



National Energy Conservation Day 2024

[Source: PIB](#)

- Recently, on 14th December ([Energy Conservation 2024 Day](#)), the [Vice President](#) of India honored winners of the National Painting Competition.
- The event highlighted the scope of energy conservation through the [Energy Conservation \(Amendment\) Act of 2022](#).
 - **NECA:** The **National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2024** recognized achievements across various sectors, receiving 752 applications and presenting 71 awards.
 - NECA was first presented on **14th December 1991**, which was declared as '**National Energy Conservation Day**'.
- The [Bureau of Energy Efficiency \(BEE\)](#), guided by the [Ministry of Power](#), awards industrial units, institutions, and establishments for reducing energy consumption on National Energy Conservation Day.
 - **BEE:** BEE was set up on 1st March 2002 under the provisions of the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**.
- BEE promotes energy efficiency in India through initiatives like the [Standards and Labeling \(S&L\) Program](#), [Perform, Achieve and Trade \(PAT\) scheme](#), [Demand Side Management \(DSM\) programs](#), and public awareness campaigns, as per the [Energy Conservation Act of 2001](#).

Read more: [Celebrating Energy Efficiency: National Energy Conservation Day 2023](#)

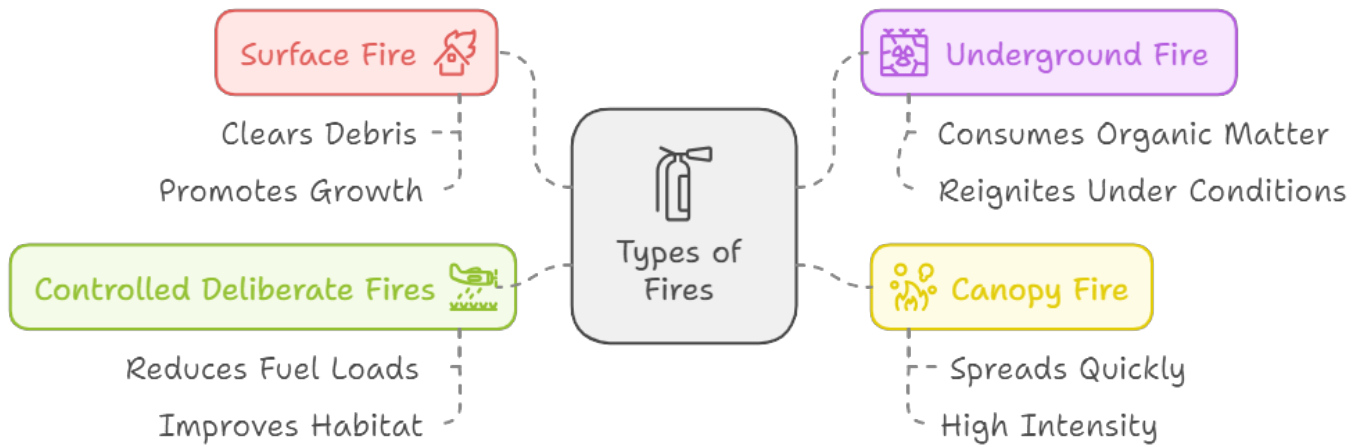
Malibu Wildfire

[Source: TOI](#)

Recently, a significant [wildfire](#), known as the **Franklin Fire**, erupted in **Malibu, California**, prompting the evacuation of residents.

- Experts attribute the Franklin Fire's destructiveness to the "**Santa Ana**" winds and **climate change**.
 - **Santa Ana** winds occur when **high pressure over the Great Basin (the area between the Rocky Mountains and Sierra Nevada)** and **low pressure over California's coast** drive strong winds from inland deserts over mountains to the **Pacific Ocean**.
 - The winds usually occur from **October to January**.
- **Wildfire:** A **wildfire** is an **uncontrolled, unplanned fire** in natural areas like forests or grasslands, spreading due to environmental factors like wind and terrain.
- **Types of Wildfire:**

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Indian Scenario:

- According to the [ISFR 2021](#) by the [Forest Survey of India \(FSI\)](#), 35.47% of forest cover is classified as fire-prone.
 - The highest number of forest fires reported are in **Mizoram (3,738)**, **Manipur (1,702)**, **Assam (1,652)**, **Meghalaya (1,252)**, and **Maharashtra (1,215)**.
- Government Initiatives:**
 - [National Action Plan for Forest Fires \(NAPFF\)](#)
 - [The Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme \(FPM\)](#)

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Read More: [Forest Fires](#)

Indian Light Tank (ILT) Zorawar

Source: [HT](#)

The [Indian Light Tank \(ILT\)](#), also known as Zorawar, has successfully completed firing trials at an altitude of over 4,200m.

- It was jointly developed by the [Defence Research and Development Organisation \(DRDO\)](#) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) with contributions from various [Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises](#) for high-altitude warfare and rapid deployment.
- Key Features:**
 - High-Altitude Performance:** It successfully fired **multiple rounds with precision** at varying ranges and demonstrated exceptional **mobility and reliability** in the challenging terrain of [Ladakh](#).
 - Airlift Capability:** It was successfully airlifted by the [Indian Air Force](#), enabling rapid deployment to remote and inaccessible areas.
- Significance:** It strengthens India's **mountain warfare capabilities** with indigenous innovation, offering air transportability, high-angle firing, and limited artillery roles for enhanced mobility.

Indigenous Zorawar Light Tank: Why is It Called 'Brave and Strong'?

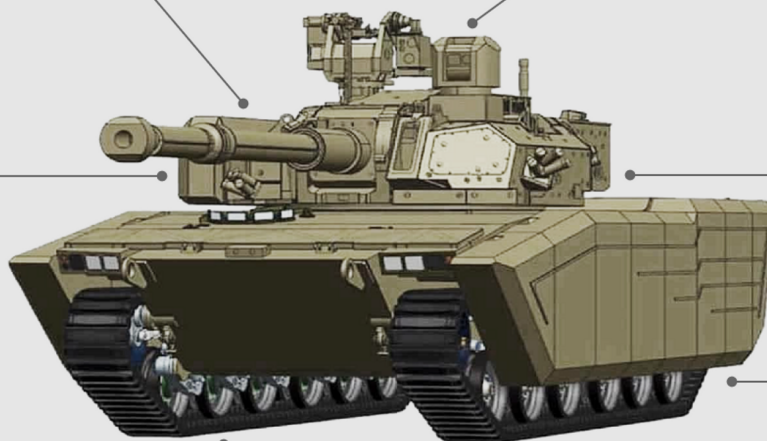
Developed by L&T in collaboration with DRDO

Field Artillery
FV433, 105mm

Coaxial machine gun
7.62 mm

Mass
25 t

Persons
3



Speed
70 km/h

Horsepower
1000

Offroad
35/40 km/h

Source: DRDO

 SPUTNIK

Read more: [Defence Technology](#)

Strengthening Wetland Protection

For Prelims: [Wetlands](#), [Wetlands \(Conservation and Management\) Rules, 2017](#), [National Disaster Management Authority \(NDMA\)](#), [carbon sequestration](#), [The National Action Plan on Climate Change](#), [National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems \(NPCA\)](#)

For Mains: [National Wetland Inventory & Assessment](#), Significance of Wetlands, Challenges in Wetland Conservation

Source: [HT](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the [Supreme Court of India](#) in a PIL filed by activists, ordered the protection of approximately 30,000 additional [wetlands](#), building upon the earlier protection of 201,503 wetlands as per a 2017 ruling in *M. K. Balakrishnan Vs Union of India Case*.

- The court mandated that [states and Union Territories](#) complete the demarcation and ground truthing of these wetlands **within three months**.

What are Wetlands?

- **Wetlands** are defined as **areas of marsh, fen, peatland, or water (natural or artificial)** with water that is static or flowing, including marine areas with a **depth not exceeding six meters**.
 - **Wetlands are ecotone**, having land transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- **Types of Wetlands:**
 - **Coastal Wetlands:** Found **between land and open sea**, not influenced by rivers.
 - Examples include **shorelines, beaches, mangroves, and coral reefs**, such as **mangrove swamps** in sheltered tropical coastal areas.
 - **Shallow Lakes and Ponds:** Areas of permanent or semi-permanent water with **little flow**, including vernal ponds, spring pools, salt lakes, and volcanic crater lakes.
 - **Marshes:** Periodically saturated, flooded, or ponded with water, characterised by **herbaceous (non-woody)** vegetation adapted to wet soil conditions.
 - They can be tidal or non-tidal.
 - **Swamps:** Dominated by **trees and shrubs**, swamps are primarily fed by surface water inputs and occur in freshwater or saltwater floodplains.
 - **Bogs:** Waterlogged peatlands **found in old lake basins** or landscape depressions, with most water coming from rainfall.
 - **Estuaries:** Areas where **rivers meet the sea**, transitioning from fresh to saltwater, rich in biodiversity.
 - Examples include deltas, tidal mudflats, and salt marshes.
- **Significance of Wetlands:**
 - **Natural Water Filters:** Wetlands act as **natural water filters by trapping sediments, breaking down pollutants**, and absorbing excess nutrients.
 - This process improves water quality, ensuring it is cleaner and safer for human consumption and supporting overall ecosystem health.
 - **Flood Prevention:** They absorb and store excess water, reducing flood risks and protecting homes and infrastructure.
 - The [National Disaster Management Authority \(NDMA\)](#) emphasizes that wetlands can significantly reduce flood risks in surrounding areas by up to 60%.
 - **Habitat for Wildlife:** Wetlands provide crucial habitats for many species of birds, fish, and other wildlife, including threatened species like the [Sarus Crane](#).
 - According to the **National Wetland Inventory & Assessment by the Space Applications Centre (SAC)**, wetlands support **over 40% of the world's species**, despite covering **only about 6% of the Earth's surface**.
 - **Carbon Sequestration:** Wetlands store large amounts of carbon in their soil and vegetation, helping to mitigate climate change.
 - The **Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA)** emphasizes that restoring wetlands can significantly contribute to India's climate goals by enhancing [carbon sequestration](#), improving water quality, and reducing flood risks.
 - **Livelihoods:** Many communities depend on wetlands for their livelihoods through fishing, agriculture, and tourism.
 - Around one billion households in **Asia, Africa, and the Americas** rely on rice cultivation for their livelihoods. Wetland paddy rice is a staple for 3.5 billion people, providing 20% of global calorie intake.

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What is the Status of Wetlands in India?

- As per satellite based observation by **Space Applications Centre (SAC)**, there are approximately 231,195 wetlands in India. However, **only 92 wetlands have been officially notified for protection under the [Wetlands \(Conservation and Management\) Rules 2017](#)**.
- **Initiatives Taken for Conservation of Wetlands:**
 - **Ramsar Convention:** India joined the [Ramsar Convention](#) on **1st February 1982**, and has since **designated 85 wetlands**, covering **1,367,749 hectares**, as Wetlands of International Importance.
 - Recent ones are [Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary](#), [Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary](#) (Tamil Nadu), and **Madhya Pradesh's Tawa Reservoir**.
 - **Montreux Record:** [Montreux Record](#) is a register of wetland sites under Ramsar Convention on the List of Wetlands of International Importance.
 - [Wetlands \(Conservation and Management\) Rules, 2017](#).
 - [Action Plan of MoEFCC](#)
 - [National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems \(NPCA\)](#)
 - [Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme](#)

RAMSAR CONVENTION

About

- Also known as the Convention on Wetlands.
- An intergovernmental treaty, adopted in 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.
- Entered into force in 1975.
- Wetlands that are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- **Largest Ramsar Site in World:** Pantanal: South America

Montreux Record

- Adopted in Montreux (Switzerland) in 1990.
- Identifies Ramsar sites that need priority conservation attention at national or international level.

Wetlands

- A place in which the land is covered by water – salt, fresh, or somewhere in between – either seasonally or permanently.
- Take many forms including rivers, marshes, bogs, mangroves, mudflats, ponds, swamps, billabongs, lagoons, lakes, and floodplains.
- **World Wetlands Day: 2nd February**

India & Ramsar Convention

- Came into force in India: **1982**
- **Total Number of Ramsar Sites: 75**
- Chilika Lake (Odisha), Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), Harike Lake (Punjab), Loktak Lake (Manipur), Wular Lake (Jammu and Kashmir), etc.
- **Related Framework in India**
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands.
- The 2017 Rules decentralise wetlands management and provide for the constitution of the State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority.

Key Facts

- **Largest Ramsar Site:** Sunderbans, West Bengal
- **Smallest Ramsar Site:** Vembannur Wetland Complex, Tamil Nadu
- **State with the maximum number of Ramsar Sites:** Tamil Nadu (14)
- **Wetlands in Montreux Record:**
- Keoladeo National Park: Rajasthan
- Loktak Lake: Manipur

What are the Challenges in Wetland Conservation?

- **Inadequate Legal Framework:**
 - **Regulatory Challenges:** While there are laws in place, such as the **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017**, enforcement is often weak. Many wetlands remain unprotected or improperly managed.
 - The **2022-23 water body census** shows India has 24,24,540 water bodies, with **55% privately owned, complicating conservation efforts**.
 - **Decentralization Issues:** The delegation of powers to state governments for wetland management has led to **inconsistencies in implementation and protection** across different regions.

- **Urbanisation and Land Use Changes:**
 - **Encroachment:** Rapid urbanization has encroached on wetlands, diminishing their size and ecological function. Cities like **Chennai and Mumbai** have seen significant declines.
 - Over the **past 30 years, India has lost 30% of its wetlands** due to urbanization, pollution, and agriculture.
- **Pollution and Water Quality Degradation:**
 - **Industrial Discharge:** Many wetlands like **East Kolkata Wetlands** are subjected to **pollution from industrial effluents**, agricultural runoff, and untreated sewage, which severely impacts their health and biodiversity.
 - **Invasive Species:** The introduction of invasive plant species can alter the natural ecosystem balance, further threatening native flora and fauna.
 - For example, **water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)** is an invasive plant species that has spread across many water bodies in India
- **Climate Change Impacts:**
 - **Altered Hydrology:** Climate change affects rainfall patterns, leading to changes in water levels that can disrupt wetland ecosystems as seen in **Sundarbans**.
 - Wetlands are increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events such as floods and droughts, which can degrade their ecological integrity.
- **Lack of Awareness:**
 - **Educational Gaps:** Many communities do not understand the benefits that wetlands provide, such as flood control, water purification, and habitat for biodiversity.
 - There is a general lack of awareness among the public and policymakers about the ecological importance of wetlands, leading to inadequate conservation efforts.

Way Forward

- **Integration of Wetlands in Policies:**
 - **Emission Goals:** Incorporating **wetlands' blue carbon** can support the **conservation goals (India's net-zero emissions by 2070)** but is currently overlooked due to the lack of systematic inventories.
 - Incorporate carbon storage and GHG emissions from wetlands into national carbon stock and flux assessments.
 - Additionally, create a detailed inventory of peatlands to better understand and manage their carbon dynamics.
- **Effective Management of Wetlands:**
 - **Integrated Approach:** Address **unplanned urbanization in nearby wetlands** with integrated planning, execution, and monitoring.
 - Foster collaborations among ecologists, watershed management specialists, planners, and decision-makers.
- **Developing Synergy with Mega Urban Schemes:**
 - **Highlight Ecosystem Services:** Emphasize the role of wetlands in development policies, urban planning, and climate change mitigation.
 - Integrate sustainable wetland management into initiatives like the **Smart Cities Mission** and **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation**.
- **Enabling People's Participation:**
 - **Public Involvement:** The **Delhi Development Authority's Master Plan Delhi 2041** invites public comments to protect and develop an integrated network of 'green and blue assets'.
 - The **Swamini self-help group's** mangrove safari in **Mandavi creek, Maharashtra**, is a model for community-led conservation through ecotourism.

Drishhti Mains Question

Q. Discuss the significance of the recent Supreme Court directive to protect additional wetlands in India.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. If a wetland of international importance is brought under the 'Montreux Record', what does it imply? (2014)

- (a) Changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur in the wetland as a result of human interference.
- (b) The country in which the wetland is located should enact a law to prohibit any human activity within five kilometers from the edge of the wetland.
- (c) The survival of the wetland depends on the cultural practices and traditions of certain communities living in its vicinity and therefore the cultural diversity therein should not be destroyed.
- (d) It is given the status of 'World Heritage Site.'

Ans: (a)

Mains

Q. What is wetland? Explain the Ramsar concept of 'wise use' in the context of wetland conservation. Cite two examples of Ramsar sites from India. (2018)

Gender Bias in Indian Law

For Prelims: [Public interest Litigation](#), [Supreme Court](#), [Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961](#), [Section 498A](#), [Indian Penal Code](#), [Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973](#), Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, [Law Commission](#).

For Mains: Misuse of dowry and domestic violence laws and related issues, Need of gender neutral law

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

Recently, a [Public interest Litigation \(PIL\)](#) was filed in the [Supreme Court \(SC\)](#) after a techie's **suicide in Bengaluru** seeks intervention to review and reform **dowry and domestic violence laws**.

- The plea stated that [Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961](#) and [Section 498A](#) of the [Indian Penal Code \(now Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita\)](#) have been **misused** to settle unrelated disputes and suppress the husband's family.

How Indian Laws are Gender Biased?

- **Section 304B (Dowry Death) of IPC:** Overtime people were made to believe that **every unnatural or untimely death** of a married Indian woman is **dowry death**.

- In such cases a **husband or relative** shall be punished with **imprisonment** for no less than seven years, which may extend to life imprisonment.
- **Section 498A (Cruelty Against Women) of IPC: Section 498A** mandates imprisonment of **up to three years and a fine for a husband or his relatives** if found guilty of cruelty or harassment towards a married woman.
 - **Section 304B** is a **non-bailable, non-compoundable, and cognizable** offence, meaning a **trial** will occur even if the **allegation is false**, and the husband is **presumed guilty** until proven innocent.
 - According to [National Crime Records Bureau data](#), in 2012 nearly **200,000** people were arrested on **unproven dowry allegations**, with **only 15% of the accused convicted**.
- **Section 375 (Rape) of IPC:** Under Section 375 of the IPC, **only men can be perpetrators** and **women victims** of rape. The section does **not recognize men and transgenders as rape victims**.
 - Section 377 of IPC is the only option for male victims, but it faces challenges and **does not classify male-on-male sexual assault as rape**.
- **Section 69 of the BNS:** It criminalizes "**sexual intercourse by deceitful means**," including "promising to marry a woman without intent," with imprisonment up to 10 years and a fine.
 - A **consensual sexual relationship** made on the promise of marriage will be a crime only if a **man backtracks from it and not a woman**.
 - Criminalising a "**Promise to Marry**" can intrude into an individual's **right to privacy and autonomy** ignores the fact the woman was in a relationship **on her own will**.
- **Section 354 of IPC:** It deals with assault or criminal force with the intent to **outrage a woman's modesty**. However, there is **no such law made to protect the modesty of a man and transgender**.
 - There are cases where **women bully men, and go unprosecuted**, because the law of the country **does not protect men** from such crimes.
- **Section 125 of CrPC Act, 1973:** Section 125 of the [Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973](#) sets out the **concept of maintenance** in India not only to the wife but also to her **parents and children**.
 - The maintenance law was designed to make **men solely responsible** for supporting their dependents, without considering **whether women actually need financial support**.
- **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:** It does **not recognize men and transgender** as potential victims of **domestic abuse**.
 - Men facing **harassment or abuse** from partners have **no legal protection** under this act and are often met with **skepticism** when reporting such cases.
- **Custody and Divorce Proceedings:** In custody disputes, the **courts often favor mothers** as primary caretakers. **Fathers** are often **marginalized** even when they have a close bond.
- **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012:** A single woman can adopt kids of any sexual identity, but **a single man cannot adopt a daughter**.
 - In the event of a **married relationship, both spouses must agree** to the adoption.

Note: In the *Praveen Kumar Jain-Anju Jain divorce Case, 2024*, the Supreme Court laid down **eight factors for determining alimony** for the wife. It includes:

- Status of the parties, social and financial
- **Reasonable needs of the wife** and the dependent children
- Parties individual **qualifications and employment statuses**
- Independent income or **assets owned by the applicant**
- **Standard of life enjoyed by the wife** in the matrimonial home
- Any employment sacrifices made for the family responsibilities
- Reasonable litigation costs for a non-working wife
- **Financial capacity of the husband**, his income, maintenance obligations, and liabilities

What are Impacts of False Accusations and Legal Harassment?

- **Depression and Anxiety:** False accusations or legal harassment can cause severe **psychological distress**, leading to feelings of **betrayal, helplessness, and chronic anxiety**.
- **Social Stigma:** Men facing legal harassment or false accusations may be **stigmatized as guilty or untrustworthy**, leading to isolation from family, friends, and social networks.
- **Suppressed Emotions:** Societal expectations that men be **stoic and resilient** discourage them from expressing vulnerability or seeking support, leading to **internalized distress** and worsened mental health issues.
- **Marital Suicide Rates:** NCRB data shows that married men have a significantly **higher suicide rate than women**, partly due to legal and social challenges.
- **Financial Burdens:** For many men, the burden of **legal fees**, potential loss of employment can be financially devastating.

Redressal in Case of False Accusations

Redressal in Case of False Accusations

- Under **Section 500** of the Indian Penal Code, the **husband can file a defamation lawsuit**.
- Under **Section 9** of the CrPC, the husband can file a claim for **recovery of damages** which he and his family have been subjected to for the **false allegations of cruelty and abuse**.
- **Section 182** of the IPC safeguards against false 498A cases. If false statements are made, the person can be sentenced to **6 months imprisonment, a fine, or both**, for misleading the judiciary.

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What is the Judicial Stand on Gender Bias in Indian Law?

- **Sakshi v Union of India case, 1999:** The SC directed the [Law Commission](#) to deal with the issue of **gender neutral rape laws**.
 - Consequentially, the **172nd Report of the Law Commission 2000** recommended replacing the offence of rape with a gender-neutral offence of "**sexual assault**."
- **Priya Patel v State of MP Case, 2006:** In this case, the perpetrator's wife witnessed the rape, slapped the victim, closed the door, and left, **showing intent to assist in the crime**.
 - However, the Court ruled she **couldn't be convicted of rape** because she was a woman.
- **Sushil Kumar Sharma Case, 2005:** The petitioner challenged **Section 498A** of the IPC for violating equality.
 - The Supreme Court acknowledged that **misuse** of the provision could lead to **legal terrorism but upheld its constitutionality**, stating its main purpose was to prevent dowry deaths.
- **Chandrabhan Case, 1954:** In Chandrabhan case, 1954, the **Delhi HC** concluded that most complaints against husbands are filed in the **heat of the moment over trivial fights**, and amidst the rift and hostility, the children suffer the most.
- **Arnesh Kumar v State of Bihar, 2014:** The SC, laid stress on the need for **exercising caution** while dealing with the arrest of an accused under Section 498A as it is a **non-bailable and cognizable offence**.

How to Achieve Gender-Neutrality in Indian Laws?

- **Acknowledging Gender Bias:** The outdated view that **men** are always **perpetrators and women victims** ignores the fact that men can also be victims of **domestic violence, harassment, and false accusations**.
 - Legal reforms should acknowledge these realities and ensure laws protect both men and women and other gender equally.
- **Sensitizing Criminal Justice System:** Efforts should be made to **sensitize judges, legal professionals and police** to recognize and challenge their own **unconscious biases** through

training programs and workshops on **gender stereotypes**.

- **Revise Existing Laws:** It is essential to adopt **gender-neutral language** that ensures both men and women, and even non-binary individuals, are equally protected.
 - E.g., using terms like **“spouse”** instead of **“husband” or “wife”** ensures that the laws do not favor one gender over the other.
- **Institutions for Men’s Welfare:** Institutions need to be gender neutral. The ministry of **women needs to be renamed as the ministry for welfare of human development** so that every person needs to be protected.
- **Sensitizing Society:** Achieving gender neutrality requires **challenging** stereotypes that see **men as strong and emotionless and women as weak and nurturing**.
 - Both men and women can be victims or perpetrators and should be treated with **equal respect**.

Drishti Mains Question:

Q. In the context of gender equality, examine the biases in Indian laws. What reforms are necessary to create gender-neutral laws in India?

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Which of the following gives ‘Global Gender Gap Index’ ranking to the countries of the world? (2017)

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) UN Human Rights Council
- (c) UN Women
- (d) World Health Organization

Ans: (a)

Mains

Q.1 “Empowering women is the key to control population growth”. Discuss. **(2019)**

Q.2 Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India? **(2015)**

Q.3 Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women’s organizations free from gender bias. Comment. **(2013)**

Tabla Maestro Zakir Hussain

Source: TH

Why in News?

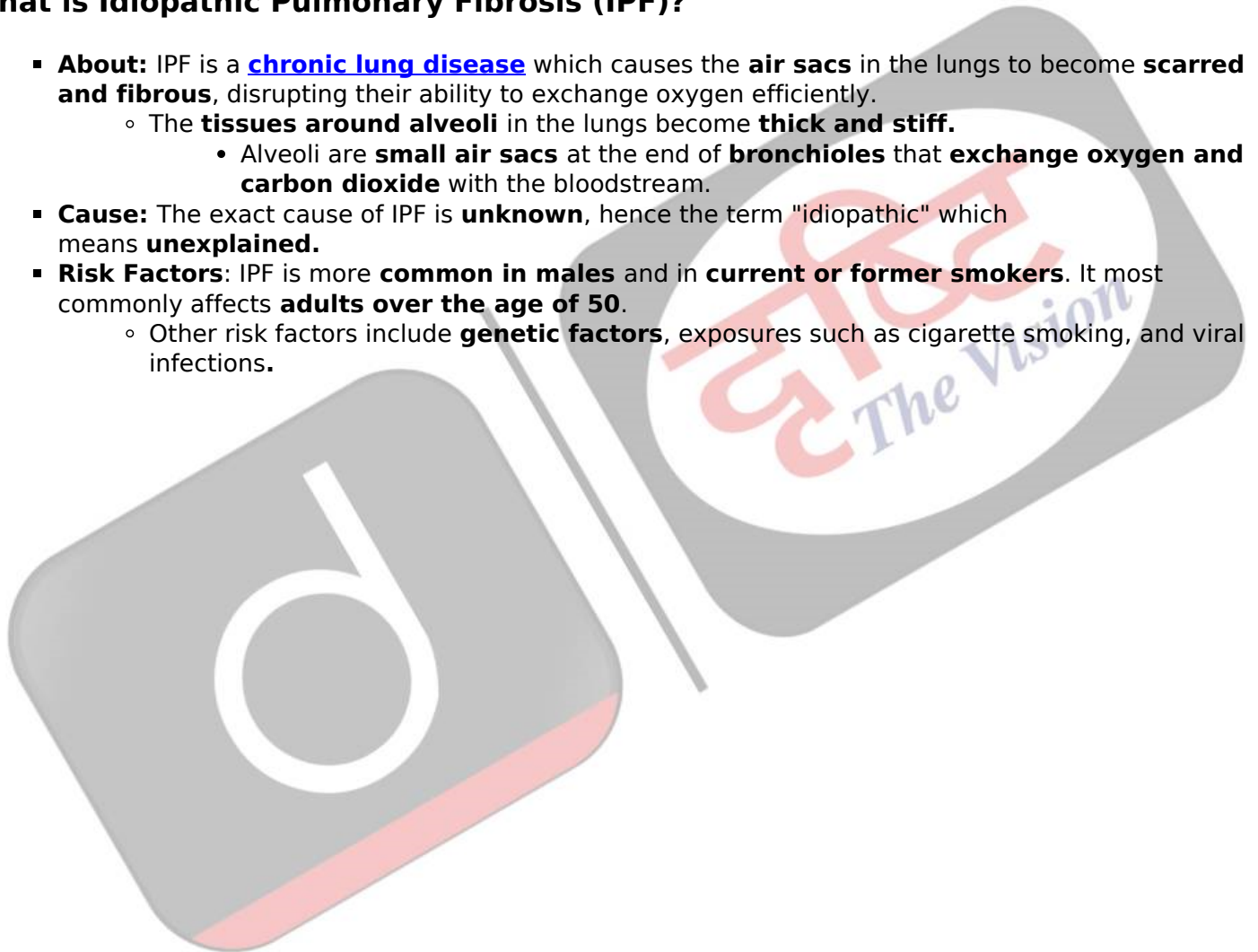
Recently, **Zakir Hussain**, the legendary **tabla maestro**, passed away due to complications from **Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)**.

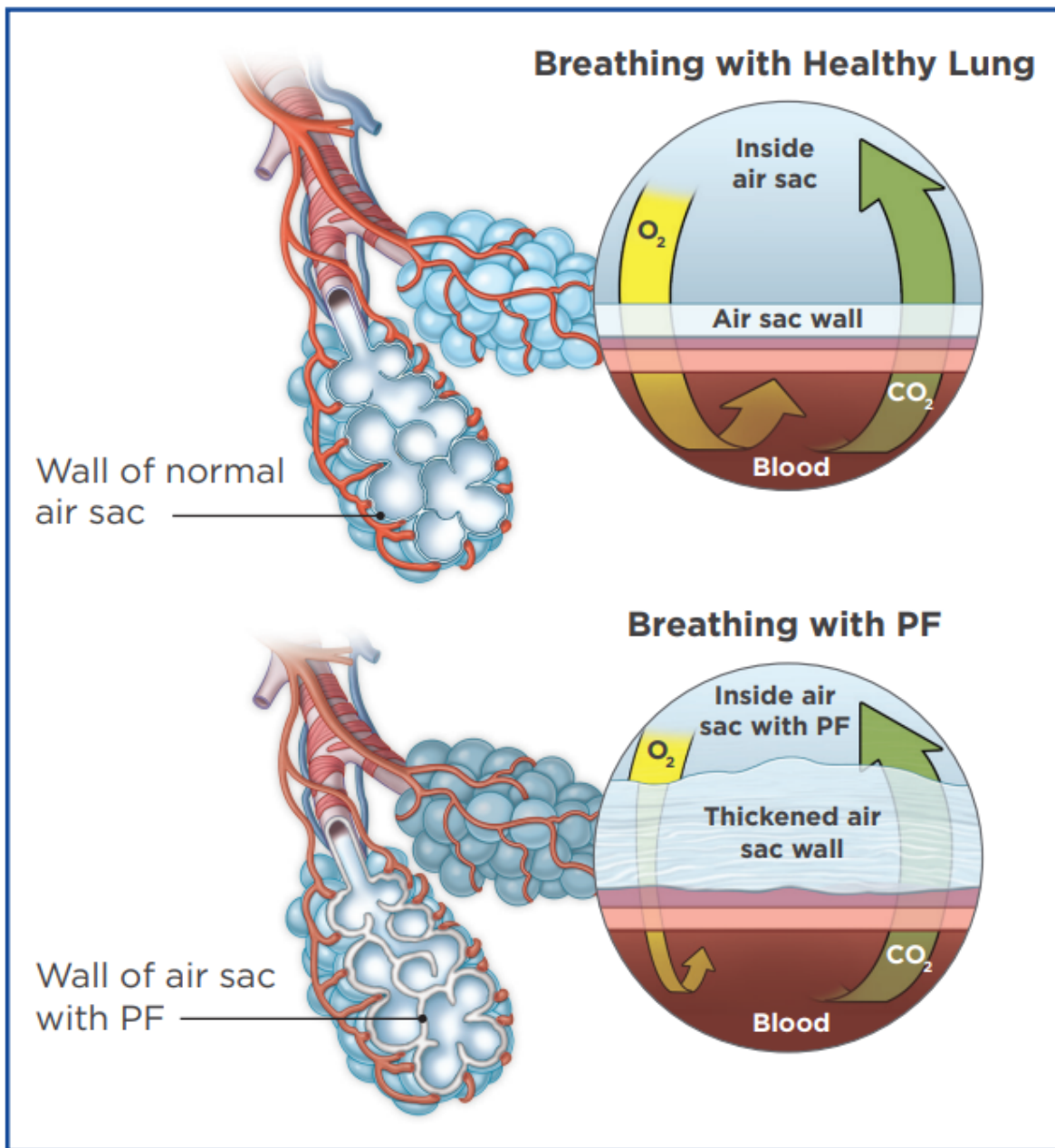
What are Key Points about Zakir Hussain?

- **Early Life:** Zakir Hussain, born on **9th March 1951**, was the son of the legendary tabla maestro **Ustad Alla Rakha**.
 - He began his tabla training at the **age of seven**.
- **Contributions:** His collaboration with Western musicians, especially the **1973 project** with **English guitarist John McLaughlin, violinist L. Shankar, and percussionist T.H. 'Vikku' Vinayakram**, brought Indian classical music to the global stage.
- **Awards:** He won **four Grammy Awards**, including three at the **66th Grammy Awards in 2024**. He also received **Padma Shri (1988), Padma Bhushan (2002), and Padma Vibhushan (2023)**.

What is Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)?

- **About:** IPF is a **chronic lung disease** which causes the **air sacs** in the lungs to become **scarred and fibrous**, disrupting their ability to exchange oxygen efficiently.
 - The **tissues around alveoli** in the lungs become **thick and stiff**.
 - Alveoli are **small air sacs** at the end of **bronchioles** that **exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide** with the bloodstream.
- **Cause:** The exact cause of IPF is **unknown**, hence the term "idiopathic" which means **unexplained**.
- **Risk Factors:** IPF is more **common in males** and in **current or former smokers**. It most commonly affects **adults over the age of 50**.
 - Other risk factors include **genetic factors**, exposures such as cigarette smoking, and viral infections.





Tabla

- **About:** The **Tabla** is a pair of **vertical drums** used in **Hindustani classical music**, consisting of two vertical drums: the **Tabla** (right) and the **Bayan** or **Dagga** (left).
 - Tabla is a **percussion instrument** called **awanad/avanaddha vadya**.
 - **Amir Khusrau** is believed to have **invented Tabla**.
- **Making of Tabla:** The **Tabla** has a **wooden body** covered with **animal skin**.
 - The center of the Tabla's skin is covered with **syahi paste**, which helps in tuning the drum.
 - The **Bayan** has a **clay or metal body** and is also covered with **animal skin with syahi paste**.
- **Musical Role:** The Tabla is primarily used as an **accompaniment** to **vocal** and **instrumental Hindustani music** as well as various **dance forms** in northern India.
- **Prominent Musicians:** Famous tabla players include **Ustad Alla Rakha Khan**, his son **Zakir Hussain**, **Shafat Ahmed**, and **Samta Prasad**.

Prelims

Q. With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements: (2017)

1. It is a song and dance performance.
2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 only

Ans: (b)

Q. A community of people called Manganiyars is well known for their (2014)

- (a) martial arts in North-East India
(b) musical tradition in North-West India
(c) classical vocal music in South India
(d) pietra dura tradition in Central India

Ans: (b)

Anniversary of Mirza Ghalib

Source: PTI

Recently, a 3-day event titled '**Remembering Ghalib**' was organized by the **Sahitya Kala Parishad** in Delhi, to mark the birth anniversary of renowned poet **Mirza Ghalib**.

- Sahitya Kala Parishad is a cultural wing of the Government of Delhi, set up in **1968** for the **promotion and propagation of Art and Culture in Delhi**.
- **Mirza Ghalib:**
- **Mirza Asadullah Baig Khan**, known as Ghalib, was born on **27th December 1797**.
- A legendary **Urdu and Persian poet**, he traced his ancestry to the **Aibak Turks**.
 - He married at 13 and settled in Delhi.
- In 1850, **Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar II** awarded him the titles **Dabir-ul-Mulk** and **Najm-ud-Daula**.
 - He was appointed **royal tutor** for poetry and historian.
- After Ghalib's death in 1869, he was buried near the tomb of **Nizamuddin Auliya**, a famous sufi saint of the **Chishti Order**, in **Hazrat Nizamuddin**.
 - He made **Urdu letter writing** more conversational.



Read more: [Medieval and Modern Indian Literature](#)

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