



21/02/24 - 02/03/24



C.A. SHORTS

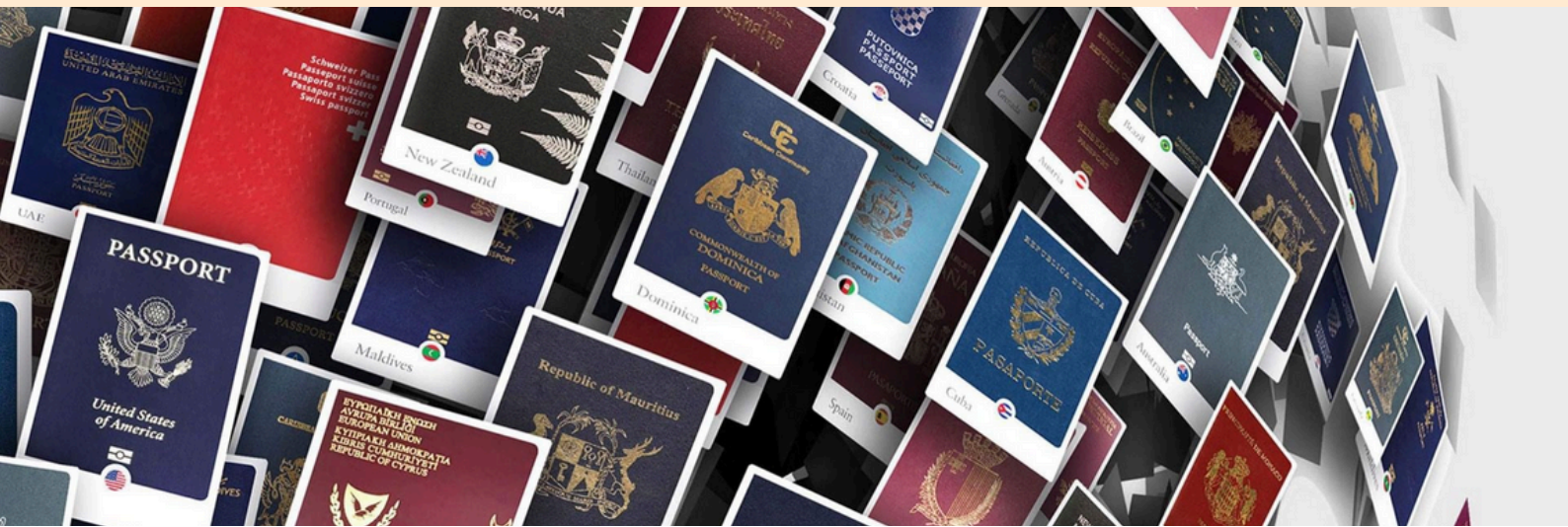
GAGAN - THE DESERVING INDIA





INDUS-X SUMMIT BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES IN DEFENCE INNOVATION

- The 9th edition of the Raisina Dialogue will be held from 21-23 February, 2024.
- The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the international community.
 - Theme: Chaturanga- Conflict, Contest, Cooperate, Create
 - Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic (Greece), H.E. Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis will be the Chief Guest.
- 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.
 - The summit aims to be a pivotal event driving strategic technology partnerships and defence industrial cooperation between India and the USA.



HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX

- According to the Henley Passport Index, India's passport ranking slipped one place from last year moving from 84th to 85th position.
- Henley Passport Index ranks nations based on strength of their passports.
- France has secured the top position, with its passport granting visa-free access to 194 countries.
- Pakistan maintained its position at 106th place.
- Afghanistan languishes at the bottom, securing access to a mere 28 international locations without a visa.



MARATHA RESERVATION BILL

- **Maharashtra Assembly clears Maratha Reservation Bill.**
- **Bill passed unanimously in a special Assembly session.**
- **Maratha community to get 10% reservation in education, government jobs.**





PM MODI TO INAUGURATE MULTIPLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WORTH 55,500 CRORE RUPEES IN GUJARAT.

- PM will participate in the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation popularly known as Amul at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.
- PM will launch several projects at Navsari including the inauguration of two new Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station: KAPS-3 and KAPS-4.

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THE CENTRE WILL BUILD CAPACITIES OF YUVA SHAKTI - SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN

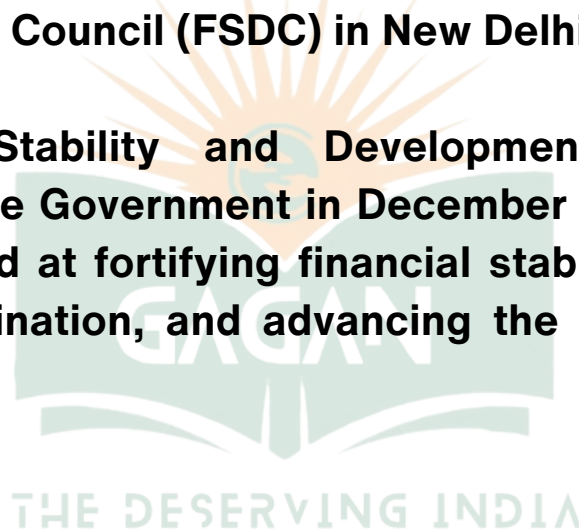
- **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates the first Skill India Centre of the country in Odisha.**
- **The SIC will play a pivotal role in designing curriculum along with industry experts which will be aligned with the changing industry needs, promote standardization, and create employment opportunities that meet the demand for skilled talent across industries.**





FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN CHAIRS FSDC MEETING IN PRESENCE OF RBI AND SEBI

- Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, presided over the 28th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) in New Delhi on Thursday.
- The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), established by the Government in December 2010, serves as the apex forum aimed at fortifying financial stability, fostering inter-regulatory coordination, and advancing the development of the financial sector.





SHASHI THAROOR CONFERRED FRANCE'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOUR

- Shashi Tharoor, a prolific author and a diplomat-turned-politician, was conferred France's highest civilian honour "Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur "by French Senate President Gerard Larcher.
- It recognizes his long-standing contribution in fostering Indo-French ties.





PM TO INAUGURATE, DEDICATE TO THE NATION AND LAY THE FOUNDATION STONE OF MULTIPLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WORTH OVER RS 32000 CRORE

- Prime Minister will dedicate to nation permanent campus of IIT Bhilai, IIT Tirupati, IISER Tirupati, IIITDM Kurnool; academic and residential complex in IIT Patna and IIT Ropar; two permanent campuses of Central Sanskrit University - at Devprayag (Uttarakhand) and at Agartala (Tripura).
- The Prime Minister will inaugurate permanent campuses of IIM Visakhapatnam, IIM Jammu and IIM Bodh Gaya. He will also inaugurate Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) - a pioneer skill training institute on advanced technologies in Kanpur.



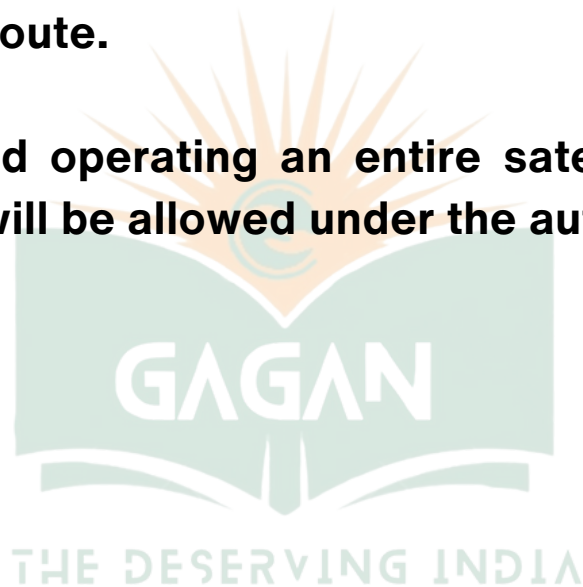
CABINET COMMITTEE ON SECURITY APPROVES ₹19,000 CRORE MEGA NAVY DEAL FOR BRAHMOS MISSILES

- **BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture between India and Russia.**
- **The Cabinet Committee on Security has approved the acquisition of over 200 BrahMos extended-range supersonic cruise missiles for deployment on Indian Navy warships.**
- **PM Modi has set a \$5-billion target for BrahMos sale to other countries.**
- **Brahmos Aerospace, which is headed by Atul Rane.**
- **The BrahMos team is trying to meet the target by 2025. The export deal with the Philippines is worth \$375 million.**



THE UNION CABINET APPROVED THE AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT POLICY FOR THE SPACE SECTOR

- The amended policy will allow up to 100 per cent investment under automatic route.
- Manufacturing and operating an entire satellite, up to 74 per cent investment will be allowed under the automatic route.





CENTRE DECIDES TO CONTINUE WOMEN'S SAFETY SCHEME TILL 2025-26

- The Prime Minister of India approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for the continuation of the implementation of the umbrella scheme on "Safety of Women".
- Objective: strengthening mechanisms in the states for ensuring timely intervention and investigation in the cases of crime against women and higher efficiency in the investigation and crime prevention.
- According to the NCRB data, the rate of crime against women per one-lakh population stood at 66.4, while the chargesheeting in such cases was logged at 75.8.
- The highest number of such incidents was reported from Madhya Pradesh, followed by West Bengal.



CABINET CLEARS 8% INCREASE IN SUGARCANE FAIR AND REMUNERATIVE PRICE

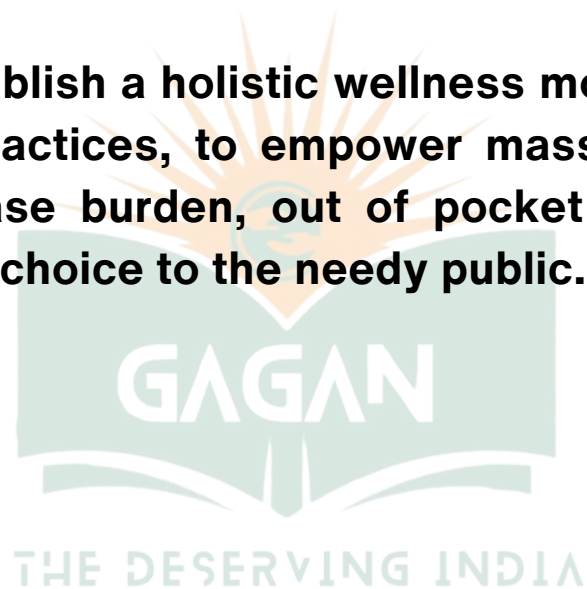
- The Centre recently decided to hike the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane to Rs 340 per quintal for Sugar Season 2024-25 (October-September) from the existing Rs 315 per quintal.
- This move is aimed at ensuring fair and reasonable prices to farmers.





AYUSH HOLISTIC WELLNESS CENTRE AT PREMISES OF SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

- **The Chief Justice of India recently inaugurated ‘Ayush Holistic Wellness Centre’ in the premises of Supreme Court of India.**
- **Objective: to establish a holistic wellness model based on Ayush principles and practices, to empower masses for ‘self-care’ to reduce the disease burden, out of pocket expenditure and to provide informed choice to the needy public.**





IISC SCIENTISTS DEVELOP SYNTHETIC ANTIBODY TO NEUTRALISE DEADLY SNAKE BITE TOXIN

- **Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) in Bengaluru have developed a synthetic human antibody that can neutralise a potent neurotoxin produced by the Elapidae family of highly toxic snakes, which includes the cobra, king cobra, krait and black mamba.**
- **The team adopted an approach used earlier to screen for antibodies against HIV and COVID-19 in order to synthesise the new venom-neutralising antibody.**
- **This is the first time that this particular strategy is being applied to develop antibodies for snakebite treatment.**
- **Snake bites cause thousands of deaths every year, especially in India and sub-Saharan Africa.**



RIGHT TO ADOPT IS NOT A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

- **The right to adopt cannot be raised to the status of a fundamental right within Article 21**





INDIA'S FIRST GATI SHAKTI RESEARCH CHAIR ESTABLISHED AT IIM SHILLONG.

- This initiative aims to enhance academic research in multimodal logistics, particularly focusing on the North-East region.
- The Gati Shakti Chair initiative aims to enhance academic multimodal logistics, particularly focusing on the North-East region.
- Objective :
 - Research Focus: Conduct high-quality academic research on multimodal logistics, emphasizing development strategies and practices in the North-East.
- Capacity Building: Facilitate knowledge and innovation to bolster logistical capacity in the region.
- Global Collaboration: Foster partnerships with global experts to develop expertise and knowledge exchange.



SUPREME COURT'S CONTEMPT NOTICE TO PATANJALI:

- Supreme Court criticises Patanjali Ayurved over 'misleading' advertisements.
- Top court bans companies from publishing ads on diseases, other medical conditions.
- Patanjali Ayurved given three weeks to reply to contempt notice. (the offence of being disobedient to or disrespectful toward a court of law and its officers in the form of behaviour that opposes or defies the authority, justice and dignity of the court).

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GAGANYAAN MISSION:

- India's first manned space mission. Group Captain P Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap and Wing Commander S Shukla met the PM and were handed the astronaut wings at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram.
- The Gaganyaan Mission is India's first human space flight program by ISRO centres and is set to launch between 2024-25.

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INDIA-JAPAN JOINT EXERCISE 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' COMMENCES IN RAJASTHAN

- Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is an annual exercise.
- The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 25th February to 9th March 2024.
- The Japanese contingent is being represented by troops from the 34th Infantry Regiment and the Indian Army contingent is being represented by a Battalion from the Rajputana Rifles.



GDP GROWTH ACCELERATES TO 8.4% IN Q3

- India's Q3 GDP growth accelerates to 8.4% .
- Analysts had predicted growth below 7%
- Q3 GDP growth was better than 7.6% in Q2.





LEOPARDS IN INDIA

- India' leopard number rose by 8% from 12,582 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022, according to a report made by the Environment Ministry.
- While the highest number of leopards were reported in Madhya Pradesh (3907), only three states reported over 1,000 animals each - Maharashtra (1985) and Tamilnadu(1070).
- Uttarakhand reported a 22% decline in the big cat number - reportedly due to poaching and man - animal conflict , Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal.

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INDIAN LEOPARD

- The Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) is a leopard subspecies widely distributed on the Indian subcontinent.
- The species (*Panthera pardus fusca*) is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- Populations have declined following habitat loss and fragmentation , poaching for the illegal trade of skin and body parts, and persecution due to conflict situations.
- India now has 12,852 leopards as compared to the previous estimate of 7910 conducted in 2014. More than 60% increase in population has been recorded.



CABINET CLEARS RS 24,400 CRORE FERTILISER SUBSIDY TO FARMERS FOR KHARIF SEASON

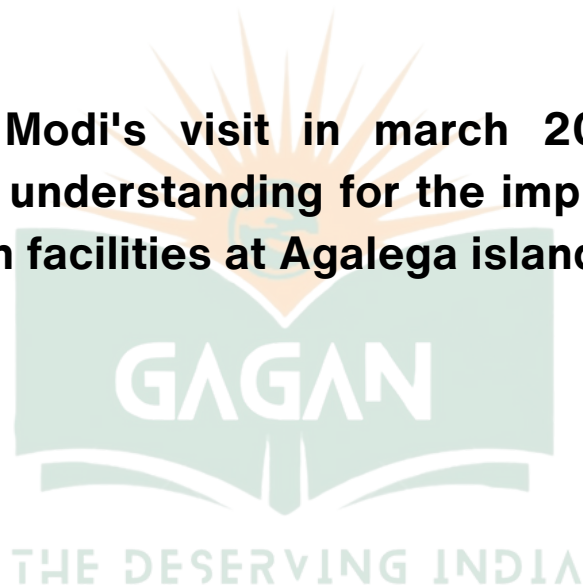
- The government approved a subsidy of ₹24,420 crore for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers, adding three new grades to aid farmers and enhance the productivity of oilseeds and pulses.
- The Union Budget for fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25) allocated ₹1.64 trillion for fertilizer subsidy lower than the revised estimate of ₹1.88 trillion allotted for FY24.





INDIA-BUILT AIRSTRIIP INAUGURATED IN AGALÉGA, MAURITIUS :

- **The Prime Minister of India and his Mauritian counterpart inaugurated India-assisted development projects at Agaléga Island.**
- **Prime minister Modi's visit in march 2015 India signed a memorandum of understanding for the improvement in sea and air transportation facilities at Agalega island.**





CHINESE ANGLE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN:

- **China sees great value in having a powerful presence in the Indian Ocean region.**
- **Nine of China's top 10 crude oil suppliers transit the Indian Ocean, which is also the primary region of transit for China for engagements with Africa, the Middle East, island nations, and littorals across the vast ocean.**
- **The Indian Ocean is also the main trading route between China and Europe.**
- **China had gone beyond diplomatic and trade partnerships in the region and had begun to maintain a consistent military presence.**

- **China is the only nation with an embassy in each of the six islands in the Indian ocean - “Sri lanka, Maldives Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, Comoros”.**
- **IN 2017 ,China opened its first overseas military facility in the Indian Ocean in Djibouti on the horn of africa.**



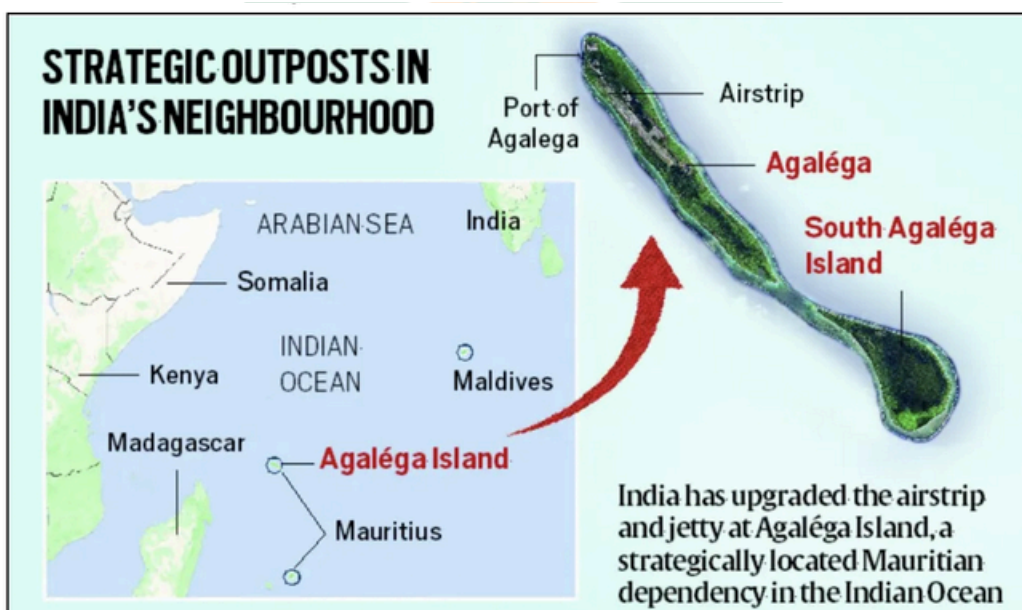
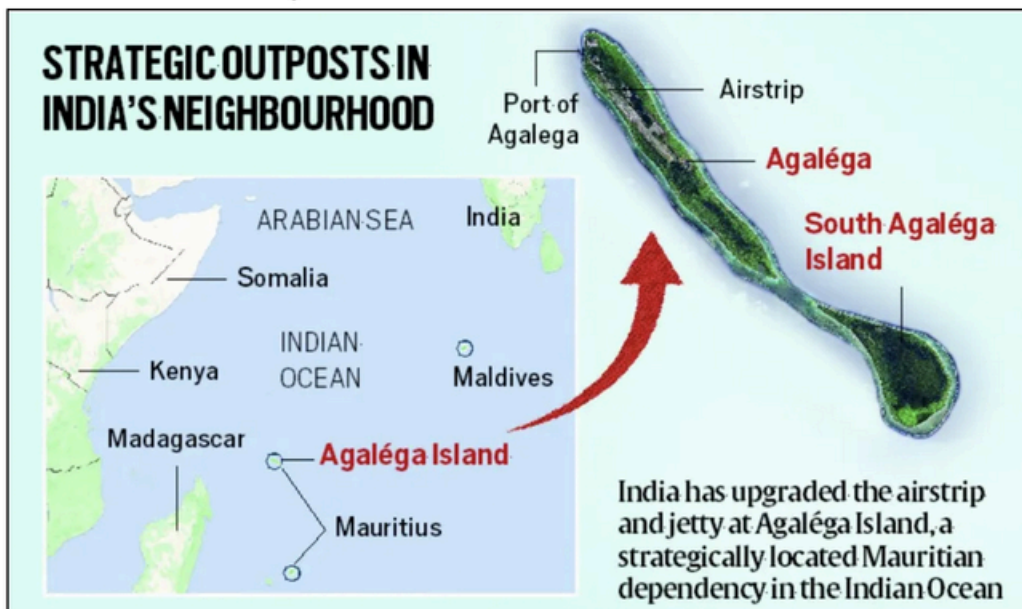


AGALEGA ISLAND: A STRATEGIC LOCATION

- **Agaléga are two outer islands of Mauritius located in the Indian Ocean, about 1,000 km north of Mauritius island.**
- **Area of 2,600 ha (6,400 acres).**
- **Significance:**
 - **India's Strategic Presence**
 - **Economic Impetus**
 - **Trade Security**
- **The joint development of Agaléga underscores India's commitment to the vision of Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR) and its willingness to assist smaller maritime nations building capacity and developing capability.**

Conclusion:

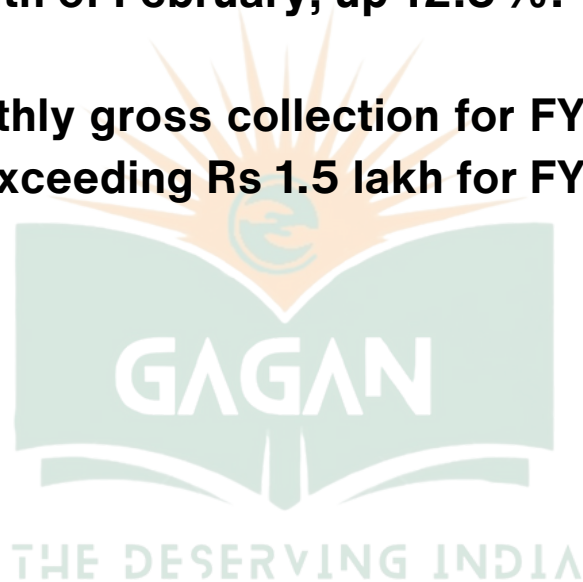
- The inauguration of development projects in Agaléga Island highlights India's commitment to enhancing maritime infrastructure in the Indian Ocean. Amidst China's increasing presence, India's strategic partnerships with Mauritius and the Maldives become crucial, emphasizing the need for balanced diplomacy to safeguard its regional interests.





GST COLLECTIONS FOR FEBRUARY AT RS 1.68 LAKH CRORE, UP 12.5%

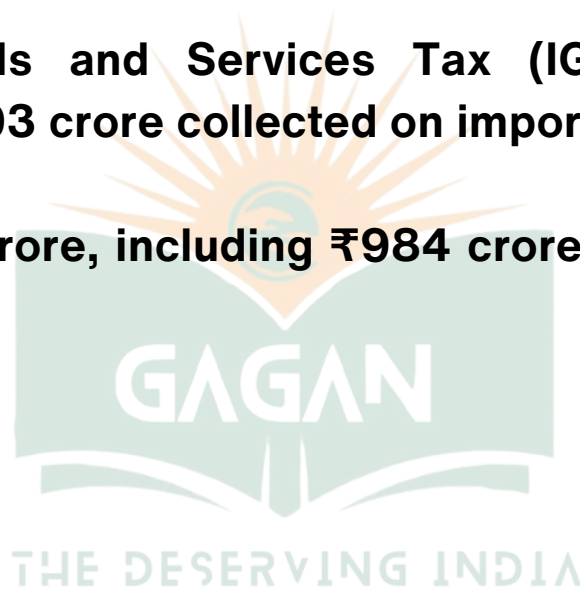
- India collected Rs 1.68 lakh crore as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for the month of February, up 12.5%.
- The average monthly gross collection for FY 2023-24 stood at Rs 1.67 lakh crore, exceeding Rs 1.5 lakh for FY 2022-23.





BREAKDOWN OF FEBRUARY 2024 COLLECTIONS:

- Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST): ₹31,785 crore.
- State Goods and Services Tax (SGST): ₹39,615 crore.
- Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST): ₹84,098 crore, including ₹38,593 crore collected on imported goods.
- Cess: ₹12,839 crore, including ₹984 crore collected on imported goods.





INTER-GOVERNMENTAL SETTLEMENT

- The central government settled ₹41,856 crore to CGST and ₹35,953 crore to SGST from the IGST collected.
- This translates to a total revenue of ₹73,641 crore for CGST and ₹75,569 crore for SGST after regular settlement.



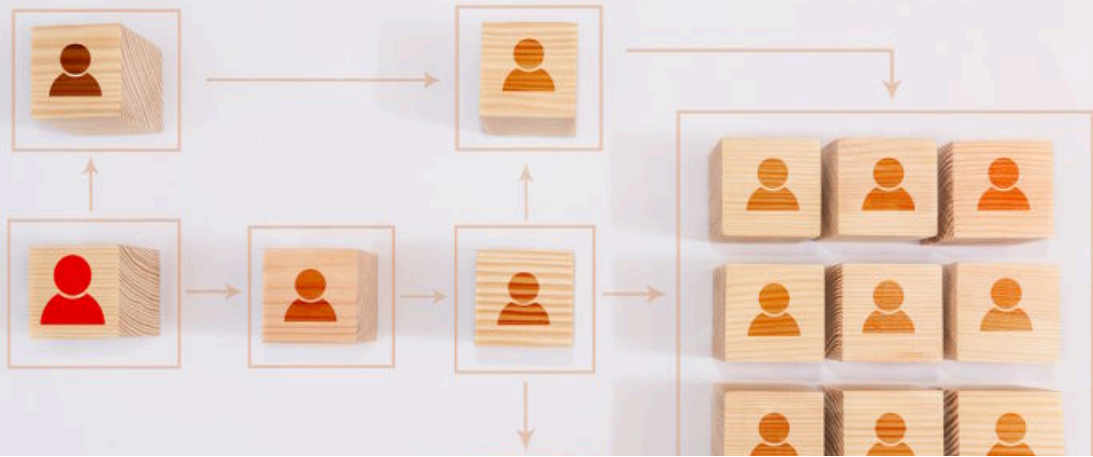


INTERNATIONAL 'BIG CAT' ALLIANCE:

- The Union Cabinet formally announced the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with one-time budgetary support of Rs 150 crore from the central government until 2028.
- The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is a global initiative launched by India in April 2023 that aims to protect and conserve the world's seven major big cat species – the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma.

International Big Cat Alliance :

- It aims for mutual cooperation among countries for mutual benefit in furthering the conservation agenda.
- It would have a multipronged approach in broad basing and establishing linkages manifold in several areas and help in knowledge sharing, capacity building, networking, advocacy, finance and resources support, research and technical support, education and awareness.



GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- A General Assembly consisting of all member countries.
- A Council of at least seven but not more than 15 member countries elected by the General Assembly for a term of 5 years, and a Secretariat.
- Upon the recommendation of the Council, the General Assembly will appoint the IBCA Secretary General for a specific term.

