

NEWS TODAY

States have the power to regulate Industrial alcohol or denatured spirit: Supreme Court

In **State of U.P. vs. M/S. Lalta Prasad Vaish** case, SC held that the term "intoxicating liquor" in Entry 8 of **List II (State List)** of the **Seventh Schedule** of the Constitution will include industrial alcohol.

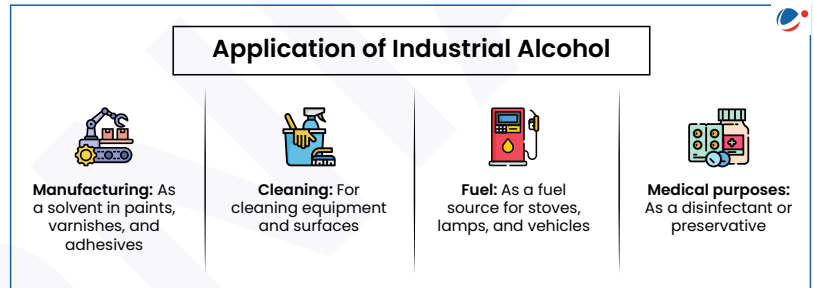
- It also overruled a 1990 judgment (**Synthetics & Chemicals Ltd. v. State of U.P. case**) which had said that "intoxicating liquor" refers only to **potable alcohol** and that States cannot tax industrial alcohol.

Brief Background

- Currently, Union regulates industrial alcohol under the **Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, of 1951**.
 - Union defended this law on the basis of power it receives from **Entry 52 (Union List)**, and **Entry 33 (Concurrent List)**.
 - Entry 52- Industries**
 - Entry 33 - Trade and commerce in, and the production, supply and distribution of certain product.**
 - States Argument:** Industrial alcohol can be misused to produce consumable alcohol illegally, which required them to enact legislation.

About Industrial Alcohol

- It is a one of the major type of Alcohol, other one is **Usable alcohol**.
 - Usable alcohol** predominantly refers to **ethyl alcohol** (ethanol), intended for human consumption.
- It typically refers to **isopropyl alcohol (isopropanol)** or **denatured alcohol (ethanol with additives)**.
- It is made **unfit for drinking by adding substances** that make it **poisonous or unpleasant to taste**.



India's first ever Great Indian Bustard hatched through Artificial Insemination

Artificial insemination of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) was achieved at the **National Breeding Centre in Jaisalmer** (Rajasthan) under the **Bustard Recovery Program**.

About Bustard Recovery Project

- Commenced for an **initial period of five years (2016-21)** and an **extension was granted from 2021 to 2024**.
- Objectives:** Conservation breeding; capacity building and advocacy to sensitise stakeholders and decision-makers on bustard conservation; incentivize bustard-friendly land uses, etc.

About Great Indian Bustard (also called Godawan locally in Rajasthan)

- Habitat:** Confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat; Small populations occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.
- Conservation Status**
 - IUCN status:** Critically Endangered
 - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I and Appendix I of the Schedule IV (related to CITES).
 - CITES:** Appendix 1.
 - Covered under **species recovery program**.
 - Only less than 150 GIBs are left in the wild** and almost exclusively restricted to India.
- Behaviour and Characteristics**
 - A grassland species, endemic to Indian subcontinent.**
 - Distinguished by its black crown on the forehead**, but males have larger black crowns.
 - Males possess a gular pouch** in which they fill air & exhale with great humming sound to attract females.
 - Omnivorous** and feed on grass seeds, insects like grasshoppers and beetles, and sometimes even small rodents and reptiles.
- Threats:** Hunting, habitat loss, collision with power lines, widespread agricultural expansion, etc.

Supreme Court issues Directions to ensure Prisoners get Free and Timely Legal Aid

Recently, a **2-Judge bench of the Supreme Court in Suhas Chakma vs. Uoi case** issued practice directions to all courts to ensure that beneficial schemes promoted by legal services authority reaches all.

Key highlights of the Court Direction

- **National Legal Service Authority (NALSA)** in cooperation with the State and District Legal Service Authorities will ensure that **SOPs on Access to Legal Aid Services to prisoners** are operated efficiently in practice.
- **Awareness generation:** Adequate literature including in local languages in the States and appropriate promotional methods should be launched so that the intended consumers of justice can make best use of the same.
 - ⊖ **Display boards in public places** like police stations, post offices, bus stands, railway stations, etc., furnishing the address for contact and the phone numbers of the nearest legal aid office.

Framework for Legal Aid

- **Article 39A of the Constitution:** Directs the State to secure free legal aid so that no citizens are deprived of securing justice by reason of economic or other disabilities.
- **Legal Service Authority Act, 1987:** Provides a legal and institutional framework for providing legal aid by constituting-
 - ⊖ **Legal Services Authorities** at the National, State, District, and Taluka level; and
 - ⊖ **Legal Services Committees** in the Supreme Court, High Courts, District Courts, and Taluka Courts.

Eligibility for Legal Aid under Legal Services Authority Act, 1987

- Women or children;
- Members of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes;
- Industrial workmen;
- Persons with disabilities;
- Victims of human trafficking or beggar;
- Victims of a mass disaster, ethnic, violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster;
- Persons in custody in protective home, juvenile home, or in a psychiatric hospital.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Amendment) Rules, 2024 notified

The Rules have been notified by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Key highlights of the amended Rules

- **Application for disability certificate:** Required Documents for disability certificate include proof of identity, recent photograph (not older than six months) and Aadhaar card.
 - ⊖ **Issuance Authority:** Only a **medical authority or notified competent medical authority at the district level** can issue disability certificates in the district of residence of the applicant as mentioned in the proof of residence.
- **Processing Time:** Extended from **one month to three months.**
 - ⊖ **Application Lapse Clause:** Applications will lapse or become "inactive" if undecided for over 2 years.
- Applicants must re-apply or contact the authority to reactivate the application.
- **New Colour-Coded UDID Cards:**
 - ⊖ **White:** Disability below 40%.
 - ⊖ **Yellow:** Disability between 40% and 80%.
 - ⊖ **Blue:** Disability of 80% or above.

Concern with the amended Rules

- **Exclusion of Persons without Aadhaar:** Especially those living in rural areas or from marginalized communities.
- **Longer processing time:** Extended processing time of three months may create hurdles for genuine persons with disabilities to get certified, so essential for identification, accessing services and entitlements.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

- **Definition:** A person is considered to have a disability if they have a **physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment.**
- **Recognition of disabilities:** Recognizes 21 categories of disabilities.
- **Prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities** in all aspects of life, including employment, education, and healthcare.

Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index 2024 released

CRI is released by Oxfam and Development Finance International.

- CRI assessed the commitment of 164 countries and regions to fight inequality.
 - ⊖ **SDG 10** aims to reduce inequality.
- It assessed the performance on the basis of three parameters: **Public Services Spending, Progressive taxation and Labour rights and wages.**

Key Highlights of the Index

- **Ranking:**
 - ⊖ **Top performers:** Norway, Canada, and Australia
 - ⊖ **Worst performers:** South Sudan, Nigeria, etc.
 - ⊖ **India's rank:** 127
 - ◆ Other South Asian countries such as **Nepal** (115) and **Sri Lanka** (118) have performed better than India.

Rising Inequality:

- **Gap** between the **Global South** and the **Global North** has **suddenly grown more rapidly** than at any time since World War II.
- Billions of people face the terrible hardship of high and rising food prices and hunger, while the **number of billionaires has doubled in the last decade.**
- **Key driving factors:** **Conflict, debt crisis, and climate shocks,** these are constraining spending in low- and lower middle-income countries.
 - ⊖ **84%** of countries have reduced their spending on education, health and/or social protection.

Key Recommendations to Reduce Inequality

- Put in place realistic and **timebound National Inequality Reduction Plans (NIRPs)** to reduce inequality, with regular monitoring
- All countries should ensure that **health budget is at least 15% of total public expenditure and education 20%.**
- **Increase progressive taxation** by taxing the income of the richest 1%

Measure taken to reduce inequality in India

- **Job Creation:** E.g. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
- **Financial Inclusion:** E.g. PM Jan Dhan Yojana
- **Education and Skilling:** E.g. Right to education Act, 2009
- **Other:** Startup India, etc.

16th BRICS Summit concluded with the adoption of the Kazan Declaration

Summit was hosted by the Russia at Kazan.

- Kazan Declaration is a comprehensive document outlining key areas of cooperation and the bloc's unified stance on global issues.
- **Theme of Summit:** Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security

Key Highlights of the Declaration

➤ Global Governance and Multilateralism

- ⊕ Made a commitment to cooperate for **International Financial Architecture Reform**.

➤ Economic Cooperation

- ⊕ **BRICS Cross-Border Payment System:** Built upon the principle of minimizing trade barriers and non-discriminatory access. Promoting use of local currencies.
- ⊕ **BRICS Clear Depository:** An independent **cross-border settlement** and depository infrastructure.
- ⊕ **BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism (ICM):** Facilitating and expanding innovative financial practices and approaches for projects and programmes, including finding acceptable mechanisms of financing in local currencies.
- ⊕ **BRICS Grain Exchange:** Initiative of the Russian side to establish a grain (commodities) trading platform within BRICS.

➤ Other

- ⊕ **BRICS R&D Vaccine Center & BRICS Integrated Early Warning System** for preventing mass infectious diseases risks.
- ⊕ Recognised India's initiative to create an **International Big Cats Alliance**.
- ⊕ **BRICS Partner Country:** Endorsed the creation of a BRICS Partner Country category (**not full members**). Officially added 13 new partner countries, including Cuba, Turkey, and Vietnam.

About BRICS

- **British economist** Jim O' Neill coined and used the acronym 'BRICS' for the first time in 2001.
- The grouping was formalized during the first meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers in 2006.
- BRIC became BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa in 2010.
- **Members : 10 Countries :** Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Russia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia (final confirmation is pending).

Also in News



Additional Judges of High Courts

Recently, **Union Government has notified appointment of 4 Additional Judges** for the Bombay High Court for a period of 2 years.

About Additional Judges of High Courts

- **Appointed by:** President of India under Article 224 (1).
- **Tenure:** Such Period, not exceeding 2 years, as President may specify.
 - ⊕ Shall **not hold office after attaining the age of 62 years**.
- **Reasons for appointment:** If it appears to the President that the number of the Judges of that Court should be for the time being increased due to **any temporary increase in the business of a High Court or by reason of arrears of work therein**.



ZyVac TCV

Vaccine **ZyVac TCV** received WHO prequalification status, making it **eligible for United Nations procurement programs**.

About ZyVac TCV

- It is a Typhoid Vi conjugate vaccine that provides active immunization against **bacterium Salmonella typhi infection**.
 - ⊕ **Conjugate vaccines** are a **type of subunit vaccine** where antigens are linked to polysaccharides (from the outer coat of microbes) to stimulate immunity.
 - ⊕ **Subunit vaccines** only include specific components originating from disease-causing bacteria, parasites, or viruses.
- It is indigenously developed and manufactured by Zydus Lifesciences Ltd.

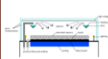


PM SHRI scheme

Delhi signs MoU with Centre to implement PM-SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme.

About PM SHRI Scheme

- A **centrally sponsored initiative**, launched in 2022.
- **Objective:** Setting up of More than 14500 PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India) by strengthening the existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central government/State/UT Government/local bodies.
 - ⊕ It aligns with **National Education Policy (2020)**.
- **Time Period: 2022-23 to 2026-27**
- It is implemented through the existing administrative structure available for Samagra Shiksha, KVS & NVS.



Cloud Chamber

India is set to build its **first convective cloud chamber at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune under 'Mission Mausam**.

- **Mission Mausam** was launched to improve weather forecasting in the country but also 'manage' certain weather events such as rainfall, hail, fogs etc.

About Cloud chamber

- A cloud chamber is a **closed cylinder where water vapor and aerosols are injected**, allowing clouds to form under **controlled humidity and temperature conditions**.
- It will help in **understanding of cloud physics** under conditions typical of Indian weather systems.



Snow Leopard

International Snow Leopard Day was celebrated on October 23.

About Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*)

- **Habitat:** Mountains of Central and South Asia with 12 snow leopard range countries including India.
 - ⊕ Snow leopard habitat in India includes **UTs of Ladakh and J&K**, and states such as **Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - ⊕ Their distribution coincides closely with distribution of their **principal prey, ibex and blue sheep (bharal)**.
- It is the **state animal of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh**.
- **Characteristics:** Have **short forelimbs and long hind limbs** for traversing in rugged mountainous environments.
- **Conservation Status**
 - ⊕ **IUCN:** Vulnerable.
 - ⊕ **CITES:** Appendix I.
 - ⊕ **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I.



PM YASASVI

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment highlighted that impact of PM-YASASVI (PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India) Initiative.

About PM-YASASVI

- **Objective:** Streamline educational support for socially and economically disadvantaged students.
- It is an **umbrella scheme** that aims to provide quality **education** to students from **Other Backward Classes, Economically Backward Classes, and Denotified Tribes**.
- It **subsumed earlier initiatives like Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme** for EBCs and DNTs.



National Commission Scheduled Castes

Recently, Delhi High Court said that **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) is not empowered to investigate or issue any directions in the nature of a civil or criminal court.**

About NCSC

- It is a **Constitutional body under Article 338 of the Constitution**.
- **Composition:** Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and three other members, **appointed by the President of India**.
- **Tenure:** Hold office **for a term of 3 years** and shall not be eligible for appointment for more than 2 terms.
- **Functions**
 - ⊕ To **investigate and monitor all matters** relating to the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the SCs.
 - ⊕ To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the **deprivation of rights and safeguards of the SCs**.



Pink Cocaine

Recently, Pink cocaine has been seized in many countries.

About Pink cocaine

- Also known as **"tusi,"** pink cocaine **rarely contains cocaine, typically containing ketamine**, a drug with entirely different effects.
- Pink cocaine also has **hallucinogenic properties**
- **Composition:** Contains methamphetamine, ketamine, and MDMA tied together with a splash of dye. However, **composition is uncertain**.
- **Health effects:** Can cause heart attacks, high blood pressure, stroke, behavioural changes, addiction, anxiety, depression, psychosis, etc.

Place in News



Turkiye (Capital: Ankara)

Turkiye strikes Kurdish militant targets in Iraq and Syria

Political Features

- It lies **partly in Asia and partly in Europe**.
- Share borders with **Georgia and Armenia (northeast), Azerbaijan and Iran (east), Iraq and Syria (southeast), and by Greece and Bulgaria (northwest)**.
- **Bounded by Black Sea (north), Mediterranean Sea and Aegean Sea (Southwest, West)**

Geographical Features

- **Major River:** Euphrates, Tigris and Kizilirmak
- **Highest Point:** Mount Ararat
- **Important Straits:** Bosphorus strait and Dardanallaise strait



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI