



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

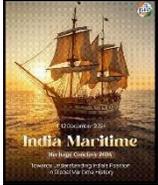
School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 21 December 2024

INDIA MARITIME HERITAGE CONCLAVE



The theme of the conclave was "**Towards Understanding India's Position in Global Maritime History**" focusing on India's contributions to global maritime trade, culture, and innovation.

- It showcased **ancient shipbuilding techniques, navigational tools, and historical trade routes** through 20+ stalls.
- Nations such as **Greece, Italy, and the UK** joined the conclave, emphasizing the global significance of India's maritime history.
- A vibrant **cultural program** was celebrated India's coastal traditions, blending scholarship with festivity.
- It explored India's maritime history and its future aspirations, including the role of youth, skill development, and sustainable practices in the maritime sector.

National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC), Lothal:

- **Location and Historical Importance:**
 - Situated in **Lothal, Gujarat**, an ancient **Indus Valley Civilization site** (2600 BCE).
 - Archaeological evidence includes the **world's oldest man-made dockyard**, over **5,000 years old**.
 - **Features of NMHC:** Aims to be **one of the world's largest maritime complexes**, integrating historical and modern maritime activities.
 - Highlights include:
 - **14 thematic galleries.**
 - **Open Aquatic Gallery and Lighthouse Museum.**
 - **Eco-resorts, theme parks, and maritime research institutes.**
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 21 December 2024

SWATANTRATA SAINIK SAMMAN PENSION SCHEME



Swatantrata
Sainik Samman
Pension Scheme

- It was launched on 15th August 1972 by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- It provides the grant of pension to **living freedom fighters and their families**; if they are no more alive, and to the families or martyrs.

Eligibility:

- A person who had suffered a **minimum imprisonment of six months** in the mainland jails before Independence.
- A person who remained underground for more than six months.
- A person interned in his home or externed from his district provided the period of internment/externment was six months or more.
- A person **whose property was confiscated** or attached and sold due to participation in the freedom struggle.
- A person who became **permanently incapacitated** during firing or lathi charge.
- A person who lost his job (Central or State Government) and thus means of livelihood for participation in the national movement.

Benefits:

- Free life time **railway passes** to travel by any train.
 - Free **medical facilities under CGHS** and free medical treatment in hospitals run by PSUs are provided to the Freedom fighters and eligible dependents.
 - Free transit stay with meal at State Bhawan, New Delhi.
 - Collectors/SDMs have been directed to regularly enquire about the well-being of the freedom fighters and resolve their pension related issues.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 21 December 2024

GLP-1 RECEPTOR AGONISTS



Scientists at the World Health Organisation (WHO) have endorsed a new class of medicines known as GLP-1 receptor agonists

- **Glucagon-Like Peptide (GLP)-1** receptor agonists mimic a hormone that regulates appetite and **blood sugar levels, for managing obesity.**
- By specifically binding to the key hormone GLP-1, it **regulates blood glucose levels and lipid metabolism.**
- This receptor and its agonists hold significant **therapeutic potential**, reshaping the treatment approaches for multiple diseases, including diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, and neurodegenerative diseases.
- GLP-1 agonists are most often **injectable medications**, meaning you inject a liquid medication with a needle and syringe.
- The new class of GLP-1 receptor agonists, that included drugs such as **semaglutide and tirzepatide**, “have the potential to be transformative.
 - In medication terms, an agonist is a **manufactured substance** that attaches to a cell receptor and causes the same action as the naturally occurring substance.

What is GLP-1?

- GLP-1 is a **key hormone** that plays an integral role in regulating blood glucose levels, lipid metabolism, and several other crucial biological functions.
- It is **released by the intestines** in response to food intake.



WHAT IS IRIS² PROGRAMME?

- It is the **European Union’s third flagship programme** of satellite internet, designed to offer connectivity services to governmental users as well as private companies and individuals.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 21 December 2024

- According to the European Space Agency (ESA), IRIS² will use both **Medium Earth Orbit and Low Earth Orbit** satellites.
- It will provide **secure connectivity and high-speed broadband** in zones where network connectivity is low or unavailable.
- Its interlinked satellites which comprise of **264 and 18 satellites in low and medium Earth orbits** respectively will enable it to offer secure high-speed internet connectivity without needing thousands of satellites.
- It is developed in **partnership with SpaceRISE**, an alliance of leading European satellite operators and space companies
- **Applications:**
 - It will “**support a large variety of governmental applications**”, with a focus on border and maritime surveillance, crisis management, connection and security of key infrastructure and security and defence of important.
 - The system can also be used for **maritime, railway, aviation, automotive**, smart energy grid management, banking, overseas industrial activities, remote healthcare and enhancing rural connectivity.
 - It will also offer **mobile and fixed broadband satellite access**, cloud-based services and can also be used in the transportation sector to navigate areas with no or low connectivity.

NATIONAL TANSEN SAMMAN



Renowned tabla player of Indian classical music Pt. Swapan Choudhary of Kolkata has been honoured with the “National Tansen Samman” for the year 2023.

National Tansen Samman was established in the year 1980 by the **Madhya Pradesh Government** in the name of Music Emperor Tansen.

- It is the highest national music award in the field of Indian classical music.

Current Affairs - 21 December 2024

- Awardees get an honorarium of five lakh rupees, citation plaque and a shawl-shripal.

Who was Tansen?

- He was a prominent Indian classical music composer, vocalist and instrumentalist.
 - He first stayed under the shelter of **Daulat Khan, son of Sher Shah Suri** and then was appointed as the court singer of King Ramchandra of Bandhavgarh.
 - Later, he became one of the **Navaratnas** (nine jewels) at the court of Akbar.
 - Akbar gave him the **title Mian**, an honorific, meaning learned man.
 - He is given credit for introducing some famous ragas viz. **Malhar, Todi and Darbari**.
-

HIGHER GST ON TOBACCO CAN IMPROVE SOCIETAL HEALTH

- The recent proposals by the **Group of Ministers (GoM)** under India's GST Council **reflect a common-sense** approach to taxation, emphasising national priorities of public health and equity.
- These reforms aim to recalibrate the country's tax structure by lowering GST rates on essential items like bicycles and exercise books while increasing taxes on high-value luxury goods, including tobacco products.
- This dual strategy not only prioritises the well-being of citizens but also addresses the broader societal costs associated with preventable health crises, particularly those arising from tobacco consumption.

The Burden of Tobacco Consumption

- Tobacco usage in India is a **public health crisis of staggering proportions**.
- **Killing nearly 1.3 million people annually and debilitating millions more, tobacco exacts enormous societal costs** in terms of lost productivity and escalating healthcare expenses.
- **By increasing prices through higher taxes, governments can discourage new users, encourage current users to quit, and prevent relapse among former users.**

Current Affairs - 21 December 2024

Benefits of High Taxation on Tobacco Products

- **Impact on Consumption Patterns**
 - One of the key advantages of taxing tobacco is its **ability to influence consumer behaviour, particularly among price-sensitive groups** such as lower-income populations and young people.
 - **When taxes are raised, the cost of tobacco products increases**, prompting consumers to rethink their consumption habits.
- **Generating Revenue for Public Welfare**
 - Beyond reducing consumption, **tobacco taxation generates substantial revenue for governments**.
 - The **additional funds generated can be strategically reinvested in public goods and services**, amplifying their societal impact.
- **Addressing Inequities through Taxation**
 - Tobacco taxes are inherently progressive when designed thoughtfully.
 - **Lower-income individuals, who are more sensitive to price increases, benefit the most from reduced consumption** and the associated health improvements.
 - This **effect helps to mitigate health disparities**, as economically disadvantaged groups are often disproportionately affected by tobacco-related illnesses.
 - Furthermore, **the reinvestment of tobacco tax revenues into public welfare programs can enhance social equity**.

Conclusion

- **The GST Council's proposed reforms represent a decisive step** toward balancing the nation's fiscal and public health goals.
 - **Higher taxes on tobacco products, coupled with reduced levies on essentials, reflect a thoughtful prioritisation** of societal well-being.
 - **By aligning taxation policies with national health and equity goals, India can pave the way for a healthier, more productive, and equitable society.**
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 21 December 2024

SIGNIFICANCE OF SILIGURI CORRIDOR



- The Siliguri Corridor, often referred to as the "**Chicken's Neck**", is a narrow stretch of land in the Indian state of West Bengal.
- It connects the northeastern states of India with the rest of the country. Its geopolitical, strategic, and economic significance makes it a critical asset for India.
- **Geographical Overview:**
 - **Location:** The corridor is situated in the northern part of West Bengal, spanning approximately 22 kilometres at its narrowest point.
 - **Borders:** It is flanked by Nepal to the west, Bhutan to the north, and Bangladesh to the south.
 - **Connectivity:** It links the **North-eastern Region (NER)** comprising eight states—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura—to mainland India.

Significance of Siliguri Corridor:

- **National Security:**
 - The corridor is crucial for maintaining India's territorial integrity. Any compromise in the region can isolate the northeastern states from the rest of India.
 - The area is vulnerable to external threats, especially given its proximity to the **China-Bhutan border** in the north and Bangladesh in the south.
- **Military Importance:**
 - The corridor serves as a vital supply route for the Indian Army, particularly for accessing forward bases in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
 - It is critical for India's preparedness against China, especially in light of past conflicts like the **1962 Sino-Indian War** and the ongoing border tensions.
- **Geopolitical Sensitivity:**

Current Affairs - 21 December 2024

- Its proximity to China's **Chumbi Valley** (a tri-junction of India, Bhutan, and China) poses a strategic challenge. Control over this area could jeopardize India's access to the Northeast.

Economic Importance:

- **Trade and Connectivity:**
 - The Siliguri Corridor is a gateway for trade between mainland India and its north-eastern states, facilitating the movement of goods and services.
 - It connects to important international trade routes, including access to Bhutan and Nepal.
- **Tourism Hub:**
 - The region is a base for tourism to destinations like Darjeeling, Gangtok, and Bhutan, contributing significantly to local and national economies.
- **Developmental Integration:**
 - The corridor supports initiatives like the **Act East Policy**, which aims to integrate north-eastern states with Southeast Asia for economic development.

Challenges:

- **Geographical Vulnerability:**
 - The narrow width of the corridor makes it highly susceptible to natural disasters like floods and earthquakes, which could disrupt connectivity.
 - **Security Concerns:**
 - Cross-border terrorism, illegal migration, and smuggling from Bangladesh add to the security challenges.
 - The region has seen insurgency issues in the past, requiring constant vigilance.
 - **Infrastructure Gaps:**
 - Despite its importance, the corridor faces infrastructural deficits, including poor road and rail connectivity, hindering efficient transport and logistics.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 21 December 2024

PANGOLIN



- Also called **scaly anteaters** because of their preferred diet, pangolins are the most trafficked mammal in the world for their meat, scales and leather.
 - These solitary, primarily nocturnal animals, are easily recognized by their full armor of scales.
 - A startled pangolin will cover its head with its front legs, exposing its scales to any potential predator.
 - If touched or grabbed it will roll up completely into a ball, while the sharp scales on the tail can be used to lash out.
 - **Species:** There are eight species of pangolins, found across two continents:
 - **Africa:** Black-bellied pangolin, White-bellied pangolin, Giant Ground pangolin, and Temminck's Ground pangolin
 - **Asia:** Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*), Chinese, Philippine pangolin, and Sunda pangolin
 - All eight pangolin species are protected under national and international laws, and two are listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
 - **Features:**
 - **Armour:** Pangolins have large **keratin scales** covering their skin, which serve as armour.
 - **Behaviour:** They are **solitary, nocturnal**, and primarily feed on ants and termites.
 - **Self-defense:** Pangolins can curl into a ball to protect themselves from predators.
 - **Habitat:** They inhabit a variety of environments, including tropical forests, grasslands, and areas close to human settlements.
-