

### 20-02-2024

### Khelo India University Games 2024 (Places in News)

#### Why in News?

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on 19th February 2024, addressed Khelo India University Games 2024, being held across the seven states in the Northeast via a video message.

#### More About the News

- The formal inaugural ceremony was held on February 19 at Sarusajai Sports Complex in Guwahati. Union Minister for Sports and



Youth Welfare Anurag Thakur and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma attended the ceremony, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a video message to the participants.

- Assam's music sensation Angarag Mahanta, popularly known as Papon performed at the opening ceremony. The grand opening featured a thematic showcase highlighting the values of unity, diversity, and the spirit of sportsmanship.
- Khelo India University Games is a part of the Centre's Khelo India initiative to promote grassroots sports and identify young talents from across the country. The participants

will vie for a total of 262 gold, 263 silver and 297 bronze medals across 20 sports disciplines.

- The mascot of the Khelo India University Games, is 'Ashtalakshmi' in the shape of a butterfly, symbolizes the eight states in the North Eastern India, which are hosting KIUG 2024.

### Neem Summit & Global Neem Trade Fair

#### Why in News?

- The Neem Summit & Global Neem Trade fair is being organized by collaboration with ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi in New Delhi on 19-20 February 2024.

#### More About the News

- The Summit flagged neem as a plantation forestry option that would sustain the raw material requirements of industry. At the same time, neem trees for carbon farming was also advocated in the program.
- The two-day program encompasses seven technical sessions delving into various aspects of neem research and development. A series of releases, including the Souvenir, WNO Calendar, and Technical Bulletin titled "Neem Field Gene Bank - Provisioning



Opportunities for Conservation and Utilization," underscored the importance of preserving and utilizing neem resources.

- In addition to its industrial applications, the program highlighted the environmental benefits of neem trees for carbon farming. Advocates emphasized the importance of incorporating neem cultivation into broader sustainability initiatives.
- Distinguished guests underscored the crucial role of neem in human well-being. Given the country's priority in promoting neem-coated urea and neem-based health products, the cultivation of neem on a national scale emerged as a vital mission. The Summit spotlighted neem as a plantation forestry option to sustain the raw material requirements of various industries.

### 3rd Meeting of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)

#### Why in News?

- The 3rd meeting of AITIGA Joint Committee for undertaking the review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) was hosted by India in Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi from 16-19 February 2024.
- Delegates from ASEAN countries viz. Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand & Viet Nam participated in the meeting.

#### More About the News

- The AITIGA was signed in 2009.
- In September 2022, both sides tasked the

AITIGA Joint Committee to undertake the review with the aim of making the Agreement more trade facilitative and mutually beneficial.

- The Joint Committee in its 3rd meeting held detailed discussions and took stock of the progress in the negotiations. The Sub-Committees reported the progress and outcome of their discussions related to market access, Rules of Origin and Standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures to the Joint Committee.
- India-ASEAN trade has grown to USD 131.58 Bn in 2022-23. The review of AITIGA will facilitate further expansion of trade between India and ASEAN in a balanced and sustainable manner.
- Both sides are aiming to conclude the review in 2025. The 4th meeting of AITIGA Joint Committee is planned to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in May 2024.

### .A two-day INDUS-X Summit

#### Why in News?

- The much-anticipated INDUS-X Summit is scheduled to be held on February 20-21, 2024 in New Delhi, marking a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts between India and the United States in defence innovation.

#### More About the News

- Organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence,



and Department of Defence (DoD), United States, in conjunction with the U.S.-India Business Council and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), the summit aims to be a pivotal event driving strategic technology partnerships and defence industrial cooperation between India and the USA.

- The two-day catalyst summit will feature a dynamic line-up of activities designed to foster collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange.
- Defence innovation stakeholders from across governments, academic and



research organisations, investors, defence start-ups, technology incubators, industry associations, and other start-up enablers will come together to develop ambitious initiatives to drive INDUS-X forward.

- The INDUS-X Summit represents a pivotal moment for advancing defence innovation and collaboration between India and the United States, setting the stage for future technological advancements and strategic partnerships, stimulating cross-national science and technology networks, and building the connective issues between domestic entrepreneurs, markets, skilling institutions, government labs, and investment capital, which is critical to building successful innovation ecosystems.

## Parliamentary Privileges

### Why in News?

- The Supreme Court on 19th February 2024 stayed further proceedings before a Lok Sabha Privileges Committee, which has summoned the West Bengal Chief Secretary and other officers on a complaint filed by the BJP MP Sukanta Mazumdar alleging "misconduct, brutality and life threatening injuries to him."

### More About Parliamentary Privileges

- Parliamentary privilege refers to rights and immunities enjoyed by Parliament as an institution and MPs in their individual capacity, without which they cannot discharge their functions as entrusted upon them by the Constitution.
- Article 105 of the Indian Constitution deals with the Powers, privileges, etc., of the Houses of Parliament and of the members and committees thereof.
- Article 194 deals with the same privileges granted to the members of State Legislative Assembly and State Legislative Council.

### According to the Article 105(1) :

- Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and to the rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of Parliament, there shall be freedom of speech in Parliament.
- No member of Parliament shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or any committee thereof, and no person shall be so liable in respect of the publication by or under the authority of



either House of Parliament of any report, paper, votes or proceedings.

- In other respects, the powers, privileges and immunities of each House of Parliament, and of the members and the committees of each House, shall be such as may from time to time be defined by Parliament by law, and, until so defined, shall be those of that House and of its members and committees immediately before the coming into force of section 15 of the Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978.
- Breach of privilege is the violation of respective rights or immunities of the members of either House of Parliament or the State Assembly.
- When any member of the House or any outsider tries to devalue the power, privilege and immunity granted to members of the Houses as well as constituted committees, it is said that they are committing an offence of breach of privilege.
- Breach of privileges is a punishable offence. The form of punishment is decided as per the severity of the breach in accordance with the general law of Parliament.

### Lt. Gen Dwivedi Takes over as Vice Chief of Army Staff

#### Why in News?

- Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi has assumed the appointment of the Vice Chief of the Army Staff on 19 February 2024. On

assumption of appointment, Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi laid wreath at the National War Memorial and was accorded Guard of Honour at the South Block Lawns.

#### More About the News

- Prior to taking over as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi was tenanted the appointment of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command from 2022-2024 in extremely challenging operational environment.
- An alumnus of Sainik School, Rewa (MP), Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi was commissioned into 18 JAMMU & KASHMIR RIFLES in 1984, a unit he later commanded.
- The General officer has had a unique distinction of balanced exposure of both Northern and Western Theatres.
- During his illustrious career spanning across 39 years, he has held command appointments in challenging operational environments, spanning the length and breadth of the country. He commanded his unit in Kashmir Valley as well as in Rajasthan.
- Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi took over as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff from Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar, who now has been appointed as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command. He has rich experience in operations, intelligence, operational logistics, force structuring and modernization initiatives.

