

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (20 September 2024)

### TOPICS COVERED

1. Baseless case, says India after U.S. court issues summons over Pannun's lawsuit
2. Trump not on Modi's U.S. travel plan, clarifies MEA
3. Fake NCC camps: T.N. told to pay ₹5 lakh each to 2 schoolgirls
4. Trump not on travel plan, clarifies MEA after he claims meet with PM (GS Paper-II: IR)
5. India abstains from voting on UNGA resolution against Israel's 'occupation' (GS Paper-II: IR)
6. India should increase court system capacity, says FATF (GS Paper-III: Money Laundering)
7. Harappan civilisation: enigma remains even after 100 years of exploration (GS Paper-I: Ancient History)
8. Pasmanda Muslim group backs Waqf Bill (GS Paper-I: Society)
9. BJP manifesto offers ₹2,100 monthly aid for women, 2 lakh govt. jobs in Haryana (GS Paper-II: Freebies Politics)
10. Woman recounts abuse at Odisha police station (GS Paper-I: police System)
11. White Revolution 2.0 to empower women, fight malnutrition: Amit Shah (GS Paper-I: Post Independence India)
12. How Kerala reduced mortality from amoebic meningoencephalitis (GS Paper-III: Basic Science)

## Bengal doctors end stir after govt. lists reforms (20 September)

- Protesting resident doctors in West Bengal decided to call off their strike and will resume emergency services from Saturday.
- The strike had lasted nearly 40 days after the body of a doctor was found at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.
- Doctors called off the protest after the West Bengal government issued directives to improve safety and security for healthcare professionals.
- A representative of the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front stated that the protest was about ensuring safety and preventing incidents like the one that happened to Dr. Abhaya.
- The doctors plan to hold a procession on Friday to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) office in Kolkata.
- They emphasized that while emergency services will resume, their fight for safety and security reforms will continue.
- The doctors also announced the establishment of an "Abhaya Clinic" to help flood-affected people.
- The State's Chief Secretary, Manoj Pant, issued ten directives, including deploying security personnel and creating a helpline and panic alarm system in hospitals.
- The West Bengal government has appointed a former Director General of Police, Surajit Kar Purkayastha, to conduct security audits of medical institutions.
- The Chief Minister had made another appeal for doctors to return to work due to the ongoing flood situation.

### White Revolution (Operation Flood)

The **White Revolution** in India, also known as **Operation Flood**, was a rural development program initiated to increase milk production, transform dairy farming, and make India self-sufficient in milk. It is considered one of the most successful development programs in India and was led by **Dr. Verghese Kurien**, often referred to as the "Father of the White Revolution."

#### Background and Origin

- **Initiated:** 1970
- **Led by:** National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)
- **Key Architect:** Dr. Verghese Kurien
- **Primary Objective:** To create a nationwide milk grid, increase milk production, and ensure fair prices for both producers and consumers.

- **Funding:** The program was funded initially by the sale of surplus commodities from the European Economic Community (EEC) under the **World Food Programme**.

#### Key Features of the White Revolution

1. **Milk Cooperatives:** The backbone of the White Revolution was the creation of a cooperative network, which enabled small farmers and milk producers to form cooperative societies at the village level. These cooperatives linked farmers directly to the market without middlemen, ensuring better prices for their produce.
2. **Operation Flood Phases:**
  - **Phase I (1970-1981):** Focused on linking major milk-producing regions with key markets and developing infrastructure for milk processing and distribution.
  - **Phase II (1981-1985):** Aimed to expand the reach of cooperatives, covering more rural areas and improving the processing capacity.
  - **Phase III (1985-1996):** Focused on further expansion, increased self-sufficiency, and improving milk quality.
3. **National Milk Grid:** The White Revolution established a **National Milk Grid** that connected milk producers with urban consumers, ensuring a year-round supply of milk and eliminating seasonal shortages. It linked the rural dairy farms in remote regions to over **700 towns and cities** across India.
4. **Cross-Breeding Programs:** To increase milk yield, cross-breeding programs were introduced, enhancing the productivity of local cows by breeding them with high-yielding varieties like **Holstein-Friesian** and **Jersey** cattle.

#### Achievements of the White Revolution

1. **India as the Largest Milk Producer:** Before the White Revolution, India faced severe milk shortages. By the mid-1990s, India became the world's largest producer of milk. As of 2022, India accounts for about **23% of global milk production**, producing approximately **210 million metric tons** of milk annually.
2. **Boost in Farmer Income:** Small farmers, many of whom owned just a few cows, significantly benefitted from the revolution. By participating in cooperatives, they could receive a fair price for their milk. Today, more than **16 million farmers** across **200,000 village dairy cooperatives** are part of this network.
3. **Development of the Dairy Sector:** The revolution not only increased milk production but also spurred the development of related sectors such as fodder production, veterinary care, and the creation of rural infrastructure like roads and chilling plants.

## Mpox

**Mpox**, previously known as **Monkeypox**, is a viral zoonosis caused by the monkeypox virus. This virus belongs to the **Orthopoxvirus genus, which also includes smallpox**. Mpox is primarily found in **Central and West Africa** but has gained global attention due to outbreaks in non-endemic regions.

#### 1. Origin and Naming:

- The virus was first identified in **1958 in monkeys used for research, hence the name**. The disease was first reported in humans in 1970 in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**.
- In **November 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially renamed Monkeypox to Mpox** to avoid stigmatization and simplify its name.

#### 2. Symptoms:

- Initial symptoms include **fever, headache, muscle aches, and fatigue**.
- A characteristic rash typically follows, progressing from flat lesions to raised bumps, and then to pustules before crusting over.
- The rash often starts on the face and can spread to other parts of the body, including palms, soles, and genitalia.
- Lesions may also be found in the mouth, throat, and on other mucosal surfaces.

#### 3. Transmission:

- **Animal-to-Human:** Direct contact with infected animals, such as rodents or primates. Animal hosts include Gambian rats and squirrels.
- **Human-to-Human:** Through respiratory droplets, bodily fluids, or contact with contaminated materials or skin lesions. Close contact with infected individuals is a primary mode of spread.

#### 4. Prevalence and Risk Factors:

- Historically endemic to Central and West Africa. Cases have been rare but are increasing in frequency.
- Risk is higher for those in contact with infected animals or people, especially in regions where the disease is prevalent.

#### 5. Outbreaks:

- **2022 Outbreak:** The most significant global outbreak occurred in 2022, spreading to countries outside Africa, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and several European nations. This marked the first major spread of mpox outside its traditional endemic regions.
- **Data from 2022:** Over 70,000 cases were reported worldwide in 2022. The outbreak prompted a global health response, including vaccination campaigns and public health advisories.

#### Prevention and Treatment:

- **Prevention:** Avoiding contact with infected animals and practicing good hygiene. Using **personal protective equipment (PPE)** in outbreak settings.
- **Vaccination:** The smallpox vaccine provides cross-protection against mpox. During the 2022 outbreak, **targeted vaccination campaigns** were implemented in high-risk areas.
- **Treatment:** No specific antiviral treatment for mpox; care is generally supportive. However, antiviral drugs like tecovirimat may be used in severe cases or outbreaks.

## Baseless case, says India after U.S. court issues summons over Pannun's lawsuit (20 September)

- A U.S. court issued summons to Indian citizens, including National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and former RAW chief Samant Goel, in connection to a complaint filed by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a leader of the banned Khalistani group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ).
- The complaint was filed earlier this week by Mr. Pannun against the Government of India, Mr. Doval, Mr. Goel, Vikram Yadav, and Nikhil Gupta (currently jailed in New York).
- The defendants are required to respond to the court by September 18, within 21 days.
- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri called the case based on "unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations."
- The case is being investigated by a high-level committee, and relevant agencies from both India and the U.S. are involved.
- The U.S. Department of Justice had previously issued charges in November 2023, alleging an Indian government agent plotted to kill an American citizen on U.S. soil.
- Mr. Misri pointed out that Mr. Pannun, who filed the case, is associated with an unlawful organization, SFJ, banned under India's Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for its anti-national activities.
- The summons was issued just before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. for the Quad Summit.

## Trump not on Modi's U.S. travel plan, clarifies MEA (20 September)

- The Indian government stated that no meeting has been scheduled with former U.S. President Donald Trump so far.
- This statement came after Mr. Trump mentioned during a campaign rally that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "coming to meet" him next week.
- Sources indicated that arranging a meeting between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump would be difficult due to Mr. Modi's limited time and Mr. Trump's busy campaign schedule.
- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri informed the media that during his U.S. visit from September 21-23, Prime Minister Modi would meet with current U.S. President Joseph Biden.

## Fake NCC camps: T.N. told to pay ₹5 lakh each to 2 schoolgirls (20 September)

- The Madras High Court directed the Tamil Nadu government to pay ₹5 lakh to two schoolgirls who were victims of penetrative sexual assault.
- The court also ordered ₹1 lakh to be paid to other children who were sexually abused at fake National Cadet Corps (NCC) camps held at private schools in Bargur, Krishnagiri, and Tiruchengode in August 2024.
- The court's order was given by Acting Chief Justice D. Krishnakumar and Justice P. B. Balaji.
- The ex gratia amount must be deposited in the Krishnagiri Mahila court within four weeks.
- After the deposit, the victims' families can apply for withdrawal with the help of the district legal services authority.
- The State government is allowed to recover the ex gratia amount from the school management involved.
- The court passed these orders in response to a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by advocate A.P. Suryaprakasam, who requested a CBI investigation into the abuse of over 20 children at these fake NCC camps.
- Advocate-General P.S. Raman informed the court that three FIRs had been filed, 20 people were arrested, and the main accused, A. Sivaraman, died while in judicial custody at a hospital.
- A judicial magistrate is conducting an inquiry into Sivaraman's death.
- A helpline for those in distress was mentioned: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health Suicide Prevention Helpline: 011-40769002.

## Trump not on travel plan, clarifies MEA after he claims meet with PM (20 September)

**PM to land in the U.S. on Saturday for a three-day trip; India’s role as a peacemaker is still a ‘work in progress’, says Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri; Quad meet to take stock of Indo-Pacific initiatives; India to remain out of the trade pillar of the IPEF**

- The Indian government stated that no meeting has been scheduled with former U.S. President Donald Trump, despite Trump's claim at a rally that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would meet him next week.
- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri briefed the media about Modi's visit to the U.S. from September 21 to 23, where Modi will meet U.S. President Joseph Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Wilmington for the Quad summit.
- Modi will also have bilateral meetings during his visit to New York on Sunday and Monday.
- When asked about Trump’s claim of a meeting with Modi, Misri said there was no confirmation yet, and that any meeting would depend on schedules and logistics, which are challenging due to Modi's limited time and Trump's campaign.
- Meeting Trump, a Republican candidate, could be seen as politically partisan unless Modi also meets Democratic candidate Kamala Harris.
- Regarding India's potential role as a peacemaker in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Misri said discussions on this were ongoing, but there were no specific proposals to share yet.
- Misri did not confirm if Modi would meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy or other leaders like Bangladesh's Muhammad Yunus and Israel’s Benjamin Netanyahu.
- Modi will fly from Delhi to Wilmington, Delaware, for the Quad summit, where the focus will be on Indo-Pacific initiatives.
- India will present documents for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) Agreement, but will not join the trade pillar due to concerns over labor and human rights standards.
- Discussions on the trade pillar continue, while India has agreed to the other pillars related to supply chains, clean economy, and fair economy.
- Misri did not comment on the U.S. White House’s claim that China’s actions and tensions over Taiwan would be a key topic at the Quad summit.
- In New York, Modi will address the Indian diaspora and speak at the UN Summit of the Future on Tuesday.



**Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)**

- The **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)** is a multilateral economic initiative introduced by the **United States** in **May 2022**, aimed at strengthening economic cooperation and promoting prosperity across the Indo-Pacific region.
- It focuses on building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economic systems in response to challenges posed by global disruptions, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, rising geopolitical tensions, and climate change.

**Objectives of IPEF**

- **Strengthen Regional Supply Chains:** Ensure supply chain resilience by diversifying and securing critical sectors.
- **Facilitate Trade:** Promote fair and transparent trade policies, especially focusing on digital economy regulations and standards.
- **Promote Clean Energy and Sustainability:** Support energy transition, investment in clean technologies, and climate goals.
- **Tackle Corruption and Tax Evasion:** Set anti-corruption and tax practices that align with global standards and promote financial transparency.

**The IPEF operates under four key pillars:**

1. **Trade:** Promoting digital trade, harmonizing labor and environmental standards, and supporting open and competitive markets. This pillar encourages transparent and fair trade rules, particularly emphasizing the regulation of the digital economy.
2. **Supply Chain Resilience:** Creating strong, diversified, and secure supply chains across the Indo-Pacific to avoid disruptions like those experienced during the pandemic. This pillar includes cooperation in key sectors such as semiconductors, critical minerals, and essential goods.
3. **Clean Energy, Decarbonization, and Infrastructure:** Enhancing cooperation on clean energy technologies, combating climate change, and promoting sustainable infrastructure development. This pillar aims at fostering investments in renewable energy, reducing carbon footprints, and developing environmentally-friendly infrastructure in member countries.
4. **Taxation and Anti-Corruption:** Developing transparent and accountable taxation systems, combating tax evasion, and fighting corruption. This pillar focuses on promoting good governance and establishing practices to curb illicit financial flows.

## India abstains from voting on UNGA resolution against Israel's 'occupation' (20 September)

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution calling on Israel to vacate Palestinian territories based on an opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ).
- India abstained from the vote, which was supported by 124 out of 181 countries, while 43 nations, including India, chose not to vote.
- India explained that its decision to abstain was based on the belief that the effort should be focused on "building bridges" between Israel and Palestine rather than widening the divide.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN, P. Harish, highlighted India's stance on the two-state solution and its call for peace between the two sides.
- Another reason for India's abstention might have been the resolution's call for sanctions and stopping arms exports to Israel, which influenced its decision.
- India condemned both the terrorist attacks on Israel in October 2023 and the civilian casualties from the conflict, calling for a ceasefire, release of hostages, and humanitarian aid to Gaza.
- This abstention marks a change in India's previous voting record, as it had earlier supported resolutions calling for Israel to withdraw troops from occupied Palestinian territories.
- India's abstention was partly due to the wording of the resolution, which demanded a one-year deadline for Israel to withdraw forces, a timeline some countries found unrealistic.
- Indian companies have defense-related joint ventures with Israeli firms, and some of the parts produced in India are sent back to Israel.
- The resolution followed Israeli bombings in Lebanon, which killed 30 people and injured 3,000. Lebanon blamed Israel for these actions.

## India should increase court system capacity, says FATF (20 September)

- India should aim to reduce the number of pending money laundering cases by making significant changes to improve the capacity of the court system and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), according to a report by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- The report also suggests addressing delays in prosecuting terror financing cases.
- Despite a conviction rate of nearly 97%, the low number of prosecutions is explained by several factors, including a constitutional challenge to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) through 121 petitions since 2018.
- These legal challenges delayed many trials, which were only resolved by the Supreme Court in July 2022 in the Vijay Madanlal Chowdhary vs. Union of India case.
- Between 2018 and 2022, 4,163 investigations were initiated by the ED, 132 of which were later dropped. Prosecution complaints were filed in 864 cases, and 28 convictions were secured. There was only one acquittal.
- Legal challenges to ED's powers under the PMLA affected its investigations and prosecutions, but the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the ED in 2022.
- There are still pending legal challenges to PMLA, but these have not impacted prosecutions since the 2022 ruling.
- The judicial system is overwhelmed due to a limited number of specialized prosecutors in the ED and special court judges, reducing the ability to handle more cases.
- Authorities plan to address this shortage by increasing the number of ED prosecutors from 173 to 300 in the coming years.

- An additional 171 prosecution complaints are stalled due to pending international assistance requested by India.
- India should improve financial network analysis, particularly focusing on money laundering (ML) techniques related to human trafficking and migrant smuggling.
- State-level agencies need to enhance their capacity for conducting more effective parallel financial investigations.
- India should improve its framework for implementing Targeted Financial Sanctions to ensure all reporting entities receive updates on relevant transactions promptly.
- Anti-terror financing measures for the non-profit organisation (NPO) sector should follow a “risk-based” approach to prevent misuse.
- A technical issue noted by FATF is the lack of a definition for politically exposed persons (PEPs) in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) rules.
- India should strengthen the capacity of newly incorporated Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBP) supervisors and increase the number of suspicious transaction reports in high-risk sectors.
- India should prioritize risk-based supervision of the Money or Value Transfer Services (MVTs) sector.
- Additional measures are needed to prevent criminals or their aides from participating in the gems and jewellery business.
- India has included these recommendations in its National Risk Assessment Exercise for 2025.
- Despite these challenges, India has achieved a high level of technical compliance with FATF’s recommendations.
- India continues to face serious threats related to terrorism and terror financing, including from groups like Islamic State or al-Qaeda.

#### Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** is an intergovernmental body established in **1989** by the **G7 countries**.
- Its primary goal is to set global standards for combating money laundering, the financing of terrorism, and other threats to the international financial system.
- FATF develops recommendations that countries must implement to prevent these illicit activities and to strengthen the integrity of the global financial system.

#### Key Objectives:

- **Combating Money Laundering (AML):** FATF sets standards and promotes effective measures to combat money laundering globally.
- **Counter-Terrorist Financing (CTF):** FATF focuses on preventing the misuse of the financial system for the funding of terrorist organizations.
- **Counter-Proliferation Financing:** FATF also addresses the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by ensuring that financial resources are not misused.

#### Structure of FATF

- FATF has **39 members**, including countries and regional organizations like the **European Commission**.
- It also works with a network of over **200 jurisdictions** through regional FATF-style bodies (FSRBs).
- The FATF operates under a **presidency**, which rotates annually among its members. The presidency for **2024-25** is held by **T. Raja Kumar of Singapore**.

#### FATF’s Mandate and Functions:

1. **Setting Standards:** FATF develops 40 recommendations, which are considered the global anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing standards.
2. **Monitoring Implementation:** FATF conducts **peer reviews** of its member countries through a process called **Mutual Evaluation**, assessing how well they implement the recommendations.
3. **Identifying High-Risk Jurisdictions:** FATF identifies countries with weak measures against money laundering and terror financing. These countries are then added to the **"Grey List"** or the **"Black List"** depending on the severity of their deficiencies.
  - **Grey List:** Countries under increased monitoring due to strategic deficiencies in their AML/CTF frameworks.
  - **Black List:** Non-cooperative countries or territories with serious financial system weaknesses and no effort to reform.

#### Recent Grey List Update:

- In **October 2023**, **Pakistan** was removed from the Grey List after implementing significant reforms to curb money laundering and terror financing. **Burkina Faso** and **Senegal** were added to the Grey List in the same period.

#### International Criminal Court (ICC)

The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** is a permanent international tribunal established to prosecute individuals for committing serious crimes of international concern, namely:

- **Genocide:** The intentional destruction, in whole or in part, of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group.
- **Crimes Against Humanity:** Wide-ranging or systematic attacks against civilian populations, including murder, torture, enslavement, and the forcible transfer of populations.
- **War Crimes:** Violations of the laws and customs of war, particularly those related to the treatment of civilians and combatants.

- **Crime of Aggression:** The planning, preparation, initiation, or execution of acts of aggression, including the invasion or attacks against another country.
1. **Establishment:** The ICC was established by the **Rome Statute**, which was adopted on July 17, 1998, and entered into force on July 1, 2002. It is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.
  2. **Jurisdiction:** The ICC has jurisdiction over crimes committed by individuals rather than states. It can **prosecute individuals from countries that are parties to the Rome Statute or individuals accused of crimes committed in the territory of state parties.**
  3. **Complementarity:** The ICC is intended to be a court of last resort. It only prosecutes cases when national jurisdictions are unwilling or unable to act. This principle of complementarity ensures that the court does not replace national justice systems.
  4. **Structure:** The ICC is composed of the following key organs:
    - **The Presidency:** Responsible for the overall administration of the court.
    - **Judicial Divisions:** Comprising judges who conduct trials and appeals.
    - **Office of the Prosecutor:** Responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes.
    - **Registry:** Provides support services for the court and ensures proper administration.

### International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** is the **principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN)** and is located in The Hague, Netherlands.
- Established in 1945 by the UN Charter, the ICJ is tasked with settling legal disputes between states and providing **advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by UN organs and specialized agencies.**

#### Key Features of the ICJ:

##### 1. Purpose and Functions:

- **Dispute Resolution:** The ICJ settles disputes between sovereign states, which may involve issues of territorial integrity, diplomatic relations, treaties, and issues of sovereignty.
- **Advisory Opinions:** The court provides advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by the UN General Assembly, Security Council, or other UN bodies and agencies.

##### 2. Composition:

- The ICJ is composed of **15 judges**, elected for **nine-year terms** by the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.
- Judges are elected based on their qualifications, objectivity, and diverse geographical representation.
- The judges come from various legal traditions and countries to ensure a balanced representation.

##### 3. Jurisdiction:

- The ICJ's jurisdiction is governed by the **Statute of the ICJ**, which is an integral part of the UN Charter. Its jurisdiction includes disputes submitted by states and requests for advisory opinions.
- It can only hear cases involving countries that have accepted its jurisdiction, either by agreeing to it through treaties, special agreements, or by making declarations accepting its jurisdiction in general.

##### 4. Procedural Aspects:

- **Written and Oral Proceedings:** Cases before the ICJ involve both written pleadings and oral arguments, allowing both sides (the applicant and the defendant) to present their cases.
- **Judgments:** The **ICJ's judgments are binding on the parties involved in the case and must be complied with under international law.** However, the court has no direct enforcement power; compliance relies on the goodwill of states or the mechanisms of the UN Security Council.

##### 5. Significance:

- The ICJ plays a crucial role in maintaining international law and order. By providing a platform for peaceful resolution of disputes, it helps prevent conflicts between states.
- Its advisory opinions contribute to the development and clarification of international law and can influence UN policy and state behavior.

#### Notable Cases:

The ICJ has handled numerous significant cases, including:

- **North Sea Continental Shelf Cases (1969):** Addressed issues of maritime boundaries.
- **Nicaragua vs. United States (1986):** Concerned the use of force and intervention in the affairs of another state.

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina vs. Serbia and Montenegro (2007):** A case concerning genocide under the Genocide Convention.
- **The Avena Case (Mexico vs. United States):** Involved the rights of foreign nationals facing the death penalty.

#### Challenges:

- **Enforcement of Judgments:** While the ICJ's decisions are binding, the absence of a direct enforcement mechanism poses challenges in ensuring compliance.
- **Political Influences:** The ICJ sometimes faces criticism about political biases in state relations, especially in contentious geopolitical contexts.

## Harappan civilisation: enigma remains even after 100 years of exploration (20 September)

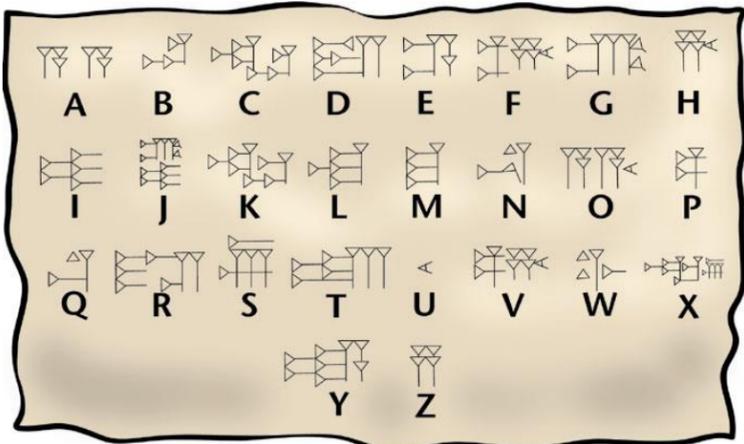
- On September 20, 1924, an article in The Illustrated London News revealed a groundbreaking discovery about a lost civilisation in South Asia.
- The article was written by John Marshall, then Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and announced the discovery of the "Indus Valley Civilisation."
- Today, this civilisation is known as the Harappan civilisation, named after the first site discovered, Harappa, now in Pakistan.
- The Harappan civilisation, a Bronze Age society, was advanced in town planning, water harvesting, building systems, and the production of bronze and copper artefacts, beads, pottery, and terracotta.
- It also had skilled craftsmen who made seals with human and animal motifs and a script on small spaces.
- Two archaeologists, Daya Ram Sahni and Rakhal Das Banerji, were key in the discovery. Sahni excavated Harappa in 1921-22, and Banerji excavated Mohenjo-daro in 1922.
- Sahni found seals, pottery, and beads, while Banerji discovered similar objects at Mohenjo-daro, including seals and copper products.
- In June 1924, Marshall called both archaeologists to Shimla to compare their findings and noticed similarities between the two sites, which were 640 km apart.
- Marshall concluded that these findings represented the "civilisation of the Indus Valley" and announced it in a London newspaper.
- The Harappan civilisation is divided into three phases: early (3200 BC to 2600 BC), mature (2600 BC to 1900 BC), and late (1900 BC to 1500 BC), when it declined.
- Major Harappan sites include Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, and Ganweriwala in Pakistan, and Rakhigarhi and Dholavira in India, out of nearly 2,000 sites across a 1.5 million sq.km area in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- Northwestern India has about 1,500 sites, including in states like Gujarat, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. Daimabad in Maharashtra is the southernmost site of the civilisation.
- The civilisation thrived along the Indus and Saraswati rivers, with the Saraswati believed to have dried up around 1900 BC.
- **Scholar Asko Parpola identified key features of the Harappan civilisation, including:**
  - Fully developed Indus script.
  - Carved stamp seals with writing or animal motifs.
  - Standardised measures and weights, using binary and decimal systems.
  - Large-scale use of burnt brick with a specific size ratio for effective bonding.
  - Advanced lapidary art, especially in making long beads from carnelian.
- **Historian Vasant Shinde noted the discovery was significant for two reasons:**
  - It pushed back the timeline of settled life in South Asia by over 3,000 years, filling a historical gap.
  - It added the Harappan civilisation as a third ancient civilisation in Asia, alongside Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilisations, and showed maritime contacts with West Asia from 3000 BC.
- Iravatham Mahadevan worked for 50 years to decipher the Indus script and claimed the civilisation was pre-Aryan and non-Aryan.
- The roots of the Harappan civilisation trace back to Mehrgarh in Balochistan, around 7000 BC.
- The book The Wonder that was Harappan Civilisation features Marshall's original report about the discovery, published in The Illustrated London News.

- **Easternmost site: Alamgirpur (in present-day Uttar Pradesh, India)**
- **Northernmost site: Manda (in present-day Jammu, India)**
- **Westernmost site: Sutkagen Dor (near the Makran coast, in present-day Balochistan, Pakistan)**
- **Southernmost site: Daimabad (in present-day Maharashtra, India)**

**UNIQUENESS OF INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION (IVC)**

- Indus cities are known for their **planned nature** with the division of cities into **upper and lower towns**, the **grid pattern**, **fortification**, etc.
- The Mesopotamian cities are not planned and seem to have developed in a **haphazard manner and irregular manner**.
- The typical drainage system of IVC known for its sophistication has not been noticed in the Mesopotamian civilization.
- In the **Mesopotamian religious structures** have been frequently found and there is **clear-cut evidence of priestly domination**.
- It is generally accepted that Mesopotamian society was a **priest-rule society**. The Indus Valley civilization **lacks both religious structures** (except the **Great Bath of Mohanjodaro**) and **traces of Priestly domination**.
- IVC seems to have been a civilization **dominated by traders and Merchants**.
- In the Indus Valley Civilization, we notice **extensive use of Burnt Bricks of standard size** which are almost absent in the Mesopotamian Civilization which used **mud bricks and stone structure only**.
- The **scripts** of the two civilizations are different in their nature. The Indus Valley Civilization's script is **pictographic** whereas the Mesopotamian script is **Cuneiform Script**.

**Mesopotamian Cuneiform Script**



**Indus Valley Civilization's Pictographic Script**



- The IVC Bronze objects or Artifacts are neither as numerous nor as sophisticated as we find in the Mesopotamian Civilization.

**DISCOVERY OF INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION**

- The Indus Valley Civilization was discovered by an archaeologist Sir **Dayaram Sahni** at Harappa (type site) in the year **1921**.

- **Harappa** is situated on the **bank of the river Ravi in the Sahiwal (Montgomery) district** of the Punjab Province of Pakistan.
- The next important site was **Mohenjo-Daro** was excavated by **RD Banerjee** in year **1922**.
- Both these archaeologists were working under the **supervision of Sir John Marshal and Sir M Wheeler** the then director General of The Archaeological Survey of India which had been recently reorganized and revised by Lord Curzon.
- The official announcement of the discovery of a new civilization was made by **Sir John Marshal in the year 1924**.

### CHRONOLOGY

- The chronology of IVC has been a matter of controversy, largely due to the prevalence of different perspectives related to its rise and decline.
- It was Sir John Marshal who made the earliest effort to determine the chronology of the IVC and came to rely upon **stratigraphical studies and relative chronology**.
- Discussed with the help of a diagram
- He placed the civilization in the first half of the third millennium BC.
- After the invention of the **Carbon 14 method of dating**, we find more precise dates but they vary from site to site.
- On the whole, the **mature phase of civilization** is usually placed between **2350 BC to 1750 BC**.
- Phases of the IVC were discussed with the help of a diagram.

### INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION IN INDIA

- **Jammu and Kashmir: Manda**. This site is accepted as the **Northernmost** extent of the civilization.
- **Punjab: Ropar**. It is the first time that is excavated after independence.
- **Haryana: Rakhigarhi and Baniwali**. Rakhigarhi is identified as the **largest site in India**.
- **Sothi-Siswal** is located near Hisar in Haryana. It is considered to be a **precursor to the Indus Valley Civilization and is dated to the Early Harappan Phase**.
- **Rajasthan: Kalibangan** is the most important site situated near situated on the bank of the **Ghaggar River**. This site is known for its **mud structure**.
- It has maximum diversity in pottery tradition. There have been 7 types of pottery traditions.
- Evidence of the **furrowed and ploughed field**.
- **Uttar Pradesh**: It was confined to Western UP. **Alamgirpur** near Meerut is the Easternmost site of Indus Valley Civilization.
- Evidence of **weaving** has been found in the area.
- Cloth impression on potsherds.
- **Gujarat**
- **Dholavira**
- It is known for its **stone structures**.
- Discovery of a **ten-lettered size sign board**.
- An **elaborate system of water management** consisting of many reservoirs one of which bears resemblance to the Great Bath of Mohenjo-Daro.
- The city was divided uniquely into **three parts**.
- **Lothal**
- It is known for its **dockyards** which suggests that it was a **Port City**. It gives signs of external trade and commerce linkages.
- Discovery of a **Granary** that is situated near the dockyard. It gives an indication that the **export** of grains must be taking place from the Lothal port.
- Discovery of evidence of a horse in the form of a terracotta representation of the animal.
- Discovery of **fire pits**. It is evidence of the connection of sacrifices.
- Evidence of **double burial** suggests that the society had a belief in the afterlife.
- The Lothal is another site after **Rangpur where rice cultivation** is found.
- **Surkotada**: It is known for the **double burial**. The site has produced **horse bones**, indicating that horses were present in the region during the Indus Valley Civilization.
- **Rangpur**: It is associated with the **Red Lustrous Ware culture**. The site is also known for producing evidence of **rice cultivation**.
- The cultivation of rice is another controversial area of IVC same as the **Horse**.
- **Rojdi**
- **Bhagatrap**: It is the **southernmost** site of civilization.
- **Malvan**: It is the **southernmost** site of IVC.
- **Maharashtra: Diamabad**. It is the **southernmost** site of the Indus Valley Civilization.
- Thus different sites such as **Bhagatrao, Malvan, and Diamabad** have been proposed as possible contenders for the title of **southernmost site of the IVC**. The answer would depend on the specific context and question being asked.

### INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION IN PAKISTAN

#### MOHENJO-DARO

- Mohenjo-Daro is one of the types of sites of the Indus Valley Civilization and is located in the **Larkana District of the Sindh province in Pakistan**.
- It was discovered in 1922 by **R.D. Banerji**.
- The meaning of Mohenjo-Daro is the "**Mound of the Dead**".
- The largest site of the civilization and the largest excavated site of the Indus Valley Civilization.

#### Mohenjo-Daro is known for its public structures mentioned below

- The **great granary** is accepted as the largest structure of the civilization.
- This is suggestive of the presence of some public authority and even some sort of taxation system.
- **The Great Bath**: The only structure identified as a **religious structure** possibly meant for some sort of ritual bathing.

- The structure is also known for the use of some stronger and exceptional binding materials such as Gypsum and Bitumen in its floors needed to be made watertight.
- This is also accepted as the earliest evidence of **waterproofing in the whole world**.
- An Assembly Hall, also known as the collegiate building. It is also suggestive of the presence of some public authorities or public life.
- **Evidence of horse at the superficial level.**
- Evidence of **flood** (Seven times).
- **Discovery of human skeletons on the surface scattered in a haphazard manner.** It shows evidence of external invasion.
- Discovery of the **Bronze Dancing Girl**. It was made by **Lost Wax Technique**.
- Discovery of **Pashupati Seal**.
- Discovery of **Bearded Priest** made of **steatite**.

#### OTHER SITES

- **Chanhudaro** (02:25 PM)
- It is identified as the craft site.
- No division of the city.
- **Allahadino:** Discovery of **gold**.
- **Balakot:** It is identified as the craft site. It is also identified as the port city.
- **Baluchistan: Sutkagendor:** It is the **westernmost site of the Indus Valley Civilization**.

## Pasmanda Muslim group backs Waqf Bill (20 September)

- The All India Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz (AIPMM) supports the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024, viewing it as a key step to reduce corruption in managing Waqf properties.
- AIPMM representatives presented their views before a Joint Parliamentary Committee discussing the Bill.
- AIPMM is different from the Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz (PMM), founded by Ali Anwar Ansari in 1998. PMM did not participate in the Joint Committee discussions.
- Mr. Ansari criticized the government's decision to exclude PMM from the discussions, suggesting it indicated ulterior motives.
- While AIPMM supports the Bill, it raised concerns about the absence of "Waqf by Users" from the legislation.
- Currently, there are no restrictions on non-Muslim members in Waqf committees, which AIPMM believes should remain unchanged.
- AIPMM emphasizes the need for representation of Pasmanda Muslims and women on the Waqf Board to address their specific issues.
- The organisation proposed a 50% reservation for Pasmanda Muslims in Waqf boards.
- AIPMM also called for a new survey of Waqf properties to better manage and represent them.

#### Pasmanda Muslims: An Overview

- **Pasmanda Muslims** represent a marginalized and socio-economically disadvantaged segment of the Muslim community in India.
- The term "**Pasmanda**" is derived from the Persian word "**pasmandah**", which means "those who have been left behind" or "oppressed." It refers to the backward and Dalit Muslim communities who have faced social and economic exclusion historically, much like the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Hindu society.

#### Historical Context

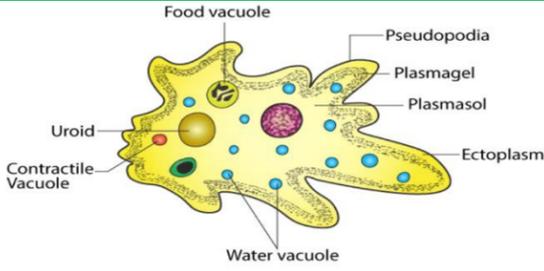
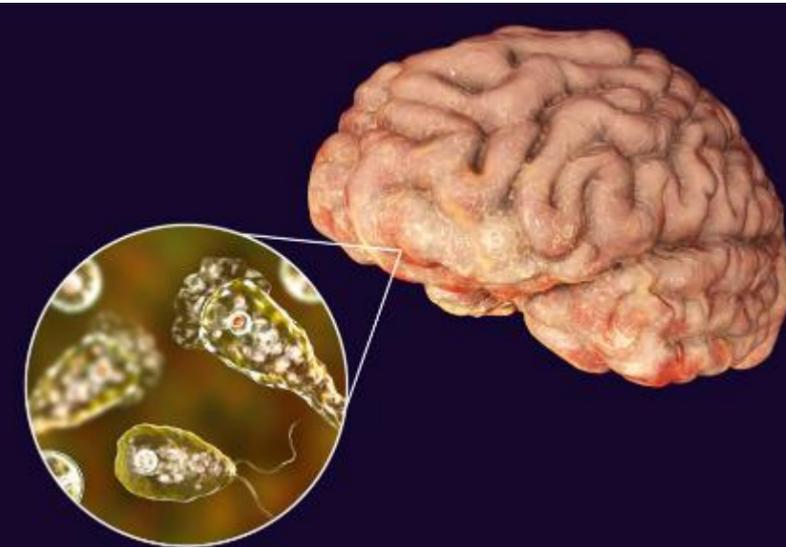
- Historically, Muslim society in India has been stratified into hierarchical social groups, with **Ashrafs** (upper caste Muslims of foreign descent or higher social status) at the top and **Ajlafs** and **Arzals** (lower castes, mainly of indigenous or converted descent) at the bottom.
- The Pasmanda Muslims primarily include **Ajlafs** (the artisan, agricultural, and occupational castes) and **Arzals** (those considered untouchables in Hinduism before conversion).

## BJP manifesto offers ₹2,100 monthly aid for women, 2 lakh govt. jobs in Haryana (20 September)

- The BJP released its manifesto for the Haryana Assembly election a day after Congress announced its own.
- BJP's "Sankalp Patra" promises monthly assistance of ₹2,100 for women, which is ₹100 more than Congress's offer.
- The BJP aims for its third consecutive term in Haryana and promises to create two lakh government jobs.
- The manifesto includes plans for ten new industrial towns and guarantees government jobs for Agniveers (military recruits).
- Scholarships will be provided for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Class students at government medical and engineering colleges.
- BJP president J.P. Nadda presented the 72-page document titled "NonStop Haryana Ka Sankalp Patra."

- The party plans to continue procuring 24 crops at minimum support prices and provide cooking gas cylinders for ₹500 to Below Poverty Line families.
- Job opportunities for five lakh youth and stipends under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme are promised.
- Each of the ten industrial towns will create jobs for 50,000 local youth.
- Additional promises include separate welfare boards for Backward Class communities, a metro network connecting Gurugram and Faridabad, and developing Haryana into a global education center.
- Plans for a safari park in the Aravallis to boost tourism and constructing five lakh houses in urban and rural areas are also included.
- The manifesto offers free dialysis and diagnostic services at government hospitals.
- Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda criticized the BJP, claiming their manifesto highlights their failures and that they are trying to mislead voters with new slogans for 2024.

## Brain-Eating Amoeba' cases

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amoebas are single-celled microorganisms that belong to the <b>phylum Amoebozoa</b>.</li> <li>• They are characterized by their shape-shifting abilities and their method of movement through the extension and retraction of pseudopods, or "false feet."</li> </ul>
	
<p>Brain eating amoeba</p>	<p>This amoeba enters the brain through the nose</p>

- Four cases of primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) in Kerala in the last two months.
- PAM (primary amoebic meningoencephalitis): **PAM is caused by Naegleria fowleri, also known as 'brain-eating amoeba.'**
- **The amoeba thrives in warm freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, and poorly maintained swimming pools.**
- It infects the brain through the nose, destroying brain tissues and causing swelling.
- Infection is rare but fatal, with a **97% mortality rate**.
- Symptoms include headache, fever, nausea, vomiting, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance, hallucinations, coma, and death within 1-18 days.
- PAM does not spread from person to person or through swallowing water containing the amoeba.
- Warmer temperatures and stagnant, unhygienic water contribute to the infection.

### How is it diagnosed and treated?

- PAM can be diagnosed through PCR tests of cerebrospinal fluid.
- Detection is challenging due to its rarity.
- No standard treatment exists; CDC guidelines are followed.
- State Health department procured miltefosine from Germany; **Azithromycin and Amphotericin B** are also available.
- Past PAM cases in Kerala: Alappuzha (2016, 2023), Malappuram (2019, 2020), Kozhikode (2020), Thrissur (2022).

- Children with ear infections advised against bathing in ponds or stagnant water, and avoiding diving.
- Water theme parks and swimming pools instructed to chlorinate water regularly.
- Suggested precautions: use swimming nose clips, hold nose while jumping or diving, keep head high in warm water, avoid digging in shallow waters, use distilled or boiled water for nasal passages.

