamline the voting process, making it faster and more efficient. They eliminate the need for manual counting, reducing the time required to declare election results.
- **Transparency:** EVMs enhance transparency in the electoral process by providing a clear and verifiable record of votes cast. **With features like VVPAT**, voters can verify that their votes are recorded accurately.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** EVMs offer cost savings in terms of paper, printing, transportation, and storage, as they eliminate the need for millions of printed ballot papers for each election cycle.

VVPAT

- **About:** **Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)** is an independent system attached with the EVM that allow the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended.
 - It was introduced in the bye-election of the **Noksen Assembly Constituency of Nagaland in 2013**.
 - In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, VVPATs were used in all the constituencies.
- **Functionality:** When a vote is cast, a slip is printed containing the serial number, name and symbol of the candidate and remains exposed through a transparent window for 7 seconds.
 - Thereafter, the printed slip automatically gets cut and falls in the sealed drop box of the VVPAT.

- The machines can be accessed by polling officers only.

- **Related Supreme Court Ruling:** In a 2013 **Subramanian Swamy V/S ECI** case, the **Supreme Court** emphasised the necessity of implementing VVPAT in elections conducted through EVMs.

- Presently, the **M3 Model of ECI-EVM and VVPAT are used**.

Restoration of Statehood

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister addressed a rally in **Srinagar**, highlighting the restoration of **Jammu and Kashmir's statehood** and democratic progress in the region.

Key Points

- **Article 3 of the Constitution:** Formation of New States
 - **Parliament** holds the power to enact legislation for the **formation of new States**.
 - New States can be created by:
 - Separating territory from an existing State.
 - Uniting two or more States.
 - Uniting parts of different States.
 - Uniting any territory to a part of any State.
 - Parliament also has the authority to:
 - Increase or diminish the area of any State.
 - Alter the boundaries or name of any State.
 - Here, the word State includes a Union Territory also.
- **Checks on Parliament's Power:**
 - A bill for the formation of new States can only be introduced in either **House of Parliament** upon the recommendation of the **President**.
 - If the bill affects the areas, boundaries, or name of a State, the President must refer the bill to the concerned State Legislature for its views.
 - The views of the **State Legislature** must be communicated to Parliament, but Parliament is not bound by them.
- **State Legislature's Role:**
 - The State Legislature's only role is to express its views when requested by the President.
 - Parliament is not obligated to adhere to the views of the **State Legislature** when forming new States.

Note:

- Laws enacted under **Article 3** are not considered amendments to the Constitution, even if they modify provisions of the **First Schedule (list of States and Union Territories)** or the **Fourth Schedule (allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha)**.
 - This means such laws can be passed by a **simple majority in Parliament**, not requiring the special procedure for constitutional amendments.

Status of Jammu and Kashmir

- On 5th of August 2019, the President of India promulgated the **Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019**.
- The order effectively revoked the special status accorded to Jammu and Kashmir under the provision of **Article 370**.
- It superseded the **Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954** under which **Article 35A** was added to the constitution of India.
 - Article 35A stems from **Article 370** and empowers the **Jammu & Kashmir legislature** to define the permanent residents of the state, and their special rights and privileges.
- The **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act 2019** which became effective on **31st October 2019** provided for the bifurcation of the State into two separate union territories of **Jammu and Kashmir (with legislature)**, and **Ladakh (without legislature)**.

“FATF: Terror from ISIL and AQ-Linked Groups in J&K”

Why in News?

Recently, the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** released its **Mutual Evaluation Report on India**, highlighting the terrorism threats India facing, particularly from **Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Qaeda**-linked groups active in and around Jammu and Kashmir.

Key Points

- **Regional insurgencies in the Northeast** and **Left-Wing Extremist groups** also pose terrorism risks, the report highlighted.
- While the country emphasizes **prevention and disruption of terrorist financing**, more effort is required to conclude prosecutions and convict terrorist financiers.

- **FATF**: FATF is the global **money laundering** and **terrorist financing** watchdog set up in 1989 out of a **G-7** meeting of developed nations in Paris.
 - Objective:
 - Initially, its objective was to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.
 - After the 9/11 attacks on the US, the FATF in 2001 expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing.
 - In April 2012, it added efforts to counter the financing of proliferation of **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)**.
 - FATF Recommendations:
 - **In April 1990**, less than one year after its creation, the FATF issued a report containing a set of **Forty Recommendations** intended to provide a comprehensive plan of action needed to fight against money laundering.
 - **In 2004**, the FATF published a **Ninth Special Recommendations**, further strengthening the agreed international standards for combating money laundering and terrorist financing - the **40+9 Recommendations**.
 - **In 2012**, the FATF revised its recommendations and expanded them to deal with new threats such as the financing of proliferation of WMD.
 - Over **200 jurisdictions** around the world have committed to the FATF Recommendations through the global network of nine **FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs)** and **FATF memberships**.

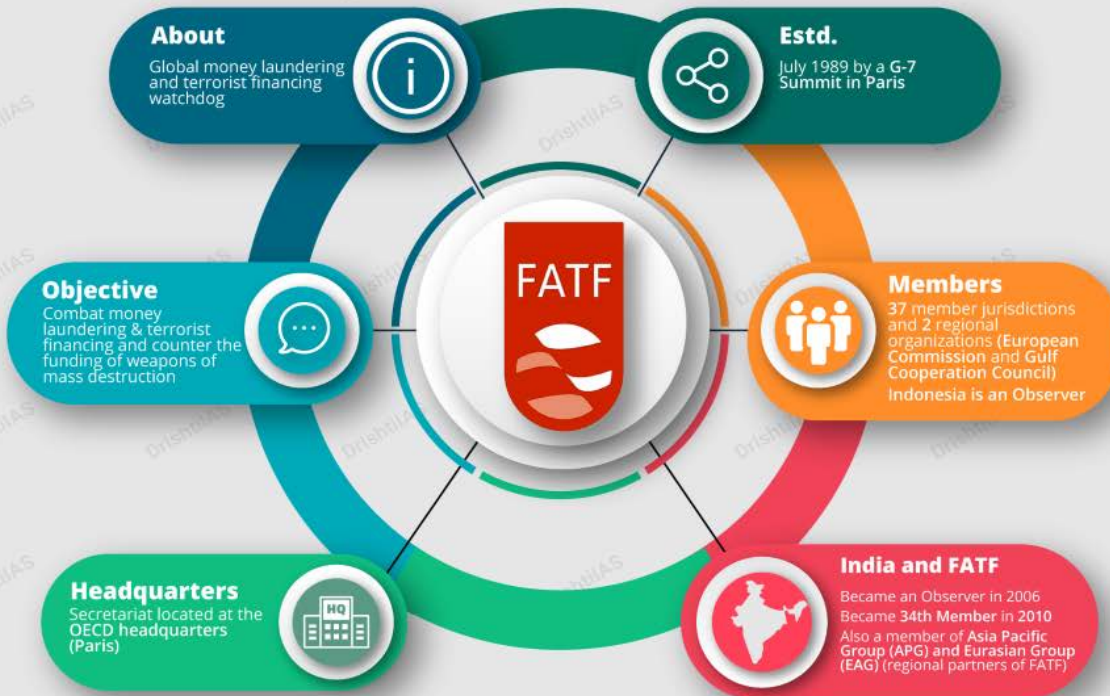
FATF's Recommendations

- **Pending Trials**: India needs to expedite the conclusion of **pending money laundering trials** and improve its handling of crimes like **human trafficking** and drug-related offences.
- **Targeted financial sanctions**: India must improve its framework to ensure the freezing of funds and assets without delay and streamline communication regarding sanctions.
- **Domestic Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs)**: India needs to define domestic PEPs under its anti-money laundering laws and implement risk-based enhanced measures for them.

Note:



Financial Action Task Force



FATF Lists

- Grey List:**
 - Aka "Increased Monitoring List"
 - Includes countries considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering
 - Serves as a warning that the country may enter the blacklist
- Black List:**
 - Includes **Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs)** that support terror funding and money laundering activities
 - Countries - **Iran, North Korea and Myanmar**
- Consequences of being Greylisted:**
 - **Economic sanctions** from financial institutions affiliated with FATF (IMF, World Bank, ADB)
 - **Problem in getting loans** from such financial institutions and countries
 - **Reduction in international trade**
 - **International boycott**

Note:



Indus Water Treaty

Why in News?

Recently, India suspended meetings of the **Permanent Indus Commission (PIC)** amid demands to renegotiate the 64-year-old **Indus Water Treaty (IWT)** with Pakistan.

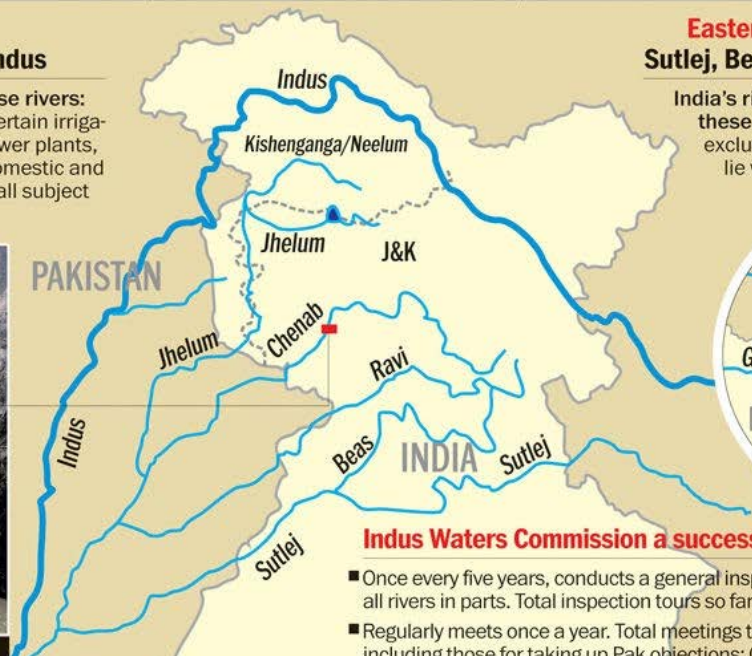
The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The distribution of waters of the Indus and its tributaries between India and Pakistan is governed by the Indus Water Treaty (IWT). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Was signed on Sept 19, 1960, between India, Pakistan and a representative of World Bank after nine years of negotiations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Partition of India cut across the Indus river basin, which has the Indus river, plus five of its main tributaries.
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Western rivers

Chenab, Jhelum, Indus

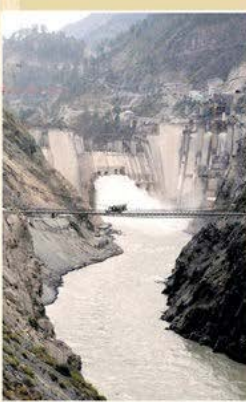
India's rights over these rivers: Limited — can set up certain irrigation, run-of-the-river power plants, very limited storage, domestic and non-consumptive use, all subject to conditions



Eastern rivers

Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

India's rights over these rivers: All exclusive rights lie with India.



Baglihar dam on Chenab

Indus Waters Commission a success story

- Once every five years, conducts a general inspection of all rivers in parts. Total inspection tours so far: Over 100
- Regularly meets once a year. Total meetings thus far, including those for taking up Pak objections: Over 100

Key Points

- **Indus-Water Treaty (IWT):** Signed in 1960, governs the sharing of **six Himalayan rivers**. It provides a **dispute resolution mechanism**, involving the **Permanent Indus Commission (PIC)**, neutral experts, or a court through the **World Bank**.
 - The treaty allocates water from the **eastern rivers (Beas, Ravi, Sutlej)** to India, while Pakistan has rights over the **western rivers (Chenab, Indus, Jhelum)**. India can use the **western rivers for limited irrigation and power generation**.
- **The Dispute:** The ongoing dispute centers on the **Kishanganga (330MW)** and **Ratle hydropower (850MW)** projects in Jammu and Kashmir. India and Pakistan have different interpretations of the treaty's dispute resolution process.
 - **Kishanganga project:** Located in Bandipore, Jammu and Kashmir, is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric project with a capacity of 330 MW.
 - It diverts water from the **Kishanganga River (Neelum River in Pakistan)** to a power plant in the **Jhelum River basin through a tunnel**.
 - Pakistan objected, citing concerns over water flow, but in 2013, **The Hague's Permanent Court of Arbitration** allowed India to proceed with certain conditions.

Note:

- **World Bank's Role:** Limited to procedural matters like **appointing experts** and **facilitating meetings**. It has paused and resumed processes based on mutual cooperation efforts between India and Pakistan.
- **Permanent Indus Commission:** Mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between India and Pakistan, with a Commissioner from each country.
 - Commissioners of both countries are **mandated to meet every year**.
- **Dispute Resolution:** The dispute redressal mechanism provided under **Article IX** of the IWT is a graded mechanism. It's a **3-level mechanism**.
 - **Questions:** These are simpler technical or operational issues handled by the **Permanent Indus Commission (PIC)** during regular meetings between the **commissioners of both countries**.
 - **Differences:** If unresolved at the PIC level, differences are escalated to a **Neutral Expert** appointed to resolve technical disputes, such as design or operational concerns.
 - **Disputes:** Major conflicts are referred to a **Court of Arbitration**, an ad hoc tribunal to handle larger disputes concerning the Treaty's interpretation or implementation.

Permanent Court of Arbitration

- It was established in 1899 and is headquartered in **The Hague, Netherlands**.
- **Purpose:** It is an **intergovernmental organization** dedicated to serve the international community in the field of **dispute resolution and to facilitate arbitration** and other forms of **dispute resolution between States**.
- It has a three-part organizational structure consisting of:
 - **Administrative Council** - to oversee its policies and budgets,
 - **Members of the Court** - a panel of independent potential arbitrators, and
 - **International Bureau** - its Secretariat, headed by the Secretary-General.
- **Funds:** It has a Financial Assistance Fund which aims at helping developing countries meet part of the costs involved in international arbitration or other means of dispute settlement offered by the PCA.

Nature of J&K Assembly

Why in News?

As the first phase of polling for the **Jammu & Kashmir Assembly** approaches, the Assembly will function under a new structure introduced by the **J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019**, which changed its constitutional setup.

Key Points

- **Union Territory Structure:** The **Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019** created two Union Territories (UTs), the **UT of Ladakh** without a legislature, and the **UT of Jammu & Kashmir** with a legislature.
 - The Assembly can legislate on matters in the State List except for **"Public Order"** and **"Police,"** which remain under the **Lieutenant Governor (LG's)** control.
 - **Article 239** states that **Union Territories are administered by the President** through an appointed administrator to the extent deemed necessary.
 - **Section 13 of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019**, applies **Article 239A**, which governs the administration of Puducherry, to the **Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir**.
- **Legislative Powers:** **Section 32 of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019** allows the **Legislative Assembly** to make laws on matters in the **State List**, except for "Public Order" and "Police," and the **Concurrent List** as applicable to Union Territories.
 - **Section 36 of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019** requires that any Bill or amendment related to **financial obligations** can only be introduced in the Legislative Assembly with the recommendation of the **Lieutenant Governor**, limiting the Assembly's role in **fiscal matters**.
 - The Assembly's powers are subject to the discretion of the **Lieutenant Governor (LG)** in matters outside its purview or when required by law.
- **Comparison with Delhi and Puducherry:** Like **Puducherry**, J&K's Assembly is governed by **Article 239A**, while **Delhi operates under a distinct Article 239AA** with a more complex power-sharing framework between the **LG and the government**.
 - In Delhi's case, three subjects **land, public order, and police** are reserved for the **LG**.

Note:

- **LG's Authority:** In addition to "Public Order" and "Police," the LG has authority over **bureaucracy** and the **Anti-Corruption Bureau**, with **discretionary powers** over all matters outside the Assembly's jurisdiction.

Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019

- It divided **Jammu and Kashmir** into 2 Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- It **repealed Article 370**, which had granted Jammu and Kashmir a unique status.
- **Leh and Kargil districts** were included in the **Union Territory of Ladakh**, while the remaining areas became part of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Five Lok Sabha seats were retained by Jammu and Kashmir, and one was transferred to Ladakh.
- Legislature: The seats in the Legislative Assembly will be reserved for **tribal and scheduled caste** people to keep the proportion intact of their population in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - The Lt. Governors can nominate two women members for the Assembly to represent women if women are not sufficiently represented to justify equality between men and women.
 - The elected Legislative Assembly will be for 5 years, and the Lt. The Governor will summon the Assembly once every six months.
 - The Legislative Assembly has the right to pass a law for any given part of the Union Territory of J&K related to any of the matters listed in the Indian Constitutions State's List except for the "Police" and "Public Order."
 - Any matter specified in the Concurrent List will be applied to Indian Union Territories. Furthermore, Parliament will have the decision-making power to create laws for Jammu Kashmir and its Union Territory.

Jammu & Kashmir Assembly Election

Why in News?

The **first phase** of the **Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Election 2024** is set to take place on 18 September 2024, with extensive preparations and heightened security measures in place to ensure a smooth and fair voting process.

Key Details:

- **Polling Constituencies:**
 - Voting will occur in **24 constituencies** during this first phase.
 - **16 constituencies** are located in **southern Kashmir**, and **8 constituencies** are in the **Jammu division**.
- **Security Arrangements:**
 - **Multi-tier security arrangements** have been implemented to maintain order and safety during the elections.
 - This includes **increased deployment of security personnel** at polling booths and strategic locations.
- **Election Phases:**
 - The election will be conducted in three phases: **September 18, September 25, and October 12**.
 - The second phase will cover **26 constituencies**, including districts like **Srinagar, Poonch, and Rajouri**.
 - The **final phase** will involve **40 constituencies**, including **Bandipora, Baramulla, and Jammu**.

What is Delimitation?

- **About:**
 - Delimitation means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body.
 - The **Delimitation Commission Act** was enacted in **1952**.
 - The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the **President of India** and works in collaboration with the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**.
 - Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times **1952, 1963, 1973** and **2002** under the Acts of **1952, 1962, 1972** and **2002**.
 - The first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in **1950-51**.

Cyber Commandos

Why in News?

Recently, the Central government announced the plan to train and prepare **5,000 'Cyber Commandos'** over the next five years to tackle the rising cybercrime threats.

Note:

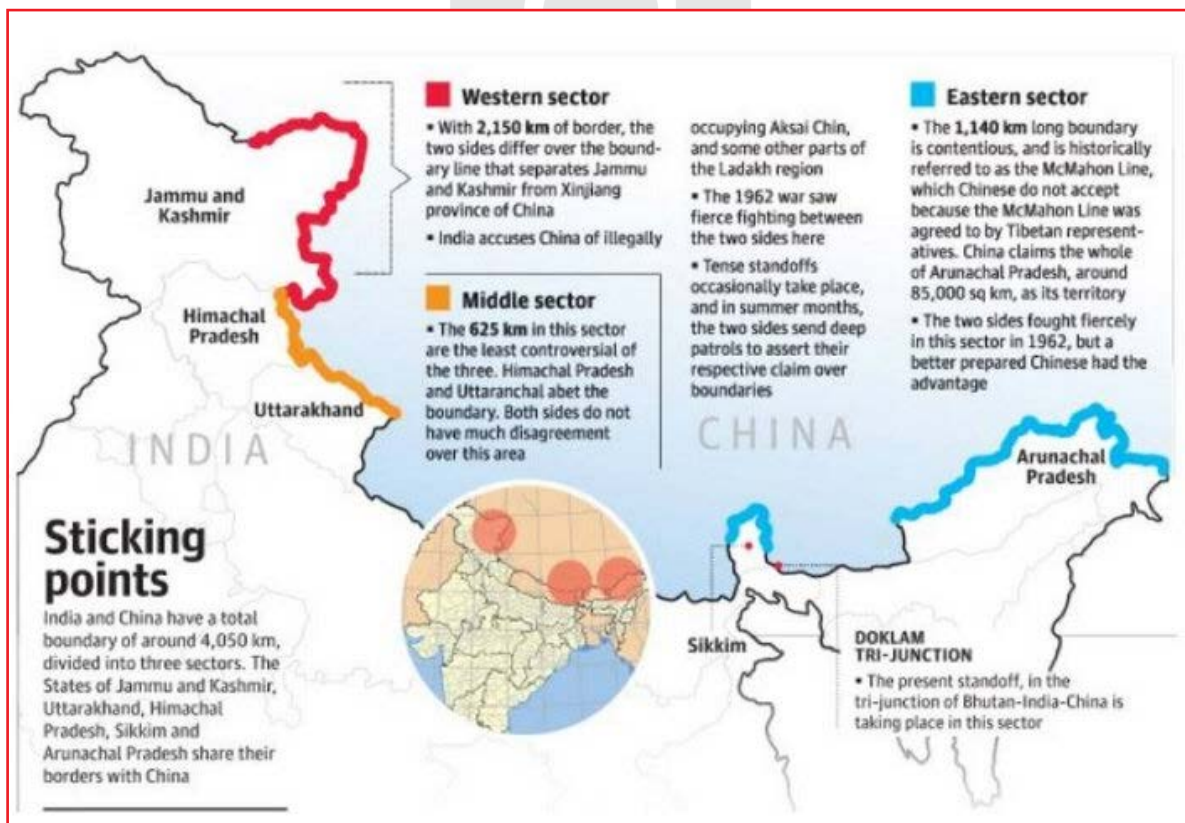
Key Points

- This announcement was made during the first Foundation Day celebration of the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**.
 - I4C is a **national-level coordination centre** for addressing cybercrime issues.
- The cyber commandos will be trained in **IT infrastructure security, digital forensics, and incident response**.
- **Related Launches:**
 - **Centralised Suspect Registry:** It is a **centralised database of suspicious bank accounts and related persons**. It will be securely accessible to banks, financial institutions, and law enforcement agencies.
 - **Samanvaya Platform:** It is a one-stop data repository for cybercrime, **data sharing, crime mapping, analytics, cooperation, and coordination** for law enforcement agencies (LEAs) across the country.
 - **Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre (CFMC):** It serves as a “**war room**” to monitor high-priority cybercrime cases involving large financial transactions.
- **Cyber Fraud Statistics 2023:** In 2023, a total of **1,128,256 cybercrime incidents** were reported across India on the **Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting Management System (CFCFMS)**, a key component of I4C.
 - Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of complaints at **197,547**, while Maharashtra reported the **highest amount of fraud at Rs 9.9 billion**.

Army Opens Himalayan Battlefields to Boost Tourism

Why in News?

Recently, in a move to enhance **border tourism** and match **China's infrastructure efforts along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)**, the Indian Army has opened up **historic battlefield** locations in the **Himalayas** for tourists.



Note:

Key Points

- **Tourism Infrastructure Development:**
 - India has identified **100 additional villages** along the **LAC** to create infrastructure for tourism as part of a **multi-pronged approach** to counter China's efforts in the region.
 - The Army is opening up Himalayan locations where key battles, such as the **Kargil conflict, 1999** took place.
 - Tourists are now allowed to visit **Tiger Hill**, a critical site during the Kargil war.
- **Border Security and Deterrence:**
 - According to the Army, opening these inaccessible areas and developing infrastructure in border regions will act as a deterrent to claims on undemarcated borders with China.
 - A **pilot project** for tourism is being set up in **Zemithang**, the **last Indian village near the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh**. This is the route through which the **14th Dalai Lama entered India in 1959**.
- **Line of Actual Control:** It is divided into three sectors.
 - The eastern sector which spans **Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim** (1346 km).
 - The middle sector in **Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh** (545 km).
 - The western sector in **Ladakh** (1597 km).
 - The alignment of the **LAC in the eastern sector** is along the **McMahon Line of 1914**.
- **Case of Arunachal Pradesh:** India's claim line is different from that of the LAC. It is the line seen in the official boundary marked on the maps as released by the **Survey of India**, including **Aksai Chin (occupied by China)**. The state of Arunachal Pradesh is an 'integral and inalienable' part of India.
 - In China's case, LAC corresponds mostly to its claim line, but in the eastern sector, it claims the entire Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet.
- **China's Intention:** There have been reports of **Chinese construction of villages** in Arunachal Pradesh, 5 kilometres from the **Bum La pass**.
 - The construction of the village has been seen by analysts as a move to bolster China's claim to the area, and part of a broader recent push by China to build civilian settlements in disputed frontier areas, which **it has also done with Bhutan**.

Purple Revolution

Why in News?

The **Lavender cultivation** success in Jammu and Kashmir exemplifies the powerful collaboration between research institutions, industry, and **youth entrepreneurship**, offering a path to **boost farmers' income** and enhance the **rural economy**.

Key Points

- **Aroma Mission and Lavender Cultivation:**
 - **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** launched the **Jammu and Kashmir Aroma Arogya Gram (JAAG)** project to promote alternative crops like **medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs)**.
 - The **Aroma Mission** introduced lavender cultivation **to boost farmers' income** and create employment.
 - Farmers received **free planting material, training, and support in cultivation, processing, and marketing**.
 - Originating in **Bhaderwah, Doda**, lavender cultivation has spread to other J&K districts and states like **Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland**.
- **Economic Impact:**
 - Over 1,300 hectares in J&K are under lavender cultivation, with significant **progress in districts like Udhampur, Poonch, and Rajouri**.
 - Lavender farms have gained national recognition and **boosted tourism**, as seen in the **Republic Day tableau at Kartavya Path**.
 - In 2024, **Doda district extracted 100 kg of lavender oil** and harvested 10 quintals of dry flowers, generating significant revenue for farmers.
- **Agricultural Challenges in J&K:**
 - Agriculture employs **65% of the population** and contributes **27% to J&K's economy**.
 - The region faced challenges like **difficult terrain, monkey menace, and poor accessibility, limiting land utilization for traditional crops** (rice, maize, wheat, pulses).
- **Future Prospects:**
 - Lavender farming opens opportunities in **value-added medicinal and cosmetic products**.
 - The initiative is a **model for rural entrepreneurship**, fostering growth in India's path to becoming a developed nation.

Note:

Purple Revolution

- Purple revolution is also known as **Lavender Revolution** and aims to promote the **indigenous aromatic crop-based agro-economy** by shifting from foreign aromatics to homegrown kinds.
- First-time producers were offered free lavender seedlings as part of the goal, and those who had previously produced lavender were paid Rs. 5-6 per plant.
- The **CSIR-Aroma Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM)**'s Initiative has begun lavender cultivation in the **Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Lavender farming is done in nearly all of **Jammu and Kashmir's 20 districts**.
 - Particularly, the districts of Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Srinagar, Bandipora, Budgam, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Kulgam, Baramulla etc. have made huge progress in this direction.
- **Lavender Cultivation:**
 - Native to Europe, lavender was introduced in the temperate regions of Jammu & Kashmir by the **CSIR Aroma Mission**.
 - It is a small, perennial aromatic herb shrub used in fragrance, specialty food, and alternative medicine industries.
 - **Propagation Methods:**
 - Seeds
 - Rooted cuttings
 - Tissue culture
 - Layering
 - **Soil:**
 - Grows well in light, well-aerated soil rich in organic matter.
 - Thrives in neutral to alkaline soil that is free-draining.
 - Sensitive to waterlogging but can grow in poor or eroded soil.
 - **Rainfall:**
 - Performs well with an annual rainfall range between 300 to 1400 mm.
 - **Climate:**
 - A hardy temperate plant, tolerant to drought and frost.

- Prefers cool winters and cool summers with ample sunlight.
- Can be cultivated in areas with snowfall and hilly terrain.
- Applications:
 - Food and flavouring
 - Pharmaceutical and therapeutic uses
 - Cosmetic products
 - Industrial purposes

Joint Doctrine of Amphibious Operations

Why in News?

Recently, **Chief of Defence Staff** released the **Joint Doctrine for Amphibious Operations** during the **Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC)** meeting.

Key Points

- The Doctrine serves as a **key guide for Commanders** in conducting **Amphibious Operations** in today's complex military landscape.
 - Amphibious operations are **military operations** that involve a **landing on a hostile shore** by naval and landing forces.
- The amphibious capability enables the Armed Forces to conduct a wide range of operations in the **Indian Ocean Region**, both in times of war and peace.
 - These operations are a vital element of **multi-domain warfare**, exemplifying the cohesion and integration among the **Armed Forces**.
- The Joint Doctrine for Amphibious Operations is the **second Joint Doctrine** released this year after the **Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace operations**.
 - **Cyberspace** encompasses the global network of entities, including **Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems**, that process, store, and transmit digital information and code, whether connected or independent.

What is Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

- **Background:** Its creation was recommended in **2001** by a **Group of Ministers (GoM)** that was tasked with studying the **Kargil Review Committee (1999) report**.

Note:



- After the GoM recommendations, in preparation for the post of CDS, the government created the **Integrated Defence Staff in 2002**, which was to eventually serve as the CDS's Secretariat.
- In 2012, the **Naresh Chandra Committee** recommended the appointment of a Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee as a midway to eliminate apprehensions over the CDS.
- Finally, the post of **CDS was created in 2019** on the recommendations of a committee of defence experts headed by **Lt General DB Shekatkar**.
 - General Bipin Rawat was the first CDS in the country and was **appointed on December 31, 2019**.

India Boosts Military Diplomacy with Tri-Service Drills

Why in News?

Recently, India has ramped up its **military diplomacy** through a series of high-profile joint exercises, engaging with nations across the globe in back-to-back drills involving all three services.

Key Points

- **Yudh Abhyas (India-U.S. Army Exercise)** set to begin on **9th September, 2024**, in **Rajasthan** with one of the largest U.S. contingents, including 600 personnel. India is evaluating **Stryker vehicles and Javelin ATGMs (Anti-Tank Guided Missiles)** for potential procurement.
- **Tarang Shakti (Indian Air Force Multilateral Exercise)**, Phase-II is underway in **Jodhpur from 1st September to 14th September, 2024**, with **8 participating nations** and 17 others observing. The U.S. **A-10 Thunderbolt II is flying in Indian airspace for the first time**.
- **Malabar Naval Exercise** Scheduled for **October 2024 off Visakhapatnam**, featuring **India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S.** as key participants, enhancing naval cooperation.
- **Mitra Shakti** exercise with Sri Lanka occurred from **12th - 25th August, 2024**. India also participated in the **Khaan Quest** peacekeeping exercise in **Mongolia** (27th July - 9th August, 2024) with 23 nations.
- Russian ships visited Kochi in August 2024, while **INS Shivalik** took part in **RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific Exercise)** from 27th June - 1st August, 2024. **INS Tabar** participated in **Exercise Varuna** with France in September 2024.

- For the first time, India deployed the **P-8I** maritime patrol aircraft in Europe for **Exercise Varuna**, enhancing operational presence.
- India participated in **Exercise Pitch Black in Australia** (12th July - 2nd August, 2024) and **Exercise Red Flag hosted by the U.S.** in June 2024, strengthening air force cooperation.

Joint Exercises with India:

Country	Exercise
Australia	Austra Hindbah
Bangladesh	Sampriti
China	Hand in Hand
France	Shakti
Indonesia	Garuda Shakti
Kazakhstan	Prabal Dostykk
Kyrgyzstan	Khanjar
Maldives	Ekuverin
Mongolia	Nomadic Elephant
Myanmar	Imbex
Nepal	Surya Kiran
Oman	Al Nagah
Russia	Indra
Seychelles	Lamitiye
Sri Lanka	Mitra Shakti
Thailand	Maitree
UK	Ajeya Warrior
USA	Yudhabhayas
USA	Vajra Prahar

Multilateral Exercises:

Exercise	Countries
Malabar	India, USA, Japan, Australia
Varuna	India, France
La Perouse	India, Australia, United States, France, Japan, and United Kingdom
Sea Dragon	India, USA, Japan, Canada, South Korea
Konkan	India, UK

Note:

Aime & Imdex	India, Asean Countries
Bright Star	India, 34 Countries
Salvex	India, USA
Slinex	India, Sri Lanka
Samudra Shakti	India, Indonesia
Al-Mohed Al-Hindi	India, Saudi Arabia
India - France - UAE Trilateral Exercise	India, France, UAE
India - France - UAE Trilateral Passex	India, France, UAE
Komodo	India, Multiple (36 Countries)
Ausindex	India, Australia
Simbex	India, Singapore

Jammu and Kashmir Film Policy, 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the [Jammu and Kashmir](#) administration unveiled the **Jammu and Kashmir Film Policy, 2024** to incentivize film shooting in the region

Key Points

- The Jammu and Kashmir Film Policy, 2024 was unveiled on 1st August by J&K [Lieutenant Governor](#) in [Srinagar](#).
 - The policy aims to boost both **domestic and international film production** in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
 - The policy includes plans for **high-impact infrastructure** and **financial incentives** to enhance the attractiveness of filming in J&K.
- **Access to Locations:** The policy opens up scenic locations, including previously restricted areas closer to the **Line of Control (LoC)** like **Gurez, Machil, and Tangdhar**, for film shooting.
 - Traditional tourist hotspots such as **Gulmarg and Pahalgam** remain accessible for filmmakers.
- **Administrative Mechanism:**
 - The **Kashmir Film Development Council (JKFDC)** has been established as an online **single-window** mechanism for facilitating film production.

- A '**location permission committee**' and a '**script screening committee**' will review applications. Final approvals are expected within two to four weeks.

➤ Historical Context:

- Kashmir was a popular filming location until the 1950s, with significant movies like "**Jungle**" (1961) and "**Jab Jab Phool Khile**" (1965) showcasing its beauty.
- The region's filming opportunities were restricted due to security concerns until recent peace agreements.

Major Defence Procurement Approval

Why in News?

Recently, [India's Defence Council](#) approved military hardware procurement worth **Rs 1.45 lakh crore**, emphasizing indigenous suppliers for modernizing the forces.

Key Points

- **Indigenous Procurement Focus:** 99% of the funds will be spent on indigenous suppliers.
- **Major Approvals:**
 - 1,770 Future-Ready Combat Vehicles (FRCVs) for the [Indian Army](#).
 - Construction of seven additional **Project-17B** stealth frigates for the navy.
 - Acquisition of 26 **Rafale-M** fighters for [INS Vikrant](#).
- **Additional Procurements:**
 - Air defence fire control radars.
 - Equipment for cross-country mobility, such as forward repair team (tracked) vehicles.
 - Upgraded capabilities for the [Indian Coast Guard](#), including Dornier-228 aircraft and next-generation patrol vessels.
- **Procurement Categories:**
 - **Indian-IDDM** (Indigenously Designed, Developed, and Manufactured)
 - **Buy (Indian):** Includes products with 50% or 60% indigenous content, depending on design and development.

Note:

- **Self-Reliance Measures:**
 - Phased bans on imports of weapons and subsystems.
 - Increased **FDI** limit from 49% to 74%.
 - Separate budget allocation for locally made hardware.
- **2024-25 Defence Budget:**
 - Total allocation of Rs 6.22 lakh crore.
 - **Capital expenditure** of Rs 1.72 lakh crore, with Rs 1.05 lakh crore earmarked for domestic procurement.

Defence Acquisition Council

- The DAC is the highest decision-making body in the **Defence Ministry** for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (**Army, Navy and Air Force**) and the **Indian Coast Guard**.
- The Minister of Defence is the Chairman of the Council.
- It was formed, after the Group of Ministers recommendations on 'Reforming the National Security System', in 2001, post Kargil War (1999).

Army Reinforces Counter-Infiltration Measures

Why in News?

Recently, the Army enhanced counter-infiltration in **Jammu and Kashmir** with redeployed troops and increased security along the **LoC**.

Key Points

- **Recent Terror Attacks:**
 - Jammu and Kashmir have experienced a rise in terror attacks, resulting in security force fatalities.
 - Common factors in these attacks include:
 - Predominantly occurring in areas south of the **Pir Panjal range**.
 - Use of advanced communication equipment by militants.
 - Possession of modern rifles.
 - Enhanced psychological and physical training of militants.
 - Involvement in **narcotics trade**.
- **Surveillance and Security Measures:** Troops are stationed along the **LoC, LoC fence, and permanent operating bases year-round**.
 - New check posts, including mobile vehicle ones, will be established at population centers and roads.

SHIFT IN TERROR

SOUTH OF PIR PANJAL* TERROR INCIDENTS

2021	2
2022	10
2023	3

NORTH OF PIR PANJAL* TERROR INCIDENTS

2021	129
2022	100
2023	7

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

2021	1
2022	7
2023	7

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

2021	36
2022	23
2023	1

(2023 data as of May 30)

NO. OF TERRORISTS (■ Local Terrorists ■ Foreign Terrorists)

SOUTH OF PIR PANJAL

May 2022	83	78
May 2023	36	78

NORTH OF PIR PANJAL

May 2022	14	2
May 2023	13	2

* South of Pir Panjal: Poonch, Rajouri and Jammu districts in Jammu region ** North of Pir Panjal: Valley districts

Note:



- **Drones** will be used for increased surveillance and area domination.

Line of Control

- The Line of Control (LoC) emerged from the 1948 ceasefire line negotiated by the **United Nations (UN)** after the Kashmir War.
- It was designated as the LoC in 1972, following the Shimla Agreement between the two countries.
- LoC is demarcated upto the **Siachen Glacier** (Point NJ9842)- the world's highest battlefield.
- LoC is delineated on a map signed by the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of both armies and has the international sanctity of a legal agreement.



Exit Polls Banned

Why in News?

Recently, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** issued a notification banning the release of **exit polls** for the upcoming Assembly elections in **Jammu and Kashmir**.

Key Points

- **Exit polls** are banned from being conducted or published from **7:00 AM on September 18, 2024, to 6:30 PM on October 5, 2024**.
 - An **exit poll** is conducted immediately after people have voted, and assesses the support for political parties and their candidates.
- The move is a **standard procedure** to ensure fairness and prevent exit polls from **influencing voter behavior** during the election process.

Note:



- The ban is based on **Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951**, which prohibits the conducting, publishing, or publicizing of exit polls.
- **Exit poll** results can be published 30 minutes after the last vote is cast.
- Under **Section 126(1)(b) of the RP Act, 1951**, displaying any election-related material, including **opinion polls, is prohibited during the 48 hours** before the end of polling.
 - An **opinion poll** is a **pre-election survey** to gather voters' views on a range of election-related issues.

Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950

- **Key Provisions:**
 - Lays down procedures for **delimitation of constituencies**.
 - Provides for the **allocation of seats** in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of States.
 - Lays **procedure for the preparation of electoral rolls** and the manner of filling seats.
 - Lays down the **qualification** of voters.

Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951

- **Key Provisions:**
 - It regulates the **actual conduct of elections and by-elections**.
 - It provides **administrative machinery** for conducting elections.
 - It deals with the **registration** of political parties.
 - It specifies the **qualifications and disqualifications** for membership of the Houses.
 - It provides provisions to curb **corrupt practices** and other offences.
 - It lays down the **procedure for settling doubts** and disputes arising out of elections.

Rise in Militancy in Jammu

Why in News?

The Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has witnessed a **notable increase in militant attacks** since mid-2021, culminating in recent incidents including the ambush on Army vehicles in Kathua district and targeted strikes in other areas

Key Points

- **Reasons for Rise in Militancy in Jammu:**
 - **Strategic Shift:** The pursuance of zero terror policy in Kashmir have provided militants to an opportunity to operate in Jammu.
 - In 2020, perceived low militancy in Jammu led to troop movements to Ladakh (along **LAC** after the **Galwan Accident**), potentially prompting militants to relocate.
- **Strategic Importance of Jammu:** Jammu serves as a crucial gateway to the rest of India, making it an attractive target for militants aiming to disrupt normalcy and create fear.
- **Geostrategic Considerations:** The proximity to the Line of Control (LoC) provides militants easier access from **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir**, facilitating infiltration and logistics support.
- **Economic Disparities:** Lack of economic opportunity and development in remote and border areas of Jammu create fertile ground for recruitment of local youths by militant groups.
- **Lack of Human Intelligence:** The locals who provided information decades ago are now in their 60s or 70s, and the security forces have not nurtured relations with younger generations, highlighting a gap in human intelligence gathering.

Note:

- **Terrorism:** Terrorism under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2012**, involves using violence or threats to create fear for political, ideological, or extremist aims, impacting national or global security.
- **Militancy:** Militancy refers to a readiness to use violence or combativeness, encompassing various groups or **individuals including armed religious factions**, often used interchangeably with terrorism but suggesting a potentially less extreme level of violent expression compared to terrorism.

Effects of Lithium Mining in Reasi

Why in News?

Recently, a new study highlights the environmental concerns associated with **lithium brine extraction**, a process involving pumping salt-rich water to the surface and using evaporation ponds to extract lithium.

Note:



Key Points

- **Potential Impact of Lithium Mining in Reasi (J&K):**
 - **Water Crisis:** Many villages in Reasi are struggling to access enough water, after perennial streams dried up following the construction of the Chenab Rail Bridge.
 - Water-intensive lithium mining can further worsen the situation.
 - **Threat to Biodiversity:** The **Himalayan region** in J&K is a **biodiversity hotspot** and a **eco-sensitive** region, and mining could lead to a significant loss of biodiversity.
 - It can hamper the habitat of migratory birds like Common Teal, Northern Pintail etc who come every year to stay in lakes, marshes and wetlands of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
 - **Food Insecurity:** Mining and processing lithium can further jeopardise food security through its excessive carbon emissions, water, and land use methods.
 - **Pollution:** The Himalayas are the source of so many rivers and mining activity may pollute the entire riparian ecosystem.

- **Lithium:** It is a soft, silvery metal. It has the lowest density of all metals.
 - It has high reactivity, low density and excellent electrochemical properties.
 - Its ores are Petalite, Lepidolite and Spodumene. It is also known as the "**white gold**".
- Applications:
 - **Batteries:** The most important use of lithium is in **rechargeable batteries** for mobile phones, laptops, digital cameras and **electric vehicles**.
 - Lithium is also used in some non-rechargeable batteries for things like heart pacemakers, toys and clocks.
 - **Alloys:** A magnesium-lithium alloy is used for armour plating.
 - **Air Conditioning:** Lithium chloride and lithium bromide are used in air conditioning and industrial drying systems due to their **hygroscopic properties**.
 - **Lubricants:** Lithium stearate is used as an all-purpose and high-temperature lubricant.

Reassignment of NIA and Habeas Corpus Cases

Why in News?

Recently, **NIA (National Investigation Agency)** and **Habeas Corpus** cases at the J&K High Court were reassigned to a new bench in Srinagar following a series of rulings by Justice Sreedharan.

Key Points

- **Roster Change:** An order modified the existing roster for **NIA and Habeas Corpus cases**, shifting them from Justice Atul Sreedharan's bench to a **new Special Division Bench** of Justices Rajnesh Oswal and Mohammad Akram Chowdhary.
 - A roster is a systematic plan for **assigning tasks to members of a High court** to increase efficiency.
 - The Chief Justice of the High Court is the Master of Roster in the High court.
- **Rarity of Shift:** Midway shifting of cases from a particular bench to a completely new bench is a rare occurrence.
- **Significant Rulings of Justice Sreedharan:**
 - **Public Safety Act, 1978 (PSA) Case:** Justice Sreedharan in July 2024 imposed a fine on the District Magistrate for vague and confusing reasoning in a preventive detention case.
 - **Fundamentalism Ideology:** He challenged the labeling of a detainee as a "fundamentalist" and clarified its meaning in context in the **August, 2023 case**.
 - **Policeman Bail Case:** Granted bail to a policeman charged with murder due to a delayed trial, citing a violation of **Article 21**.
 - **Fahad Shah Case:** Questioned the application of **UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act)** charges against journalist Fahad Shah, noting insufficient evidence of incitement to violence.

Note:

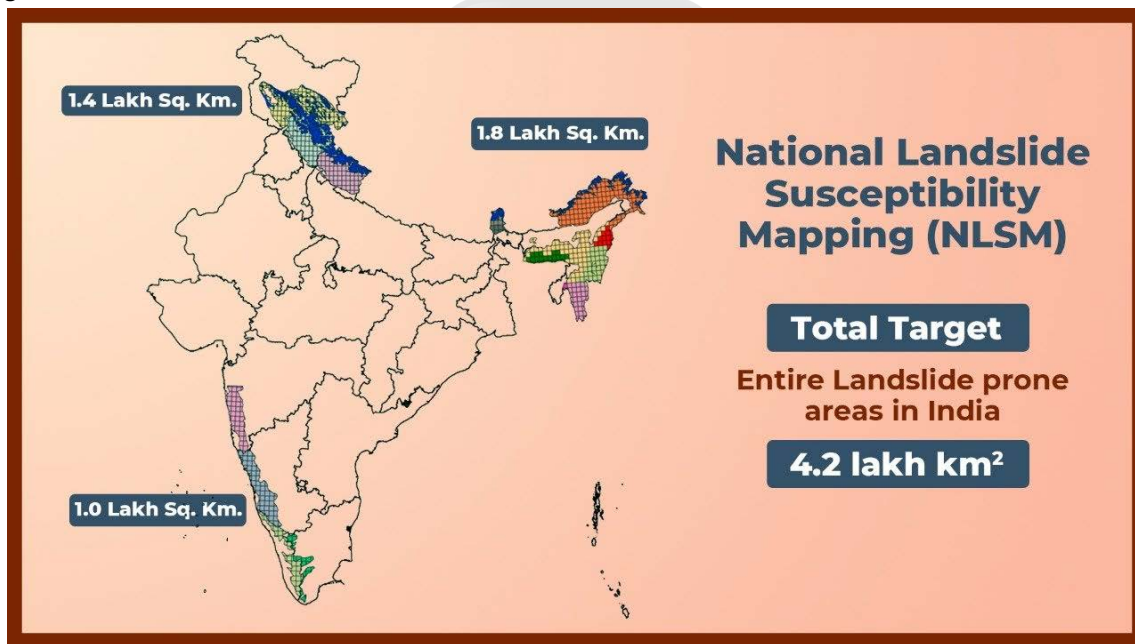
Habeas Corpus

- It is a Latin term which literally means '**to have the body of**'. Under this the court issues an order to a person who has detained another person, to produce the body of the latter before it. The court then examines the cause and legality of detention.
- This **writ** is a bulwark of individual liberty against arbitrary detention.
- The writ of habeas corpus can be issued **against both public authorities as well as private individuals**.
- The writ, on the other hand, is not issued where the:
 - detention is lawful,
 - the proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court,
 - detention is by a competent court, and
 - detention is outside the jurisdiction of the court.

Landslide in Vaishno Devi Track

Why in News?

Recently, a **landslide** occurred on the new track to the Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, affecting the route near Panchi, 3 km ahead of Bhawan.



Key Points

- **Vaishno Devi Temple:** Temple is located at **5,200 feet** in the Trikuta mountains, sees over one crore visitors annually, with a **12 km trek** from Katra.
 - **Key Landmarks:** Darshani Deodhi, Banganga, Chara Paduka, Indraprastha, Adhkuari, Garbha Joon, Himkoti, Haathi Matha, Sanji Chhat Bhavan, Sher ka Panja and Bhairon Mandir.
- **Reasi**, a town and notified area committee in Jammu and Kashmir, situated on the **bank of the Chenab River**. It was part of the **Bhimgarh state** established by **Bhim Dev** in the **8th century AD**.
 - Bhimgarh State, centered in Reasi, remained independent **until 1822** when **Raja Gulab Singh** unified the small states in the region.

Note:



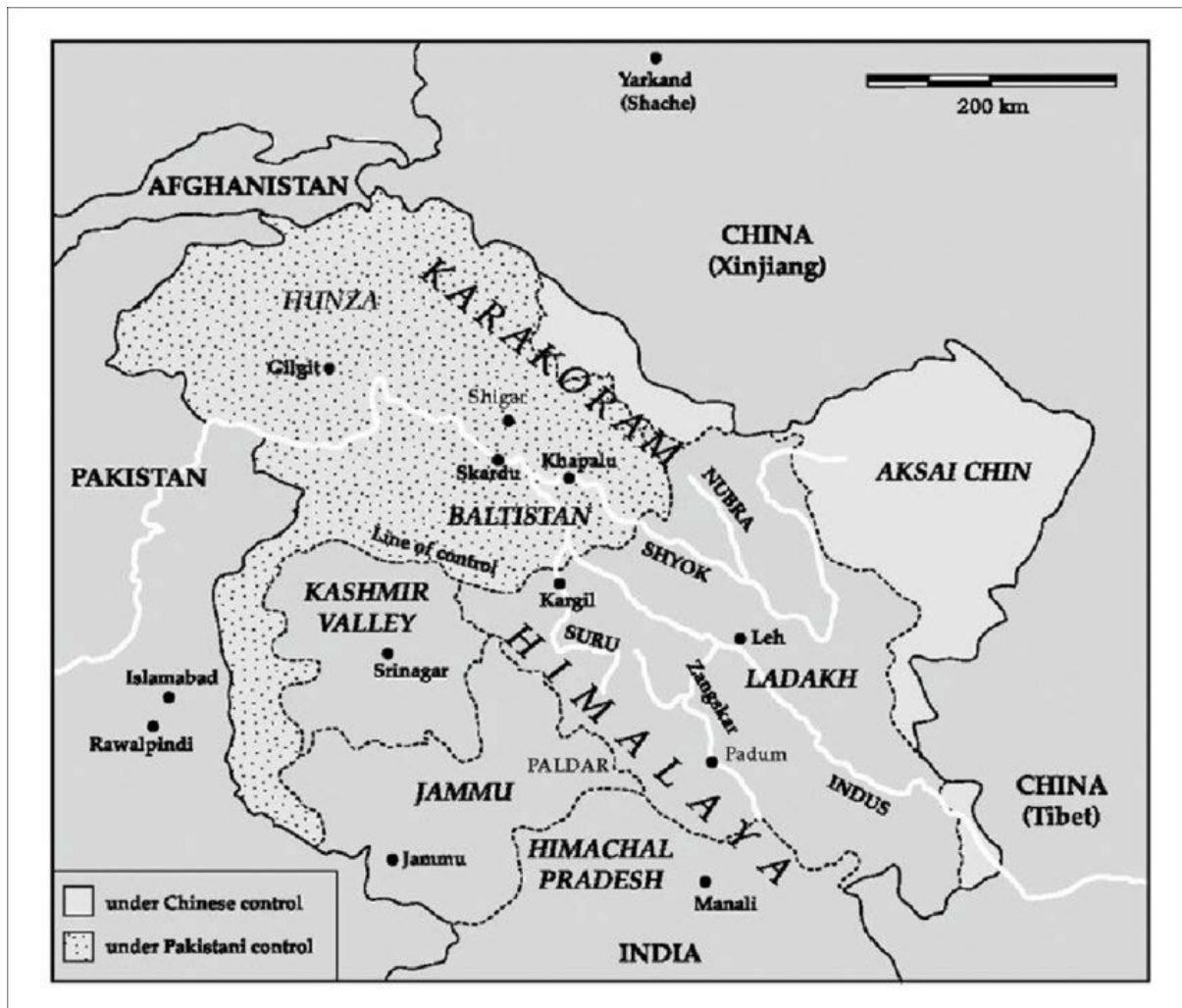
Landslide

- A landslide is a geological phenomenon involving the **downward movement of a mass** of rock, soil, and debris on a slope. This movement can vary in scale from small, localised shifts to massive and destructive events.
- Landslides can occur on **both natural and man-made slopes**, and they are often triggered by a combination of factors such as heavy rainfall, **earthquakes**, volcanic activity, human activities (such as construction or mining), and changes in groundwater levels.

'Delhi Chalo Padyatra': Sonam Wangchuk

Why in News?

Recently, over 100 volunteers, led by climate activist **Sonam Wangchuk**, began a foot march to Delhi, urging the Centre to resume talks with **Ladakh's leadership** on their **four-point agenda**.



Key Points:

- The 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra' was organized by the **Leh Apex Body (LAB)** and **Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA)**.
- 4 Point Agenda:
 - They are advocating for **statehood**.

Note:

- Extension of the Constitution's **Sixth Schedule** to protect local rights.
- Recruitment process with a **dedicated public service commission** for Ladakh
- Separate **Lok Sabha seats** for Leh and Kargil districts.
- Wangchuk, earlier in March held a **21-day long hunger strike** in support of the demands.
- After **Article 370's** removal in **2019**, **Ladakh** became a **Union Territory** under the **Union Home Ministry's** direct administration.

What is the Sixth Schedule?

- **Article 244:** The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 provides for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions, **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)** that have some legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within a state.
- **Current Status :** The Sixth Schedule contains special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the four north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

<p>MEGHALAYA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council ● Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council ● Garo Hills Autonomous District Council <p>MIZORAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chakma Autonomous District Council ● Lai Autonomous District Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mara Autonomous District Council <p>TRIPURA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council <p>ASSAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dima Hasao Autonomous Council ● Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council ● Bodoland Territorial Council
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- **Autonomous Districts:** The tribal areas in these four states have been constituted as autonomous districts. The governor is empowered to organize and reorganize the autonomous districts.
- **District Council:** Each autonomous district has a district council consisting of **30 members**, of whom **four are nominated** by the **Governor** and the remaining **26 are elected** on the basis of **adult franchise**.
- **Powers of the Council:** The district and regional councils administer the areas under their jurisdiction.
 - They can make laws on certain specified matters like **land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation, village administration, the inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs** and so on. But all such laws require the assent of the Governor.
 - They can constitute village councils or courts for trial of suits and cases between the tribes. They hear appeals from them. The jurisdiction of the high court over these suits and cases is specified by the governor.
 - The district council can establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district.
 - They are empowered to assess and collect land revenue and to impose certain specified taxes



Note:

Key Points

Details

Summary

