

# Daily Current Affairs

## 11 July 2024

### PM Modi In Vienna

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Federal President of Austria Alexander Van der Bellen & Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer in Vienna and discussed various dimensions of the **bilateral relations**.
- **These include** trade and investment, Science and Technology, green energy, AI, start-ups, environment and climate change, cultural cooperation and people to people ties.



- The leaders also exchanged views on **regional and global issues of mutual interest**. In a press statement after the meeting, Mr Modi said, they discussed the **biggest challenges humanity** is facing right now, including climate change and terrorism.
- **He said, he has invited Austria**, to join India's initiatives including International Solar Alliance, Collision for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and Bio-fuel Alliance.
- Mr Modi said, they also discussed in detail all the **ongoing conflicts in the world**, including situation in Ukraine and West Asia. The Prime Minister retreated that this is not the time for war.



- **Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer said**, it is impressive to look at India's success when it comes to infrastructure, digitalisation in society and developing infrastructure at an enormous pace. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi was accorded a ceremonial reception in Vienna.
- He reached Vienna from Moscow on the second leg of his two-nation visit yesterday. He was given a warm welcome from members of the Indian community upon his arrival.

## India And Taiwan For Organic Products

- **Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)** for organic products between **India and Taiwan** has been implemented w.e.f. 8th July 2024 during the **9th Working Group on Trade Meeting with Taiwan at New Delhi**.



- The implementation of the MRA between India and Taiwan is a landmark achievement as it is the **first bilateral agreement for organic products**.
- **The implementing Agencies for the MRA** are Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India and Agriculture and Food Agency, Ministry of Agriculture (AFA), Taiwan.



- By virtue of this agreement, **agricultural products produced and handled organically** in conformity with the **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)** and accompanied by an **organic demonstration document** (transaction certificate, etc.) issued by an **accredited certification body** under NPOP are allowed for sale in Taiwan as organically produced including display of the **“India Organic” logo**.
- Similarly, Taiwanese regulation are allowed for sale in India as organically produced including **display of the “Taiwan Organic” logo**.



- The **mutual recognition will ease the export of organic products** by avoiding dual certifications; thus, reducing compliance cost, simplifying compliance requirement by adhering to only one regulation and enhancing trade opportunities in the organic sector. The MRA will pave the way for the export of major Indian organic products such as Rice, Processed Food, Green/Black and Herbal Tea, Medicinal plant products etc to Taiwan.

## Floral Waste is boosting circularity in economy

- As India moves towards sustainability and a circular economy, the focus on waste to wealth is the way to be. Implementing **composting pits in temples** and involving **Temple trusts and SHGs in recycling** efforts can create significant employment opportunities.
- **Outreach programs to educate priests** and devotees about not dumping floral waste in rivers can help encourage waste reduction.

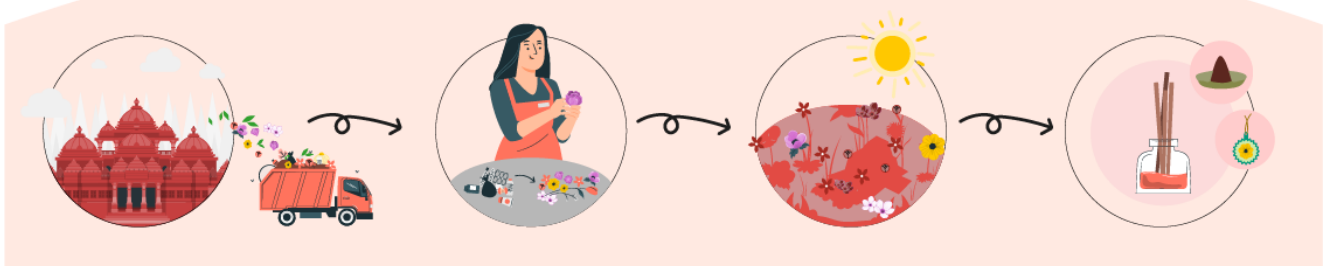


- The **"Green Temples" concept** can be integrated into policies to transform temples into eco-friendly spaces. **Promoting digital offerings** or biodegradable materials instead of traditional flowers can also help reduce floral waste.
- The **National Horticulture Board** can be involved in tracking and managing floral waste in green spaces like parks etc.
- The **floral waste sector in India** is experiencing new growth, marked by its multifaceted benefits. Not only is it providing meaningful employment opportunities for women, but is also **effectively diverting waste** from dumpsites, contributing to environmental preservation.



- **Floral waste, collected from the spiritual sites** mostly biodegradable, often ends up in landfills or water bodies, **causing health hazards and harming aquatic life.**
- **According to a UN Climate Change report,** the river Ganga alone absorbs over **8 million MT of flower** waste annually.
- **Under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0,** several Indian cities are bringing innovative solutions to the table. Social entrepreneurs are stepping in to recycle flowers into valuable products like organic compost, soaps, candles, and incense sticks.

## Journey of Floral Waste



- **Swachh Bharat Mission is spearheading** a transformative journey towards sustainability, where the ethos of circular economy and waste-to-wealth reign supreme.
- Amidst this paradigm shift, **floral waste emerges as one of the significant** contributors to carbon footprints, prompting collaborative efforts among cities and startups to tackle this challenge head-on.

## Haj Committee Now Under Minority Affairs Ministry

- **Government has designated the Ministry of Minority Affairs** as the nodal ministry for the **Haj Committee**, taking over from the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.
- This change **includes new rules and the nomination** of officers from various ministries to the committee.

# حج کمیٹی آف انڈیا HAJ COMMITTEE OF INDIA

## Under Ministry of Minority Affairs

- The new rules are called the **Haj Committee (Amendment) Rules, 2024**, replacing “Ministry of External Affairs” with “Ministry of Minority Affairs” in the Haj Committee Rules, 2002.
- **Haj Division, Manages** coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Haj Committee of India (HCoI), and Consulate General of India (CGI) in Jeddah. Handles matters related to the Haj Committee of India and the administration of the Haj Committee Act, 2002.
- **Grants necessary approvals** to Haj-related proposals from CGI, Jeddah. Ensures the supply of medicines and medical equipment for hospitals/dispensaries set up by CGI, Jeddah, for pilgrims’ welfare. **Oversees the selection of administrative** and medical/paramedical staff for short-term deputation to CGI, Jeddah.

## BRICS Parliamentary Forum

- **Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha**, will head a prominent Indian parliamentary delegation to the **10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum** in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- The forum **aims to explore the role of parliaments** in advancing global development and security through multilateral cooperation.

- **The Indian delegation includes** Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, Rajya Sabha member Shambhu Sharan Patel, Lok Sabha Secretary General Utpal Kumar Singh, and Rajya Sabha Secretary General P C Mody.



- **The forum's theme is** 'The Role of Parliaments in Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security'.
- **Plenary Sessions by Om Birla** 'The BRICS Parliamentary dimension: Prospects for strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation', 'The role of Parliaments in countering the fragmentation of the multilateral trade system and overcoming threats related to the consequences of global crises'.
- **Plenary Sessions by Harivansh** 'The role of Parliaments in enhancing the efficiency of the system of international relations and ensuring its democratization'
- 'Inter-parliamentary cooperation in the humanitarian and cultural sphere.'



## Sixteenth Finance Commission

- **Sixteenth Finance Commission** has constituted an advisory council with five members to advise the Commission on any of the Terms of Reference (ToR) or related subjects. The Finance Commission, as per the ToR, will also **suggest measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State** to supplement the resources of panchayats and municipalities.
- **Advisory Council Members**
- Poonam Gupta, Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, has been appointed as the convenor of the Advisory Council.



- **The other members are:**
- D.K. Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor at EY
- Neelkanth Mishra, Chief Economist at Axis Bank
- Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC Securities & Capital Markets
- Rahul Bajoria, MD & Head of EM Asia (ex-China) Economics at Barclays

## Rubina Francis And Swaroop Unhalkar

- **Indian para shooters, Rubina Francis and Swaroop Unhalkar** secured quota for Paris Paralympics under bipartite rule. The Paralympic Committee of India had applied for **two bipartite (wildcard) spots** for **Rubina in women's 10m air pistol SH1**, who has a world ranking of No. 2, and **Unhalkar in men's 10m air rifle SH1**.
- **Rubina, a gold medalist in the Hangzhou Asian Games** last year, and Unhalkar have been consistent performers in international events, prompted PCI to apply for bipartite spot.





## ICC Player of the Month Awards

- **International Cricket Council** announced Indian pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for June 2024.
- Recently, **Jasprit Bumrah's stellar bowling** performance helped the Indian men's cricket team lift the ICC T20 World Cup.
- **Bumrah alone took 15 wickets** in 8 matches during the World Cup, which made him Player of the Tournament.
- On the other hand, ICC also announced Indian women's team **vice-captain Smriti Mandhana** as the ICC Women's Player of the Month for June, beating out England's Maia Bouchier and Sri Lanka's Vishmi Gunaratne. Smriti won the title for her fabulous batting display against South Africa.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Haj Committee Comes Under**

- A. Ministry Of Minority Affairs
- B. Ministry Of External Affairs
- C. Ministry Of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry Of TRIBAL AFFAIRS

**ANSWER: A**

**2. The ICC Men's Player Of The Month For June 2024**

- A. Virat Kohli
- B. Jasprit Bumrah
- C. Hardik Pandya
- D. Rohit Kumar

**ANSWER: B**

**3. Rubina Francis And Swaroop Unhalkar Seen In News Relates To**

- A. Badminton
- B. Shooting
- C. Swimming
- D. Dance Sports

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve Is Located In Which State**

- A. Karnataka
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Kerala

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Sentinel Nuclear Missile, Was Developed By Which Country**

- A. USA
- B. Russia
- C. India
- D. France

**ANSWER: A**

**6. What Is The Primary Function Of 'Regenerative Braking'**

- A. To increase vehicle speed
- B. To convert kinetic energy into electrical power
- C. To enhance fuel combustion
- D. To cool down the engine

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Panchganga River Is A Tributary Of Which River**

- A. Narmada
- B. Ganga
- C. Krishna
- D. Kaveri

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Baishiya Karst Cave, Is Located In Which Region**

- A. Western Ghats of India
- B. Tibetan Plateau
- C. Sahara Desert
- D. Mediterranean Island

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary, Is Located In Which State**

- A. West Bengal
- B. Sikkim
- C. Assam
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

**ANSWER: B**

**10. What Is Pearl Spot**

- A. Fish
- B. Spider
- C. Frog
- D. Tortoise

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Primary Objective Of Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement**

- A. To Promote Tourism In Marine Areas
- B. To Address Concerns Over The Long-term Protection Of Marine Biodiversity In The High Seas
- C. To Regulate Fishing Activities In Coastal Regions
- D. To Enhance Maritime Trade

**ANSWER: B**

**12. CA Institute Initiated Talks With Which Ministry To Jointly Develop An 'AI Audit Tool' To Track Performance Of Corporate India**

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Science and Technology
- C. Ministry of Defence
- D. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

**ANSWER: D**

**13. Philippines And Which Country Boosted Their Defence Ties By Signing A Reciprocal Access Agreement**

- A. Ukraine
- B. Russia
- C. France
- D. Japan

**ANSWER: D**

**14. CubeSat Radio Interferometry Experiment Mission Launched By**

- A. NASA
- B. ISRO
- C. CNSA
- D. JAXA

**ANSWER: A**

**15. India & Which Country Signed Agreement For Organic Products**

- A. Hong Kong
- B. Taiwan
- C. Vietnam
- D. Japan

**ANSWER: B**

**16. Main Purpose Of Sangyaan App, Launched By Railway Protection Force**

- A. To Provide Train Schedules
- B. To Educate And Empower RPF Personnel By Providing Information About Criminal Laws
- C. To Monitor Train Ticket Bookings
- D. To Provide Health Tips To RPF Personnel

**ANSWER: B**

**17. Which State Government Introduced First Witness Protection Scheme**

- A. Assam
- B. Manipur
- C. Sikkim
- D. Nagaland

**ANSWER: A**

**18. What Is The Theme Of Statistics Day, 2024**

- A. Use Of Data For Decision-making
- B. Alignment Of State Indicator Framework With National Indicator Framework
- C. Data For Sustainable Development
- D. End Hunger, Achieve Food Security And Improved Nutrition

**ANSWER: B**

**19. Nirman Shramik Mrtyu Evam Divyaang Sahaayata Yojana Is Associated With**

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Haryana
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Bihar

**ANSWER: C**

**20. Who Among The Following Was President Of United States When Cripps Mission Visited India**

- A. Herbert Hoover
- B. Harry S. Truman
- C. Franklin D. Roosevelt
- D. Calvin Coolidge

**ANSWER: C**