

## **Assam Group of Ministers (GoM) recommends Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for 6 communities**

The **six communities**, Tai Ahoms, tea tribes or Adivasis, Moran, Motok, Chutia and Koch-Rajbongshi are currently in Assam's **Other Backward Classes** list and comprise **~27% of its population**.

### **Key Recommendations**

- **Three-tier ST classification in Assam:** Inclusion of a **third category** named **ST (Valley)**.
  - ⊕ Currently, STs in Assam are categorized as **ST (Plains)** with **10% reservation** and **ST (Hills)** with **5% reservation**.
- **Central reservation:** All ST communities will compete under the **common national ST status**.
- **Interim measures:** **Sub-categorisation** of the existing **27% OBC quota** in the state.

### **About ST Status in the Constitution**

- **Article 366(25)** defines **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** as those specified under **Article 342**.
- As per **Article 342**, the **President** is empowered to notify the initial ST list. This list can be amended by the Parliament by law.
- **Criteria for ST categorization:** The Constitution does not list criteria for ST categorization. However, the **Lokur Committee (1965)** provided criteria such as **Primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact, and backwardness**.

## **The 11th session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA concluded in Lima, Peru**

In the **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)** session, talks on the enhancement of the **Multilateral System (MLS)** for the functioning of access and benefit sharing failed.

- The MLS governs the **sharing of genetic resources** from **35 major food crops and 29 forages**.
  - ⊕ These together make up about **80 per cent of the world's plant-based diet** and are described in **Annexure 1 of the Treaty**.
  - ⊕ When a country adopts the ITPGRFA, it agrees to make the **genetic diversity of these crops, particularly from public gene banks**, available to all other members through the MLS.

### **Compromise proposal presented at the 11th session**

- Adopting the revised standard material transfer agreement (SMTA), while deciding that adequate payment rates and thresholds will be approved at GB 12.
  - ⊕ The SMTA regulates **exchanges of plant genetic material**, prevents their misuse, and ensures that any commercial benefits that arise are fairly and equitably shared.
- Key issues like **payment system, Annex I expansion, and Digital Sequence Information** rules were postponed to the next meeting (GB12).

**India's Stand:** India sought to safeguard sovereign rights and fair benefit-sharing, opposing the opaque draft and calling for all unresolved issues to be revisited at GB12.



### **About ITPGRFA**

- It was adopted at the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Conference** in 2001 and came into force in 2004.
- It is the **first legally binding international agreement** dedicated to crop genetic diversity.
- Its main goal is to **conserve crop diversity**, promote its **sustainable use**, and ensure that the **benefits are shared fairly**.
- It comprises **154 countries and the European Union (Including India)**.

## Need to Modernize Policing Practices with the vision of Viksit Bharat: Prime Minister

### Key Challenges Concerning the Police in India

- **New forms of crime:** Including the white-collar crimes like bribery and corruption, evasion of taxes, violation of fiscal laws etc., along with modern technological use like Artificial Intelligence.
- **Inadequate infrastructural facilities:** Absence of adequate transport and communication network, modern weaponry, and need based training, etc.
- **Shortage of Workforce:** Ratio of police personnel per lakh persons is **152.80** as against the **sanctioned strength of 196.23** (as on January 2022 based on Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) data).

### Measures Needed for Modernizing Police

- **Innovative Strategies:** Effective use of databases integrated under **NATGRID** through Artificial Intelligence to generate actionable intelligence.
- **Research** Encouraging universities and academic institutions to **undertake case studies** on the use of forensics in police investigations, etc.
- **Whole of the Government Approach:** Bringing enforcement, rehabilitation, and community-level intervention.
- **Administrative Reforms:** As suggested by Supreme Court in **Prakash Singh case (2006)** including fixing the tenure and selection of the DGP, absence of political interference, etc., to be observed in full spirit.

### Measures taken Reforming Police in India

- **Scheme: Assistance to States & UTs for Modernization of Police (ASUMP)** scheme aiming to equip Police Forces adequately with the required **modern technology**.
- **Legislative Reforms:** New criminal laws like **Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita 2023 (BNS)**, **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 (BNSS)** and **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 (BSA)**.
- **SMART Policing Initiatives:** Like **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)**, etc.

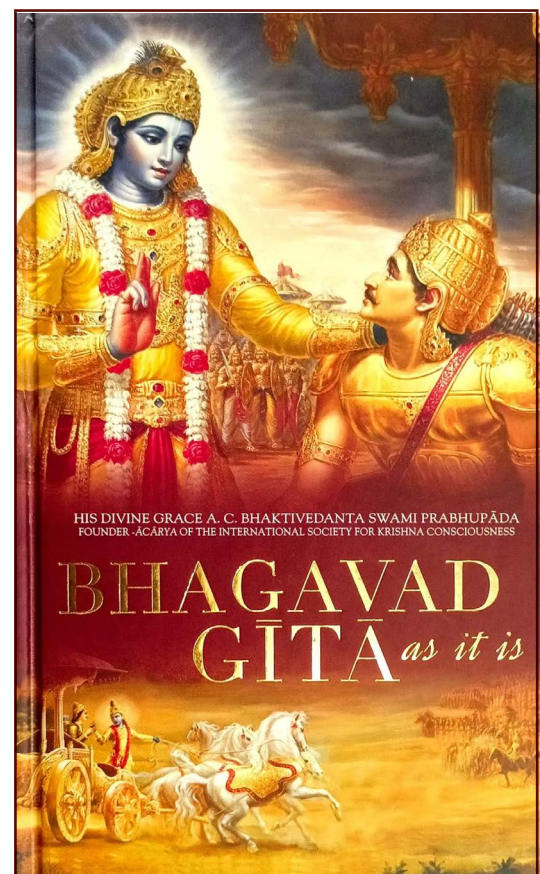
## Bhagavad Gita serves as a Universal Guide offering Moral Clarity: Vice President

Bhagavad Gita, an **esteemed scripture** within Indian philosophy is an integral segment of the Indian epic Mahabharata **composed in Sanskrit**.

- Written in poetic form and compiled around 200 BCE, it forms a dialogue between Prince Arjuna and Lord Krishna.
- Recently, it has been inscribed in the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register.

### Contemporary Relevance of the Ethical Teachings of Bhagavad Gita

- **Action without Desire:** It is signified by the idea of **"Nishkam Karma"** stressing the fact that one has right only to one's own actions, not to their outcomes, regardless of whether it is favorable or unfavorable.
  - ⊙ It is in contrast to the idea of **Sakama Karma**, which refers to actions driven by desire to achieve a specific outcome.
- **Synthesis of the Good of Society and Individual:** Gita deals with preserving larger social and world goals of preserving dharma and order, and achieving harmony, unity and universal welfare through **"lokasamgraha"**.
- **Strengthening Emotional Resilience:** It explains the idea of **"Sthita- prajna"** as a steady individual with the characteristics of **emotional resilience**, including efficiently coping with adversity, adjusting to change, and preserving psychological wellbeing.
- **Leadership Development:** Bhagavad Gita stresses on the performance of **Svadharma, i.e., own duty or dharma**.
- **Others: Decisiveness** (Gita equates lack of ambivalence with decisiveness); **Humility** (being aware of one's limitations); etc.



## Also In News



### New Supreme Court guidelines

New guidelines to streamline functioning of the Supreme Court will take effect from December 1.

#### About New Guidelines:

- **Automatic Case Listing** of fresh cases.
- **Faster Hearing for Urgent Matters** such as bail and habeas corpus, will be listed and heard automatically within two working days.
- **Restriction on Oral Mentioning** by senior counsels.
- **Strict Adjournment Rules** to facilitate the timely resolution of older cases.
- **Advance Copy Requirement** for Bail Petitions for faster processing.



### Hansa-3(NG)

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology launched the production version of India's indigenous Hansa-3 NG at CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) in Bengaluru.

#### About Hansa-3(NG)

- It is India's first all-composite two-seat pilot trainer aircraft.
- It is designed to meet the expanding demand for PPL (Private Pilot License) and CPL (Commercial Pilot License) training.



### SIM Binding

The Department of Telecommunications has made SIM binding mandatory for online messaging platforms.

#### About SIM Binding

- SIM-binding means messaging apps must ensure that a **user's account remains tied to the active SIM card** inserted in the device used for registration.
- The directive requires platforms to enforce **continuous linkage between SIM, mobile number, and device**, and to stop service if the SIM is removed or inactive.



### International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) (held every four years) of ITU concluded in Baku.

#### About International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (Hq: Geneva, Switzerland)

- **Overview :** United Nations Specialized agency for digital technologies (ICTs).
- **Members:** 194 Member States, and more than 1000 companies, universities, etc.
- **Genesis:** 1865, after the first **International Telegraph Convention** was signed in **Paris** establishing International Telegraph Union (first incarnation of ITU).
- **Key Functions:**
  - ⊕ **Manages Key Resources:** Allocates radio frequencies and satellite positions.
  - ⊕ **Sets the Rules:** Creates technical standards for seamless global connectivity.



### Stages of Artificial Intelligence

The development of AI can be categorized into **three stages: Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI), Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), and Artificial Superintelligence (ASI).**

#### About Stages of AI

- **ANI:** Also called '**weak AI**', they are specialized in a **narrow set of tasks**, lacking the ability to generalize knowledge. E.g. Virtual Assistants like **Siri, Alexa**.
- **AGI:** Also called '**strong AI**', it is a **hypothetical** machine intelligence that has the **ability to understand or learn** any intellectual task that a **human being can**.
  - ⊕ It has the ability to **generalise** knowledge based on common understanding.
  - ⊕ Currently, **true AGI does not exist**.
- **ASI:** ASI, a **theoretical** concept, **surpasses human intelligence** and can potentially solve problems that are currently beyond human capabilities.



## Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)

The AWBI has issued standard operating procedures for **municipal authorities to implement the Supreme Court's order.**

- SC ordered removal of **stray dogs from public institutional premises** like schools, hospitals, and bus stations.

### About AWBI

- It is a **statutory advisory body** on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.
- Established in 1962 under the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.**
- It was started under the stewardship of **Late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale**, a well-known humanitarian.



## Burtele Foot

Scientists have solved the mystery of **3.4 million-year-old fossils** called the "**Burtele Foot**" discovered in Ethiopia in 2009.

### About Burtele Foot

- **Morphology:** Eight bones showing **bipedal hominin** with an **opposable big toe**, indicating continued tree-climbing.
- Recent findings of **25 teeth and jawbone of a 4.5-year-old child** near the same site confirm that the foot belonged to **Australopithecus deyiremeda**.
  - ⊕ An early hominin species combining **ape-like and human-like characteristics.**
- Fossils shows its close relation to **Australopithecus afarensis**, species that includes the **famous fossil Lucy**, discovered in 1974 in the Afar region.



## United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

India has been re-elected to **UNESCO Executive Board for 2025 – 29.**

### About UNESCO (Hq: Paris, France)

- **Genesis:** Constitution of UNESCO was enforced on **November 1946.**
- **Membership:** **194 Members and 12 Associate Members.**
- It is a **specialized agency dedicated to strengthening shared humanity** through the promotion of education, science, culture, and communication.
- **Governance:** By three key bodies, the **General Conference, the Secretariat and the Executive Board.**
- **Key Achievements:** Universal Copyright Convention (1952); Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme (1971); Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), etc.



## Place in News



## About Guinea Bissau (Capital: Bissau)

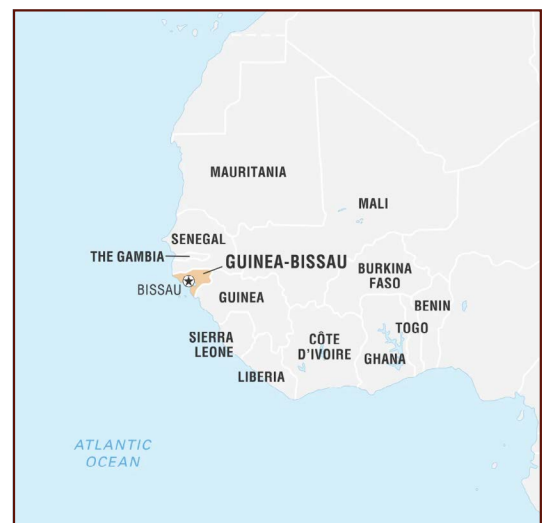
The African country of **Guinea-Bissau** falls under military rule.

### Political Features

- **Location:** Western Africa.
- **Boundaries:** **Senegal** (North); **Guinea** (East and South).
  - ⊕ Includes the **Bijagós (Bissagos) archipelago** and other islands lying off coast.
- **Maritime Boundary:** Atlantic Ocean in the West.

### Geographical Features

- **Key Geographical Features:** Fouta Djallon plateau
  - ⊕ **Boé Hills** extend from the western slopes of the Fouta Djallon to the **Corubal basin** and the **Gabú Plain** (located in northeastern portion).
- **Major Rivers:** Geba, Corubal, Cacheu, etc.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI