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Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 05 April 2025

6th BIMSTEC SUMMIT

During the summit, PM Modi unveiled a **comprehensive 21-point action plan** aimed at revitalising BIMSTEC, positioning it as a key platform for regional connectivity, trade, and security—especially important given SAARC’s current dormancy.

The summit brought together the leaders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Key Highlights of the Speech delivered by PM Modi

- **Appreciation of BIMSTEC Leadership and Vision**
 - Commended Thailand’s leadership over the past three years.
 - Welcomed the enforcement of the BIMSTEC Charter.
 - Supported adoption of the Bangkok Vision 2030, highlighting its role in regional prosperity and inclusiveness.
- **Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms**
 - Proposed expansion of BIMSTEC’s institutional capacity.
 - Stressed the role of this mechanism in combating cybercrime, terrorism, and human trafficking.
- **Enhancing Connectivity**
 - Advocated for simultaneous growth of physical, digital, and energy connectivity.
 - Noted the operationalization of the BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bengaluru.
- **Promoting Digital Public Infrastructure**
 - Offered to share India’s Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) experience.
 - Proposed integration of India’s UPI with payment systems of BIMSTEC countries to boost trade and tourism.
- **Trade, Business, and Economic Integration**
 - Proposed a BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce and an Annual Business Summit.

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- **Maritime Cooperation**
 - Proposed creation of a Sustainable Maritime Transport Centre in India to support policy coordination and maritime security.
- **Disaster Management Initiatives**
 - Recalled India's role as a first responder during disasters.
 - Proposed establishment of a BIMSTEC Centre of Excellence for Disaster Management in India.
- **Health and Agriculture Cooperation**
 - Proposed Centres of Excellence in:
 - Traditional medicine.
 - Agriculture (knowledge sharing, best practices, and capacity building).
- **Space Cooperation**
 - Offered Indian support in space technology for BIMSTEC countries.
- **Youth Development and Education**
 - Launched the **BODHI initiative** (BIMSTEC for Organized Development of Human Resource Infrastructure).
- **Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges**
 - Highlighted shared heritage through festivals like Odisha's Bali Jatra.

KHELO INDIA GAMES



The 7th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games will be staged in five cities of Bihar from May 4 to 15.

- Bihar is set to host the Khelo India Youth Games and the Khelo India Para Games from 04 to 15 May 2025.
- The Khelo India initiative, launched in **2018**, aims to revive India's sports culture by encouraging youth participation and identifying potential **olympians**.

Key Components of Khelo India:

- **Sports Competitions and Talent Development:** Organizes annual events like the Khelo India Youth Games, University Games, and Winter Games to identify and nurture young talent.
- **Creation and Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure:** Develops and enhances sports facilities nationwide to provide world-class training environments.
- **Khelo India Centres and Sports Academies:** Establishes centers and academies offering specialized coaching across various sports disciplines.
- **Fit India Movement:** Promotes physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle among citizens through various initiatives.
- **Promotion of Inclusiveness through Sports:** Focuses on gender equality, disability inclusion, and the promotion of indigenous sports to ensure widespread participation.

CHINA'S RECIPROCAL TARIFFS ON THE US



- A tariff is a tax imposed by a government on imported goods or services to raise revenue, protect domestic industries, or influence trade balances.

Types of Tariffs:

- **Specific Tariff:** A fixed amount charged on a particular quantity of an import (e.g., \$5 per ton of steel).
- **Ad Valorem Tariff:** A percentage of the value of the import (e.g., 10% of the value of a car).

Purpose of Tariffs:

- **Revenue Generation:** Governments can generate revenue by imposing tariffs on imported goods.

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- **Protectionism:** Tariffs protect domestic industries by making foreign products more expensive, thus encouraging consumers to buy domestic goods.
- **Retaliation:** Tariffs are often used as retaliatory measures in trade disputes between countries.
- **Strategic Influence:** Used to influence trade negotiations, compel trading partners to comply with certain conditions.

Role of WTO (World Trade Organization)

- **Regulation of Tariffs:** The WTO regulates the imposition of tariffs under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). WTO members are committed to maintaining a tariff ceiling or bound rates.
- **Dispute Resolution:** The WTO provides a mechanism for resolving trade disputes, which includes reviewing whether tariffs are applied in compliance with international agreements.

VIBRANT VILLAGES PROGRAMME-II



- Launched in 2023, the VVP is a centrally sponsored initiative aimed at the comprehensive development of villages along India's northern border.
- The goal is to improve the quality of life for residents and enhance border security.
- The programme covers the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Objectives of the VVP:

- Improve living conditions and create livelihood opportunities in border villages.
- Strengthen border security by involving local populations as support for border forces.
- Control trans-border crime and promote the integration of border communities with the rest of the nation.

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VVP-II

- The VVP-II will be a **100% Centre-funded programme** with a total outlay of ₹6,839 crore.
- It will be implemented in select strategic villages in the following states and UTs: **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir (UT), Ladakh (UT), Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal**, through FY 2028-29.
- Both VVP-I and VVP-II are transformative initiatives designed to make border villages self-reliant and vibrant.

CAUVERY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



- It is situated in the Chamarajanagar and Ramanagara districts of **Karnataka**, and it was established in 1987.
- The **Cauvery River** passes through its midst.
- It was established in 1987.
- The Sanctuary spans an area of 1027.535 square kilometers.
- On its east, it **adjoins Dharmapuri forest division of Tamil Nadu state**.
- The central and eastern parts of the sanctuary are well forested, **Hogenakkal falls** (Smoking rock in Kannada), **Mekedatu** (Goats leap), **Sangam** (the point where the **Arkavathi river joins the Cauvery**) and **Muthathi** (the religious place where lord Anjaneya temple is situated) are of cultural, historical and tourist interest.

Flora: The major portion of the forests are of **dry deciduous type**.

Fauna:

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- It is home to mammals like **elephant, wild boar, leopard, dhole, spotted deer, barking deer, four-horned antelope, chevrotain, common langur, bonnet macaque, honey badger (ratel), malabar giant squirrel, smooth-coated otter and grizzled giant squirrel.**
- The river cauvery also houses various species of reptiles like the **mugger crocodile, Indian mud turtles,** and various species of snakes.
- This is also one of the few places to find **mahseer fish.**

WHAT IS THE OTTAWA CONVENTION?



- The Ottawa Convention, also referred to as the "**Mine Ban Treaty,**" prohibits the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel landmines (APLs).
- It requires states-parties to destroy their stockpiled APLs within four years and eliminate all APL holdings, including mines currently planted in the soil, **within 10 years.**
- Countries may request a renewable extension, which can be up to **10 years long,** to fulfill their destruction obligations.
- States-parties are also **required annually to report** their total APL stockpiles, the technical characteristics of their APLs, the location of all mined areas, and the status of APL destruction programs.
- The convention, which is of unlimited duration and open to all nations, **entered into force on March 1, 1999.**
- **164 countries had ratified** or acceded to the treaty.
- Some key current and past producers and users of landmines, including the **United States, China, India, Pakistan, and Russia, have not signed the treaty.**

SUPREME COURT ON SENIORS' RIGHT TO EVICT RELATIVES FROM PROPERTY

- Senior Citizens Act provides a streamlined process for senior parents to file suits seeking maintenance from their children.
- **Right to Maintenance**
 - **Who can claim:** Parents aged 60 and above who are unable to maintain themselves from their own earnings or property.
 - **Against whom:** Children or legal heirs (relatives) are legally obligated to support their senior parents.
 - **Purpose:** To ensure that parents can lead a “normal life” with basic needs met.
- **Dedicated Legal Mechanism**
 - **Tribunals:** The Act establishes Maintenance Tribunals for speedy resolution of cases.
 - **Appellate Tribunals:** Set up to hear appeals against the orders passed by Maintenance Tribunals.
- **Protection in Property Transfers – Section 23**
 - **Section 23(1): Conditional Property Transfers**
 - A senior citizen may transfer or gift property on the condition that the transferee (usually a child or relative) provides basic amenities and physical needs.
 - If this condition is not fulfilled, the transfer is considered to have been made through fraud, coercion, or undue influence.
 - **Section 23(2): Maintenance from Transferred Estate**
 - If a senior citizen is entitled to maintenance from a property that is later transferred (fully or partly), this right of maintenance continues against the new owner—provided the new owner was aware of this obligation.

Previous Ruling on the Power to Evict

- A dispute arose involving senior parents, their son, and the daughter-in-law (DIL), who was living in the parents' property.
- In 2015, the Assistant Commissioner ruled that the property belonged to the senior parents and that the DIL had no independent right over it.
- **Supreme Court's Ruling**
 - The DIL appealed to the Supreme Court in 2020, arguing her right to stay in the shared household.
 - The SC held that under the **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005**, a woman has the right to reside in the shared household, even without legal ownership.
- **Clarifying Tribunal's Power to Evict**
 - The Court addressed whether tribunals under the Senior Citizens Act could issue eviction orders.
 - A bench led by then CJI D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices Indu Malhotra and Indira Banerjee held:
 - Eviction can be ordered if it is “necessary and expedient” to protect the senior citizen and ensure their maintenance.
 - Under Section 23(2), the power to order eviction is implicit in the senior citizen’s right to receive maintenance from an estate.
- **Limits and Procedural Safeguards**
 - The Court emphasized that:
 - Eviction orders by the tribunal must consider the competing claims involved.
 - Eviction is permissible when there is a breach of obligation by the child or relative to maintain the senior citizen.

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HANSA-3 TRAINER AIRCRAFT



- It is **India's first indigenous flying trainer aircraft**.
- It was designed and developed by **CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore, under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.
- It is designed to meet the Indian flying club's needs and it is an ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing (CPL) due to its low cost and low fuel consumption.

Features:

- It is a **two-seater, low-wing aircraft**.
- It is powered by a Rotax Digital Control Engine with unique features like Just-In-Time Prepreg (JIPREG) Composite lightweight Airframe, Glass Cockpit, Bubble Canopy with wide panoramic view, electrically operated flaps etc.
- It has an **advanced electronic fuel injection system**, which controls the fuel and air mixtures electronically and provides optimum fuel air mixture at every altitude.