

## Prelim Bits 22-12-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

*The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to take security charge of the Parliament building from the Delhi Police.*

- **Established** - CISF is an armed force of the Union established under an Act of Parliament, Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968.
- **Headquarters** - Headquartered in Delhi, it is headed by an Indian Police Service officer with the rank of Director-General.

*CISF has the largest percentage of women in its force, in comparison to all other CAPFs.*

- CISF was first inducted at the Fertilizer Corporation of India manufacturing plant in Trombay, Maharashtra, on November 1, 1969.
- **CAPF** - It is one of seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) under the MHA.
- The force is divided into nine sectors including Airport, North, North-East, East, West, South, Training, South-East, and Central.
- **Private undertakings** - Initially, its remit was restricted to protecting government-owned industries, but this was expanded to include joint ventures and private undertakings in 2009.
- **Compensatory cost force** - CISF also provides consultancy services to the private sector and is a compensatory cost force, which means that it bills its clients for the services it provides.

*CISF is the only CAPF with a dedicated firefighting wing.*

- CISF is involved in providing security cover to VIPs.

### Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)

- CAPF is Central Armed Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- CAPF represents a set of seven security forces in India.

1. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
2. Assam Rifles (AR)
3. National Security Guard (NSG)
4. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

5. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
6. Border Security Force (BSF)
7. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

## References

1. [The Indian Express - CISF set to take over Parliament security](#)
2. [CISF - About CISF](#)

## **Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill, 2023 (BNSS)**

*Under new law, doctors face two years of imprisonment for death due to negligence.*

- **Section 106 (1)** - Section 106 (1) of the BNS Bill, 2023 deals with causing death by negligence.
- This makes a differentiation between a doctor and any other person causing death by doing any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide.
- The amended Section 106 (1) of the [Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill](#) does not provide a blanket exemption to doctors in cases of death due to negligence.

*A registered medical practitioner is person who possesses any medical qualification recognised under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 and whose name has been entered in the National Medical Register or a State Medical Register under that Act.*

- Currently, under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the punishment for causing death by negligence is two years imprisonment and fine or both.
- The BNSS increases the punishment for such acts to five years, however, specifies that doctors will still get the lower punishment of two years jail time if convicted.
- **Section 106 (2)** - It prescribes a more stringent punishment, a jail term of 10 years and a fine, for somebody who causes death of any person by rash and negligent driving of vehicle not amounting to culpable homicide.
- Section 106 (2) is also applicable to persons who escapes without reporting it to a police officer or a Magistrate soon after the incident.

*The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill will replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC); the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill will be in place of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill will replace the Indian Evidence Act (IEA).*

## References

1. [The Hindu - Doctors face not exempt for death due to negligence](#)
2. [The Hindu - Revamping the criminal justice system to fit the bill](#)
3. [The Print - Medical practitioners not exempt from death by negligence](#)

## Watsonx.ai

*At the recent COP28, NASA and IBM announced that an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool called watsonx.ai would be available on the open-source AI platform Hugging Space.*

- Watsonx.ai is built on a foundation model; it is trained on a broad set of uncategorized data allowing the model to apply information about one situation to another.
- The platform has a set of AI assistants to help one scale and accelerate the impact of artificial intelligence through trusted data across his/her business.
- In the case of watsonx.ai, NASA provides the datasets and IBM created the foundation model to interpret them.
- Watsonx.ai will help users monitor the Earth from space, measuring environmental changes that have already happened while also making predictions about the future.
- The model is also designed to be extremely simple to use.
- A user would merely need to select a location and a date, and the model will highlight changes in floodwater, reforestation efforts and other relevant factors.

*In India, AI-equipped peanut farmers have already witnessed a 30 per cent increase in yield.*

- **watsonx.data** - It is a fit-for-purpose data store optimized for governed data and AI workloads.
- **watsonx.governance** - It is an end-to-end toolkit encompassing both data and AI governance.

## References

1. [The Indian Express - AI tool to forecast weather](#)
2. [Hindustan Times - What is watsonX?](#)
3. [IBM - watsonx.ai](#)

## Flying Squirrel

*Missing for 42 years, flying squirrel resurfaces in Arunachal Pradesh.*

- Flying Squirrel are one of the 50 species of gliding squirrels.
- **Habitat** - Northern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) and southern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys volans*) are the flying squirrel species found in North America.
- The third type, Namdapha flying squirrel (*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*) is found in the temperate and tropical forests of India and other parts of Asia.
- It is a nocturnal species, meaning they are active at night.
- They have a special membrane between their front and back legs that allows them to glide through the air between trees.
- The Namdapha flying squirrel (*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*) was last described in 1981 based on a single individual found in the Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh.

- **Diet** - Flying squirrels are omnivores.



## References

1. [The Hindu - Flying squirrel resurfaces in Arunachal](#)
2. [Britannica - Flying Squirrel](#)
3. [NWF - Flying Squirrel](#)

## Pappathi Chola

*There is an urgent need to protect Pappathi Chola, a biodiversity hotspot.*

- Pappathi Chola, known for its high butterfly population, derived its name from the Tamil word Pappathi meaning butterflies.
- While Pappathi means butterfly, Chola means shola land.
- Many butterflies reach the area during their migratory course from the rain shadow forests of Tamil Nadu back to the higher elevations of Munnar.
- Pappathi Chola is also regarded as a hub of balsams (*Impatiens balsamina*) and rare varieties of orchids.
- It is located right in the middle of the Chathurangappara hills and Mathikettan shola and last year; the region witnessed the blooming of Neelakurinji.
- The Pappathi Chola area is covered with eucalyptus trees.

## Biodiversity Hotspots

- Biodiversity hotspots are regions that are exceptionally rich in biodiversity and contain numerous endemic species.
- According to Conservation International, a region must fulfill the following two criteria to qualify as a hotspot:
  1. The region should have at least 1500 species of vascular plants i.e., it should have a high degree of endemism.
  2. It must contain 30% (or less) of its original habitat, i.e. it must be threatened.
- Following the criteria must for an area to be declared as Biodiversity Hotspot, there are major four biodiversity hotspots in India:
  1. The Himalayas
  2. Indo-Burma Region
  3. The Western Ghats
  4. Sundaland

- The Western Ghats, located along the western coast, and the Eastern Himalayas are two prominent biodiversity hotspots in India.
- The Western Ghats are known for their diverse habitats and endemic species of plants, birds, and amphibians.
- The Eastern Himalayas, spanning across northeastern states, harbor a wide range of flora and fauna in alpine meadows, subtropical forests, and montane rainforests.

### **Impatiens balsamina**

- It is commonly known as balsam, is a species of plant native to India and Myanmar.
- Different parts of the plant are used as traditional remedies for disease and skin afflictions.
- Juice from the leaves is used to treat warts and snakebite, and the flower is applied to burns.
- This species has been used as indigenous traditional medicine in Asia for rheumatism, fractures, and other ailments.



### **Reference**

[The Hindu - Pappathi Chola](#)

#### **Other Important News**

##### **Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya**

- The Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, located in Teen Murti Marg, New Delhi, is a part of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.
- The digital museum was a tribute to every Prime Minister of India since Independence, and a narrative record of how each one has contributed to the development of our nation.
- It was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on April 14, 2022.

### **MAITRI - II Station in Antarctica**

- India aims to set up a new research station in Antarctica near the Maitri station in the eastern part of the icy continent by 2029.
- The existing Indian research station, Maitri is very old, is imperative to build a new research station.
- **Dakshin Gangotri**, India's 1<sup>st</sup> research station in Antarctica, was commissioned in 1983 had to be abandoned in 1989 after being submerged in snow.

### **Black Tigers**

- Black tigers are a rare color variant of the Bengal tiger. They are not a separate species or subspecies of tiger.
- Their all-black color is due to **pseudo-melanism**, a condition that causes thick stripes that make the tawny background barely visible.
- Black tigers are only found in **India's Similipal Tiger Reserve** which also has the highest rate of black tiger sightings in the world.

### **Similipal Tiger Reserve**

- It is a national park and tiger reserve located in the Mayurbhanj district of **Odisha**, that gets its name from the red silk cotton tree, "Simul".
- It has been designated as a tiger reserve in 1956 and brought it under **Project Tiger in 1973**.
- It is a part of the **UNESCO world network of Biosphere Reserve**.

### **"Paat-Mitro"**

- The Ministry of Textiles launched "Paat-Mitro", a mobile application, developed by **Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI)** during 'Jute Symposium' recently.
- The app is to support jute farmers and provides information about agronomy and Minimum Support Prices, as well as the latest agricultural practices.
- It also includes information about jute category standards and Jute-ICARE (Jute- Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise).

### **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**

- Competition Commission of India has selected **Ansuman Pattnaik** as the new head of its investigation's unit recently.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a **statutory body** within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- It was established in 2003, but became fully functional in 2009.
- The CCI aims to establish a competitive environment in the Indian economy by engaging with all stakeholders, the government, and international jurisdiction.

### **Winter Solstice**

- The Winter Solstice is a phenomenon when the **Northern Hemisphere** is tilted furthest away from the sun, resulting in the **longest night and the shortest day** of the year.
- It occurs annually on **December 21 or 22**. It marks the 1<sup>st</sup> day of winter.



## Caspian Sea

- The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water, located between **Asia and Europe**, and is shared by Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan.
- The Caspian Sea is a landlocked sea and is also known as the **Mazandaran Sea**.
- It lies to the east of the **Caucasus Mountains** and to the west of the vast steppe of Central Asia.
- Baku is the **largest port on the Caspian Sea** and the largest capital city on the southern shore of the **Absheron peninsula**.



## Volcanic eruption in Papua New Guinea

- India recently sent relief material worth \$1 million for the people affected by a volcanic eruption in Papua New Guinea.
- A major volcanic eruption of **Mount Ulawun** in Papua New Guinea resulted in widespread damage and destruction in the island nation.
- Papua New Guinea sits on the **Pacific "Ring of Fire"**, an arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where much of the world's earthquake and volcanic activities occur.

## Sumatran Orangutans (Pongo abelii)

- 3 trafficked Sumatran orangutans were sent back from Thailand to Indonesia recently as part of a joint effort between the countries to tackle the illegal wildlife trade.
- The Sumatran orangutan (Pongo abelii) is a species of orangutan that lives in the northern part of the **Indonesian island of Sumatra**.
- They are the largest non-human primates in Asia and the largest arboreal primates.
- **Conservation Status**
  - IUCN - Critically Endangered
  - CITES - Appendix I

## 'Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation' (SVEEP)

- Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) is a program by the **Election Commission of India**.
- It aims to educate voters, spread awareness, and promote voter literacy since 2009.



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