

NEWS TODAY

WEARING HIJAB IS NOT ESSENTIAL RELIGIOUS PRACTICE RULES KARNATAKA HIGH COURT

- Ruling has come in the backdrop of **petition seeking the right to wear hijabs or head scarves** along with uniforms inside classrooms.

➤ According to the Court, **wearing of hijab (head scarf) by Muslim women does not form a part of essential religious practices in Islamic faith** and is not protected under right to freedom of religion under Article 25 of Constitution.

➤ Also, prescription of school uniform **does not violate either right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1) (a) or right to privacy under Article 21.**

➤ Further, **restriction against wearing of hijab** in educational institutions is only a **reasonable restriction constitutionally permissible.**

- **What is the essential religious practice test**

➤ It was **evolved by Supreme Court (SC) in 'Shirur Mutt' case (1954)** to protect only such religious practices which were essential and integral to the religion.

➤ Court held that term "religion" will cover all rituals and practices "integral" to a religion, and **took upon itself the responsibility of determining essential and non-essential practices of a religion.**

➤ This **attempt to differentiate essential and non-essential practices** was taken up in various judgments.



MAJOR UPGRADE FOR INDIA INFRASTRUCTURE ALONG LAC: PARLIAMENT PANEL REPORT

- Post-Galwan incident, the **infrastructure on Indo-China border** is undergoing a major upgrade.

➤ As per report, Government of India sanctioned **32 roads along the China border**, of which work has started on eight roads.

➤ **32 helipads were being constructed** and upgraded along the China border.

- **Need to develop border infrastructure**

➤ To enable **faster movement of troops**, armoured vehicles and artillery.

➤ **For curbing of illegal activities** (illegal immigrations, counterfeit currency etc.)

➤ To **integrate hinterland areas and to create a positive perception** of care and encourage people to stay or in the border areas.

➤ To **minimize cross-border infiltration** and insurgency threats across border.

➤ **Improve trade relations** with neighbouring countries.

- **Steps taken by government for border infrastructure management**

➤ **'Vibrant village programme'** to improve social and financial infrastructure in remote habitations, primarily along the border with China.

➤ **Central Sector Umbrella Scheme of Border Infrastructure & Management (BIM)** for strengthen infrastructure for improving border management, policing and guarding.

➤ **Border Area Development Programme** for comprehensive border management.

➤ Union Budget 2022-23 has **increased capital outlay for Border Roads Organization, by a record 40 percent, as compared to FY 2021-22.**

REVAMP OF PRADHAN MANTRI AWAAS YOJANA GRAMIN (PMAY - G)

- To enhance work done under the scheme following steps are being taken up
 - **Monitoring on various parameters** like gaps in sanction and completion of houses
 - **Timely release** of central share and state matching share from treasury to SNA.
 - **Regular follow ups** with the states to ensure provision of land to landless beneficiaries in rural areas.
 - **Training to Rural Masons under Rural Mason Training** programme to make available pool of trained rural masons for faster construction of quality houses.
- Also, recently, **Minister for Rural Development** launched **PMAYG Dashboard** for **stringent monitoring** of the implementation of the scheme.
 - Dashboard provides **End-to-End insights** of the PMAY-G scheme **at a glance** through:
 - **Single screen visualization** of entire physical and financial progress,
 - **State-level reports** drillable to block level,
 - Analysing the **gap/delays** in release of instalments etc.
- **Progress made so far**
 - **Target of 2.62 crore** (88.81% of total) houses has been **allocated to the States/UTs**,
 - **2.27 crore (76.9% of total) beneficiaries** have been sanctioned houses by the States/UTs,
 - **1.74 crore houses** have been **completed**.

ABOUT PMAY-G (LAUNCHED IN 2016)

- **Objective:** To provide assistance to **eligible rural households** with overall target to **construct 2.95 crore pucca houses** with basic amenities.
- Beneficiary selection is done by using housing deprivation parameters in **Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011** date which is to be verified by the Gram Sabhas.
- Cost is shared between **Central and State Government in the ratio 60:40 in plain areas and 90:10 for North Eastern and the Himalayan States**.

INDIA PLANS RS 24,000 CRORE SOVEREIGN GREEN BOND AS ECONOMY GOES LOW CARBON

- Aiming towards a low-carbon economy, India is **set to issue at least Rs 24,000 crore or \$3.3 billion in sovereign green bonds**.
- Green bonds are issued by companies, countries and multilateral organisations to exclusively **fund projects that have positive environmental or climate benefits and provide investors with fixed income payments**.
 - The projects can include **renewable energy, clean transportation and green buildings**, among others.
 - **World's first green bond was issued in 2007** by European Investment Bank and World Bank.
- **Benefits of green bonds**
 - **Mitigate climate change-related risks** due to changing policies such as carbon taxation which could lead to stranded assets.
 - **Increase transparency and accountability** on the use and management of proceeds.
 - Crucial in **increasing finances to sunrise sectors** like renewable energy, thus contributing to India's sustainable growth.
 - Satisfies **Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) requirements** and green investment mandates.
 - **Contribute to national climate adaptation**, food security, public health, energy supply, amongst others.
- **Challenges: Lack of credit ratings** for green bonds projects; Lack of commonly accepted green standards.

GREEN BONDS IN INDIA

- In 2015, **Yes Bank** (private sector bank) successfully issued **India's first ever green infrastructure bonds** raising an amount of INR 1,000 crores.
- In 2017, SEBI had brought **disclosure norms** for green bonds whereby issuer will have to **make disclosure** about **environmental objectives** of the issue of such securities.
- In 2018, the **State Bank of India** ventured into Green Bond market with a \$650 million **certified climate bond**.
- In the first half-year of 2019, India became the **second-largest Green Bond market worldwide** after China with \$10.3 billion worth of transactions (**Economic Survey 2019-20**).





ASSAM FORMS CABINET SUBCOMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO CASES OF NON-INCLUSION IN NRC




- The subcommittee will look into the problem of **19 lakh people**, whose names were not included in the **supplementary list National Register of Citizens (NRC)**, published in **August, 2019**.
- **About NRC:**
 - It is the register **containing details of all Indian citizens**. At present, **Assam is the only state to have an NRC**. It was **first prepared** in 1951 and finally updated in 2019.
 - NRC was updated as per provisions of **Citizenship Act, 1955** and **Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003**.
- **The Assam Accord (1985)** provided that a resident of Assam is an Indian citizen if she could prove her presence, or an ancestor's presence in Assam **before March 25, 1971**.
 - Thus, the NRC updation process began following a **Supreme Court order in 2013**.
- Non-inclusion of a person's name in the NRC **does not by itself amount to him/her being declared a foreigner**. Such individuals have the option to present their case before **foreigners' tribunals**.
 - If **one loses the case in the tribunal**, the **person can move to the high court and Supreme Court**.

PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME FOR AUTOMOBILE AND AUTO COMPONENT EXCEEDS TARGETS

- The scheme for the auto sector has been **successful in attracting proposed investment of ₹ 74,850 crore** against the target estimate of investment ₹ 42,500 crore over a period of five years.
 - **PLI scheme for Automobiles and Auto components** was notified in 2021, with aim to **enhance country's manufacturing capabilities of advanced automotive products.**
- This scheme is divided into two parts- **Champion Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) Incentive Scheme and Component Champion Incentive Scheme.**
 - **Champion OEM Incentive Scheme** is for **Battery Electric Vehicles and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles of all segments.**
 - **Component Champion Incentive Scheme** is for **Advanced Automotive Technology components of vehicles, Completely Knocked Down (SKD) kits,** vehicle aggregates of 2-Wheelers, 3-Wheelers, passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, and tractors.
- Scheme is **open to existing Automotive companies** and **new non-Automotive investor companies.**
- Automobile sector in India**
 - The automobile industry manufactured **26.36 mn vehicles in FY 2019-20** and the auto sector in India **contributes 35% to the manufacturing GDP** of the country.
 - Also, India's auto sector is projected to be the **world's third-largest automotive market in terms of volume by 2026.**

ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Membership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedure for membership is as following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Following formation of Consensus amongst NATO members, applicant country joins Membership Action Plan which is a preparatory stage. ➤ NATO then moves an amendment to make the invitees party to the Washington Treaty (also called NATO Treaty). ➤ Finally, the new member accedes to the NATO treaty. Membership eligibility criteria includes, functioning democratic political system, market economy; fair treatment of minority populations etc. NATO was created in 1949 by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations with the aim to provide collective security.
 <p>Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESOP is a type of employee benefit plan which is intended to encourage employees to acquire stocks or ownership in the company for which they are working. It aimed at improving the performance of the company and increasing the value of the shares by involving stock holders, who are also the employees, in the working of the company. It provides companies with tax benefits, thus incentivizing owners to offer them to employees.
 <p>Bahini scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sikkim is set to announce Bahini scheme to install vending machines to provide free sanitary pads. This is the first time that a state government has taken a decision to cover all girls studying in Classes 9-12. It aims to curb dropout of girls from schools and raise awareness about menstrual hygiene.
 <p>Mumbai experiencing heatwave in march</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In India, heatwaves generally occur from March to June, occasionally in July. However, ongoing heatwave in Konkan, including Mumbai is because - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ it is under the direct influence of the prevailing heatwave in the adjacent Saurashtra-Kutch regions of Gujarat. ➤ Also, the slow movement of sea breeze along the Maharashtra coast and the overall clear sky conditions have together resulted in such hot conditions. A region or locality is considered to be under the influence of heatwave if the maximum temperature reaches or exceeds 40 degrees Celsius in the plains or 37 degrees celsius temperature in coastal areas.

 <p>Seaweed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is focusing on progressive growth of the seaweed sector. Sea-weed culture is also being promoted under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for empowerment of fishermen. Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is focusing on progressive growth of the seaweed sector. Seaweed is different from seagrass, as seaweed is a non-vascular, plant-like macroalga which lacks true stem, roots and leaves. Seaweeds are considered as superfoods because of their high concentration of vitamins and minerals. Seagrass is a vascular plant which has true stem, roots and leaves.
 <p>Man-Portable Air-Defence Systems (MANPADS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western countries are sending MANPADS to Ukraine for assistance in war. About MANPADS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Short-range, lightweight and portable surface-to-air missiles that can be fired by individuals or small groups to destroy aircraft or helicopters. > Can be shoulder-fired, launched from atop a ground-vehicle, fired from a tripod or stand, and from a helicopter or boat. > Have 'fire and forget' guidance systems.
 <p>Phosphorus bomb</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russian forces are accused of launching phosphorus bomb attacks in Lugansk and Donetsk regions of eastern Ukraine. International law prohibits the use of white phosphorus shells in heavily populated civilian areas, but allows them in open spaces to be used as cover for troops. White phosphorus munition is UN-banned weapon. It is used in smoke, lights and during war to make the bomb more lethal. It is pyrophoric (it is ignited by contact with air), burns fiercely and can cause horrendous injuries.



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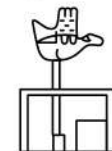
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