



# IAS PARLIAMENT

*Information is Empowering*  
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 28-06-2024

### ABHYAS

DRDO has successfully completed developmental trials of High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'ABHYAS'.

- The High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) ABHYAS is a high-speed ***indigenously-designed target*** developed for the Indian Armed Forces.
- It is designed for autonomous flying with the help of an auto pilot made by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It is equipped with ***MEMS (Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems)*** based Inertial Navigation System (INS) for navigation.
- It has a Flight Control Computer (FCC) for guidance and control.
- It has a radar cross section, visual and infrared augmentation system required for weapon practice.
- It has pre-flight checks, data recording during the flight, replay after the flight and post-flight analysis can be carried out.

### Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- It is an agency under the Department of Defence Research and Development in Ministry of Defence.
- It is India's largest research organisation.
- **Role-** Military's research and development
- **Headquarters-** New Delhi.
- **Formed in** - 1958.
- It is formed by the merger of the
  - Technical Development Establishment.
  - Directorate of Technical Development and Production of the Indian Ordnance Factories
  - Defence Science Organisation
- Defence Research & Development Service (DRDS) is constituted in 1979.
- **Motto-** "Balasya Mulam Vigyanam" - "The source of strength is science".
- The ***Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)*** under A P J Abdul Kalam is the most prominent success of DRDO.

### References

1. [Press Information Bureau | 'ABHYAS'](#)
2. [India Today | Abhyas high-speed expendable aerial target](#)

## Sangyaan App

*Director General of RPF launches Sangyaan App recently.*

- It is a Comprehensive application for anyone seeking to stay informed about the latest legal developments in India.
- **Developed by** - The Tech Team of Railway Protection Force.
- **Aim** - It aims to educate and empower RPF Personnel by providing comprehensive information to understand the provisions of both new and old criminal laws.
- It also aims to provide in-depth information on 3 new Criminal Acts
  - The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023,
  - The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, and
  - The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) 2023.
- **Key Features**
  - Comprehensive Legal Access
  - Comparison of Laws
  - Section wise analysis
  - Advanced Search Tools
  - Inclusive Legal Database
  - User-Friendly Design

## References

1. [Press Information Bureau | Sangyaan App](#)
2. [ET Government | Sangyaan app](#)

## Asteroid 2011 UL21

*Mountain-sized asteroid, 2011 UL21 made a close approach to Earth recently.*

- It is a ***giant space rock*** first discovered in 2011 and orbits the sun every ***3 years***.
- It is larger than 99% of known near-Earth asteroids.
- It is dubbed as the ***Planet Killer*** and one of the closest asteroids to approach the Earth.
- The asteroid is estimated to have a diameter of 2.5 kilometres.
- The asteroid is also one of the brightest, as it has an absolute magnitude of 15.8.
- Despite its size, it poses no threat and not projected to collide with Earth.

## Near Earth Objects (NEO)

- A near-Earth object (NEO) is an asteroid or comet that ***orbits the sun and passes close to Earth's orbit.***

- NEOs are nudged into their orbits by the gravitational pull of nearby planets.
- Technically, a NEO is defined as having a trajectory that brings it within 1.3 astronomical units of the sun, and therefore within 0.3 astronomical units, or about 45 million kilometers, of Earth's orbit.
- NEOs that cross Earth's path are categorized as either Atens or Apollos:
  - **Atens** - Have a semimajor axis smaller than Earth's orbit around the sun.
  - **Apollos** - Have a semimajor axis larger than Earth's orbit.
- Asteroids as small as 20 meters in diameter can cause significant damage to the local environment and human populations.
- Larger asteroids can penetrate Earth's atmosphere and surface, creating craters or tsunamis depending on where they land.
- NEOs that are larger than 140 meters across and cross Earth's orbit are considered potentially hazardous objects (PHOs).

*NASA's Near-Earth Object Program coordinates efforts to detect, track, and characterize these potentially hazardous objects (PHOs).*

## References

1. [Times of India | Asteroid 2011 UL21](#)
2. [Hindustan Times | Asteroid 2011 UL21](#)

## **ULLAS Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society (Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram)**

*The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh recently declared that Ladakh has achieved Full Functional Literacy under the ULLAS—Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.*

- It is also known as New India Literacy Programme (NILP).
- **Agency** - It is a ***centrally sponsored scheme*** implemented from 2022-2027.
- **Umbrella policy** - The scheme aligns with the recommendations of the ***National Education Policy (NEP) 2020***.
- **Aim** - The initiative fosters a learning ecosystem that reaches every individual, bridging the gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills.
- **Targeted Group** - The scheme will cover non-literates of the age group of ***15 years*** and above in ***all state/UTs*** in the country.
- **Components of the scheme**
  - Foundational Literacy and Numeracy,
  - Critical Life Skills,
  - Basic Education,
  - Vocational Skills, and
  - Continuing Education.
- **Implemented by** - The scheme is implemented through volunteerism through online mode.
- All material and resources shall be provided digitally for easy access to registered

volunteers through easily accessible digital modes through ULLAS Mobile App.

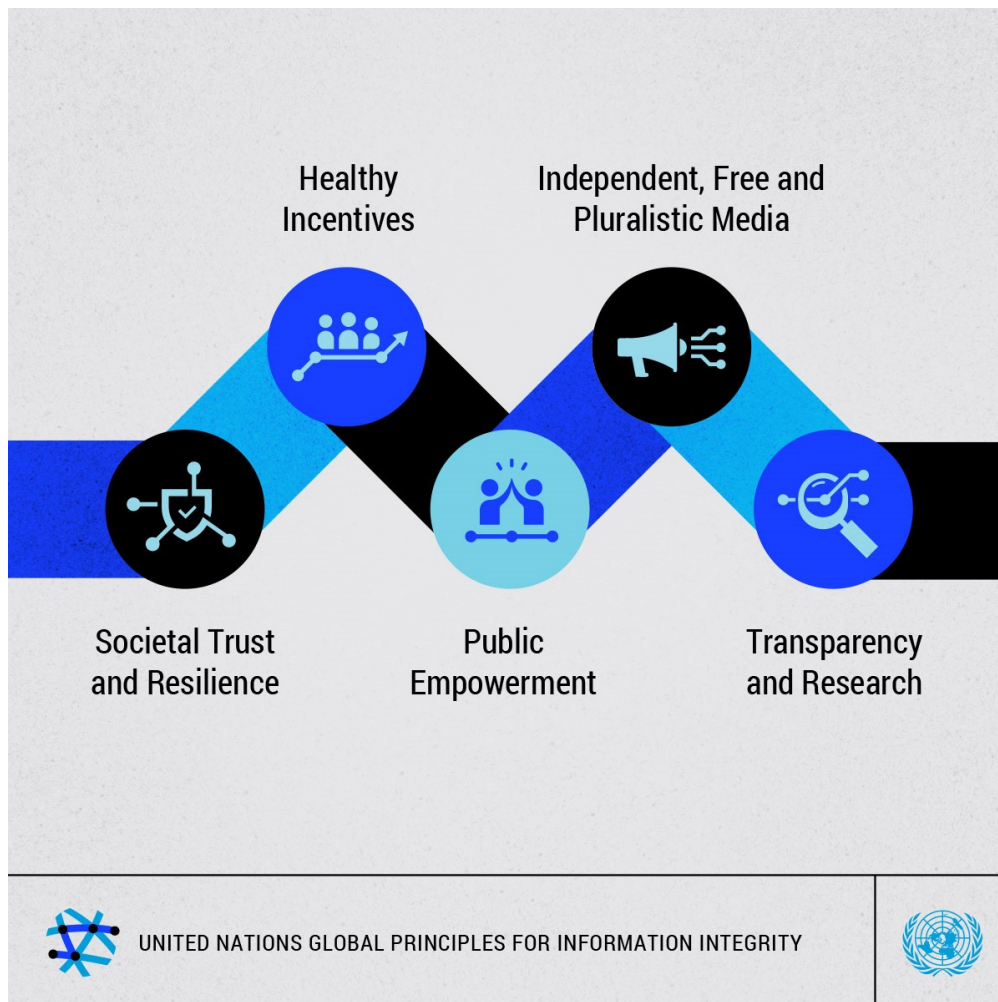
## References

1. [Press Information bureau | Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram](#)
2. [Vikaspedia | Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakramme](#)

## UN Global Principles for Information Integrity

*The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently unveiled the Global Principles for Information Integrity.*

- It is a comprehensive framework aimed at addressing the escalating threats posed by misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech in the digital realm.
- It is developed through extensive consultations with Member States, the private sector, youth leaders, media, academia, and civil society.
- The principles aim to create healthier and safer information environments that uphold human rights and promote peaceful societies and a sustainable future.
- **5 Principles**
  - Societal trust and resilience,
  - Healthy incentives,
  - Public empowerment,
  - Independent, free and pluralistic media,
  - Transparency and research.



### • Key recommendations

- **Combating disinformation and hate speech** - All stakeholders, including governments, tech companies, advertisers, and media, should avoid using, supporting, or amplifying disinformation and hate speech for any purpose.
- **Promoting media freedom** - Governments should ensure timely access to information, maintain a free, viable, independent, and plural media landscape.
- It should provide strong protections for journalists, researchers, and civil society.
- **Enhancing Tech Company responsibilities** - Technology companies should incorporate safety and privacy by design in all products, apply policies consistently across countries and languages.
- Additionally, they should prioritise crisis response and support information integrity during elections.
- **Ethical AI development** - AI developers must take immediate measures to ensure AI applications are designed, and used ethically and safely, upholding human rights.
- **Reforming business models** - Tech companies should explore business models that do not rely on programmatic advertising and prioritise human rights, privacy, and safety.
- Users should have greater control over their online experiences and personal data.
- **Transparency in advertising** - Advertisers should demand transparency in digital advertising processes.

- **Data transparency and accountability** - Tech companies and AI developers should ensure meaningful transparency, allow researchers and academics access to data while respecting user privacy.
- **Protecting children** - Special measures should be taken to protect and empower children, with governments providing resources for parents, guardians, and educators.

## Reference

[Down to Earth | Global framework to fight online misinformation](#)



# IAS PARLIAMENT

*Information is Empowering*

A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative