

## **Prelim Bits 05-11-2023 & 06-11-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs**

### **Jammu-Poonch highway**

Recently, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) achieved a breakthrough in a vital tunnel along the 250-km long and strategically important National Highway (NH) 144A in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** was formed on 7 May 1960 to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of the north and north-east states of the country.

**National Highway, NH-144A** is a 2-lane road which starts from Jammu and goes up to Poonch districts. It also provides road connectivity to Akhnoor sub division.

- The tunnel forms part of NH upgradation project under Prime Minister's Development Package announced in November 2015 as Reconstruction Plan for Jammu and Kashmir.

**Breakthrough** is a point, where the tunnel from both the ends meet.

- **Upgradation** - The NH 144A is being upgraded from the existing 2 lanes to 4 lanes.
- **Implementation**
  - NHIDCL executes the 4-laning of the highway from Jammu to Akhnoor.
  - BRO executes the remaining work from Akhnoor to Poonch under the Project Sampark.

**National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)** is a fully owned company of the Government of India, set up in 2014 for managing a network of over 10,000 km of National Highways out of 1,15,000 km in India.

- **Civilian significance** - It provides speedy and all-weather road connectivity to people living in the border districts.
- It helps to manage and control the increase in vehicular traffic and frequent road accidents.
- It results in socio-economic growth.

- **Defence significance** - The road touches the border areas, and thereby essential for *national security*.
- It allows *speedy movement of defence vehicles* to areas along the Line of Control (LOC).

## Reference

[Indian Express| Jammu-Poonch Highways](#)

## World Local Production Forum (WLPF)

*The Indian delegation is going to participate in the 2nd World Local Production Forum (WLPF) at the World Forum, The Hague in Netherlands in November 2023.*

- WLPF is a platform to generate actionable recommendations to support local production of medicines and healthcare technologies.
- **Created by** - World Health Organisation (WHO).
- The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of WLPF was organized virtually in 2021.
- **Aims**
  - To emphasize the importance of health product production as a vital long-term infrastructure.
  - To promote *strengthening local production of medicines* and other health technologies.
  - To improve *timely and equitable access* to quality assured health products.
  - To strengthen global, regional, and national *health security*.
- **Secretariat** - The Local Production and Assistance (LPA) Unit at the WLPF.

***Local Production & Assistance (LPA) Unit** supports Member States in strengthening sustainable local production by forging political commitment through strategies, policies and partnerships.*

- **Objectives of 2nd WLPF**
  - To discuss key challenges in promoting local production and technology transfer.
  - To explore opportunities and mechanisms to tackle the bottlenecks.

***Technology transfer** is a logical procedure that controls the transfer of products, processes and knowledge together with its documentation and professional expertise, allowing the diffusion of innovation to new horizons/markets.*

- **Significance for India** - To boost India's resilience in global supply chains of pharmaceuticals and to showcase important contributions of [India's Pharma industry](#).

## References

1. [PIB| India to participate in 2<sup>nd</sup> WLPF](#)
2. [WHO| World Local Production Forum](#)

## **KAVACH - Traffic Collision Avoidance Systems (TCAS)**

*Recently, 2 passenger trains in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district collided which costed lives of many people.*

- It is a cab signalling train control system with anti-collision features and is called as **Kavach (armour)**.
- **Developed by** - Indian Railways Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) which **costs Rs. 50 lakh per kilometre**.
- **Objective** - To enhance safety of running trains by aiding loco pilots to avoid signal passing at danger, over-speeding and during inclement weather such as dense fog.
- It deploys **3 components** along the railway route.
- **RFID technology in tracks** - It uses radio waves to automatically identify and read information from a distant wireless device without physical contact or a line of sight.
- **Locomotive components** - The driver's cabin is provided with RFID readers, computer, and brake interface equipment.
- **Radio infrastructure** - These are the towers and modems which are installed at railway stations.



- **Working** - The 3 components communicate with each other and this is not affected by visual interferences like hilly geography.
- There is **direct loco-to-loco communication** regarding location and track IDs, in case if both trains are on the same line.
- The locomotives have antennas which communicate with towers on railway stations and display warnings to the driver on his monitor.
- **Automatic Braking** - After giving warnings and if the pilot does not slow down below 15 kmph then it automatically applies brakes to bring the train to a halt.
- **Coverage** - The present coverage for is only 1,500 km which includes 1,400 km stretch in South Central Railway.



## **Reference**

[The Hindu| TCAS](#)

## **Advocate-on-Record system (AOR)**

*Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) pulled up an Advocate-on-Record (AoR) for filing a frivolous case before the court.*

- AORs are a pool of elite Delhi-based lawyers whose legal practice is mostly before the SC but they can appear before other courts too.
- **Need for AORs** - A lawyer with special qualifications, picked by the Supreme Court itself, is equipped to appear for a litigant as the SC is a court of the last opportunity for the litigant.

*AoR is broadly based on the British practice of barristers and solicitors where barristers wear the black gown and wig to argue cases while solicitors take up cases from clients.*

- **Eligibility criteria** - It is prescribed by **Supreme Court Rules, 2013**. They are
  - To have at least 4 years of practice and at least 1 year training with a court approved AoR.
  - Securing at least 60% score in the exam set by the Court itself with at least 50% in each subject.
  - Having an office in Delhi within a 16 km radius of the SC and to give an undertaking to employ, within 1 month of being registered as an AoR, a registered clerk.
- **Role** - In Supreme Court, **only an AoR can file cases** and thus forms an essential link between the litigant and the Court.
- An AoR might engage other lawyers including senior counsels to argue before the highest court of the country.
- **Governing Rules** - According to **Section 30 of the Advocates Act**, any lawyer enrolled with the bar council is entitled to practice law before any Court or tribunal in the country.

***Article 145** of the Indian Constitution states that the Supreme Court is empowered to make rules and regulate its own procedure for hearing cases.*

***Senior advocates in India** are designated by the Court and wear a distinct gown who cannot solicit clients and are only briefed by other lawyers, say for example, an AoR.*

***Pleaders** are the arguing counsels in the High Courts in India.*

## References

[Indian Express| Advocate on Record System \(AoR\)](#)

**Other Important News**

### Dayapar Wind Project

- NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPC REL), a wholly owned subsidiary of **NTPC**, has declared the commercial operation of its first project, the 50 MW wind project at **Dayapar** in Kachch, **Gujarat**.
- Dayapar Wind is the first capacity in India to be declared commercial under new **Indian Electricity Grid Code** and **General Network Access Regime**.

### Cnemaspis rashidi

- It is a new species of gecko discovered in the Western Ghats (endemic) near Rajapalayam in Tamil Nadu.
- The new species is also called **Rashid's dwarf gecko** as it is the smallest (approx. 2 inches) among the genus.
- The dwarf gecko has been found in small numbers and it is endemic to the Western Ghats.
- So far, 93 species of gecko have been documented and this is the 94th species.



### Pancorius Sebastiani

- Pancorius sebastiani, a new species of jumping spider, was discovered from the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, Western Ghats, Kerala.
- It belongs to the genus Pancorius Simon, 1902, and Salticidae family.
- The Pancorius genus of Asian jumping spiders is primarily distributed in south east Asia.
- While its distribution was hitherto limited to the east and northeastern regions in India, the new species is the first to be reported from the south.

### Maternity leave for women in Armed Forces

- Union Defence Minister has approved a proposal to grant maternity, child care and child adoption leave to women soldiers, sailors and air warriors on par with their officer counterparts.
- At present, the women *officers* get **maternity leave of 180 days** with full pay for each child, subject to a maximum of 2 children.
- **Childcare leave of 360 days** is granted in total service career (subject to the child being less than 18 years of age) to women officers.
- **Child adoption leave of 180 days** is granted after the date of the valid adoption of a child below 1 year of age.

### Hasmukh Shah Memorial Award

- Alvin Anto of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has won the Hasmukh Shah Memorial Award for Ecological Studies for the year 2023 in the research category.
- He has been recognised for his extensive research on the *resilience of coral reefs in the Lakshadweep islands*, highlighting the increasing threats these critical ecosystems face from climate change and other human-induced factors.
- Hasmukh Shah Memorial Award, instituted by the Gujarat Ecology Society and funded by the Kachnar Trust.

### India and Bangladesh

- India and Bangladesh jointly inaugurated 3 India assisted development projects.
- The 3 projects are
  - The **Akhaura-Agartala cross-border rail link** - Dual gauge rail line connects Bangladesh and Tripura.
  - The **Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line** - Broad gauge rail route between Mongla Port (Bangladesh) and the existing rail network in Khulna (Bangladesh).
  - **Unit - II of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant** - Rampal in Khulna Division of Bangladesh.

### **Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety**

- The Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety was adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> global high-level conference on road safety in Brazil in 2015.
- The declaration includes recommendations on Sustainable transport, Enforcement, Post-crash response, Pedestrian and cyclist safety.
- The declaration also includes the Sustainable Development Goal 3.6, which is to half the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2030.
- The United Nations has also declared 2011-2020 as the decade of action for Road Safety.

