

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelimbits 02-08-2025

### Nyaya Bandhu Legal Aid program

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance*

#### Why in News?

Union minister of law and justice in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha proceedings described Nyaya Bandhu Legal Aid program is enhancing legal aid in the country.

- **Nyaya Bandhu** - It is a ***pro bono legal services (free legal assistance)*** program to provide free legal aid to eligible marginalized beneficiaries through a mobile application.
- The program registers interested Pro Bono Advocates and connects them with the beneficiaries through the Nyaya Bandhu Application.

***Pro bono advocates** are legal professionals provide legal services free of charge or at a minimal cost to individuals and organizations unable to afford legal assistance or access legal aid, serving the public good.*

- **Aim** - To create a mechanism for delivering legal advice and assistance to needy beneficiaries across the country.
- **Launched & implemented by** - Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice.
- **Program under** - Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) which is being implemented by Department of Justice.
- **Eligible beneficiaries** - People entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- **Features** - A panel of Advocates has also been constituted in 23 High Courts to strengthen institutional mechanism for delivering pro bono legal services to the beneficiary.
  - To instill the spirit of free legal work among law students.
  - Pro Bono Clubs constituted across 109 law colleges in the country.
- **Awareness in remote areas** - Through Pro Bono Clubs (PBCs) in the Law schools are engaged in providing community care legal assistance and legal awareness.
- through Common Service Centres (CSCs) in regional languages and via Helpline Toll-free number 14454.

## Nyaya Bandhu Application

- **Availability** - It is available on iOS/Android/UMANG Platform.
- **Features and purpose** - Registration of both advocates and beneficiaries.
- Enabling *communication and updates exchange* between advocates and applicants through the app.
- Integration with the Tele-Law pre-litigation *advice services* for broader legal support reach.
- *Multilingual support* (about 22 scheduled languages) and availability on UMANG platform to enhance accessibility.

- **Impact** - Till 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2025, approximately, 14888 women beneficiaries have registered under the Nyaya Bandhu App seeking assistance across various problems.

## Reference

[PIB | Nyaya Bandhu Legal Aid program](#)

## WIFEX

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Science and technology*

## Why in News?

*Recently, WiFEX has completed a remarkable ten successful years milestone stepping into next phase WiFEX-II which led to active response even during dense fog.*

- **WiFEX - Winter Fog Experiment**, is one of the world's few long-term open-field experiments.
- **Aim** - Dedicated research into North India's dense winter fog and its impact on daily life and aviation safety.
- **Launched in** - Winter of 2015 at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), New Delhi.
- **Led by** - Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).
- **Supported by** - India Meteorological Department (IMD) and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF).
- **Nodal ministry** - Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- **Instruments used** - Micrometeorology towers, ceilometers, and high-frequency sensors
- **Data collected on** - Temperature layers, humidity, wind, turbulence, soil heat, and aerosols.
- **Features**
  - Region's most advanced High-resolution (3 km) probabilistic fog prediction model.
  - It will predict when fog will begin, how dense it will be, how long it will last, and


when it will clear.

- Achieving more than 85% precision for very dense fog (visibility below 200 meters).

- **Advantages**

- **Aviation safety & fog solution** - It will ensure less costly diversions, fewer delays, safer runways, and more informed travel during the challenging winter fog season.

-  **WIFEX II's next phase**

-  Localized extension, runway-specific fog predictions to more airports in north India.
- Enhancing performance through Installation of dedicated sensors at additional sites
- Airport operators will gain real-time data to help them activate response plans and ensure operations remain safe and efficient even during winter's thickest fog.

## Reference

[PIB| WIFEX - A Remarkable 10-Year Milestone](#)

## Digital Payment Index

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance| Economic & Social development*

## Why in News?

*Recently, the Digital Payments Index revealed that Digital payments in India saw a 10.7% growth during Sept, 2024 to March, 2025.*

- **Aim** - It is designed to **track the extent of digitalisation in payments** across the country.
- **Introduced in** - 2021.
- **Base year** - March, 2018 as the base period.
- **DPI score** - **Set at 100** in 2018.
- **Released by** - Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **Oversight** - Biannually (twice a year).
- **Parameters**
  - Payment Enablers (25%),
  - Payment infrastructure Demand-side (10%) & supply-side (15%),
  - Payment performance (45%),
  - Consumer centricity (5%).
- **Key findings**
  - The current level in March 2025 marks a more than **fourfold increase** in digital

payment activity since 2018.

- The latest increase is primarily driven by improvements in Payment Infrastructure Supply-side factors and Payment Performance includes
  - An expanded merchant acceptance network,
  - Wider adoption of QR code-based payments,
  - Robust growth in Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions, and
  - Improved availability of digital banking services nationwide.
- It highlights a broader transformation in the country's payments ecosystem, supported by government initiatives such as Digital India, growing smartphone penetration, and active fintech innovation.
- **Significance** - It plays a crucial role in policy formulation and benchmarking progress.

## Reference

[DD NEWS| RBI - Digital Payment Index](#)

## Bilateral Agreement between India and Morocco

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Bilateral relation*

## Why in News?

Recently, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT) agreement was signed between India and Morocco.

***MLAT** is an agreement between two or more countries for the purpose of gathering and exchanging information, evidence and other forms of legal assistance for criminal investigations and prosecutions.*

- **Aim** - The Bilateral agreement aims to promote cooperation in the Judicial and legal spheres.
- It facilitates the widest measures of mutual legal assistance in civil and commercial matters in accordance with national laws.
- **Assistance under the agreement** -The service of summons and other judicial documents or processes;
- The taking of evidence by means of Letters of Request;
- The execution of judicial judgments (in the case of the Kingdom of Morocco), decrees (in the case of the Republic of India), settlements, and arbitral awards.
- **Key features**
  - **Exchange of Expertise** - Sharing experiences and expertise related to the functioning of the respective Ministries and judicial systems.
  - **Legislation Exchange** - Mutual sharing of legal publications, bulletins, and

legislative materials to enhance legal understanding and cooperation.

- **Capacity Building** - Organising symposiums, conferences, and joint courses on various legal issues and applications.
- **Legal Training and Delegation Exchange** - Facilitating visits and training opportunities for lawyers and legal experts, including participation in each other's training programs.
- **Judicial Information Systems** - Cooperation in developing national legal information systems and related technological advancements through shared digital practices and tools in justice delivery.
- **Implementation Mechanism** - Formation of a joint coordination committee responsible for planning annual cooperation programs that are practical and within the financial capabilities of both parties.
- **Significance** - It contribute to institutional strengthening, capacity development, and modernization of legal frameworks, ultimately promoting rule of law and justice cooperation.

## Reference

[PIB| Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties \(MLAT\)](#)

### One Liners 02-08-2025

#### History, Art and Culture

##### National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)

- **Launched in** - 2017, by Ministry of culture.
- **Objectives** - To *document India's cultural* heritage and its potential to revitalize rural economics.
- To strengthen cultural identity and foster economic development.
- **Implemented by** - Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

##### Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (MGMD) portal

- **Launched in** - 2023, by National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM) under Ministry of culture.
- **Aim** - To *document the cultural heritage of 6.5 lakh villages* of India.
- **Finance** - No financial assistance has been allocated/sanctioned for state wise implementation.
- **Progress** - Currently, *4.7 lakh villages are live on the portal* with their respective cultural portfolios.

##### Tribal Cultural Centres

- **Launched in** - 7<sup>th</sup> five-year plan by Ministry of culture.
- **Aim** - To *protect, promote & preserve various forms of folk art & culture* including tribal culture.
- **Dedicated infrastructures** - Auditorium, exhibition galleries, libraries and Shilpgram/ Kalagram facilities to host artists and craft displays.
- **7 Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs)** - Patiala (Punjab), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Udaipur (Rajasthan), Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh), Kolkata (West Bengal), Dimapur (Nagaland) and Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu).

### **Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF)**

- It is an *autonomous organisation under Ministry of culture*.
- **Located in** - Kolkata.
- **Aim** - To provide financial assistance for the development of public libraries through Matching and Non-Matching Schemes.

### **National Mission on Libraries (NML) Scheme**

- **Launched in** - 2014, under Ministry of culture.
- **Funding** - Providing financial assistance for 'Setting up of NML Model Libraries'.
- **Support** - To one State Central Library and one District Library in each State/Union Territory, as recommended by the respective State Authorities.

## **Environment**

### **World Nature Conservation Day**

- **Celebrated on** - *July 28*, officially designated by UNGA.
- **Initiated by** - United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, Sweden, 1972.
- **2025 Theme** - "*Connecting People and Plants: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation*."
- **Objectives** - To inspire individuals *to conserve energy, reduce carbon footprints, and adopt sustainable habits* that help protect natural resources.

### **First-Ever Grassland Bird Census**

Recently, the Indian Prime Minister highlighted a "first-ever grassland bird census" in his Mann ki Baat radio programme.

- **Held in** - *Kaziranga National Park, Assam*.
- **Tools** - Recorders were then used to identify the birds based on the recordings *using spectrogram*.
- **Observations** - Recorded a total of 43 grassland bird species.
  - 1 Critically endangered - Bengal Florican.
  - 2 Endangered - Finn's Weaver, Swamp Grass Babbler.
  - 6 Vulnerable - Swamp Francolin, Jerdon's Babbler, Slender-billed Babbler, Black-breasted Parrotbill, Marsh Babbler, and Bristled Grassbird.
  - 1 Near threatened - Indian Grassbird.
- Grassland birds are "an indicator of good health" of an ecosystem.
- There are 10 species that are either globally threatened or endemic to the Brahmaputra floodplains.

## **Security**

### **Exercise Drone Prahar**

An advanced military drill was organised by the Infantry and supporting arms.

- **Objectives** - To enhance *command reach and situational awareness for tactical commanders* through layered surveillance and support for dynamic decision-making.
- To validate the integration of drone technology into tactical operations.
- **Exercise** - It showcased the effective deployment of drones for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR).
- It includes *battlefield drone integration* including airspace DE confliction, secure communications and coordination protocols across multiple arms and services.

## **Science**

### **Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor**

Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a MoU to establish a state-of-the-art testing facility in Mechanical & Material domain in Tiruchirappalli.

- **Launched under** - Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS).
- **7 testing facilities** - 4 in Tamil Nadu and 3 in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Finance** - Government funding up to 75% as 'Grant-in-Aid', with the remaining 25% funded by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee**

The Ministry of Heavy Industries organised a Special Lecture Session to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary.

- **Ideologies** - Supported & believed in "One Nation, One Constitution."
- **Literary works** - He started a Bengali journal called "Bang Wani", in 1922.
- **Political life** - He became the acting President of the Hindu Mahasabha in 1940.
- Founded the All India Bharatiya Jan Sangh in 1951, which later progressed into the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- He was a Member of the Constituent Assembly and Union Minister for Industry and Supply.
- He was known as the lion of parliament.
- **Educational works** - At the age of 33, he became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University.