

NEWS TODAY

UNHRC adopted first Resolution of its kind for Intersex Rights

- Resolution is adopted at the 55th Session of the **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**.
- **Resolution calls on states:**
 - ⊕ To combat discrimination, violence and harmful practices against persons with **innate variations in sex characteristics** and
 - ⊕ Address their root causes as well as help **intersex** people 'realize the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health'.
- **Intersex** people are born with **sex characteristics** (such as sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, hormonal patterns and/or chromosomal patterns) that do not fit **typical binary notions of male or female bodies**.
 - ⊕ They may have any gender identity or sexual orientation.
 - ⊕ Experts estimate that up to 1.7 % of the population are born with intersex traits.
 - ⊕ Intersex people are **different from transgenders**.
 - ◆ Transgenders are born with a body that has unambiguous sexual characteristics (either male or female) but they don't match the person's gender identity.
- **Key issues with Intersex People:** They are subjected to human rights violations because of their physical characteristics.
 - ⊕ Society has created harmful stereotypes and pathologization (treating intersex persons as necessarily ill or disordered) towards them.
 - ⊕ They face issues like Infanticide, forced and coercive medical interventions, discrimination in different sphere, legal recognition, etc.

About UNHRC

- **Genesis:** Established in 2006 by the General Assembly. UNHRC replaced the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- **About:** It is the main **intergovernmental body** within the United Nations for Strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights.
- **Key Mandate:** Reviews the human rights records of all UN Member States via the **Universal Periodic Review**, Authorizes **commissions of inquiry** and fact-finding missions on war crimes and crimes against humanity etc.
- **Membership: 47 Member States**

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issued Heatwave alert

- IMD predicted that **above normal heatwave days** are likely to occur over most parts of **south peninsula, central India, east India** and **plains of northwest India** during April to June hot weather season.
- **Heatwave** is a condition of air temperature which becomes fatal to the human body when exposed.
 - ⊕ IMD **declares a heatwave** when the temperature of a place crosses **40 degrees Celsius (°C)** in the **plains, 37°C** in the **coastal areas** and **30°C** in the **hills**. Further, it uses following criterion-
 - ⊕ **Based on departure from Normal Temperature**
 - ◆ **Heat Wave:** Between 4.5°C to 6.4°C from normal
 - ◆ **Severe Heat Wave:** >6.4°C
 - ⊕ **Based on departure from Actual Maximum Temperature (for plains only)**
 - ◆ **Heat Wave:** ≥ 45°C
 - ◆ **Severe Heat Wave:** ≥47°C
- **Favorable conditions:**
 - ⊕ Transportation / Prevalence of **hot dry air over a region**.
 - ⊕ Absence of **moisture** in the upper atmosphere.
 - ⊕ Sky should be **cloudless** (allows maximum insulation over the region).
 - ⊕ Large amplitude **anti-cyclonic flow** over the area.
- **Impacts of Heatwaves:** Health hazards such as **heat stroke**; increase strain on water and energy sources, Food insecurity (as it can cause wilting, stunting or early ripening of crops), etc.

Key Initiatives

- IMD issues **colour code impact based heat warning** jointly with **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**.
 - ⊕ It includes **Green** (No action), **Yellow Alert** (Be updated), **Orange Alert** (Be prepared) and **Red Alert** (Take Action).
- **NDMA's 'Guidelines for Preparation of Action Plan** – Prevention and Management of Heat-Wave.
- Preparation of Heat Wave Action Plans by states
- **National Action Plan on Heat Related Illnesses** for effective preparedness of health facilities to address heat impact and management of cases.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Statement sets out various developmental and regulatory policy measures

➤ The measures include:

Development	Description
Trading of Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At present, foreign portfolio investors are permitted to invest in SGrBs under different routes for investment by FPIs in government securities. ➤ SGrBs are bonds issued by governments to fund environmentally sustainable projects.
RBI Retail Direct Scheme - Introduction of Mobile App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ RBI Retail Direct Scheme, launched in 2021, gives access to individual investors to maintain gilt accounts with RBI and invest in government securities.
Dealing in Rupee Interest Rate Derivative products – Small Finance Banks (SFBs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Currently, SFBs are permitted to use only Interest Rate Futures (IRFs) for proprietary hedging. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊖ IRF contract allows the buyer and seller to lock in the price of interest-bearing asset for a future date. ➤ Interest Rate Derivative is a financial derivative contract whose value is derived from one or more interest rates, prices of interest rate instruments, or interest rate indices.
Enabling UPI for Cash Deposit Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Facility of cash deposit is presently available only through use of debit cards. ➤ Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India to facilitate inter-bank transactions.
Distribution of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) through Non-bank Payment System Operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presently, CBDC pilot project is going on for Retail and Wholesale segments. ➤ CBDC is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊖ CBDC is referred as e₹ (digital Rupee).

India has highest failed dope tests: World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

- As per WADA report, India has recorded the **highest percentage of failed dope tests** among countries with >2000 or more tests.
- **Doping** is use of **substances or physiological mediators** which are not normally present in body to enhance athletes' performance during competition.
- **Reasons for doping:** Publicity in sports, recovery from injury, advancements in technology, winning at all cost mindset, lack of knowledge about chemicals etc.
- **Methods used:** Manipulation of Blood & blood components, Chemical & Physical manipulation, Gene doping.
- **Impact of doping on Sport Ethics** (code of conduct for promoting and ensuring healthy sporting practices)
 - ⊖ **Undermines fair play** and compromises **spirit of sport** and contradicts pursuit of excellence.
 - ⊖ Goes **against** the values of
 - ◆ **Perseverance** as it does away with consistency to work towards a goal .
 - ◆ **Courage** which showcases one's willingness to shoulder burdens and take risks.
 - ⊖ **Hampers moral values of sports** and changes the nature of sport as an educative and health promoting activity.
 - ⊖ **Rewards the wrong doers** who participate in doping.
- **Way Forward:** Effective anti-doping programmes, Anti-Doping helpline for athletes, regular information on Prohibited Substances.

Anti-doping Agencies

- **World Anti-Doping Agency:** Established in 1999 as **international independent agency** to lead towards doping-free sport.
 - ⊖ Its aim is to develop, harmonize and coordinate **anti-doping rules and policies** across all sports and countries and monitor compliance with **World Anti-Doping Program**.
- **National Anti-Doping Agency:** Established in 2005, it is autonomous organization and conducts Anti-Doping awareness programmes in association with **Sports Authority of India and National Sports Federations**.

Mumbai set to witness first installation of 210 artificial reefs

- Artificial reefs will be deployed in the **Arabian Sea**, near Worli Koliwada.
- **About Artificial reefs**
 - ⊖ These are **engineering technology interventions**, are used to **rehabilitate** and/ or **improve natural habitats**.
 - ◆ These are placed on the seabed with a fixed **scientific design** and functions as a **self-sustaining production system**.
 - ⊖ They mimic characteristics of a **natural reef**.
 - ◆ **Natural reef** is a **ridge of material** at or near the surface of the ocean, made of **rocks** or the **skeletons of small animals** called **corals**.
 - ⊖ **Materials used:** Rocks, cinder blocks, wood, old tires, limestone, steel, and concrete.
- **Benefits of Artificial reefs**
 - ⊖ **Marine Habitat Restoration** and **Biodiversity Enhancement:** Providing firm substrates for Corals, algae, plankton etc.
 - ◆ It also acts as a **carbon sink** and also helps in nutrient recycling, maintenance of water quality and waste management.
 - ⊖ **Development of Fisheries:** Provide nursery grounds for fish resulting in increase in catch rates saving fuel and energy costs.
 - ◆ Also, enhance recreational fisheries such as snorkelling.
 - ⊖ **Other:** Reduces wave damage on coasts and restricts bottom trawling, promotes eco-tourism etc.

Key Initiative

- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**
 - ⊖ Department of Fisheries promotes artificial reef units for coastal states as a sub-activity under "Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages" of the scheme.
 - ⊖ It is implemented with support from **Fishery Survey of India and ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute**.

Chief of Defence Staff General highlighted the need to adapt to the changing character of war

- **Changing nature of warfare**
 - ⊖ Traditionally, warfare was defined by **direct, kinetic military engagements**.
 - ⊖ However, 21st century marked emergence of more complex and subtle form of conflict known as **5th Generation War (5GW)**.
- **5GW** is conducted primarily through various non-kinetics forms of warfare. **It includes:-**
 - ⊖ **Cyber Warfare:** Involves actions to attack and attempt to damage another nation's computers or information networks through **computer viruses** or denial-of-service attacks.
 - ⊖ **Psychological Operations:** Involves planned use of **propaganda** etc. to influence opinions, emotions, and behavior of opposition groups.
 - ⊖ **Hybrid Warfare:** It refers to a military strategy that **blends conventional warfare** with other influencing methods, such as fake news, diplomacy, etc.
 - ⊖ **Other emerging challenges of warfare:** Impact of Disruptive technologies like Artificial Intelligence, drones, nuclear, space war, etc.
- **Indian Initiative taken in tackling**
 - ⊖ **Strategic Forces Command (SFC):** To control, manage and administer nuclear forces.
 - ⊖ **DRDO Young Scientists' Laboratories:** To provide solutions in advanced technology areas of warfare.
 - ⊖ **Defence Cyber Agency** to protect Defence Forces Information and Communication Technology assets.
 - ⊖ **Defence Space Agency** to integrate **space** assets from Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Also in News



United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

- "Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2024" was released by UNESCAP.
 - ⊖ The Survey, **published annually since 1947**, is flagship publication of UNESCAP.
- **About UNESCAP:**
 - ⊖ **Headquarters:** Bangkok, Thailand.
 - ⊖ **Genesis:** Established in 1947 as Economic Commission for Asia and Far East (ECAFE) and in 1976, it became ESCAP.
 - ⊖ **Function:** It provides a **forum for all governments of region to review and discuss economic and social issues** and to strengthen regional cooperation.
 - ⊖ **Members:** 53 members and 9 associate members (**India** is a member).



Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)

- Finance Ministry has appointed new presiding officer of SAT.
- **About SAT**
 - ⊖ It is **statutory body** under **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, 1992**.
 - ⊖ **Function:** To hear and dispose of appeals against orders passed by
 - ◆ **SEBI,**
 - ◆ **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority,**
 - ◆ **Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India.**
 - ⊖ **Bench:** Mumbai.
 - ⊖ **Composition:** Consists of a Presiding Officer and such number of Judicial Members and Technical Members as Central Government may determine.



Phanigiri (Telangana)

- Department of Archaeology and Museums have unearthed a coin hoard at **Phanigiri site** in Suryapet district (Telangana) belonging to **Ikshvaku period**
- About Phanigiri**
 - Phanigiri means **hillock of snake hood**.
 - It is **Buddhist site** located ~110 kms from Hyderabad.
 - Excavations here have unearthed:** Mahastupa, Chaitya Grihas, viharas, and life-size Stucco of Bodhisattva, **Brahmi** label inscriptions of Satavahana and Ikshvaku times, (2nd – 3rd Century A.D.) etc.
 - The thorana's panel shows that both **Mahayana and Hinayana sects** co-existed here.



Project Akashteer

- As per reports, the Indian Army has started the induction of **Automated Air Defence Control & Reporting System 'Project Akashteer'** to bolster its air defence capabilities.
- Project Akashteer**
 - It is **indigenously** developed and has **state-of-the-art capability**.
 - It will enable monitoring of **low level airspace** over the battle areas of Indian Army and effectively control the Ground Based Air Defence Weapon Systems.
 - It will empower the **Air Defence units of the Indian Army** to effectively operate in an integrated manner.
 - It has been developed by the **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.



Erez Crossing

- Israel has approved the reopening of the **Erez crossing** to allow the flow of more humanitarian aid into Gaza.
 - Also approved use of Ashdod Port for Aid.
- About Erez Crossing**
 - Also known as **Beit Hanoun**.
 - It is a border crossing between **Israel** and the **northern Gaza Strip**.
 - It is the only border crossing that allows people in Gaza to travel to the occupied West Bank without passing through Egypt or Jordan.
- Other Key Crossings:** Rafah crossing (between Egypt and Gaza), Karem Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) crossing, etc.



Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP)

- The port handled record cargo of 66.4 million Metric Tonnes (MMT) in 2023-24.
- About SMP**
 - Earlier called Kolkata Port Trust, it is **oldest operating port** (since 1870) in India.
 - It is governed under **Major Port Trusts Act, 1963**.
 - Ministry:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
 - SMP has **two Dock complexes:** Kolkata Dock System and Haldia Dock Complex.
 - It is **only riverine Major Port** in India.



Gulf of Khambhat

- Indian Coast Guard evacuated crew from a fishing boat in the **Gulf of Khambhat**.
- About Gulf of Khambhat:**
 - Also known as the **Gulf of Cambay**.
 - It is a funnel-shaped indentation of the **Arabian Sea** that separates the large Saurashtra Peninsula and the mainland of Gujarat.
 - Narmada, Tapi, Mahi, and Sabarmati Rivers** drains in it, carrying heavy loads of suspended sediment.
- Famous Harappan port town at **Lothal** was situated at the head of the Gulf of Khambhat.



Purple Jelly fish

- Recently, a bloom of venomous purple jellyfish has been reported across **Visakhapatnam coast**.
 - Temperature variations** of seawater might be the major inducing factor which could result in jellyfish blooms.
- About Purple Jellyfish (Pelagia noctiluca)**
 - It is found worldwide in **tropical and warm-temperature** seas.
 - These are **bioluminescent**, i.e., they have the ability to produce light in the dark.
 - Its sting can cause different type of illnesses such as **diarrhoea, extreme pain, vomiting and anaphylactic shock** (a severe allergic reaction that can develop quickly and be life-threatening).

Personality in News



Laxman Nayak (1899-1943)

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs highlighted contributions of freedom fighter **Laxman Nayak**.
- About Laxman Nayak Bhumia**
 - He was a tribal leader of Bhumia community from **Odisha**.
 - He was famous as the Gandhi of Malkangiri region because he believed and followed Gandhian principles of **truth, non-violence and peaceful non-cooperation**.
- Contributions**
 - Participated in **individual Satyagraha** in 1940.
 - During Quit India Movement (1942), he asked his fellow tribesmen to respond to the call of 'Do or die' by Gandhiji.
 - He strengthened the **principle of Swaraj** by advocating the use of **Charkha** through door-to-door campaigns.
- Values:** Courage, leadership etc.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI