

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelimbits 04-08-2025

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 30th 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 04-08-2025

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** - 7th 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.