

Daily Current Affairs

14 December 2023

Lok Sabha Witnesses Security Breach

- Lok Sabha today **witnessed a security breach** as two unidentified persons jumped inside the chamber of the House from the visitors' gallery.
- They have been arrested along with **two other persons** who were protesting outside the Parliament.
- This incident happened around 1 PM when the House was taking up the **Zero Hour**. The incident led to commotion and adjournment of the House till 2 PM.
- BJP MP Rajendra Agarwal, who was the **Presiding Officer of the House** at that time said, two persons took out a smoke canister and were nabbed by the security personnel.



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- **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** said, two persons have been nabbed who jumped from the visitor gallery. He said, the matter has been referred to Delhi Police for further investigation.
- Several MPs also expressed concern over the incident. Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said, it is a grave security lapse.
- Some **Opposition members also protested in the House** over the incident. Later, the House was adjourned till 4 PM.

Forest Certification Scheme

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change** has introduced the **Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme**.
- This voluntary national certification initiative aims to encourage sustainable forest management and agroforestry practices in India.
- The scheme encompasses **forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification**.
- **Forest Management Certification**, Based on the Indian Forest Management Standard, aligned with the National Working Plan Code 2023.
- Includes 8 criteria, 69 indicators, and 254 verifiers to ensure responsible forest management.



- **Tree Outside Forest Management Certification**, Focuses on agroforestry practices, promoting sustainable management beyond traditional forest areas.
- **Chain of Custody Certification**, Ensures that wood and wood-based products in the supply chain adhere to sustainable practices from source to consumer.
- **Market Incentives**, Entities embracing responsible forest management and agroforestry practices, such as state forest departments, farmers, and wood-based industries, can benefit from market incentives.
- The **Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council** will oversee the scheme, acting as a multistakeholder advisory body.

- The **Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal**, will serve as the scheme's operating agency, managing its overall implementation.
- The **National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies** under the Quality Council of India will accredit certification bodies.
- These bodies will conduct independent audits to assess adherence to prescribed standards.

China, Egypt Jointly Launch Satellite MisrSat-2

- **China and Egypt** have achieved a significant breakthrough in their collaborative efforts with the successful launch of the **MisrSat-2 satellite**.
- Developed and assembled jointly by the two nations, this marks a pivotal moment in their **burgeoning space partnership**.
- The satellite, **assembled in Egypt with Chinese support**, was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, utilizing the Long March-2C carrier rocket.



- The **MisrSat-2 project**, valued at **\$72 million**, originated from a **2019 agreement** between the Egyptian Space Agency (EgSA) and the China National Space Administration.
- Notably, this initiative positioned **Egypt as the first African country** with satellite assembly and testing capabilities.
- Technical Specifications and Payload
- MisrSat-2, an optical **remote-sensing satellite**, is equipped with a high-resolution camera capable of capturing detailed images **of Egypt's soil and water resources**.

- The satellite's primary purpose extends to supporting **Egypt's sustainable development goals** in agriculture, mining, water management, and environmental protection.
- MisrSat-2 is expected to play a crucial role in monitoring and **addressing climate-related challenges**, showcasing the satellite industry's localization in Egypt.

REACH Game Changing Innovator Award

- **Dr. Atul Shah, a plastic surgeon**, has been honored with the **2023 REACH Game Changing Innovator award** for his groundbreaking contribution to leprosy care.
- Three decades ago, Dr. Shah devised a **simple surgery technique, 'One in Four Lasso,'** to address deformities in leprosy patients. His journey took a transformative turn when he observed the challenges of managing unhealed foot wounds.



- Dr. Shah's 'One in Four Lasso' operative technique, **published in the European Journal of Hand Surgery**, offered a simpler way to treat leprosy-related deformities.
- Recognizing the struggle of patients with poorly bandaged foot wounds, Dr. Shah envisioned a solution beyond surgery.
- Dr. Shah **designed a 'self-care kit'** to empower leprosy patients in managing foot ulcers, a common issue.
- Since 2007, the kit has been part of **India's National Leprosy Eradication Programme**, benefitting over 80,000 individuals.

Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023

- Parliament has passed the **Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023** with Rajya Sabha giving assent to it today. Lok Sabha had passed the Bill last week.
- The Bill will amend the **Central Universities Act, 2009**, which establishes central universities for teaching and research in various States.



- The Bill seeks to establish a Central Tribal University in Telangana which will be named '**Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University**'. It will provide avenues of higher education and research facilities primarily for the tribal population of India.
- Replying to a debate on the Bill, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, the University will be a **centre for research on matters** related to Tribal communities of the country.
- Speaking on dropouts in Higher Education Institutions, the Minister said the Government has analysed the **dropouts in the last five years**.



- He said, as per the analysis 1.53 percent of students in the General category, 1.51 percent in the OBC category, 1.47 percent in SC and 1.29 percent in the ST category were dropouts in IITs. The Minister said, most of the students find other options and students also leave their studies due to family and health reasons.
- Intervening in the debate, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said the Government is making efforts to **improve educational opportunities** for people from tribal communities.

'UAE Consensus'

- In Dubai, nations reached for a landmark agreement, the '**UAE Consensus**' that calls for a transition away from fossil fuels to achieve **net zero by 2050**.
- The **28th Conference of the Parties (COP28)** has come to a historic close, marking a turning point in global efforts to combat climate change. 198 participating Parties, outlined an ambitious climate agenda aimed at keeping the goal of limiting **global warming to 1.5°C within reach**.
- The UAE Consensus encourages Parties to submit economy-wide Nationally Determined Contributions and sets specific targets, including tripling renewables and **doubling energy efficiency by 2030**.
- The agreement also paves the way for a **new architecture for climate finance** and building momentum toward a sustainable future.



- Under the COP28 Presidency's 'Action Agenda,' bold and decisive steps were taken across **four pillars of the Paris Agreement**: fast-tracking a just energy transition, fixing climate finance, focusing on people and nature, and fostering inclusivity in climate action.
- The COP28 process mobilised an unprecedented \$85 billion in funding for climate action.
- Key achievements under the Action Agenda include the launch of **ALTÉRRRA, a \$30 billion catalytic private finance** vehicle by the UAE, aiming to mobilize \$250 billion for global climate action. Additionally, COP28 saw the endorsement of the '**COP28 UAE Declaration on Agriculture, Food, & Climate**' by 158 countries, embedding sustainable agriculture and food systems in climate change responses.



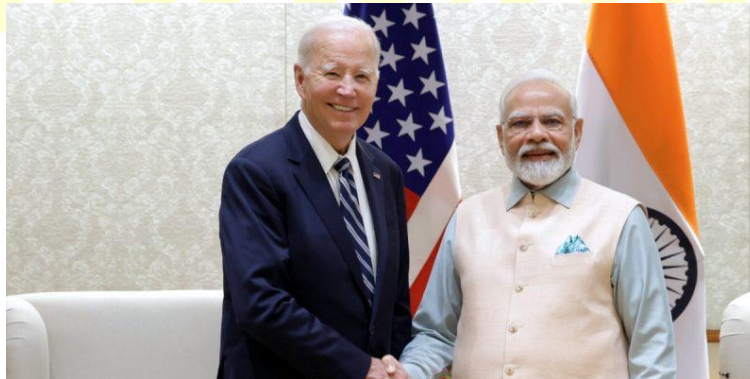
- The '**COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health**,' endorsed by 144 countries, accelerates the development of climate-resilient, sustainable, and equitable health systems.
- **The Global Decarbonisation Accelerator (GDA)** introduced initiatives such as the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge and the Oil and Gas Decarbonisation Charter.
- Outside **the Global Stocktake, COP28** delivered historic negotiated outcomes, including the operationalisation of Loss and Damage, securing \$792 million in early pledges, advancing the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), and institutionalising the role of the Youth Climate Champion.

Biden Not To Attend Republic Day Parade

- **American President Joe Biden** will not attend the **Republic Day ceremony** in New Delhi amid strains in bilateral relations in the wake of the allegation by Washington DC about the involvement of the Narendra Modi government in a plot to kill Khalistani extremist **Gurpatwant Singh Pannun** in the United States.



- With Biden understood to have not planned a trip to India in January, it is learnt that the **summit of four-nation coalition Quad** is also not taking place next month as expected earlier.



- The Quad summit is not taking place in India in January and it is now proposed to be held in the country in the later part of 2024.
- "The Quad Summit in India is proposed **to be held later in 2024**. We are looking for revised dates as the dates currently under consideration do not work with all the Quad partners,".
- The last Quad summit had taken place in **Hiroshima on May 20** on the sidelines of the **G7 summit**.



- In their next summit, the Quad leaders are expected to bolster overall cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific**, a region that has been witnessing growing Chinese military assertiveness.
- In the Hiroshima summit, the Quad leaders unveiled a **'Vision Statement'** titled **'Enduring Partners for Indo-Pacific'** expressing their resolve to act as a "force for good" to find common solutions for region-wide benefit.



- The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue**, or Quad, is a strategic security partnership between the United States, India, Japan and Australia.
- It was officially launched by Japan's former Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe in 2007**.
- The creation of this **military agreement** was largely linked to the military and economic power of China, which protested against the Quad and termed it as an **'Asian NATO'**.



- All sides have expressed that the **Quad is not aimed towards any country**, yet it is widely considered that the resurrection of the partnership has primarily aimed to counter **Beijing's challenges to democracy** and its growing aggressiveness in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly its **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** across Asia and the Pacific, that comes with strings attached.
- The Chinese provocation in Doklam in 2017 is considered one of the major reasons for India's renewed interest in the deal.



SSB Crack EXAMS



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. During Which Session Did The Security Breach Occur In Lok Sabha

- A. Morning
- B. Question Hour
- C. Zero Hour
- D. Post Lunch

ANSWER: C

2. Who Will Accredit The Certification Bodies For The Forest Certification Scheme

- A. Ministry Of Environment, Forests And Climate Change
- B. National Accreditation Board For Certification
- C. Forest Survey Of India
- D. Indian Council Of Forestry Research And Education

ANSWER: B

3. Misrsat-2 Satellite Is Project Of

- A. Egypt
- B. Algeria
- C. Tunisia
- D. Niger

ANSWER: A

4. What Surgery Technique Did Dr. Atul Shah Develop For Leprosy Patientsl

- A. 'One In Four Lasso'
- B. 'Two In Five Loop'
- C. 'Three In Six Knot'
- D. 'Four In Eight Twist'

ANSWER: A

5. What Initiative Did Dr. Shah Introduce To Aid Leprosy Patients In Managing Foot Ulcers

- A. Foot Bandage Program
- B. Self-care Kit
- C. Surgery Rehabilitation Plan
- D. Foot Health Awareness Program

ANSWER: B

6. Which Institution Developed Arsenic And Metal Removal By Indian Technology For Water Purification

- A. IIT Madras
- B. IIT Delhi
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. IIT Kharagpur

ANSWER: A

7. Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Ltd Signed Mou With Which Company To Deploy 500 EV Charging Points

- A. Hindustan Petroleum
- B. Bharat Petroleum
- C. Reliance
- D. Indian Oil

ANSWER: D

8. When Is Universal Health Coverage Day Observed Annually

- A. December 9*
- B. October 8*
- C. December 12*
- D. December 30*

ANSWER: C

9. Which Bank Launched Nari Shakti Savings Account Specifically For Women

- A. State Bank of India
- B. HDFC Bank
- C. Bank of India
- D. Axis Bank

ANSWER: C

10. Scheme, Launched To Support Urban Street Vendors, Emerged As Crucial Initiative By Disbursing Micro-credit Loans To Beneficiaries

- A. PM SVANidhi
- B. PM Mudra Yojana
- C. PM Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana
- D. PM Matru Vandana Yojana

ANSWER: A

11.What Is The Primary Focus Of The 'NAMO Drone Didi' Initiative

- A. Economic Empowerment Through Skill Development
- B. Healthcare Support For Rural Communities
- C. Empowering Women's Self-help Groups
- D. Providing Educational Scholarships For Women

ANSWER: C

12.Which Is Sponsor Bank Of National Asset Reconstruction Company

- A. State Bank of India
- B. Canara Bank
- C. IDBI Bank
- D. Yes Bank

ANSWER: B

13.Who Is The Chairman Of The Five Zonal Councils Of India

- A. President
- B. Prime Minister
- C. Home Minister
- D. Finance Minister

ANSWER: C

14.Which State Impalements 'Maha Lakshmi Scheme', Aimed At Providing Free Travel To Women In Buses

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Telangana
- C. Kerala
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: B

15.RBI Enhanced UPI Payment Limit Healthcare & Education From Rs 1 Lakh To -

- A. Rs 2 lakh
- B. Rs 3 lakh
- C. Rs 5 lakh
- D. Rs 10 lakh

ANSWER: C

16. Tshering Tashi Seen In The News, Is Associated With

- A. Artist
- B. Author
- C. Sports person
- D. Politician

ANSWER: B

17. U.S. Food And Drug Administration Approved A Treatment For Which Disease, Based On CRISPR Gene Editing Technology

- A. AIDS
- B. Sickle Cell Disease
- C. Diabetes
- D. Cancer

ANSWER: B

18. India Celebrated Its 50 Years Of Diplomatic Ties With Which Country, In December 2023

- A. Ukraine
- B. Thailand
- C. Singapore
- D. Republic of Korea

ANSWER: D

19. YuVai initiative is a collaboration between MeitY &

- A. Google
- B. Microsoft
- C. Meta
- D. Intel

ANSWER: D

20. Who Wrote The Famous Book - 'We The People'

- A. T.N Kaul
- B. J.R.D. Tata
- C. Khushwant Singh
- D. Nani Palkhivala

ANSWER: D