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**CONSOLIDATION**

**JAMMU & KASHMIR**

**FEBRUARY  
2025**

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## Army Vehicle Fired Upon in J&K

### Why in News?

On 26 February 2025, suspected **militants** opened fire on an Army vehicle in **the Pir Panjal Valley's Sunderbani sector in Rajouri district**. Security forces launched a search operation after the attack in the forest range.

### Key Points

- Firing Incident:
  - Preliminary reports indicated a **brief exchange of fire at Phal village** in the Sunderbani sector of Nowshera.
  - Gunshots were heard from a nearby forest area as an Army vehicle moved through the region.
- No Casualties Reported:
  - Officials confirmed that the incident did not result in any casualties.
  - The firing occurred near **the Line of Control (LoC)**.
- Security Response and Search Operation:
  - Security forces launched a massive **cordon and search operation (CASO)** in the nearby pockets of Phal village.
  - Rajouri district has previously witnessed infiltration incidents along the LoC.



- 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 **demarkated up to 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.

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Note:

### Pir Panjal

- About:
  - The Pir Panjal Range is a **mountain range in the northern Indian subcontinent**.
  - It **begins in Ramban** and **extends westward**, lying south of **Jammu and Kashmir's Vale of Kashmir**, reaching Muzaffarabad District.
  - The range rises sharply to an **average elevation of over 13,000 feet (4,000 meters)**.
  - It **separates the Jammu Hills** in the south from the Vale of Kashmir, beyond which lie **the Great Himalayas**.
  - The range separates from the Himalayas near the banks of **the Sutlej River**.
  - It forms a natural divide between **the Beas** and **Ravi rivers** on one side and the **Chenab River** on the other.
- Major Passes:
  - The range has **six historical passes**, Hajipir Pass, Gulabgarh Pass, Ratanpir Pass, Pir Panjal Pass, Banihal Pass, Bairam Gala Pass.
- Important Peaks:
  - **Deo Tibba (6,001 m)** and **Indrasan (6,221 m)** are two significant peaks at the eastern end of the range

## India Slams Pakistan on J&K Issue

### Why in News?

India strongly criticized Pakistan for raising the **Jammu and Kashmir issue** at **the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**.

### Key Points

- **India's Response:**
  - India exercised its **Right of Reply** at the **58th Regular Session of the UN Human Rights Council** in Geneva on 26 February, 2025.
  - The response came after Pakistan once again raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at the multilateral forum.

- **Strong Rebuttal to Pakistan's Allegations:**
  - Counsellor at India's **Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva**, dismissed Pakistan's claims as "baseless and malicious."
  - He criticized Pakistan's leaders for spreading "falsehoods handed down by its military-terrorist complex."
- **Criticism of Pakistan's Governance and Policies:**
  - India described Pakistan as a "**failed state**" that **thrives on instability and survives on international handouts**.
  - The counsellor accused Pakistan of hypocrisy, **human rights abuses, minority persecution**, and the systematic erosion of democratic values.
  - He **asserted that Pakistan harbors UN-sanctioned terrorists and lacks credibility** to lecture others on human rights.
  - India accused Pakistan of misusing **the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** as its propaganda tool.
- **Jammu and Kashmir's Development Under India:**
  - The counsellor **reaffirmed that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of India**.
  - He highlighted the region's unprecedented political, social, and economic progress in recent years.
  - He stated that these **developments reflect the people's trust in the government's commitment to normalcy and peace**, despite decades of Pakistan-sponsored **cross-border terrorism**.

### United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- **About:**
  - The Human Rights Council is an **inter-governmental body within the United Nations system** responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of **human rights** around the world.
- **Formation:**
  - The Council was **created by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006**. It replaced the former **United Nations Commission on Human Rights**.
  - The **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** serves as the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council.
  - OHCHR is **headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland**.

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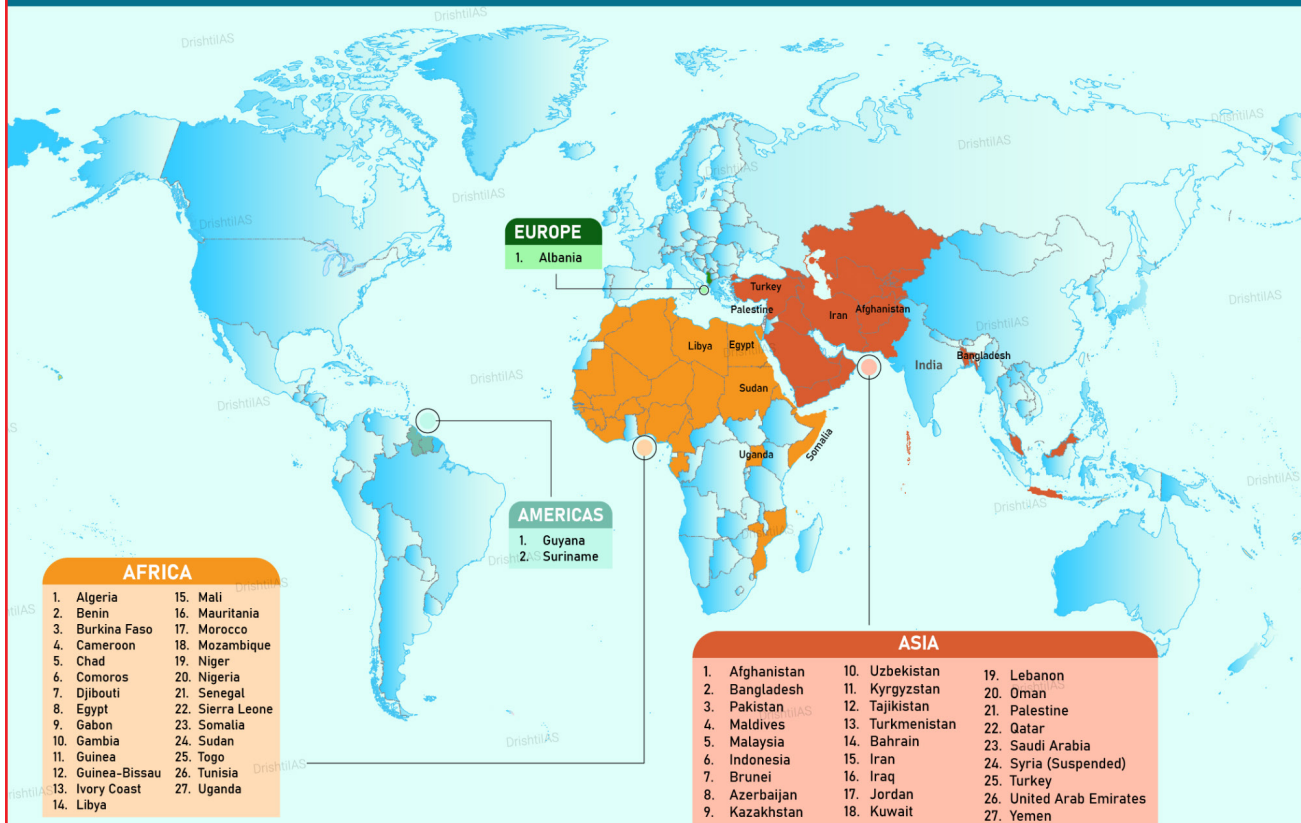
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# Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

OIC, the second-largest inter-governmental organization globally after the UN, encompasses 57 countries across four continents, identifying as the "collective voice of the Muslim world" and striving to safeguard Muslim interests while promoting global peace and harmony.



**Formerly:** Organisation of Islamic Conference

**Founded:** 25 September 1969 in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco

**Founding Members:** 30

**Current Members:** 57 (Most but not all members are Muslim majority states)

**Finance:** By member states, proportionate to their national income

**Highest Authority:** Islamic Summit (Composed of Kings and Heads of State)

**OIC Summit Meetings:** Every three years

**Secretariat:** Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

**Charter:** Lays down objectives and principles of the organization

**OIC Economy:**

- Share in Global Export: 8.5% (2020)

**India's Position**

- Not a member
- 2019: Guest of honour (Maiden appearance at OIC Foreign Ministers' meeting)



## HC Directs Union Ministry to Reduce Toll Rates in J&K

### Why in News?

**The High Court** of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has directed the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to reduce hefty toll fees in the Union Territory within four months, providing major relief to commuters, including pilgrims to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

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### Key Points

- **High Court Directives:**
  - The High Court directed that Lakhanpur and Bann toll plazas charge only 20% of the previous toll rates (before 26th January 2024).
  - The reduced toll fee will remain in effect until the **Lakhanpur-Udhampur national highway** becomes fully operational.
- **Background of the Case:**
  - A **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)** sought an exemption from toll collection on the **Jammu-Pathankot Highway (Lakhanpur to Bann)** until the completion of the **Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway**.
  - The highway is being extended to connect with the expressway.
- **Concerns Raised by the Court:**
  - The court criticized the “mushrooming of toll plazas” in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, calling it a strategy to extract money from the public.
  - It noted that the Bann toll plaza charges excessive fees, and other toll plazas also have high rates.
  - **The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** and private contractors have accumulated thousands of crores of rupees through toll collection.

#### National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

- NHAI was **constituted by an Act of Parliament in 1988** under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** as a Central Authority to **develop, maintain and manage the National Highways** entrusted to it by the Government of India.
  - The authority, however, became operational in **February, 1995**.
- The Authority consists of a **full time Chairman, and not more than five full time Members and four part time Members** who are appointed by the Central Government.

## Bill to Legalize Property Rights on State Land in J&K

### Why in News?

A **Private Member Bill** titled “The Jammu and Kashmir (Regularisation and Recognition of Property Rights of

Residents in Public Land) Bill, 2025” has been introduced in the **J&K Legislative Assembly**.

### Key Points:

- **Objective of the Bill:**
  - The bill aims to **prevent forced evictions of long-term residents**.
  - It seeks to provide **security of tenure**, aligning with **Article 21 (Right to Life and Shelter)** of the Constitution.
  - The bill is a **one-time relief measure** for long-time occupants.
  - It ensures **legal recognition of homes** and allows better urban planning.
  - The bill seeks to protect **fundamental rights under Article 21** (Right to Shelter).
- **Provisions:**
  - The bill **confers ownership and property rights** on residents living in houses built on **state-owned land, common land, Kahcharai land, or Shamilat lands** for over **20 years**.
  - It proposes **registration of these properties** to allow access to financial services like bank loans.
- **Background & Context:**
  - This **Private Member Bill** counters the **2020 eviction drive**, which retrieved **15 lakh kanals (70,000-75,000 hectares)** of land from alleged illegal occupants.

#### What is the Private Members' Bill

- **About:**
  - Private Members' Bills are proposed by **Member of Parliaments (MPs)** who are not Ministers (i.e., not part of the government), allowing them to introduce laws or amendments on issues important to their constituencies.
- **Procedure:**
  - **Drafting and Notice:** MPs draft and submit bills with at least **one month's notice**.
  - **Introduction:** Bills are introduced in **Parliament**, followed by initial discussions.
  - **Debate:** If selected, bills are debated, typically in limited Friday afternoon sessions.
  - **Decision:** Bills may be withdrawn or proceed to a vote.

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### Right to Shelter (Article 21) and Important Constitutional Provisions

- The **Right to Shelter** in India is recognised as a **fundamental right** under the broader ambit of the **Right to Life** guaranteed by **Article 21** of the **Indian Constitution**.
  - This right ensures that every citizen has access to adequate **housing**, which is considered essential for living a life with dignity.
  - It implies **not just a roof over one's head** but also includes **adequate privacy, space, security, lighting, ventilation, basic infrastructure, and proximity to workplaces and social amenities**.
- Forced evictions without **proper rehabilitation** and due process **violate the Right to Shelter**.

## The Waqf Bill

### Why in News?

Recently, at the 'Budget Pe Charcha' event in Srinagar, the **Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs** stated that the proposed amendments in **the Waqf Bill** aimed to **benefit poor Muslims** rather than seize Waqf property.

### Key Points

- Support for the Waqf Bill:
  - He mentioned that several Muslim MPs have also backed the Bill, with many expressing private approval.
  - Despite opposition from certain political parties, he highlighted that his ministry had received feedback from the Muslim community, including women.
  - The amendments **aim to enhance transparency in Waqf property management**, ultimately serving the best interests of the community.
- Visit to Dargah Hazratbal Shrine:
  - The Minister visited **the Dargah Hazratbal shrine** in Srinagar and reviewed ongoing development works.
  - The Minister praised the J&K Waqf Board's development initiatives, calling them a model for religious site management across India.
- Discussion on Union Budget 2025:
  - He also chaired a discussion on **the Union Budget 2025**, engaging with local business leaders, industry representatives, and community members.

- The discussion saw participation from stakeholders across various sectors, including the Hotel Association, Houseboat Owners Association, Industries & Commerce Association, Tour & Travel Association, **Saffron Growers Association**, Shawl Weavers Association, Fruit Growers Association, and Farmers Association.
- The issues discussed included the implementation of **the Minimum Wages Act**, the revival of **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)**, rehabilitation of houseboat owners, and conservation of Kashmir's wetlands.
- Commitment to J&K's Economy:
  - He acknowledged the significance of **tourism and handicrafts in J&K's economy** and assured policy support for these sectors.
  - He emphasized **sustainable tourism and environmental conservation**, particularly in preserving **wetlands** and rehabilitating houseboats.
  - He reiterated the government's commitment to promoting **eco-friendly tourism** while safeguarding local livelihoods.

### Waqf Act, 1995

- **Background:**
  - The Waqf act was first passed by Parliament in **1954**.
  - It was later repealed, and a **new Waqf Act** was passed in **1995**, which gave more powers to Waqf Boards.
  - In **2013**, the Act was further amended to grant the Waqf Board **extensive powers** to designate property as '**Waqf Property**'.
- **Waqf:**
  - It is the permanent dedication of **movable or immovable properties for religious, pious or charitable** purposes as recognised by Muslim law.
  - It implies the **endowment of property**, whether movable or immovable, tangible or intangible, to God by a Muslim, under the premise that the **transfer will benefit the needy**.
  - The proceeds from a Waqf typically fund **educational institutions, graveyards, mosques and shelter homes**.
  - Waqfs in India are **regulated by the Waqf act, 1995**.

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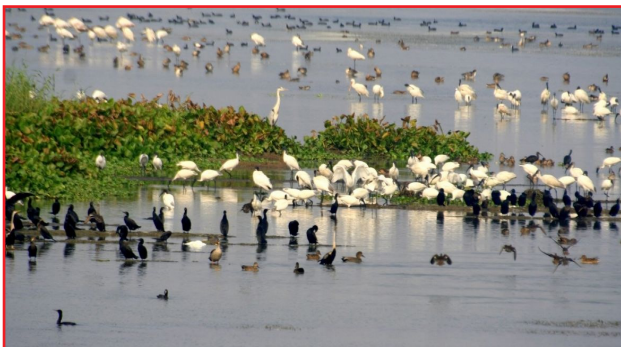
- **Waqf Board:**
  - A Waqf board is a **legal entity** capable of **acquiring, holding and transferring** property. It can **sue and be sued in court**.
  - It **administers** Waqf properties, **recovers** lost properties and **sanctions** the transfer of immovable Waqf properties through sale, gift, mortgage, exchange, or lease, with at least two-thirds of the board members voting in favour of the transaction.
  - The **Central Waqf Council (CWC)**, established in **1964**, oversees and advises state level Waqf Boards across India.
- **Waqf Properties:**
  - The Waqf board is said to be the **third-largest landholder** in India after the Railways and the Defence department.
    - Currently, there are 8,72,292 registered Waqf properties spread across 8 lakh acres. These properties generate Rs 200 crore in revenue.
    - Once a property is designated as a Waqf, it becomes **non-transferable** and is **detained perpetually** as a charitable act toward God, essentially transferring ownership to God.

## Asian Water Bird Census

### Why in News?

The **Department of Wildlife Protection**, in collaboration with **the Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA)**, is going to conduct **the Asian Waterbird Census 2025** in Kashmir.

- This annual initiative helps **estimate the population of migratory birds visiting Kashmir's wetlands** and assess the ecological health of these vital habitats.



### Key Points

- **Significance of Kashmir's Wetlands:**
  - **The Central Asian Flyway** was highlighted as a major migration route used by birds traveling from **Russia, Siberia, Europe, and China**.
  - The **migratory patterns of birds arriving in Kashmir's wetlands between November and March**.
    - The importance of Kashmir's wetlands as critical stopover points for migratory birds.
- **Census as a Scientific Exercise:**
  - The census is described as a crucial scientific initiative. **Bird migration** serves as a key indicator of wetland health.
  - Over the past two years, **officials have recorded more than 12 lakh migratory birds in Kashmir's wetlands**, reaffirming their global ecological significance.
- **Coverage of Key Wetlands:**
  - The Asian Waterbird Census 2025 will include 25 key wetlands.
  - It will cover **four Ramsar sites, Hokersar, Haigam, Shalabugh, and Wular Lake**—each serving as a vital habitat for thousands of migratory birds.
- **Execution of the Census:**
  - Trained personnel from the Wildlife Department, WUCMA, Forest Protection Force, and Forest Department **will conduct the census under strict supervision**.
  - Avian experts will **analyze the collected data** after the field survey.
  - They will compile a comprehensive report on **species diversity, population trends, and wetland health**.
  - This report will help shape future **conservation policies** and **wetland management strategies**.

### The Asian Waterbird Census

- **About:**
  - It is a **citizen-science programme** supporting conservation and management of **wetlands** and waterbirds worldwide.
    - AWC is part of the global **International Waterbird Census (IWC)** coordinated by **Wetlands International**.
  - AWC runs in **parallel with other regional programmes of the IWC** in Africa, Europe, West Asia, the Neotropics and the Caribbean.

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Note:



- AWC in India:
  - It was **initiated in the Indian subcontinent in 1987** and since then has grown rapidly to cover major regions of Asia, from Afghanistan eastwards to Japan, Southeast Asia and Australasia.
  - In India, AWC is jointly coordinated by the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Wetlands International**.
- Significance:
  - It **gives an idea of the birds at the wetland** and the health of the wetland; the more the waterbirds, the more suitable the wetland is.
  - It helps in **better implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD)**.

#### The Central Asian Flyway (CAF)

- It is a migration route, **covering over 30 countries**, for different waterbirds linking their northernmost breeding grounds in **Russia (Siberia)** to the southernmost non-breeding (wintering) grounds in West and South Asia, **the Maldives and British Indian Ocean Territory**.
- CAF is among the **nine flyways in the world** and three of the nine flyways that pass through the Indian Subcontinent. The other two are:
  - East Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF) and Asian East African Flyway (AEAF).
- **India has a strategic role in the flyway**, as it **provides critical stopover sites** to over **90% of the bird species** known to use this migratory route.
  - Flyways are the area used by a group of birds during their annual cycle which includes their breeding areas, stop over areas and wintering areas.

## Review Meeting on New Criminal Laws Implementation in J&K

### Why in News?

Recently, **the Union Home Minister** chaired a review meeting in New Delhi to assess the implementation of **three new criminal laws** in Jammu and Kashmir.

- **The Lieutenant Governor** and **Chief Minister** of **the Union territory** attended the meeting.

### Key Points

- **Key Areas of Review:**
  - The meeting evaluated the implementation and current status of various new provisions related to:
    - Police reforms
    - Prison management
    - Judicial processes
    - Prosecution and forensic advancements
  - Senior officials from **the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, including the Union Home Secretary, Chief Secretary, **Director General of Police (DGP)** of Jammu and Kashmir, Director General of **the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD)**, and Director General of **the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** participated in the discussions.
- **Implementation Deadline:**
  - The Union Minister directed the Jammu and Kashmir administration to ensure full implementation of the three new criminal laws by April 2025.
  - He emphasized optimal use of technology to **facilitate speedy justice under the new legal framework**.
  - He also called for the urgent implementation of the **'Trial in Absentia' provision** in the union territory.
- **Strengthening Police Accountability:**
  - He **directed the administration to hold police officers accountable** for expediting charge sheet filings.
  - He instructed that every police station in Jammu and Kashmir should maximize the use of **the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)**.
  - He **mandated 100% training of investigating officers on the new legal provisions**.
- **Monitoring Provisions on Terrorism and Organized Crime:**
  - The Union Minister emphasized that decisions regarding **terrorism and organized crime cases** should undergo thorough **scrutiny at the Superintendent of Police (SP) level**.
  - He stressed the need for **strict monitoring to prevent misuse of the provisions** under the new laws.
- **Periodic Review of Implementation:**
  - He directed that the progress of implementation should be reviewed at three levels:
    - Weekly by the Director General of Police (DGP)
    - Fortnightly by the Chief Secretary
    - Monthly by the Chief Minister

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### National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)

- NAFIS, a nationwide database managed by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), swiftly stores crime-related fingerprints and assigns a **unique 10-digit National Fingerprint Number (NFN)** to apprehended criminals within 24 hours.
  - NFN remains with the offender for life, connecting various crimes under different FIRs to the same ID.
  - ID comprises state code (first two digits) and sequential number, specific to states.
  - NAFIS swiftly identifies persons of interest, linking their names to warrants, warnings, and related criminal data in police reference systems.
- It operates from **New Delhi's Central Fingerprint Bureau(CFPB)**.
- It aims to collect fingerprint data of criminals from all Indian states and Union Territories, offering a web-based platform for real-time uploading, tracking, and retrieval of information by law enforcement agencies.

## Exchange of Fire on Line of Control (LoC)

### Why in News?

Recently, an exchange of fire erupted on **the Line of Control (LoC)** in **the Pir Panjal Valley's** Poonch. Authorities reported no casualties in the incident.

### Key Points

- Ceasefire Violations and Militant Infiltrations:
  - Despite the **ceasefire renewal in 2020**, the Jammu region has witnessed frequent firing incidents, including close to the LoC. Several incidents involved infiltrating militants.
  - In February 2025, an **IED explosion** killed two Army personnel. In a separate cross-border firing incident, two soldiers sustained injuries in a ceasefire violation.
  - Indian troops retaliated effectively, inflicting "heavy casualties" on the Pakistani side.
- Status of Ceasefire Agreement:
  - Ceasefire violations along the J&K borders have

significantly reduced since India and Pakistan reaffirmed the ceasefire agreement on 25th February 2021.

### Pir Panjal

- About:
  - The Pir Panjal Range is a **mountain range in the northern Indian subcontinent**.
  - It **begins in Ramban** and **extends westward**, lying south of **Jammu and Kashmir's Vale of Kashmir**, reaching Muzaffarabad District.
  - The range rises sharply to an **average elevation of over 13,000 feet (4,000 meters)**.
  - It **separates the Jammu Hills** in the south from the Vale of Kashmir, beyond which lie **the Great Himalayas**.
  - The range separates from the Himalayas near the banks of **the Sutlej River**.
  - It forms a natural divide between **the Beas** and **Ravi rivers** on one side and the **Chenab River** on the other.
- Major Passes:
  - The range has **six historical passes**, Hajipir Pass, Gulabgarh Pass, Ratanpir Pass, Pir Panjal Pass, Banihal Pass, Bairam Gala Pass.
- Important Peaks:
  - **Deo Tibba (6,001 m)** and **Indrasan (6,221 m)** are two significant peaks at the eastern end of the range.

## Winter Games in Gulmarg Postponed

### Why in News?

Authorities have postponed the **5th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games**, originally set for 22-25th February in Gulmarg, due to **inadequate snowfall** caused by the prolonged dry spell.

### Key Points

- Severe Precipitation Deficit in Kashmir:
  - According to **the Meteorological Department** in Srinagar, precipitation has been "negligible" over the past few months.

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Note:

- The cause of the deficit is the dry spell in the absence of **western disturbances**, which usually bring rain and snow to the region.
- Water Shortage:
  - Several water bodies have witnessed significant depletion, highlighting the impact of the dry weather.
  - The natural spring at Achabal Mughal Garden in South Kashmir, built by **Mughal Empress Noor Jahan**, has nearly dried up.
  - **The Irrigation and Flood Control Department** warned that continued dry conditions could severely impact both drinking water supply and irrigation in the coming months.
- Impact:
  - Authorities have deferred the national winter games in Gulmarg, with **the J&K Sports Council** stating that a reassessment will take place once snow conditions improve.
  - Multiple **forest fires** have been reported, including in Tral, Pulwama district.
- Environmental Concerns and Future Risks:
  - Environmentalists fear **long-term consequences** due to the lack of winter precipitation.
  - Experts urge authorities to **implement mitigation strategies** to address the worsening crisis.

#### Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG)

- The KIWG is a **multidisciplinary, national-level winter sports competition** that **promotes winter sports** and encourages more athletes to take up skiing and skating.
- It includes events such as **skiing, alpine skiing, nordic skiing, snow rugby, ice stock sport, snow baseball, mountaineering, snowshoe running, ice hockey, figure skating, and speed skating.**
- It is organized by **the Sports Authority of India** and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- The **2025 KIWG** will be held in the Union Territory of Ladakh from **23 to 27 January** for ice events, and in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir from **22 to 25 February** for snow events.

#### India Meteorological Department

- IMD was **established in 1875**. It is the **National Meteorological Service** of the country and the principal government agency in all **matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.**
  - It works as an **agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the Government of India.
- It is headquartered in **New Delhi.**
- IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres** of the **World Meteorological Organization.**

## Vice-President to Visit Jammu

### Why in News?

**The Vice-President of India** is going to visit Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir) on 15th February 2025.

### Key Points

- During his one-day tour, he will preside as the Chief Guest at **the 10th convocation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University** at Matrika Auditorium, SMVDU Campus.
- He will also visit **Mata Vaishno Devi Temple and Bhairon Ji Temple.**

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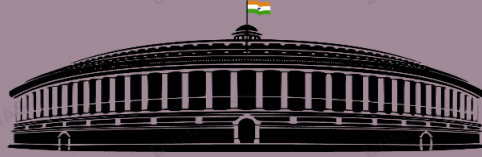
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Note:

# Vice-President of India

Occupies the second highest office in the country after President



## Origin

Modelled on the lines of the American Vice-President

## Const. Provisions

Article 63-71

## Election

Indirectly elected by an electoral college

*This electoral college consists of the elected members of LS and RS + nominated members of RS but not the members of State LAs (unlike electoral college for Presidential election)*



*The power of conducting elections to the office of VP rests with the ECI (Article 324)*

## Qualification

Citizen of India - at least 35 years of age

## First VP and Current VP

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan  
Jagdeep Dhankhar

## Term of Office

5 years; eligible for re-election

## Removal from Office

- VP may resign
- Removal by a effective majority of RS (all the then members) and LS agreeing to it (simple majority)
  - Resolution for removal is introduced only in RS
- Constitution mentions no ground for removal

## Powers

- Ex-officio Chairman of RS - Powers and functions similar to the LS Speaker
- Acts as President (max 6 months) - when a vacancy occurs in his office

*This is different from the office of American VP who succeeds to the Presidency when the office falls vacant*

*When acting as the President, VP does not perform the functions of the Chairman of RS*



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Note:



## 24<sup>th</sup> Divya Kala Mela

### Why in News?

The **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, is organizing the **24th Divya Kala Mela** in collaboration with **the National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC)**.

- The event will take place at Gulshan Ground, Jammu, from 14th to 24th February 2025.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)  
Government of India

**DIVYA KALA MELA**

A Unique Fair for Promoting  
Craftsmanship & Products of more than  
100 Divyang Entrepreneurs

14 to 24 February, 2025 | 11 AM to 9 PM | Gulshan Ground, Jammu (J&K)

**Highlights**

Exhibition & Sale of Swadeshi Products of the Divyang Artisans & Craftsmen from Various States	Traditional Cultural Programme (6:00 PM Onwards Everyday)	Delicious Cuisines
--	---	--------------------

**SASHAKT DIVYANGJAN, SAMARTH BHARAT**

In the past 10 years, we have laid a strong foundation for the progress of the Divyangjans, and today, our Divyang companions are making us proud by becoming dedicated partners in the nation's journey towards development  
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

**ENTRY FREE**

www.depwd.gov.in | @socialpws | @DOEPWD | Divyang Empowerment | @DEPWAcessibleIndiaCampaign

### Key Points

- **Promoting 'Vocal for Local':**
  - The Divya Kala Mela reflects the Prime Minister's vision of **promoting local artisans and entrepreneurs**.
  - The event highlights handmade products, skills, and craftsmanship of **Divyang (PwD) entrepreneurs** from across India.
  - Visitors can explore a diverse range of products, including **handicrafts, handlooms, embroidery, packaged food, eco-friendly goods, jewelry, and more**.
- **Aim:**
  - The Mela **aims to empower Divyang artisans** by providing them with **marketing opportunities and a platform** to showcase their talent.
  - Previous editions have been **successfully held in Delhi, Mumbai, Bhopal, Guwahati, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Chennai, Patna, Nagpur, Pune, and other cities**.

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Note:



- The Jammu edition will feature around **100 Divyang artisans and entrepreneurs** from 20 states and Union Territories.
- An Inclusive Experience for All:
  - The event will include interactive experience zones tailored for different disabilities.
  - Special attractions include **Divyangjan sports activities and exhibitions** of new assistive aids and appliances.
  - The Mela is more than just a marketplace—it is a **celebration of ability, inclusion, and empowerment.**

## Central Mosque Closed on Shab-e-Baraat

### Why in News?

Authorities closed Srinagar's central mosque, **Jama Masjid**, to prevent nightlong prayers on **Shab-e-Baraat**.

### Key Points

- Chief Cleric Under House Arrest:
  - It is alleged that the authorities placed Kashmir's chief cleric under house arrest, preventing him from carrying out his religious duties.
- Criticism of the Decision:
  - The decision was criticized, stating that **repeated restrictions on religious gatherings hurt public sentiments** and infringe upon **fundamental religious rights**.
    - It lamented that worshippers frequently find the grand mosque forcibly closed during significant religious occasions.
  - Jammu and Kashmir **Chief Minister** termed the sealing of Jama Masjid on Shab-e-Baraat as unfortunate.
    - He argued that the decision reflected a lack of confidence in both the people and law enforcement, asserting that Srinagar's residents deserved better.

#### Shab-e-Barat

- It is also known as the **'Night of Emancipation'** and is observed on the night falling between the **14th and 15th day of the month of Shaban**.
- The **destiny of every person is determined on this night**.
- **Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi**, the twelfth imam is credited with ridding the world from oppression and injustice.

## Homage to Heroes of Pulwama Attack

### Why in News?

**The Prime Minister** paid homage to the courageous heroes of **Pulwama terror attack of 2019**.

### Key Points

- Pulwama Terror Attack:
  - A **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** convoy of 78 vehicles, carrying over 2,500 jawans, was targeted in a deadly attack.
  - The Pakistan-based **terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM)** claimed **responsibility for the attack**.
    - A lone JeM suicide bomber carried out the attack by ramming a car loaded with approximately 350 kg of explosives into a CRPF bus.
  - JeM's Involvement in Past Attacks:
    - JeM has been linked to several major attacks, including:
      - The 2001 Indian **Parliament** attack.
      - The 2016 Pathankot airbase attack, which killed seven security personnel.
      - The **2016 Uri attack**, which resulted in the deaths of 20 soldiers.

#### Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- About:
  - The CRPF was initially **established as the Crown Representatives Police in 1939** in response to political turmoil and unrest within the princely states.
  - The force was **renamed the Central Reserve Police Force in 1949**.
  - **Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel**, the then **Home Minister**, envisioned a multifaceted role for the CRPF, aligning its functions with the evolving needs of a newly independent nation.
- Achievements and Contributions:
  - The force has thwarted attacks on important national landmarks, **controlled militancy in Punjab and insurgency in Tripura**, and made significant contributions to **eradicating Naxalism**.
- Honouring the Bravehearts:
  - The CRPF has paid a heavy price, with 2,255 of its **soldiers making the supreme sacrifice** and being honoured with decorations, including the **George Cross, Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra**, etc.

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Note:

# CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES (CAPF)

The CAPF includes the seven security forces in India functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

## Assam Rifles (AR)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1835, as militia called 'Cachar Levy'
  - ↳ **Erstwhile objective:** To protect British Tea estates
- ↳ **Current Objectives:**
  - ↳ Conducting anti-terrorist operations in NER
  - ↳ Ensuring security at India-China and India-Myanmar borders
- ↳ **Imp Role in:**
  - ↳ Sino-India War 1962
  - ↳ Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka (1987)

Due to long association with tribal belts, Assam Rifles are also called 'Friends of the North East'

## Border Security Force (BSF)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1965
- ↳ **Objectives:**
  - ↳ Securing land borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh
  - ↳ Also performing Anti-Infiltration in Kashmir Valley
  - ↳ Counter Insurgency in NER
  - ↳ Anti-Naxal Operations in Odisha and Chhattisgarh
- ↳ **Wings:** Air wing, marine wing, an artillery regiment, and commando units

BSF is India's First Line of Defence and the world's largest border guarding force

## Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- ↳ **Pre-Independence Origin:** 1939 (Crown Representative's Police)
- ↳ **Post Independence:** 1949 - under CRPF Act, became Central Reserve Police Force
- ↳ **Objective:** Crowd control, riot control, counter militancy/insurgency operations, etc.

CRPF is the principle central police force for internal security

## Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1962
- ↳ **Objectives:**
  - ↳ Deployed on border from Karakoram Pass (Ladakh) to Jachep La (Arunachal Pradesh) (~3488 km of Indo-China Border)
  - ↳ Manning Border Outposts on altitudes 9000 ft - 18700 ft in Western, Middle and Eastern sectors of Indo-China Border

ITBP is India's specialised mountain force & the first responder to natural disasters

## National Security Guard (NSG)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1984 (came into being in 1986), following Operation Blue Star
- ↳ **Objectives:** Counter-terrorism unit/Federal Contingency Force
- ↳ **Task-oriented Force - Two complementary elements:**
  - ↳ Special Action Group (SAG)
  - ↳ Special Ranger Groups (SRG)

## Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1963
- ↳ **Objectives:**
  - ↳ Guarding Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders
  - ↳ Enhance border security, curb trans-border crimes, prevent unauthorised entry/exit, halt smuggling, etc.

## Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- ↳ **Origin:** Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968
- ↳ **Objectives:** Ensuring security of major critical infrastructure installations

CISF is the sole CAPF unit with a specialised fire wing



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Note:

## Mushroom Cultivation

### Why in News?

Farmers in **Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir** are leading an **agricultural revolution** by embracing **mushroom cultivation**, yielding remarkable results. This year, they have produced over **2,500 quintals of mushrooms**, generating revenue of more than Rs 3.15 crore.

### Key Points

- Mushroom Farming Expansion:
  - 1,220 mushroom growers in Udhampur have successfully cultivated nearly one lakh bags of mushrooms.
  - The region has witnessed a **significant expansion in mushroom farming**.
- Year-Round Cultivation and Profitability:
  - Mushroom cultivation can be done **year-round in controlled units, generating higher income during the off-season**.
  - The venture is **highly lucrative and accessible** with the right training and guidance.
  - The ease of accessibility attracts many groups in agriculture to explore mushroom farming.
  - The initiative has particularly **empowered local women and elderly residents**, offering them a **new source of income**.
- Impact of Agricultural Initiatives:
  - This highlights the **effectiveness of targeted agricultural initiatives** that create sustainable income opportunities for farmers.
  - As the season progresses, Udhampur anticipates increased production and a **significant boost in monetary returns for its farming community**.

#### Mushrooms

- About:
  - Mushrooms are **fungi that typically have a stem, a cap, and gills**.
  - They are **classified as fungi because they lack chlorophyll** and cannot produce their food through photosynthesis.

- Mushrooms, belonging to the fungi species, are a **nutritious vegetarian delicacy** and also possess **several medicinal properties**.
- They are a good source of high-quality protein, containing 20-35% protein by dry weight.
- Varieties:
  - Currently, **three main varieties of mushrooms** are cultivated:
    - Button Mushroom
    - Paddy-Straw Mushroom
    - Oyster Mushroom

## IED Blast in Jammu

### Why in News?

Militants planted an **improvised explosive device (IED)** along the **Line of Control (LoC)** in Jammu's Akhnoor Sector, killing two soldiers.

### Key Points

- IED Blast in Akhnoor Sector:
  - A suspected **IED blast occurred in Laleali, Akhnoor Sector**, during a fence patrol, resulting in two fatalities.
  - **The Army has launched search operations** and is dominating the area to secure the region.
  - **The Lieutenant Governor** of Jammu and Kashmir paid tribute to the soldiers.
- Security Concerns:
  - Despite heightened surveillance along the LoC in J&K, **the blast poses a major challenge to security forces**.

#### Improvised Explosive Device

- An **improvised explosive device (IED)** is a homemade bomb **designed to destroy or incapacitate targets**, commonly used by criminals, terrorists, and insurgents in various forms.
- IEDs can be delivered through multiple means, including vehicles, placement by individuals, or roadside concealment, and **gained prominence during the Iraq War that began in 2003**.

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Note:



	Common uses	Common form	Known IED use
<b>High explosives</b>			
Ammonium nitrate and fuel oil (ANFO)	Mining and blasting <sup>2</sup>	Solid	Oklahoma City bombing
Triacetone Triperoxide (TATP)	No common uses; mixed from other materials	Crystalline solid	2005 bombings in London
Semtex, C-4	Primarily military	Plastic solid	Irish Republican Army bombings
Ethylene glycol dinitrate (EGDN)	Component of low-freezing dynamite	Liquid	Millennium Bomber, intended for Los Angeles airport, 1999
Urea nitrate	Fertilizer	Crystalline solid	World Trade Center 1993
<b>Low explosive</b>			
Smokeless powder	Ammunition	Solid	Olympic Park bombings

## Supreme Court Criticized States Over Illegal Ayurvedic Ads

### Why in News?

The Supreme Court criticized several states such as **Jammu & Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh** and the **Union Territory of Delhi** for their failure to act against **illegal advertisements** promoting **Ayurvedic, Siddha, and Unani drugs**.

- Chief secretaries of non-compliant states have been ordered to appear before the court via video conferencing to justify their inaction.

### Key Points

- Senior advocate acting as **amicus curiae**, pointed out that states were letting violators off with apologies and undertakings instead of taking stricter actions.
- The court emphasized the need for states to enforce **Rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945**, to curb illegal advertisements effectively.
  - **Jammu & Kashmir** along with **Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, and Gujarat** have been directed to file affidavits regarding their enforcement of Rule 170 by the end of February 2025.
    - Rule 170 **deals with the power to take action against objectionable or misleading advertisements** about Ayurvedic, Siddha, and Unani drugs.
- Background of the Issue:
  - In August 2024, the Supreme Court stayed a notification by the **Ministry of Ayush** that omitted **Rule 170**, calling it contradictory to its 7 May, 2024, order.
    - The apex court on 7 May, 2024 directed that before an advertisement was permitted to be issued, a **self-declaration** should be obtained from the advertisers on the line of the **Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994**.
  - The Ministry of Ayush had earlier issued a letter in August 2023 advising states **not to take action against violators, citing procedural delays in finalizing a gazette notification**.
  - The case stems from a 2022 petition by the **Indian Medical Association**, which alleged that **Patanjali** had launched a misinformation campaign against **Covid vaccines** and modern medicine.

### Indian Medical Association (IMA)

- **Indian Medical Association** is the only **representative, national voluntary organisation of Doctors of Modern Scientific System of Medicine**, which looks after the interest of doctors as well as the well being of the community at large.
- IMA is a founding member of **World Medical Association**.

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Note:

# AYUSH Systems of Medicine

AYUSH encompasses Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, and Homeopathy, with Ayurveda having a documented history of 5000+ years.

## Ayurveda

- ⌚ **Samhita Period (1000 BC):**  
Emerged as mature medical system
  - ⌚ **Charaka Samhita:** Oldest and most authoritative text
  - ⌚ **Sushruta Samhita:** Gives fundamental principles and therapeutic methods in eight specialties
- ⌚ **Main Schools:**
  - ⌚ **Punarvasu Atreya** - School of physicians
  - ⌚ **Divodasa Dhanvantari** - School of surgeons

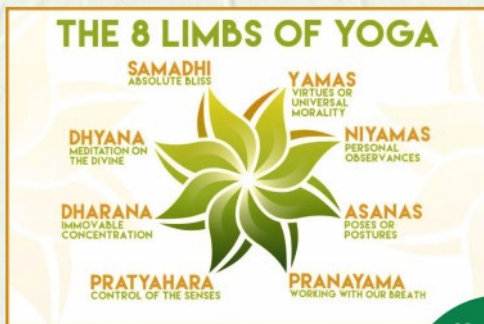
Lord Brahma is believed to be the 1<sup>st</sup> proponent of Ayurveda

### Branches of Ayurveda:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ■ Kayachikitsa (internal medicine)                    | ■ Agada Tantra (toxicology)                      |
| ■ Shalya Tantra (surgery)                             | ■ Bhootavidya (psychiatry)                       |
| ■ Shalaky Tantra (disease of supra-clavicular origin) | ■ Rasayana Tantra (rejuvenation and geriatrics)  |
| ■ Kaumarabhritya (paediatrics)                        | ■ Vajikarana (eugenics & science of aphrodisiac) |



## Yoga & Naturopathy



- ⌚ **Naturopathy:** Healing with help of 5 natural elements - Earth, Water, Air, Fire and Ether
  - ⌚ Based on theories of self-healing capacity of body and principles of healthy living
  - ⌚ Encourages a **person-centred approach** rather than disease-centred

Yoga first propounded by Maharishi Patanjali in systematic form Yogsutra

## Unani

- ⌚ **Pioneered in Greece, developed by Arabs as 7 principles (Umooor-e-Tabbiya)**
- ⌚ Based on the framework of teachings of **Buqrat** (Hippocrates) and **Jalinoos** (Galen)
  - ⌚ Hippocratic theory of **four humors** viz. blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile
- ⌚ **Recognised by WHO** and granted official status by India as an alternative health system

## Siddha

- ⌚ **Dates back to 10000 – 4000 BC; Siddhar Agasthiyar - Father of Siddha Medicine**
- ⌚ Preventive, promotive, curative, rejuvenative, and rehabilitative health care
- ⌚ **4 Components:** Latro-chemistry, Medical practice, Yogic practice & Wisdom
- ⌚ Diagnosis based on 3 humors (**Mukkuttram**) and 8 vital tests (**Ennvagai Thervu**)

## Sowa Rigpa

- ⌚ **Origin: Lord Buddha in India before 2500 years**
- ⌚ Traditional medicine in Himalayan regions of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, etc.
- ⌚ Recognised in India by Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 (As amended in 2010)

## Homeopathy

- ⌚ **German physician Dr. Christian F. S. Hahnemann codified its fundamental principles**
- ⌚ Medicines prepared mainly from natural substances (plant products, minerals, animal sources)
- ⌚ Brought in India by European missionaries - 1810; official recognition - 1948
- ⌚ **3 Key Principles:**
  - ⌚ *Similia Similibus Curentur* (let likes be cured by likes)
  - ⌚ Single Medicine
  - ⌚ Minimum Dose



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Note:



## Water Supply Schemes Inaugurated in J&K

### Why in News?

Recently, the Union Minister for Science & Technology inaugurated seven water supply schemes under [the Jal Jeevan Mission](#) in Jammu and Kashmir.

### Key Points

- Water Supply Schemes:
  - The seven newly inaugurated water supply schemes, costing Rs 25.31 crore, will **benefit 15,881 people across 2,584 households in 10 villages**, including Jasrota, Rakh Hoshiyari, Padyari, Saktha Chak, Bhadoli Charpad, and Mangtian.
  - A total of **303 water supply schemes**, with an estimated cost of Rs 1,369.57 crore, are being implemented in the **Kathua district**.
- Key Infrastructure Projects:
  - The importance of major projects like [the Chattergala tunnel](#) and the **Delhi to Katra Expressway corridor**, were highlighted.
    - The importance of the Chattergala tunnel in providing all-weather connectivity between Doda and Lakhanpur.
    - He also announced the construction of **nine additional underpasses along the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway**, responding to public demand.
- Promoting Tourism and Economic Growth:
  - The role of [tourism](#) in creating employment opportunities and boosting livelihoods, with plans to **promote tourism in Basohli and Mantalia**.
  - **The Mansar area in Udhampur district** is being developed as a **tourist destination** under [the Swadesh Darshan scheme](#).
- District Kathua's Economic Potential:
  - The district has North India's first [Bio-tech Park](#), a [Seed Processing Plant](#), and the region's **only Homeopathic College**.
  - He encouraged the youth to take advantage of government [subsidies](#) for [promoting Khadi](#) to earn their livelihoods.

### Jal Jeevan Mission

- **About:**
  - Launched in 2019, it envisages supply of **55 litres of water per person per day** to every rural household through **Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC)** by 2024.
  - JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.
  - It comes under **Jal Shakti Ministry**.
- **Aims:**
  - The mission ensures **functionality of existing water supply systems** and water connections, water quality monitoring and testing as well as sustainable agriculture.
  - It also ensures **conjunctive use of conserved water**; drinking water source augmentation, **drinking water supply system**, [grey water treatment](#) and its reuse.

### Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- It was **launched in 2014-15** for **integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits** — Buddhist Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Northeast Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Sufi Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit, Wildlife Circuit and Tribal Circuit.
- It is **100% centrally funded** and efforts are made to achieve convergence with other schemes of Central and State Governments and also to leverage the voluntary funding available for [Corporate Social Responsibility \(CSR\)](#) initiatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings and Corporate Sector.
- Swadesh Darshan 2.0:
  - It is **not an incremental change but a generational shift to evolve the Swadesh Darshan Scheme** as a holistic mission to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations.
  - It will help develop sustainable and responsible destinations with a tourist and destination centric approach.

## Pir Panjal Winter Festival

### Why in News?

[The Indian Army](#) inaugurated the [Pir Panjal Winter Festival](#) in Poonch, marking the beginning of a **two-month-long celebration** featuring a **diverse range of sports and cultural events**.

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Note:

### Key Points

- Commitment to Youth and Social Reform:
  - It was highlighted that the festival reflects the Army's strong commitment to **youth empowerment, cultural preservation, and social reform**, with a particular focus on raising awareness **against drug abuse**.
- Diverse Sports and Cultural Events:
  - **Sports:** Under-25 boys cricket tournament, Under-25 boys and Under-21 girls volleyball tournament, and an open Kho-Kho tournament for girls.
  - **Cultural Performances:** **Gujari and Pahari folk** dance performances, music and dance talent hunts, solo and group singing competitions.
  - **Academic and Creative Competitions:** Science and arts exhibitions, painting contests, essay writing, and elocution competitions.
- Impact on Youth and Marginalized Communities:
  - The initiative aims to **foster sportsmanship, cultural revival, and holistic development**, particularly among youth from remote and **marginalized communities** in Poonch.

#### Indian Army

- The Indian army **originated from the forces of the East India Company**, which later became the '**British Indian Army**', and eventually, after Independence, the **Indian Army**.
- The Indian Army was founded almost **126 years ago by the British on 1st April, 1895**.

## Zero LoC Infiltration

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Union Home Minister** conducted an extensive review of the **ongoing anti-terror operations** and the security situation along **the Line of Control (LoC)** in **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**.

### Key Points

- Meeting on Counter-Terrorism:
  - The Union Home Minister chaired a meeting with top Army and Police officials to strengthen **counter-terrorism operations** in the Valley.

- The meeting also aimed to secure the Line of Control (LoC), especially during the **monsoon**, when rivulets from **the Himalayas** swell, creating gaps in the fencing along the Pakistan border.
- Security Challenges Along the LoC and Border:
  - The LoC spans 749 km, primarily under the Army's jurisdiction, while **India and Pakistan share a 198 km long international border** in the Jammu sector, where **Border Security Force (BSF)** is in charge.
    - In 2024, Jammu experienced a surge in terrorist attacks due to infiltrators from Pakistan.
- Zero Infiltration Goal and Terrorism Elimination:
  - The Minister directed security agencies to **intensify efforts with a 'zero infiltration' goal**, instructing forces to adopt a strict approach towards infiltration and **terrorism**.
  - The primary objective emphasized was to eliminate the presence of terrorists in the region.
  - The Minister acknowledged the role of narco-networks in supporting infiltrators and terrorists, urging immediate action against terror funding linked to the narcotics trade.

#### Border Security Force (BSF)

- The BSF was **raised in 1965, after the India-Pakistan war**.
- It is one of the **seven Central Armed Police Forces** of the Union of India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
  - Other **Central Armed Police Forces** are: **Assam Rifles (AR)**, **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**, **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**, **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, **National Security Guards (NSG)** and **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**.
- The 2.65-lakh force is deployed along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders.
  - It is deployed on the Indo-Pakistan International Border, Indo-Bangladesh International Border, and **Line of Control (LoC)** along with the **Indian Army** and in **Anti-Naxal Operations**.
- BSF has been defending **Sir Creek in the Arabian Sea** and **the Sundarbans delta in the Bay of Bengal** with its state of the art fleet of Water Crafts.
- It contributes dedicated services to the **UN peacekeeping Mission** by sending a large contingent of its trained manpower every year.

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Note:

**Key Points**

**Details**

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**Summary**

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**Key Points**

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**Summary**