



## Jharkhand Workers Stranded in Cameroon | Jharkhand | 18 Jul 2024

### Why in News?

**Twenty-seven workers from Jharkhand**, currently **stranded in Cameroon**, have urgently appealed to the Indian government for assistance in evacuating them from the Central African country.

### Key Points

- According to the sources, the **workers were brought to Cameroon on 31 March, 2024 by a private company.**
  - However, the **workers have not received wages for the past four months** from the company. They reported **facing severe shortages of food and water** and are **unable to afford basic necessities.**
- [The Ministry of External Affairs](#) is **requested to assist** in ensuring safe return of the 27 stranded workers.

### Cameroon



- It is **located at the junction of western and central Africa.**
- It is the **24<sup>th</sup> largest country in Africa** and 54<sup>th</sup> largest in the world.
- The **capital is Yaoundé**, located in the south-central part of the country.
- Bordering countries:
  - It is bordered by **Nigeria and Chad** to the northeast, the **Central African Republic** to the east, the **Republic of the Congo** to the southeast, **Gabon and Equatorial Guinea** to

the south, and the [Atlantic Ocean](#) to the southwest.

▪ **Relief:**

- Cameroon's diverse geography comprises **northern savanna, central highlands, southern coastal plains, and western volcanic mountains**, including Mount Cameroon.

## Haryana Increases Agniveer Quota | Haryana | 18 Jul 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Haryana government** announced a **10% horizontal reservation to Agniveers** in recruitment for the posts of constable and forest guard, among others.

### Key Points

- Agniveers will receive **5% horizontal reservation in Group-C direct recruitments** and **1% in Group-B direct recruitments for civil posts**.
- Private establishments that pay Agniveers a monthly salary of 30,000 or more will receive an **annual subsidy of 60,000 from the state government**.
- An Agniveer starting a business will receive **interest benefits on loans up to 5 lakh**.
- Agniveers will be **prioritized for arms licenses and employment** in government departments/boards/corporations.

### Agnipath Scheme

#### PAY & BENEFITS: WHAT THE AGNIVEERS GET

- In Hand (70%)
- Contribution to Seva Nidhi (30%)\*

Similar contribution to corpus fund by Government of India\*\*



All figures in ₹ (Monthly Contribution)

Total contribution to Seva Nidhi after 4 yrs  
**10.04 Lakh**  
(₹ 5.02 Lakh\* + ₹ 5.02 Lakh\*\*)

**Exit After 4 Years** } ₹11.71 Lakh as SevaNidhi Package  
(Including interest accumulated on the above amount as per the applicable rates)

#### ▪ **About:**

- It allows **patriotic and motivated youth to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years.**
- Under this scheme, the **youth joining the army will be called Agniveer.** Youth will be able to be recruited into the army for a short duration.
- Under the new scheme, around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited annually, and most will leave the service in just four years.
- However, after **four years, only 25% of the batch will be recruited back** into their respective services, for a period of 15 years.

#### ▪ **Eligibility Criteria:**

- It is **only for personnel below officer ranks** (those who do not join the forces as commissioned officers).
  - Commissioned officers **are the army's highest ranked officers.**
  - Commissioned officers **hold an exclusive rank** in the Indian armed forces. They often hold a **commission under the president's sovereign power** and are officially instructed to protect the country.
- Aspirants between the ages of 17.5 years and 23 years will be eligible to apply.

---

## **Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations | Haryana | 18 Jul 2024**

### **Why in News?**

Recently, **Asia's first pre-clinical network facility for health research** was established at the [Regional Centre of Biotechnology](#).

- It is under the [Translational Health Science & Technology Institute \(THSTI\)](#) in **Faridabad**, as part of the [Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations \(CEPI\)](#).

### **Key Points**

- **CEPI has selected BRIC-THSTI** as a pre-clinical network laboratory based on its capability to handle [BSL3 pathogens](#).
- It is the **9<sup>th</sup> network laboratory** and will be the first in Asia, joining others in the USA, Europe, and Australia.
- The Animal Facility is one of the largest in the country, housing about **75,000 mice as well as immune compromised mice, rats, rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs.**
- The "[Genetically Defined Human Associated Microbial Culture Collection \(Ge-HuMic\) Facility](#)" was also inaugurated to act as a "repository" for **providing microbial cultures to research institutes, universities, and industries for research and development.**
  - The facility will function as a **Nodal Resource Center to facilitate collaborations** between academic institutions, hospitals, and industry at national and international levels.
  - It will also **store genetically characterized specific pathogen-free** animals, including cryopreserved embryos and sperm, for researchers in the country.

### **Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness for Innovation (CEPI)**

- CEPI is a **global partnership launched in 2017** to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics.
- CEPI was **founded in Davos (Switzerland)** by the governments of **Norway and India, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, the Wellcome Trust, and the [World Economic Forum](#).

- The **Department of Biotechnology**, Ministry of Science & Technology, and Government of India has been implementing the [IndCEPI mission](#) 'India Centric Epidemic Preparedness through Rapid Vaccine Development: Supporting Indian Vaccine Development'.
  - The **objectives of this mission** are aligned with that of CEPI and aims to strengthen the development of vaccines and associated competencies/technologies for the diseases of epidemic potential in India.

## Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)

- It is an **autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**.
- It is located in **Faridabad (Haryana)**.

## Biosafety Levels (BSL)

- BSL is used to **identify the protective measures** needed in a laboratory setting to protect workers, the environment, and the public.
- Activities and projects conducted in **biological laboratories are categorized by biosafety level**.
- The four biosafety levels are BSL-1, BSL-2, **BSL-3**, and BSL-4, with BSL-4 being the highest (maximum) level of containment.

---

## Custodial Death in Madhya Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh | 18 Jul 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Pardhi tribal community** in Madhya Pradesh's **Guna district** protested against the **alleged death, in police custody**, of a tribal man.

### Key Points

- [Custodial death](#) is a **death that occurs while a person is in the custody of law enforcement officials or in a correctional facility**.
- It can occur due to **various causes such as use of excessive force, neglect, or abuse** by the authorities.
- According to the [Law commission of India](#), the crime by a public servant against the arrested or the detained person who is in custody amounts to [custodial violence](#).

### Pardhi Tribe

- It is found mostly in **Maharashtra and parts of Madhya Pradesh**.
  - The word Pardhi is derived from the **Marathi word 'Paradh' meaning hunting** and the **Sanskrit word 'papardhi' meaning the game to be hunted**.
  - They speak **mixed dialects of Rajasthani and Gujarati**, mainly **Wagdi and Pardhi languages**.
    - These languages are grouped in the [Bhil languages](#) of the **western Indo-Aryan language group**.
-

---

## Pradhan Mantri Colleges of Excellence | Madhya Pradesh | 18 Jul 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the [Pradhan Mantri Colleges of Excellence](#) was inaugurated by the Union Home Minister in all **55 districts of Madhya Pradesh**.

### Key Points

- **Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to implement the [New Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#).**
  - These colleges are started by the state government, to offer courses aligned with the **New Education Policy 2020**.
  - NEP was introduced to focus on **holistic development of youth rather than just awarding degrees**.
- It includes **teaching both academic subjects and life skills**. The emphasis is on encouraging out-of-the-box thinking instead of traditional thinking in students.

### National Education Policy 2020

- The **National Education Policy 2020** seeks to tackle the evolving development needs of India.
  - It calls for a **comprehensive overhaul of the education system**, including its **regulations and management**, to establish a modern system that aligns with 21st-century educational goals, including [Sustainable Development Goal 4 \(SDG4\)](#), while respecting India's cultural heritage and values.
- It replaces the thirty-four year old [National Policy on Education, 1986](#), **modified in 1992** (NPE 1986/92).

---

## Encroachment on Glacier | Uttarakhand | 18 Jul 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, **Baba Yogi Chaitanya Akash**, a self-proclaimed godman, **constructed an unauthorized shrine** at 5,000 meters on **Uttarakhand's [Sunderdhunga glacier](#)**.

- A joint team from revenue, forest, and police departments will investigate after local **villagers expressed anger over [encroachment](#)**.

### Key Points

- The self-proclaimed godman claimed that he was instructed by a divine power to build a temple on the mountain.
- The location is an **ecologically sensitive spot**, with a **sacred kund for pilgrims and locals**.
- People visit the Kund during the **Nanda Raj Yatra** every twelve years.



- It is a **well-known cultural and religious event in Uttarakhand**, famous for the pilgrims covering an extremely long distance on foot. The most recent **Nanda Raj Yatra took place in 2014**.
- An unauthorized temple built in an [ecologically sensitive](#) and religiously significant area has raised concerns about the local authorities and the Uttarakhand government's **anti-encroachment efforts** in sensitive zones.

## Sunderdhunga Glacier

- The Sunderdhunga Glacier is situated on the **right side of the Pindar Valley**, approximately 24 kilometers beyond the village of Khati.
- It is considered a **more challenging trek** compared to the hikes to [Pindari and Kafni Glaciers](#).
- It is located in Uttarakhand's **Bageshwar district**.

---

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/18-07-2024/print>

