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1. NCST Gives Nod To Include Pahari Community In ST List (Nov. 4, 2022)

Pahari Community In ST List

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) on 4 November, 2022 approved inclusion of **Pahari Ethnic Group, Paddari Tribe, Koli and Gadda** Brahmins in the **Scheduled Tribes (STs)**.

Important facts

- The proposal to include these groups in the list of STs was placed before the Commission on 7 October by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The Commission studied and approved the proposal in its meetings.
- The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs will now submit a memorandum to the cabinet to approve the reservation for **Pahari ethnic group, Paddari tribe, Kolis and Gadda Brahmins** under the ST category.
- After the cabinet approval, the ministry will introduce a bill in the Parliament to amend the **Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989** to include these communities in the STs.
- When approved by the Parliament, the President shall notify the revised schedule of the ST list under **Article 342** of the Constitution of India.
- On October 4 and 5, 2022, Home Minister Amit Shah had announced ST status for Pahari based on the **recommendations of the GD Sharma panel**.

About Pahari Community

- Pahari people is a term used for several heterogeneous communities settled in parts of **Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**.
- Pahari is a term used to describe the various northern Indo-Aryan languages spoken by the people, most of them found in the lower **Himalayas**.
- **In 1989**, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir had set up an advisory board for the development of the Pahari speaking people and the welfare of the Pahari people.

Four tribes to the list of Scheduled Tribes (ST)

- The **Hatti tribe** in the Trans-Giri area in Himachal Pradesh.
- The **Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran** hill tribes of Tamil Nadu.
- The **Binjhia** tribe in Chhattisgarh.
- The Cabinet also approved a proposal to bring the **Gond community** of Uttar Pradesh under the ST list.

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

- It has been established by amending **Article 338** and inserting a new **Article 338A** in the Indian Constitution through the 89th Amendment Act.
- It is a constitutional body.
- It consists of a **chairman, a vice-chairman** and three whole-time members (including a woman member).
- Its term is for **3 years** and the chairman is appointed by the **President**.
- It investigates and monitors matters relating to Safeguards provided for STs.
- Chairman - **Harsha Chauhan**
- Union Minister of Tribal Affairs - **Arjun Munda**

2. Benjamin Netanyahu comes back to power in Israel (Nov. 4, 2022)

Benjamin Netanyahu comes back to power in Israel

Benjamin Netanyahu is going to become the **Prime Minister of Israel** once again. Netanyahu's party, the **Likud Party**, won **64** of the 120 seats in the final round of counting held on November 1.

Important facts

- Elections have been held in Israel for the **fifth time** in the last three years, after which a party has returned to power with an absolute majority.
- Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party won 32 seats, his right-wing religious and nationalist bloc won a total of 64 seats in the 120 seat parliament, or **Knesset**.
- Lapid's Yesh Atid party won 24 seats.
- Benjamin Netanyahu, 73, is the **longest-serving prime minister**, having been **elected five times** over the course of 15 years.
- After the counting, his rival and Prime Minister **Yair Lapid** conceded defeat.

About Israel

- Prime Minister - **Benjamin Netanyahu**
- Capital - **Jerusalem**
- President - **Isaac Herzog**
- Currency - **Israeli shekel**
- Official Languages - **Hebrew; Arabic**

3. Korean Film Festival begins in Dhaka (Nov. 3, 2022)

Korean Film Festival begins in Dhaka

A three-day festival of **Korean films** was inaugurated on 2 November in **Dhaka, Bangladesh** by State Minister of Cultural Affairs **K M Khalid** and the **Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Lee Jang-keun**.

Important facts

- The festival began with the screening of the acclaimed film '**Escape from Mogadishu**' directed by **Ryu Seung-wan**.
- The film is based on real-life events during the Somali Civil War when the embassies of North and South Korea resorted to humanity and compassion to flee the country.
- The film was selected as the South Korean entry for Best International Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards.
- The festivities began with a two-minute silence in memory of those killed in Seoul during a recent Halloween event.
- The five films shown at the festival depict the life and history of Korea and its people.
- A large number of students and young people came to participate in the film festival enthusiastically.

4. Education Ministry releases Performance Grading Index for states, UTs (Nov. 3, 2022)

Performance Grading Index

The **Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education** on 3 November, 2022 released the **Performance Grading Index (PGI)** for States/UTs for 2020-21.

Highlight of the Index

- A total of 25.57 crore students were enrolled in schools from primary to higher secondary in the year 2021-22, while in the year 2020-21, 25.38 crore students were enrolled.
- An increase of 19.36 lakhs was registered in the number of students enrolled in the year 2021-22.
- In the year 2021-22, there was an increase of 4.82 crores in the enrollment of SC students, while in the year 2020-21 it was 4.78 crores.
- The enrollment of ST students was 2.51 crore in the year 2021-22, as compared to 2.49 in the year 2020-21.
- The enrollment of OBC students was 11.48 crore in the year 2021-22, as compared to 11.35 crore in the year 2020-21.

Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)

- An improvement in the Gross Enrollment Ratio in primary, upper primary and higher secondary level school education was observed in the year 2021-22 as compared to the year 2020-21.
- In the higher secondary schools, an improvement in GER was recorded in the year 2020-21 to 53.8 percent and it increased to 57.6 percent in the year 2021-22.

Number of Teachers

- During the year 2021-22, 95.07 lakh teachers were engaged in school education, of which more than 51 percent were female teachers.
- In the year 2021-22, the pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) stood at 26 in primary, 19 in upper primary, 18 in secondary and 27 in higher secondary.
- In this way, it is continuously improving from the year 2018-19.

Enrollment in Higher Secondary Education

- In the year 2021-22, more than 12.29 crore girl students had enrolled from primary to higher secondary.
- Thus, in 2020-21, an increase of 8.19 lakh was registered in the enrollment of girls as compared to boys.
- The Gender Parity Index (GPI) shows that girls are at a reasonable level of representation in school education, given the population of girls in the same age group.

SC students enrollment

- The enrollment of SC students from primary to higher secondary in the year 2021-22 increased to 4.83 crore as compared to 4.78 crore enrollment in the year 2020-21.
- The enrollment of ST students increased from 2.49 crore in 2020-21 to 2.51 crore in 2021-22 and the enrollment of OBC students increased from 11.35 crore in 2020-21 to 11.49 crore in 2021-22.

Number of schools

- There were 14.89 lakh schools in the year 2021-22, while the number of schools in the year 2020-21 was 15.09 lakh.
- The main reason for the decrease in the number of schools was the closure of private schools and other managed schools and the formation of clusters of schools by different states.

Availability of infrastructure facilities in schools

- Electricity connection - 89.3%

- Drinking water - 98.2%
- Girls Toilet - 97.5%
- CWSN Toilet - 27%
- Hand washing facility - 93.6%
- Playground - 77%
- Railing ramp for CWSN - 49.7%
- Library/Reading Room/Reading Space - 87.3%

Sustainable Environmental Initiatives for Schools

- Kitchen Garden - 27.7%
- Rainwater Harvesting - 21%

About Performance Grading Index for states, UTs

- The online data collection system from schools was developed by the Department of School Education and Literacy in the year 2018-19.
- It is a unique index for evidence-based comprehensive analysis of school education systems across State/UTs.
- Its objective is to promote evidence-based policy making and highlight course correction to ensure quality education for all.
- This report was released for the year 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20.
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6. China launches third and final lab module of space station (Nov. 3, 2022)

final lab module of space station

China on 1 November, 2022 launched its **third and final permanent space station module** (Tiangong space station).

Important facts

- The name of this lab module is **Mengtian**.
- Mengtian is the **second lab module** and the last major component of China's space station.

- Mengtian will later be relocated to its permanent position and three modules—named
- **Tianhe, the Wentian Lab Module, and Mengtian**—will form a basic **T-shaped structure** of the space station.
 - It will provide space for science experiments in **zero gravity**.
 - Mengtian weighs about **23 tons**, is **17.9 metres (58.7 ft)** long and has a diameter of **4.2 metres (13.8 ft)**.
 - China's space laboratory will be fully ready as soon as this module, sent to the Wenchang Launching Station, located on the coast of the southern island province of Hainan, via Long March-5BY-4 rocket, connects to the space station Tiangong.
 - China successfully launched the first lab module of its under-construction space station in the last week of July 2022.

7. Union Cabinet approves MoU between India and Denmark on water resource development and management (Nov. 2, 2022)

Union Cabinet approves

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and **Denmark** on cooperation in the field of **Water Resources Development and Management** on 2 November 2022.

According to the Cabinet the MoU will strengthen cooperation in the field of water resources development and management; rural water supply; and sewage/wastewater treatment through direct collaboration between officials, academics, water sectors and industry in the areas under scope of cooperation.

India Denmark Cooperation on Water resource management

In September 2020, the Prime Minister of Denmark **Mette Frederiksen** and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched a Joint Statement on establishment of Green Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

The joint statement, envisions co-operation in the field of environment/water, circular economy and sustainable urban development including smart cities.

As a follow up of the joint statement on Green Strategic Partnership, the Prime Minister made the declaration for the establishment of centre of excellence for smart water resources management and establishment of a lab for clean rivers in **Varanasi** on the lines of smart city lab in **Panaji**.

A letter of intent was signed between the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Ministry of Environment, Govt. of Denmark on 3 May 2022 during visit of Prime Minister Modi to Denmark.

Basic purpose of the proposed cooperation is to ensure safe and secure water to meet present & future demands through holistic and sustainable approach.

Kingdom of Denmark

It is a country of Europe. Denmark, Norway and Sweden constitute the **Scandinavian** countries in Europe.

The world's largest island **Greenland** is part of Denmark.

Capital: **Copenhagen**

Currency: **Danish Krone**

Prime Minister: **Ms. Mette Frederiksen.**

8. Union Cabinet approves naming Hollongi Airport as Donyi Polo Airport (Nov. 2, 2022)

Donyi Polo Airport.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 2 November approved naming of **greenfield airport at Hollongi, Itanagar, as 'Donyi Polo** Airport.

Important facts

- A resolution was passed by the state government of Arunachal Pradesh to name this airport '**Donny Polo Airport, Itanagar**'.
- The '**Doni Polo**' reflects the people's respect for the **Sun (Doni)** and the **Moon (Polo)**, symbols of the state's traditions and rich cultural heritage.
- The Government of India had given 'in-principle' approval for the development of Hollongi Greenfield Airport in **January 2019**.
- The project is being developed by the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** in collaboration with the Central Government and the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh at a cost of **Rs 646 crore**.
- Hollongi Airport is the **third airport** in the state and the only airport in the capital city after Pasighat and Tezu airports.
- Doni Polo Airport in Itanagar is the **16th airport in Northeast India**.

Operational airports in the north-eastern region

- Guwahati, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Tezpur, Lilabari, and Rupsi (Assam); Pasighat and Tezu (Arunachal Pradesh); Agartala (Tripura); Imphal (Manipur); Shillong (Meghalaya); Dimapur (Nagaland); Lengpui (Mizoram) and Pakyong (Sikkim).

9. First successful flight test of phase -II ballistic missile defence interceptor (Nov. 2, 2022)

Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Interceptor

Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) conducted the first successful flight test of **Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Interceptor AD-1 missile** with Large Kill Altitude Bracket from **APJ Abdul Kalam Island** off the **coast of Odisha** on November 2, 2022.

Interceptor AD-1 Missile

- It is a long-range interceptor missile designed for both low **exo-atmospheric and endo-atmospheric interception of long-range ballistic missiles as well as aircraft.**
- It is driven by a **two-phase solid motor.**
- It is equipped with indigenously developed advanced control system, navigation and guidance algorithms to accurately guide the missile to the target.
- It has the ability to hit many different types of targets.
- During this flight-test, all sub-systems performed as expected.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- It is a premier defence research and development agency under the **Ministry of Defence**, Government of India.
- It aims to make India self-reliant in critical defence technology and systems.
- It was set up in **1958.**
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**
- Chairman - **Samir V Kamat**

10. Zojila Day commemorated at Zojila War Memorial, Drass (Nov. 2, 2022)

Zojila Day

Zojila Day was observed on **1 November 2022** at the **Zojila War Memorial near Dras** to celebrate the gallant action taken by the Indian soldiers in 'Operation Bison'. '**Operation Bison**' was launched on the icy heights of **Zojila Pass**, the gateway to **Ladakh in 1948.**

Important facts

- The Commander of Drass Warriors of Leh's Fire and Fury Corps paid floral tributes to the soldiers who were martyred in liberating the Zojila Pass from Pakistani infiltrators.
- Zojila Day is an indomitable symbol of the bravery of the Indian Army.
- This battle is considered historic as tanks were used for the first time at such a height.
- Zojila Day is a symbol of the indomitable spirit of bravery and 'Never Say Die' of the Indian Army.

About Zojila Pass

- It is a high mountain pass in Jammu and Kashmir, located on **National Highway 1.**
- It connects Srinagar in **Kashmir Valley to Leh** in Ladakh region.

- It has an elevation of about **3,528 metres (11,575 ft)**, and is the **second highest pass** on the Srinagar–Leh National Highway after **Photu La**.
- This is known as the '**Icy Storm Pass**'.
- The Zojila Tunnel project was started in the year **2018**. It is the longest and strategic bi-directional tunnel in Asia.

About The battle of Zojila

- During the Indo-Pakistani War of **1947**, Zojila was seized by Pakistani-backed invaders in **1948** in their campaign to capture Ladakh.
- On **November 1, 1948**, the Zojila Pass was recaptured by the Indian Army in an attack called **Operation Bison**.
- The Battle of Zojila was one of the first battles of the Indian Army in the high altitude region.