National Florence Nightingale Awards 2024

Recently, the President of India presented the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2024** to 15 **nursing professionals,** recognizing their exemplary contributions to healthcare and public service.

- **Award Recognition:** The National Florence Nightingale Award was instituted in 1973 by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** to honour outstanding nursing personnel in various settings.
    - A total of 15 awards are given in the category of **Registered Auxiliary Nurses & Midwife,** Registered Nurses and Midwife and Registered Lady Visitor.
    - The award is given to outstanding nursing personnel **employed in Central, State/UTs and Voluntary Organizations.** Each award consists of a **Certificate of Merit, Cash Award of Rs.100000/- and a medal.**
- **Nursing Initiatives:** The government of India has established 157 nursing colleges and formed the **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission,** under the **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission (NNMC) Act, 2023** to improve education and healthcare services.

Read more: International Nurses Day 2024

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV

The Union Cabinet has approved the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - IV (PMGSY-IV)** for the period 2024-25 to 2028-29, aiming to enhance rural connectivity by constructing **62,500 km of new all-weather roads.**

- **Coverage:** The initiative will connect 25,000 unconnected habitations with populations of **over 500 in plains, over 250 in Northeast and hill states**, and over **100 in Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected districts.**
    - The new roads are expected to catalyse **socio-economic development** in remote rural areas and improve access to educational, health, market, and growth centres. The scheme is **designed to create 40 crore human-days of work employment.**
- **PMGSY is a central government scheme** launched in 2000 to provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations.
    - The scheme was originally a 100% centrally-sponsored initiative, but starting from the financial year 2015-16, the funding has been shared between the **Central and State governments in a 60:40 ratio.**
    - Around 800,000 kilometres of rural roads have been built and 180,000 habitations were connected under various phases of the PMGSY scheme.

Read more: Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

Delhi Declaration on Civil Aviation

Recently, the **2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation,** hosted in India in collaboration with the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** concluded with the adoption of the **Delhi Declaration**. The 80th anniversary of the founding of the ICAO coincided with the Conference.

- The event **gathers global aviation leaders** to discuss cooperation, explore new opportunities, and build relationships in the sector. It saw participation from delegates of 29 countries, ministers, policymakers, and 8 international organisations including ICAO.
- The Prime Minister praised India's advancements in aviation technology and infrastructure and highlighted the sector's inclusivity, noting that **15% of Indian pilots are women**, surpassing the **global average of 5%**.
    - India has emerged as the **third-largest domestic aviation market** in the world, after the US and China.
    - **India's Initiatives Related to Aviation Industry:**
        - **UDAN Scheme (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik)**
        - National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016
        - GST reduced to 5% from 18% for domestic Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services
        - Open Sky Agreement
        - Digi Yatra
- The ICAO is a specialised agency of the **United Nations (UN)** that **coordinates international air navigation** and fosters the **planning and development of international air transport** to ensure safe and orderly growth.
    - It was **founded in 1944** and is headquartered in **Montreal**, Canada.
    - It was established by the **Chicago Convention (Convention on International Civil Aviation)** which is an international treaty that **governs international aviation**.

Read More: India's Aviation Sector

APEDA to Boost Alcohol Exports Under 'Make in India' Initiative

The **Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA)** plans to promote both the **Indian alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages** globallytargeting **USD 1 billion in export revenue** over the next few years, as part of the **'Make in India' initiative.**

- As part of India's push to enhance its global beverage footprint, **Godawan Single Malt Whisky,** an artisanal whisky made in Rajasthan, India, is set to launch in the United Kingdom.
- **India's Alcohol Market:** India currently **ranks 40th** in the world for alcoholic beverage exports. India is the **3rd largest market** for alcoholic beverages in the world.
    - India **exported** alcoholic products worth **Rs 3,107.50 Crores (USD 375.09 Millions)** during the year 2023-24. India's imports of alcoholic beverages in 2023 reached USD 1 billion.
    - Major Export Destinations are **UAEs, Singapore, Tanzania, Angola and Ghana.**

- **Maharashtra** has emerged as an **important state** for the manufacture of wines.
  - **India** has **46 wineries**, with **43 located in Maharashtra**, where approximately **1,500 acres of grapes** are cultivated for **wine production**.
  - Maharashtra has declared the wine-making business as a **small-scale industry** and has also offered excise concessions.
- APEDA was established under the **APEDA Act, 1985** and is mandated with the responsibility of **export promotion and development** of products like **Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Beverages**, Meat and Meat Products, Floriculture Products etc.
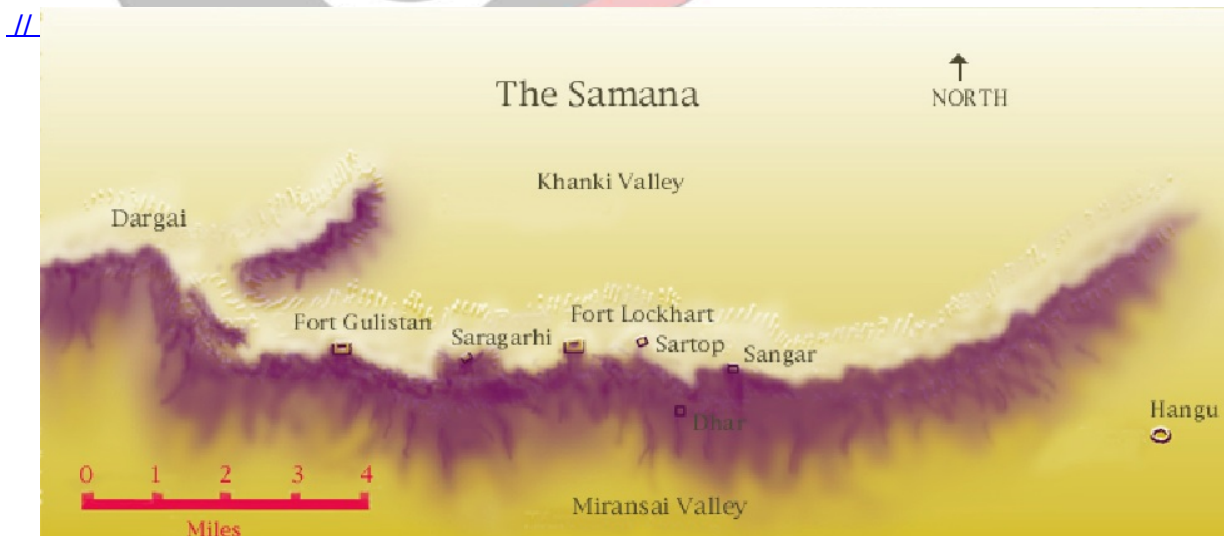
Read More: Industrial Alcohol Regulation

127th Anniversary of the Battle of Saragarhi

Source: IE

Recently, the 127th anniversary of the **Battle of Saragarhi** was observed on 12th September 2024. It is one of the **greatest final defences** in world military history.

- On **12th September 1897**, **21 soldiers** and **a non-combatant** (named **Daad** who did menial works) of the **36th Sikh Regiment (now 4th Sikh)** fought against over **8,000 Afridi and Orakzai tribal militants** in the **North West Frontier Province (NWFP)**, now in Pakistan.
  - The soldiers, led by Havildar Ishar Singh, fought **valiantly** for seven hours, **killing 200 militants** and **injuring 600** others.
- **Strategic Importance of Saragarhi:** Saragarhi was a communication tower located between Fort Lockhart and Fort Gulistan, **two critical British forts in the NWFP. , originally built by** Maharaja Ranjit Singh **and later renamed by the British.**
  - Losing this post meant **isolating the forts**, thereby making British troops and the families of British officers **vulnerable to attack**.
- **Honours for the Martyrs:** Queen Victoria awarded the 21 dead soldiers the **Indian Order of Merit (comparable with the Victoria Cross)** for their bravery.
  - The British built an **obelisk** using burnt bricks from Saragarhi to honour the martyrs.
  - In 2017, the Punjab government declared 12th September as **Saragarhi Day**, a holiday to honour the sacrifice of the soldiers.
  - The **Khyber Scouts** regiment of the **Pakistani army** continues to honour the **Saragarhi martyrs** with a guard and salute at the memorial near **Fort Lockhart**.

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Cyber Commandos

Recently, the Central government announced the plan to train and prepare **5,000 'Cyber Commandos'** over the next five years to tackle the rising cybercrime threats.

- This announcement was made during the first Foundation Day celebration of the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**. **I4C** is a **national-level coordination centre** for addressing cybercrime issues.
- These cyber commandos will be trained in **IT infrastructure security, digital forensics, and incident response**.
- **Other Launches Along With Cyber Commando:**
    - **Centralised Suspect Registry:** It is a **centralised database** of **suspicious bank accounts and related persons**. It will be securely accessible to banks, financial institutions, and law enforcement agencies.
    - **Samanvaya Platform**: It is a one-stop data repository for cybercrime, **data sharing, crime mapping, analytics, cooperation, and coordination** for law enforcement agencies (LEAs) across the country.
    - **Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre (CFMC)**: It serves as a **"war room"** to monitor high-priority cybercrime cases involving large financial transactions.
- **Cyber Fraud Statistics 2023:** In 2023, a total of **1,128,256 cybercrime incidents** were reported across India on the **Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting Management System (CFCFMS)**, a key component of I4C.
    - Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of complaints at **197,547**, while Maharashtra reported the **highest amount of fraud at Rs 9.9 billion**.

NATIONAL SECURITY THROUGH CYBER SECURITY

Modi government sets up **' Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)'** to tackle Cyber Crime

7 INSTITUTIONS/PLATFORMS LAUNCHED

- National Cyber Crime Threat Analytical Unit
- National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal
- National Cyber Crime Forensic Laboratory
- National Cyber Crime Training Centre
- Joint Cyber Crime Investigation Task Force
- Cyber Crime Ecosystem Management Unit
- National Cyber Crime Research and Innovation Centre

Read More: Cyber Crime

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