

## Villages in Odisha recognised by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (UNESCO-IOC) as 'Tsunami Ready'

The **24 coastal villages** in Odisha were recognized as Tsunami Ready during the **2nd Global Tsunami Symposium** in Indonesia, based on verification by the **National Tsunami Ready Recognition Board (NTRB)**.

- **NTRB**, comprising scientists from **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** and officers of **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, implements **Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme**.

### UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP)

- TRRP is a **voluntary, international community-based** effort to bolster **risk prevention** and **mitigation** across **global coastal zones**.
- **Aim:** To build tsunami resilience through awareness and preparedness strategies that will protect life, livelihoods and property from tsunamis.
- **Methodology:** It has **12 preparedness indicators** for a consistent evaluation, and recognition is renewable every four years.

### About Tsunami

- **Definition:** Tsunamis are a series of enormous waves created by underwater disturbances, often associated with earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, or coastal rock falls.
- **Origin:** The word "tsunami" comprises the **Japanese words "tsu" (meaning harbour) and "nami" (meaning wave)**.

### Characteristics:

- ⊕ **Speed:** Over **500 miles per hour (mph)** and as a tsunami enters shallow water, it slows off to **20 to 30 mph**. The **wavelength decreases, the height increases**.
- ⊕ Tsunami wave speed depends on ocean depth, not distance from the wave's source.

### Steps taken by India

- **Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC)**, which provides Tsunami advisories to 25 Indian Ocean countries for last-mile connectivity.
  - ⊕ It has a network of **tsunami buoy systems that transmit real time data**.
  - ⊕ INCOIS has established a **real time network of tide gauge stations along the Indian coast**.
- **NDMA Guidelines** on Management of Tsunamis in India.
- **Modeling and Mapping of Tsunami:** Along Indian coast as a part of the early tsunami and storm surge warning system.

## 'Raising Ambition and Accelerating Delivery of Climate Finance' Report Released

The report was released at 29th CoP to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

- It provides estimates of investment needs across areas **Clean energy transition, Adaptation and resilience, Loss and damage, Natural capital & Just Transition** to meet Paris Agreement.

### Key Findings of the Report

- **Global Investment Required** for climate action is around **\$6.3–6.7 trillion per year by 2030**.
- ⊕ Emerging market & developing countries (EMDCs) other than China require **\$2.3-2.5 trillion**.
  - ◆ Currently, investment is concentrated in economies such as India and Brazil.
- **Increased Role of non-traditional sources** in closing financing gap. **E.g. voluntary carbon market, South South Cooperation, use of special drawing rights** etc.
- **Unprecedented opportunity for developing countries** due to declining technology costs (of solar power) & huge expansion in supply from China

### Recommendations

- **Integrated approach to Climate Finance** with strengthening of collaboration, development of sectoral investment plans and co-creation of project pipelines
  - ⊕ **Public Funding:** Manage debt and fiscal space, boost domestic resource mobilization (by carbon pricing) etc.
  - ⊕ **Private Investment:** Reduce cost of capital, expand options for concessional finance, Tapping the potential of carbon markets etc.
- **Multilateral Development Banks:** It should work to triple lending capacity by 2030 as part of New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG).

### Mechanisms to Facilitate Climate Finance

- **Global Environment Facility (1991):** Aimed at addressing global environmental issues, including climate change.
- **Green Climate Fund (2010):** Established at **COP 16 (Cancun Conference)** to support developing countries.
- **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG):** currently under discussion, it aims to set a new financial target to support developing countries in their climate actions post-2025.

## The World Marks First International Day against Transnational Organized Crime

Earlier this year (March) the **UN General Assembly** declared **15 November** as the **International Day for Prevention of fight against and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime (TOC)**.

### About Transnational Organized Crime (TOC)

- **Definition:** TOC is organized crime coordinated **across national borders**, involving **groups or markets of individuals** working in **multiple countries** to plan and execute illegal business ventures.
- **Types/Forms:** Drug trafficking, smuggling of migrants, human trafficking, money laundering, trafficking in firearms, counterfeit goods etc.
- **UN Security Council Resolution (2019):** Highlighted concerns about **growing nexus between terrorism and organised crime**, as well as to tackle the **nexus through policy measures**.

### Linkages between terrorists and organised crime

- **Financing of Terrorism:** Terrorists receive financial support from organised crimes. **E.g.**, Northeast based militant groups mobilize funds by becoming **couriers of illegal drugs, arms, etc.**
- **Organized criminal groups involves in transporting terrorists across borders** and of returning foreign terrorist fighters in organized crime activities.
  - ⊕ **E.g.**, Entry points from Southeast Asia include Moreh and the entire Chittagong Hill tracts, especially Cox's Bazaar.
- **Spread of counterfeit currency:** **E.g.**, Terrorists are the main couriers of Indian counterfeit currency inside Kashmir, which then spreads all over India.

### Initiatives Undertaken

- **UNs Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000):** Primary international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime.
- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF):** Sets international standards for combating money laundering & terrorist financing.
- **INTERPOL:** World's largest police organization (196 member countries) working together to fight international crime.
- **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:** works to combat transnational organized crime, corruption, terrorism, & illicit drugs.

## BSNL launches India's first Direct-to Device(D2D) Satellite connectivity

It marks a major event in extending satellite communications to everyday consumers which were earlier limited to emergency and military use.

- Global initiatives such as **AST SpaceMobile, Lynk Global, Constellation Global, SpaceX- Starlink** also uses D2D technology.

### Working of Direct-to-Device Satellite Technology

- **Principle:** Satellites act as cell towers in space, bypassing the need for terrestrial cell towers as used in traditional mobile connectivity.
  - ⊕ It uses satellites in orbit to transmit signals directly to devices on the ground.
- **Non-Terrestrial Network (NTN) technology :** It allows for seamless two-way communication between devices and satellites.
  - ⊕ BSNL uses **Viasat's Geostationary L-band satellites** positioned 36,000 kilometers above which bypasses ground-based cell towers, making it ideal for remote coverage.

### Significance

- **Reliable connectivity:** Uninterrupted internet connectivity, regardless of weather conditions.
- **High-speed internet and wider coverage** even in the **remotest areas** where cellular or Wi-Fi networks are unavailable.
- **Support UPI payments:** Empower people in rural or underserved regions to make digital transactions.
- **Emergency calls and SOS messaging:** Communication in emergency situations where cellular or Wi-Fi networks are unavailable( useful for **adventurers, travellers etc**).



### Challenges

- **Latency:** Ensuring minimal delay for real-time applications like voice calls and video streaming.
- **Regulatory Challenges:** As D2D service may cross geographical borders.
- **Spectrum allocation:** Obtaining sufficient bandwidth for seamless satellite-to-ground communication.
- **Device compatibility:** Ensuring technology works across various smartphones and operating systems.
- **Propagation challenges:** Overcoming signal loss and interference in diverse environments.

## 555th Guru Nanak Jayanti is celebrated across India and World

The Indian Prime Minister while extending greetings on the occasion remarked that **teachings of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji inspire us to further the spirit of compassion, kindness and humility.**

- Guru Nanak Jayanti marks **birth of 1st Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak Dev Ji** who laid foundation of Sikhism.

### Major teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

- **'Ik Onkar'**: It means 'One God' who dwells in every one of his creations and constitutes the eternal truth.
- **Truthfulness**: Emphasized on truthful living and declared **truth as the highest value in life.**
- **Social inequality**: Led sustained attack on **social inequality and criticized the caste system.**
- **Religion as a means of wealth**: He cautioned people to **not use religion for earning material benefits.**

### Relevance of his teachings in modern times

- **Emphasis on Equality and Brotherhood**: solution to gender and caste discrimination, rising conflicts and war across the globe.
- **Vaand Chhako (Share What You Have)**: growing inequalities between 'haves and have not' can be reduced.
- **Kirat Karo (Earn your money righteously and honestly)**: can lead to decrease in corruption.
- **Sarbat da Bhala(welfare of all)**: can help in addressing climate change and promoting ecological justice.

### Guru Nanak Dev (1469-1539)

- He was born at **Talwandi (Nankana Sahib in Pakistan),**
- He established a center at **Kartarpur (Dera Baba Nanak on the river Ravi).**
- **His Idea of liberation** was not a state of inert bliss but rather the pursuit of active life with a strong sense of social commitment.
- Before his death, Guru Nanak appointed one of his followers 'Lehna' as his successor.
  - ⊕ Lehna came to be known as **Guru Angad** who compiled compositions of **Guru Nanak.**

## First of Its Kind Finance Commissions' Conclave Organised by Ministry of Panchayati Raj

### About State Finance Commission (SFCs)

- **Constitution: Article 243I** requires **Governor to constitute SFC within one year from the commencement of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992.**
- **Tenure**: Every 5 years.
- **Mandate**: SFCs to review the financial position of **Panchayats (243 I) and municipalities (Article 243 Y)** and make suggestions to the **Governor** about-
  - ⊕ **Distribution of taxes** between State and Local Bodies (Panchayats/Municipalities),
  - ⊕ **Determination of taxes, duties, etc.,** which may be assigned to or appropriated by Local Bodies, and
  - ⊕ **Grants in aid** to Local Bodies by the State.

### Concerns associated with the SFC

- **Many states haven't established required SFCs on time.** E.g. Only 15 States have set up the 5th or the 6th SFCs (15th Finance Commission report of 2020).
- **Lacks data**: States don't provide accurate data about LBs leading to ad-hoc recommendations.
- **Delay in Action-taken report (ATR)**: States frequently fail to draft ATRs that are presented by Governors to legislature.
- **Unlike central Finance Commission recommendations,** states reject basic SFC requests.

### Measure

- **FFC in 2020** report recommended that those states **not complying with the Constitutional provisions** in respect of the SFCs would **not be released grants after March 2024.**
  - ⊕ Following this now all states, **except Arunachal Pradesh,** have SFCs.

## FINANCE COMMISSION'S CONCLAVE "Devolution to Development"

### Also In News



### World Energy Employment Report, 2024

The World Energy Employment 2024 report has been released by the **International Energy Agency.**

#### Key findings

- **Global energy employment** outperformed broader labor market trends in 2023.
- **Clean energy** remains the primary engine of job growth.

#### India-Specific Findings

- **India's energy jobs account for over 8.5 million** i.e., 1.5 % of total employment (566 million) in 2023.
- India's energy sector, like many others, relies heavily on **informal labor.**
- The energy workforce, particularly in clean energy, is poised to see further growth with government initiatives fueling job creation.



### Avian Botulism

Avian Botulism is considered to be the reason behind mass death of birds in Rajasthan.

#### About Avian Botulism

- It is a serious **neuromuscular disease.**
- **Causal Agent**: toxin produced by the **Bacterium Clostridium Botulinum.**
- **Favorable conditions for outbreak of Avian Botulism:-**
  - ⊕ warmer water temperatures.
  - ⊕ anoxic (oxygen-deprived) conditions.
  - ⊕ bacterial substrate in decaying plants, algae or animal materials.
- **Transfer to Humans and Pets**: by eating infected fish, birds etc.



### Operation Sagar Manthan

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has seized 700 kg of Methamphetamine as part of Operation Sagar-Manthan.

- **Methamphetamine** is a powerful, highly addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system.

#### About Operation Sagar Manthan

- **Launched** : by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in coordination with the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.
- **Objective** :
  - ⊖ Target drug trafficking through maritime routes.
  - ⊖ Counter the threat to national security.
  - ⊖ Realize vision of a **Nasha Mukta Bharat by 2047**.



### Kodo millet

Consumption of kodo millet is considered to be the reason behind the death of wild elephants in Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve.

#### About kodo millet(Paspalum scrobiculatum)

- It is also known as **Kodra and Varagu** in India and is a staple food for many tribal sections.
- **Feature:-**
  - ⊖ rich in dietary fiber and minerals like iron, antioxidant.
  - ⊖ **useful in curing asthma, migraine, blood pressure, heart attack, diabetic heart disease and for postmenopausal in females.**
  - ⊖ drought tolerant, high yield potential, better storage properties.
- **Climate:** warm and dry climate (grown mainly in Deccan Region).
- Ingesting millets harvested after rainfall can result in adverse health conditions.



### Press Council of India (PCI)

**National Press Day**, observed annually on November 16, celebrates the establishment of PCI.

#### About PCI

- **Genesis:** First established in 1966 under **Indian Press Council Act, 1965**, following recommendations of the **First Press Commission**.
  - ⊖ It was dissolved during **Emergency in 1975**, and a new Act, **Press Council Act, 1978**, re-established PCI in 1979.
- **Objective:** To preserve press freedom & maintain high standards of journalism in India.
- **Composition:** consists of a Chairman (usually a retired Supreme Court judge) & 28 members.



### Valmiki Tiger Reserve

Rare 'Cat Snake' Spotted in Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve.

- Common cat snake, or **Boiga trigonata**, is far less venomous than other snake species and is also considered **extremely rare**.

#### About Valmiki Tiger Reserve

- **18th tiger reserve in the country & only tiger reserve of Bihar.**
- It was established in **1976** and declared a **Tiger Reserve in 1990**.
- **Forms the easternmost limit of the Himalayan Terai forests in India.**
- **Rivers Flows:** Gandak, Pandai, Manor, Harha, Masan and Bhapsa.
- **Fauna:** Tigers, sloth bear, leopard, indian bison, hyena, wild dogs etc
- **Vegetation:** Sal trees, teak, bamboo, semal, and khair etc



### Chabahar Port

Ministry of External Affairs delegation offers Afghanistan access to **Chabahar Port** during meeting with **Defense Minister**.

#### About Chabahar port

- **Location:** It sits at the mouth of the **Gulf of Oman**.
- There are two distinct ports in the Chabahar project, **Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari**.
- **Significance:**
  - ⊖ Gives India an **alternative route that bypasses Pakistan**, which does not allow India land access for trade with **Afghanistan and Central Asia**.
  - ⊖ Iran and India both recognise the **Chabahar port's pivotal role** in the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** project.



### Senna tora plants

The Tamil Nadu Forest Department is experimenting with the removal of invasive plants in **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)**.

#### About Senna Tora

- **Native to:** Central America & prefers **drier areas and grasslands** to grow.
- **Threat:** **Open grasslands of MTR, crucial for local wildlife like elephants, deer, and Indian gaur.**

**Invasive species" is a species that is:**

- **Non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and,**
- **Whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.**
- **E.g., Lantana camara, Prosopis juliflora**

## Personality in News



### Birsa Munda (1875 - 1900)

The Department of Posts releases a special postage stamp on the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda on **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**.

#### About Birsa Munda (1875 - 1900)

- He was born in 1875, in a remote village named Ulihatu of the Kunti district of Jharkhand
- He is also known as '**Dharti Aaba**' (**Father of the Earth**)

#### Contributions

- Revived **Traditional Tribal Culture**
- He founded a new sect known as the **Birsait** and was called **Bhagwan** by his followers.
- He stressed the importance of **prayer, staying away from alcohol, and having faith in God.**
- He led '**Ulgulan (The Great Tumult/Great Rebellion)** in a sharp response to the land encroachment and forced labour policy of the British Raj

**Values:** Passion, Sacrifice, Courage, Justice, Leadership, etc.

