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India and Belgium Launch Strategic Dialogue to Deepen Bilateral Relations



- India and Belgium have launched the first India–Belgium Strategic Dialogue in Brussels, marking a significant step towards strengthening bilateral ties through a structured and comprehensive partnership.
- The inaugural dialogue was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Belgium's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Development Cooperation, Maxime Prévot. Both countries agreed to expand cooperation in trade and investment, green energy transition, innovation and technology, connectivity, defence, security, regional and global issues, and people-to-people exchanges.
- The Strategic Dialogue will be supported by regular high-level engagements to ensure sustained political momentum.

About India–Belgium Relations:

- Diplomatic relations were established in 1947.
- Belgium is among India's important trading partners in the European Union.
- Belgium is a global hub for the diamond trade, with Antwerp serving as one of the world's largest diamond trading centres.

India and Belgium cooperate in:

- Trade and investment.
- Clean energy.
- Pharmaceuticals.
- Logistics and ports.
- Space and science.
- Defence and security.

- Higher education and innovation.

India–EU Business Forum:

- The launch of the Strategic Dialogue coincided with the India–EU Business Forum held at the Federation of Belgian Enterprises (FEB) in Brussels.
- The forum brought together Indian, Belgian, and European businesses to explore opportunities in trade, investment, innovation, and industrial cooperation.

About Belgium:

• Capital: Brussels.
• Currency: Euro (€).
• Prime Minister: Bart De Wever
• Official Languages: Dutch, French, and German.
• Political System: Federal Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy.
• Head of State: King Philippe.

Belgium hosts the headquarters of several major international organisations, including:

- European Union (EU) institutions.
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Headquarters.

Additional Key Facts:

- Brussels is often referred to as the "Capital of Europe" as it hosts the headquarters of the European Commission, Council of the European Union, and NATO.
- Antwerp, Belgium, is one of the world's leading centres for diamond cutting and trading, with India maintaining strong commercial links through Surat's diamond industry.
- Belgium has consistently supported India's aspiration for a permanent seat in a reformed United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

- India and the European Union elevated their partnership through a Strategic Dialogue on Foreign and Security Policy and a Security and Defence Partnership, reflecting growing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and global governance.

Exam Focus Points:

- Dialogue: India–Belgium Strategic Dialogue.
- First Meeting: Brussels, Belgium.
- Indian Representative: Dr. S. Jaishankar (External Affairs Minister).
- Belgian Representative: Maxime Prévot.

- Key Areas: Trade, investment, green energy, innovation, defence, security, connectivity, and people-to-people exchanges.
- Supporting Platform: India–EU Business Forum.
- Capital of Belgium: Brussels.
- Currency: Euro (€).
- Official Languages: Dutch, French, German.
- Major Global Institutions in Brussels: European Union and NATO Headquarters.
- Major Commercial Hub: Antwerp (Diamond Trade).

Ministry of Railways Launches New IRCTC Beta Website for Easier Train Ticket Booking



Key Features of the New Beta Website:

- Cleaner and distraction-free user interface.
 - Removal of unnecessary CAPTCHAs, pop-ups, and flashing graphics.
 - Seat availability visible across all travel classes on a single screen.
 - Faster checkout with fewer booking steps.
 - Passenger details saved for quicker repeat bookings.
 - Public feedback mechanism to improve future versions.
- The Ministry of Railways has launched a new beta version of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website to make online train ticket booking faster, simpler, and more user-friendly.
- The revamped portal introduces a cleaner interface with no unnecessary CAPTCHAs, pop-ups, or flashing graphics, along with improved seat availability display across all classes, a faster checkout process, and saved passenger details for repeat bookings.
- The beta version is available for public use, and passengers have been invited to provide feedback before the full rollout. The existing IRCTC website will continue to operate alongside the beta version during the testing phase.

About IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation):

- Established: 27 September 1999.
- Administrative Ministry: Ministry of Railways.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairman & MD: Sanjay Kumar Jain
- Status: Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

Major Functions:

- Online railway ticket booking.
- Catering services.

- Tourism packages.
- Rail Neer bottled drinking water.
- Hotel, flight, and bus booking services.
- Operation of premium tourist trains such as the Maharajas' Express.

About Indian Railways:

- Established: 1853 (first passenger train between Mumbai and Thane).
- Administrative Ministry: Ministry of Railways.
- Minister for Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Chairman and CEO: Satish Kumar
- One of the world's largest railway networks under single management.
- Operates one of the largest passenger rail systems globally.
- The Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) develops and maintains major railway IT systems, including the Passenger Reservation System (PRS).

Additional Key Facts:

- IRCTC launched its online ticket booking portal in 2002.
- The portal currently handles an average of around 14.5 lakh ticket bookings daily.
- IRCTC is responsible for online ticketing, catering, tourism, hospitality, and packaged drinking water (Rail Neer).

- The beta website is part of the Government's broader effort to modernise railway digital infrastructure, including upgrades to the Passenger Reservation System (PRS).
- IRCTC is listed on both the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), with the Government of India remaining the majority shareholder.

Exam Focus Points:

- Organisation: Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- Administrative Ministry: Ministry of Railways.
- Initiative: Launch of new IRCTC Beta Website.
- Objective: Simplify and speed up online train ticket booking.
- Major Features: Cleaner interface, fewer CAPTCHAs, seat availability across all classes, faster checkout, saved passenger details.
- IRCTC Established: 27 September 1999.
- Online Ticketing Started: 2002.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- IT Organisation of Indian Railways: Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS).
- Daily Ticket Bookings: Around 14.5 lakh.

India and Poland Decide to Strengthen Cooperation in MSME Sector



- India and Poland have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector during high-level bilateral talks held in New Delhi.

- The meeting was attended by a Polish delegation led by Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Technology Michał Baranowski, while the Indian side was led by MSME Secretary Bharat Khera. Both countries discussed expanding collaboration in digital transformation, innovation, technology adoption, sustainable manufacturing, startup ecosystems, and market access to make MSMEs globally competitive.

India's MSME Sector:

- India has over 8.6 crore (86 million) registered MSMEs.
- The sector contributes around 30% of India's GDP.
- MSMEs account for nearly 45% of India's exports.
- The sector provides employment to approximately 33 crore (330 million) people, making it one of the country's largest employment generators.

Key Government Initiatives for MSMEs:

- Udyam Registration Portal – Online registration platform for MSMEs.
- Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) – Provides collateral-free credit support.
- Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) Certification Scheme – Promotes quality manufacturing with minimal environmental impact.
- MSME Technology Centres – Enhance skill development, product design, and technology support.
- Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme – World Bank-supported initiative to improve MSME competitiveness.
- PM Vishwakarma Scheme – Supports traditional artisans and craftspeople through credit, skilling, and market linkages.

About the Ministry of MSME:

- Administrative Ministry: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Cabinet Minister: Jitan Ram Manjhi.
- The Ministry is responsible for the promotion, development, and competitiveness of MSMEs through policy support, finance, technology upgradation, and entrepreneurship development.

About Poland:

- Capital: Warsaw.
- Currency: Polish Złoty (PLN).

- Official Language: Polish.
- President: Karol Nawrocki
- Prime Minister: Donald Tusk.
- Member Of: European Union (EU), NATO, OECD, and Schengen Area.

Additional Key Facts:

- MSME Day is observed annually on 27 June, as designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017.
- The MSMED Act, 2006 provides the legal framework for the promotion and development of MSMEs in India.
- The revised MSME classification (effective 1 July 2020) is based on investment in plant & machinery/equipment and annual turnover.
- Poland is one of India's most important partners in Central and Eastern Europe, with growing cooperation in manufacturing, clean technologies, defence, food processing, mining, and education.
- India and Poland maintain regular engagement through the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC) to strengthen bilateral trade and investment.

Exam Focus Points:

- Countries: India and Poland.
- Sector: MSMEs.
- Venue: New Delhi.
- Indian Representative: Bharat Khera.
- Polish Representative: Michał Baranowski.
- Key Areas: Digital transformation, innovation, sustainable manufacturing, technology adoption, market access.
- Registered MSMEs in India: Over 8.6 crore.
- Contribution to GDP: Around 30%.
- Employment: Around 33 crore people.
- Key Schemes: Udyam Registration, CGTMSE, ZED Certification, RAMP Programme, PM Vishwakarma.
- MSME Day: 27 June.

- MSMED Act: 2006.
- Capital of Poland: Warsaw.
- Currency: Polish Złoty (PLN).

India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train to be Flagged Off Between Jind and Sonipat in Haryana



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off India's first hydrogen-powered train between Jind and Sonipat in Haryana, marking a major milestone in India's transition towards green and sustainable rail transportation.

Key Highlights:

- Project: India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train.
- Route: Jind – Sonipat (Haryana).
- Railway Zone: Northern Railway.
- Launch: To be flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Technology: Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technology.
- Objective: Promote zero-emission, eco-friendly rail transport.

Objectives:

- Promote clean and sustainable transportation.
- Reduce dependence on diesel-powered trains.
- Lower greenhouse gas emissions from the railway sector.
- Support India's National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- Advance the vision of Net Zero Carbon Emissions in Indian Railways.

About Hydrogen Fuel Cell Trains:

- Hydrogen fuel-cell trains generate electricity through an electrochemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen.
- Unlike diesel locomotives, they emit only water vapour and generate minimal noise.
- The electricity produced powers electric traction motors, making hydrogen trains an environmentally friendly alternative for rail transport.

About National Green Hydrogen Mission:

- Launched: January 2023.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- Mission Outlay: ₹19,744 crore.
- Objective: Make India a global hub for the production, utilisation, and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives.
- Target: Production of at least 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) of Green Hydrogen annually by 2030, with the potential to scale further.
- The mission supports decarbonisation in sectors such as transport, industry, power, and fertilisers.

Indian Railways is also expanding initiatives such as:

- 100% electrification of Broad Gauge routes.
- Solar and wind energy projects.
- Kavach (Automatic Train Protection System).
- Vande Bharat trains.
- Dedicated Freight Corridors.

Global Context:

- Germany became the first country to introduce commercially operating hydrogen-powered

passenger trains in 2018, using Alstom's Coradia iLint trains.

- Hydrogen trains are increasingly viewed as a sustainable alternative to diesel trains, particularly on non-electrified railway routes.

Additional Key Facts:

- Green Hydrogen is produced through the electrolysis of water using electricity generated from renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.
- Hydrogen is considered a clean fuel because its combustion or fuel-cell reaction emits no carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to reduce fossil fuel imports, improve energy security, and support India's climate commitments.
- Indian Railways aims to become the first major railway network in the world to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2030.
- Hydrogen fuel cells have applications beyond railways, including buses, trucks, ships, power generation, and industrial processes.

Exam Focus Points:

• Project: India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train.
• Route: Jind – Sonipat.
• State: Haryana.
• Railway Zone: Northern Railway.
• Technology: Hydrogen Fuel Cell.
• Fuel By-product: Water vapour and heat.
• Flagged Off By: Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
• Related Mission: National Green Hydrogen Mission.
• Mission Launched: January 2023.
• Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
• Mission Outlay: ₹19,744 crore.
• Green Hydrogen Target: 5 MMT annually by 2030.
• Indian Railways Goal: Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2030.
• First Country to Operate Commercial Hydrogen Trains: Germany (2018).

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission Signs MoU with UP Promote Pharma Council to Strengthen Pharma Quality and Innovation



- The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Uttar Pradesh Promote Pharma Council (UPPPC) to strengthen quality standards, regulatory compliance, innovation, and capacity building in the pharmaceutical and medical device sectors.

- The MoU was signed during the YEIDA MedTech Investors Meet & Site Visit 2026, held at the India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- The partnership aims to enhance patient safety, support MSMEs, promote digital reporting systems, and position Uttar Pradesh as a leading pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing hub.

About the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC):

• An autonomous institution under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
• Established: 1956.
• Headquarters: Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Chairman: P. K. Pradhan, Secretary
Responsible for publishing the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP), which prescribes official quality standards for medicines manufactured, marketed, and consumed in India.
Acts as the National Coordination Centre (NCC) for the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI).

About the Uttar Pradesh Promote Pharma Council (UPPPC):

- A state-level organisation established to promote the pharmaceutical and medical device industries in Uttar Pradesh.
- Works to attract investments, facilitate industrial growth, improve quality standards, and strengthen the state's pharmaceutical ecosystem.

About Pharmacovigilance and Materiovigilance:

- Pharmacovigilance: Science of detecting, assessing, understanding, and preventing adverse effects or other drug-related problems.
- Materiovigilance: Monitoring and reporting adverse events associated with medical devices to improve patient safety and device performance.

About YEIDA:

Full Form: Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority.
Established under the Uttar Pradesh Industrial Area Development Act, 1976.
Responsible for planned industrial, urban, and infrastructure development along the Yamuna Expressway region, including the Medical Device Park and Electronics Manufacturing Cluster in Greater Noida.

Additional Key Facts:

- The Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) serves as the official book of drug standards in India and specifies the identity, purity, strength, and quality of medicines.
- The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 regulate the import, manufacture, distribution, and sale of drugs and cosmetics in India.
- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) is India's national drug regulatory authority headed by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).
- The Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI) was launched in 2010 to monitor adverse drug reactions and improve medicine safety.
- Uttar Pradesh is emerging as a major pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing hub with projects such as the Medical Device Park at YEIDA.

Exam Focus Points:

MoU Between: Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) and Uttar Pradesh Promote Pharma Council (UPPPC).
Venue: Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
Event: YEIDA MedTech Investors Meet & Site Visit 2026.
Objective: Strengthen quality standards, innovation, and regulatory excellence in pharmaceuticals and medical devices.
IPC Headquarters: Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
IPC Administrative Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
Official Drug Standards: Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP).
National Pharmacovigilance Centre: Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC).
Drug Regulatory Authority: Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
Key Acts: Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940; Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

Indian Women Boxers Win Three Gold Medals at Asian U-19 & U-23 Boxing Championships 2026



- Indian women boxers delivered an outstanding performance at the Asian Under-19 & Under-23 Boxing Championships 2026 held in Jakarta, Indonesia, winning three gold medals, 10 silver medals, and four bronze medals.
- The gold medals were won by Chandrika Pujari (U-19, 51 kg), Prachi (U-19, 57 kg), and Nisha (U-23, 54 kg). The impressive performance highlights India's growing strength in women's boxing at the continental level.

India's Medal Tally (Women's Events):

Gold: 3
Silver: 10
Bronze: 4

Gold Medal Winners:

Chandrika Pujari – U-19, 51 kg
Prachi – U-19, 57 kg
Nisha – U-23, 54 kg

Other Indian Medal Winners:

Silver Medalists:

Under-19:

Gunjan – 45–48 kg
Joyshree – 54 kg
Chahat – 60 kg

Anshika – 75 kg
Megha Shyokand – 80 kg
Prachi Tokas – +81 kg

Under-23:

Neetika Chand – 60 kg
Kajal – 65 kg
Muskan – 75 kg
Priyanka – +80 kg

Bronze Medalists (Under-23):

Tanu – 51 kg
Prachi – 57 kg
Shivani – 70 kg
Naina – 80 kg

About World Boxing:

- World Boxing is the international governing body for Olympic-style boxing, recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- It aims to ensure transparent governance and retain boxing as an Olympic sport.

President: Gennady Golovkin
Formation: 13 April 2023
Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

About the Boxing Federation of India (BFI):

Established: 2016.
Headquarters: New Delhi.
President: Ajay Singh
Secretary: Pramod Kumar

Additional Key Facts:

- Boxing has been part of the Olympic Games since 1904 (except the 1912 Stockholm Olympics).
- Women's boxing was introduced at the London Olympics 2012.
- Bouts are contested in different weight categories under the 10-point must scoring system.
- India has produced several world-class women boxers, including Mary Kom, Nikhat Zareen, Lovlina Borgohain, and Nitu Ghanghas.
- India has consistently emerged as one of Asia's leading nations in women's boxing at junior, youth, and senior levels.

• Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia.
• India's Women's Medal Tally: 3 Gold, 10 Silver, 4 Bronze.
• Gold Medal Winners: Chandrika Pujari (51 kg), Prachi (57 kg), Nisha (54 kg).
• Sport: Boxing.
• Organising Body: Asian Boxing.
• National Federation: Boxing Federation of India (BFI).
• BFI Headquarters: New Delhi.
• Women's Boxing Introduced in Olympics: London 2012.
• International Governing Body: World Boxing.

Exam Focus Points:

- Event: Asian Under-19 & Under-23 Boxing Championships 2026.

Union Cabinet Approves ₹62,500 Crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with a budgetary outlay of ₹62,500 crore.
- The scheme will be implemented for five years (FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31) to strengthen India's position as a global mobile phone manufacturing hub by increasing production, deepening domestic value addition, strengthening supply chains, boosting exports, and promoting Indian mobile phone brands.

Key Features of the Scheme:

- Provides performance-linked incentives on eligible sales of mobile phones manufactured in India.
- Incentive Rate: 2.25% to 5% on eligible sales.
- Additional incentive of up to 1.5% for greater domestic sourcing of key components and sub-assemblies.
- An additional 3% incentive is provided to promote Indian brands undertaking design and R&D activities.
- Focuses on moving India from assembly-led manufacturing to design-led manufacturing.

Expected Outcomes:

- Scale up India's mobile phone production and exports.
- Increase domestic value addition in electronics manufacturing.
- Strengthen India's position in global value chains.
- Encourage development of indigenous technologies and patents.
- Generate large-scale employment in electronics manufacturing.

About the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS):

- The MPMS succeeds the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing (PLI-LSEM), which concluded on 31 March 2026.
- It aims to build a globally competitive electronics manufacturing ecosystem by encouraging investment in manufacturing, component production, and product design.

About the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY):

- Established: 2016 (as a separate ministry).
- Cabinet Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw

Additional Key Facts:

- India has emerged as the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer, after China.
- Mobile phones have become one of India's top export commodities, reflecting rapid growth in the electronics manufacturing sector.

The MPMS complements flagship initiatives such as:

- Make in India
- Digital India
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0

- The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) was launched in 2021 to develop a complete

semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in India.

- Electronics manufacturing is one of the 24 priority sectors under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme.
- India aims to become a global hub for electronics manufacturing by expanding component manufacturing, semiconductor fabrication, and design capabilities.

Exam Focus Points:

• Scheme: Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS).
• Approved By: Union Cabinet.
• Budgetary Outlay: ₹62,500 crore.
• Duration: FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31.
• Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
• Incentive Rate: 2.25%–5% on eligible sales.
• Additional Incentive: Up to 1.5% for domestic sourcing; 3% for Indian brands undertaking design & R&D.
• Previous Scheme: Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing.
• Objective: Boost production, exports, domestic value addition, and Indian brands.
• Related Initiative: India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0.
• India's Global Position: Second-largest mobile phone manufacturer.

Delhi Unveils 'Mayur' Mascot for 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026

- Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta unveiled "Mayur", the official mascot of the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026, to be held at the Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi.

- Inspired by India's national bird, the Peacock (Mayur), the mascot symbolizes confidence, determination, sportsmanship, cultural heritage, and national pride. T
- The championship will witness the participation of athletes and officials from over 25

Commonwealth countries, showcasing Delhi as an emerging international sporting destination.

About Table Tennis:

- International Governing Body: International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).
- ITTF: President: Petra Sörling
- ITTF: Founded: 1926.
- ITTF Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- Table Tennis became an Olympic sport at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Major international competitions include:

- Olympic Games
- World Table Tennis Championships
- Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships
- Asian Table Tennis Championships



About the Peacock (Mayur):

- Common Name: Indian Peacock (Male of the Indian Peafowl).
- Scientific Name: Pavo cristatus.
- National Bird of India: Declared in 1963.
- Protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (now covered under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended by the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022).
- The peacock symbolizes grace, beauty, pride, and cultural heritage in India.

About the Commonwealth:

- The Commonwealth of Nations is a voluntary association of 56 independent countries, promoting cooperation in democracy, development, education, sports, and cultural exchange.
- Headquarters: Marlborough House, London, United Kingdom.
- Secretary-General: Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey.

Additional Key Facts:

- Thyagaraj Stadium is one of India's leading indoor sporting venues and was developed for the 2010 Commonwealth Games.
- Delhi hosted the 2010 Commonwealth Games, becoming the first Indian city to host the event.
- The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) was established in 1926 and governs the sport globally.
- India has produced several internationally renowned table tennis players, including Achanta Sharath Kamal, Manika Batra, G. Sathiyam, and Sreeja Akula.
- The Indian Peacock (Pavo cristatus) is endemic to the Indian subcontinent and is classified as Least Concern by the IUCN Red List.

Exam Focus Points:

- Event: 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026.
- Official Mascot: Mayur.
- Inspired By: Indian Peacock (National Bird of India).
- Host City: New Delhi.
- Venue: Thyagaraj Stadium.
- Dates: 27 July – 2 August 2026.
- Unveiled By: Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of Delhi.
- Participating Countries: Over 25 Commonwealth nations.
- International Governing Body (Table Tennis): International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).
- ITTF Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.

- National Bird of India: Indian Peacock (*Pavo cristatus*).
- Commonwealth Members: 56 countries.

Uttar Pradesh Records Highest Cyber Fraud Complaints in India



- Uttar Pradesh has recorded the highest number of cyber fraud complaints in India, according to data from the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) managed by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- The surge reflects the rapid increase in online financial frauds, phishing, investment scams, digital arrest scams, fake job offers, UPI frauds, and impersonation-related cyber crimes across the country.
- The data highlights the growing need for stronger cyber awareness, prompt reporting, and improved cyber policing.

Common Types of Cyber Frauds:

- UPI and digital payment frauds.
- Phishing and fake banking calls.
- Digital arrest scams.
- Investment and cryptocurrency scams.
- Online job and part-time work scams.
- OTP and SIM swap frauds.
- Identity theft and social media impersonation.
- Online shopping and QR code scams.

About the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C):

- Full Form: Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- Launched: 2018.
- Administrative Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Headquarters: New Delhi.

- It serves as the national framework for combating cyber crime through coordination among law enforcement agencies, intelligence organisations, banks, and other stakeholders.

About the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP):

- Official online portal for reporting cyber crimes in India.
- Website: <https://cybercrime.gov.in>.
- Special focus on:
 - Financial cyber frauds.
 - Cyber crimes against women and children.
 - Online fraud and identity theft.

- The portal is integrated with the 1930 National Cyber Crime Helpline for immediate reporting of financial cyber frauds.

About the 1930 Cyber Helpline:

- Helpline Number: 1930.
- Operated by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- Provides immediate assistance in reporting online financial frauds and helps initiate fund-freezing requests to banks and financial institutions. Citizens are advised to report frauds at the earliest to maximise the chances of recovering lost funds.

Government Initiatives to Combat Cyber Crime:

- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP).
- Cyber Crime Helpline 1930.
- National Cyber Forensic Laboratory (NCFL).
- Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS).
- Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre).

Additional Key Facts:

- The Information Technology Act, 2000 is the primary legislation governing cyber crimes and electronic commerce in India.
- The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs to strengthen cybercrime prevention, investigation, and prosecution.
- CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and serves as India's national agency for responding to cybersecurity incidents.
- Citizens should immediately report financial cyber frauds through the 1930 helpline or the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal to improve the chances of freezing fraudulent transactions.

- The Government has also introduced the Suspect Registry and strengthened coordination among banks, telecom operators, and law enforcement agencies to curb digital financial frauds.

Exam Focus Points:

- State with Highest Cyber Fraud Complaints: Uttar Pradesh.
- Reporting Platform: National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP).
- Nodal Agency: Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- Administrative Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- National Cyber Helpline: 1930.
- Official Portal: cybercrime.gov.in.
- Primary Cyber Law: Information Technology Act, 2000.
- National Cyber Emergency Response Agency: CERT-In.
- CERT-In Ministry: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Key Objective: Prevent, detect, investigate, and respond to cyber crimes.

India Pushes for Renegotiation of the Indus Waters Treaty to Address New Challenges



- India has reiterated the need to renegotiate the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), 1960, citing fundamental changes in circumstances, including climate change, demographic growth,

increasing water requirements, clean energy needs, and evolving security concerns.

- India has argued that the treaty, negotiated over six decades ago, does not adequately address present-day realities and has sought a review and modification of its provisions to ensure equitable and sustainable utilisation of the Indus River system.
- The issue has gained renewed attention after India kept the treaty in abeyance following the 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack and has continued to press for renegotiation.

Why India Wants Renegotiation:

- Climate change has altered rainfall patterns and river flows.
- Growing population has increased demand for drinking water, irrigation, and hydropower.
- Need for improved water storage and infrastructure development.
- Requirement to maximise clean energy generation through hydropower.
- National security concerns following cross-border terrorism.
- Need to modernise a treaty negotiated under vastly different circumstances in 1960.

About the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT):

- Signed on 19 September 1960 in Karachi.

Signed by:

- Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister of India).
- Field Marshal Ayub Khan (President of Pakistan).
- Brokered by the World Bank after nearly nine years of negotiations.
- The treaty allocates the six rivers of the Indus Basin into two groups:

Eastern Rivers (Allocated to India):

- | |
|----------|
| • Ravi |
| • Beas |
| • Sutlej |

Western Rivers (Primarily Allocated to Pakistan):

- | |
|----------|
| • Indus |
| • Jhelum |
| • Chenab |

India is permitted limited uses on the western rivers, including:

- Run-of-the-river hydropower projects.
- Domestic use.
- Non-consumptive use.
- Limited irrigation, subject to treaty conditions.

Institutional Mechanism:

Permanent Indus Commission (PIC):

- Established under the treaty.
- Consists of one Commissioner each from India and Pakistan.
- Responsible for data sharing, inspections, and resolving technical issues.

If disputes remain unresolved:

- Neutral Expert examines technical differences.
- Court of Arbitration (CoA) deals with legal disputes under specified treaty provisions.

Significance:

- One of the world's longest-standing international river water-sharing agreements.
- Has survived wars and prolonged diplomatic tensions between India and Pakistan.
- Serves as an important example of transboundary river governance.
- Its future has major implications for regional water security, agriculture, hydropower, and bilateral relations.

About the Indus River System:

- Origin of Indus River: Near Lake Manasarovar, Tibet.
- Flows through India and Pakistan before draining into the Arabian Sea.

Major Tributaries:

- | |
|----------|
| • Indus |
| • Jhelum |
| • Chenab |
| • Ravi |
| • Beas |
| • Sutlej |

About the World Bank's Role:

- The World Bank facilitated negotiations leading to the treaty and is a signatory to the agreement in a limited facilitative capacity.
- It may assist in procedural aspects such as the appointment of a Neutral Expert or members of a Court of Arbitration but is not responsible for enforcing the treaty.

Additional Key Facts:

- The Indus Basin is one of the largest river basins in Asia and supports millions of people in India and Pakistan.
- Under the treaty, India received exclusive rights over the Eastern Rivers, while Pakistan received rights over the Western Rivers, subject to specified Indian uses.
- The treaty contains 12 Articles and 8 Annexures (A–H).
- The Permanent Indus Commission is required to meet regularly to exchange hydrological data and discuss treaty implementation.
- India has consistently maintained that changing climatic, hydrological, developmental, and security conditions warrant a review of the treaty framework.

Exam Focus Points:

• Treaty: Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).
• Signed: 19 September 1960.
• Signed At: Karachi.
• Parties: India and Pakistan.
• Mediator: World Bank.
• Eastern Rivers: Ravi, Beas, Sutlej.
• Western Rivers: Indus, Jhelum, Chenab.
• Institution: Permanent Indus Commission (PIC).
• Dispute Resolution: Neutral Expert and Court of Arbitration.
• Reason for Renegotiation: Climate change, demographic growth, development needs, hydropower, and national security.
• Origin of Indus River: Near Lake Manasarovar, Tibet.
• Outfall: Arabian Sea.

Lets Revise

- ❖ Which city hosted the inaugural India–Belgium Strategic Dialogue aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation across trade, defence, innovation, and green energy? **Brussels, Belgium.**
- ❖ Which organisation launched the new beta website in 2026 to simplify online train ticket booking and improve user experience? **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).**

- ❖ Which European country agreed with India in July 2026 to strengthen cooperation in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector through digital transformation, innovation, and sustainable manufacturing? **Poland.**
- ❖ On which railway route will India's first hydrogen-powered train operate after its launch in 2026? **Jind–Sonipat route in Haryana.**
- ❖ Which autonomous institution under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed an MoU with the Uttar Pradesh Promote Pharma Council (UPPPC) in July 2026 to strengthen quality standards and regulatory excellence in the pharmaceutical sector? **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC).**
- ❖ Which three Indian women won gold medals at the 2026 Asian Under-19 & Under-23 Boxing Championships held in Jakarta? **Chandrika Pujari, Prachi, and Nisha.**
- ❖ Which scheme with a budgetary outlay of ₹62,500 crore was approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2026 to strengthen India's mobile phone manufacturing ecosystem? **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS).**
- ❖ What is the name of the official mascot unveiled for the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026 to be held in New Delhi? **Mayur.**
- ❖ Which state recorded the highest number of cyber fraud complaints in India according to the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP)? **Uttar Pradesh.**
- ❖ Which international treaty, signed in 1960 with World Bank mediation, governs the sharing of the waters of the Indus River system between India and Pakistan? **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), 1960.**



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