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Prelim Bits 19-02-2023 & 20-02-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

Munich Security Conference (MSC)

Billionaire investor George Soros has recently made a controversial speech at the Munich Security Conference (MSC) linking Adani and Indian Prime Minister.

- MSC is an annual conference on global security issues held in February every year, at Munich, Germany.
- It was founded by Ewald-Heinrich von Kleist at the peak of the Cold War (1947-1991).
- **United Front Against Russia** - Started in 1963, the conference initially focused on military issues and was attended by the western countries.
- Its main objective is to display a united front in their struggle with Soviet communism.
- **After the cold war** - MSC expanded its agenda by including issues such as climate change and migration.
- It also started to invite leaders from eastern nations, including Russia, India and China.

MSC 2023

- For the first time in 20 years, Russia and Iran was not invited to the MSC 2023 conference following the ongoing [Russia-Ukraine Crisis](#) and brutal suppression of protests by women in Iranian cities.
- India participated in the MSC 2023.

References

[The Indian Express | George Soros-PM Modi controversy](#)

Aadi Mahotsav 2023

Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated the 'Aadi Mahotsav' in the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, Delhi.

- It is a National Tribal Festival that aims to showcase tribal culture, celebrate the spirit of tribal culture, crafts, cuisine, commerce and traditional art.
- It is an **annual** initiative of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Limited (TRIFED), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- **Shree Anna** - Since 2023 is being celebrated as the International Year of Millets, a

special focus in the Mahotsav will be on showcasing Shree Anna grown by tribals.

- In the event, NSTFDC disseminate information on various schemes and financial support being provided for Scheduled Tribes.

NSTFDC

- National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC).
- It was set up in 2001 under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- It works for the socio-economic and educational upliftment of Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- It also provides for the better self-employment avenues so that they can become economically independent and self-reliant.
- It devises and implements financial assistance schemes *exclusively for the tribal*.
- These schemes are for providing loans to the poor STs at concessional rates of interest and on soft terms & conditions.
- For helping tribal students to pursue higher education, loans are offered which are subsidized by the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

References

1. [PIB | PM inaugurates Aadi Mahotsav](#)
2. [India Today | What is Aadi Mahotsav?](#)

Amendments in Organ Transplant Rules

Union Health Ministry has recently eased the organ transplant rules to allow persons above 65 years to receive organs from a dead donor.

Organ Donation

- Organ Donation is the gift of an organ to a person with end stage organ disease and who needs a transplant.
 - The organs that can be donated are, Liver, Kidney, Pancreas, Heart, Lung, Intestine.
 - The tissues that can be donated are, Cornea, Bone, Skin, Heart Valve, blood vessels, nerves and tendon etc.
 - There are two types of organ donation
1. **Living Donor Organ Donation:** A person during his life can donate one kidney, a portion of pancreas and a part of the liver.
 2. **Deceased Donor Organ Donation:** A person can donate multiple organ and tissues after (brain-stem/cardiac) death. His/her organ continues to live in another person's body.

India conducts the 3rd highest number of organ transplants in the world.

Rules

- **Early Status** - There is no bar on persons above 65 years for living donor transplants, where family members donate organs like kidneys and livers.

- But they couldn't register to receive organs *from a deceased donor* as per guidelines of NOTTO.
- **Current Status** - Guidelines are now being revised to allow the elderly to access organ from a dead donor.
- While preference will still be given to younger recipients but those above the age of 65 are not completely barred from the process as earlier.
- **Significance** - A study shows over 40% of those in need of kidney transplants worldwide are over the age of 65.

Organs from deceased donors accounted for nearly 17.8% of all transplants in 2022 in India.

NOTTO (National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation)

- It is a national level organization set up under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It was constituted as per the Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act, 2011.
- It has two divisions:
 1. National Human Organ & Tissue Removal and Storage Network
 2. National Biomaterial Centre

References

1. [NOTTO | FAQ's](#)
2. [The Indian Express | Govt ends age-65 cap for receiving organ](#)

Exercise Dharma Guardian

The 4th edition of India-Japan bilateral Army exercise 'Dharma Guardian' began at Camp Imazu in Shiga province, Japan.

- Exercise Dharma Guardian is an *annual* training event with *Japan*.
- It is crucial and significant in terms of global security challenges.
- It will enable the two armies to share best practices in tactics, techniques and procedures of conducting tactical operations under a UN mandate.

Other Exercises

- **JIMEX** - Exercise between Indo-Japan naval forces
- **Veer Guardian** - Exercise between Indo-Japan air forces

References

1. [The Hindu | India-Japan Army exercise](#)
2. [The Time of India | India, Japan army exercises begin](#)

Feathering in Aircraft

The recent Yeti Airlines aircraft crash in Nepal was preliminarily reported due to the unusual feathered position of Propellers.

- During engine failure or an in-flight engine shutdown, the affected engine no longer produces thrust - the power that propels the aircraft forward.
- In the meantime, the air hitting the giant propeller blades produces enormous drag - a force that acts in the opposite direction of thrust.
- With zero/reduced thrust and enormous drag, the glide performance and airspeed of the plane will be severely impaired.
- To tackle the situation, pilots change the pitch/angle of the propeller blades.
- This helps to slice the airflow in a more or less parallel motion, like a knife, and not hit the air flatly.
- This reduces the drag, increases the gliding distance, and prevents the airspeed from decaying below unsafe limits.
- This is called the 'feathering' of propellers.



Reference

[The Indian Express | What is 'feathering'?](#)



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