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Category: [POLITY](#)

1. [PM Modi to inaugurate first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda](#)

In news:

- The first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), modelled on the lines of AIIMS, will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national capital on 'Ayurveda Day' on October 17.
- Set up as an apex institute under the Ministry of AYUSH, the AIIA will bring in the synergy between traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern diagnostic tools and technology.

2. [Kancha Ilaiah case: We're not here to ban books, says Supreme Court](#)

Context:

- The petition filed by advocate took exception to a particular chapter in a book titled 'Post-Hindu India' called 'Hindutva-Mukt Bharat'.
- The book is critical about the caste system prevailing in India, especially in the Arya Vysya community.

Supreme Court Observation:

- "Any request for banning a book of the present nature has to be strictly scrutinized because every author or writer has a fundamental right to speak out ideas freely and express thoughts adequately. Curtailment of an individual writer/author's right to freedom of speech and expression should never be lightly viewed."
- It is not up to the Supreme Court to use its powers to ban books, which are a free expression of a writer's thoughts and feelings about the society and world he lives in. Courts cannot be asked to gag free expression.
- The Supreme Court has always placed the fundamental right to free speech at the highest pedestal.
- This is what the Supreme Court recorded in its two-page order while dismissing a petition to ban a book written by writer and activist Professor Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd called Samajika Smuggluru Komatollu.

Category: [INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS/BILATERAL RELATIONS](#)

1. [NRIs can proxy-vote soon: Sushma](#)

In news:

- Addressing women BJP workers in a town hall interaction, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said that soon **non-resident Indians** (NRIs) would be able to **proxy-vote** in elections in the country as the government was set to amend the **Representation of the People Act**.

Present situation: under the present law, NRIs registered in India as voters had to fly to the country during an election to cast their vote, but with the amendment, they could just issue an authorization letter to family members or relatives to vote on their behalf.

2. [India plans a riposte to slavery report](#)

In news:

- After sending a rebuttal to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) challenging India's ranking in a global

slavery report, India will build pressure on the global body to distance itself from the Australia-based **NGO-Walk Free Foundation**.

- It was the WFF, founded by Australia's mining mogul Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest, that had compiled the report.
- As per the report, the highest number of people, 17,000, were surveyed in India and it was placed in a cluster of 53 countries like Honduras, Belize, Iraq, Pakistan and China.
- Indian security agencies informed the Prime Ministers Office (PMO) that though the methodology of sampling was not clear, the WFF's entire focus was on India and had "enough potential to substantively harm India's image and kill its exports market".
- The PMO was warned that there was "evidence of rising interest of private and multilateral institutions in highlighting human trafficking and forced labour as modern-day slavery, with India being the largest hub of slaves".

Point-wise rejoinder

- The Centre has tasked the **V. Giri National Labour Institute**, an autonomous body under the Labour and Employment Ministry, to prepare a point-wise rejoinder to the "modern slavery" report.
- The Labour Ministry shot off a strong letter to the ILO regarding its report titled "Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage 2017". The report released on September 19 did not contain any India-specific findings, barring one mention that 17,000 people were interviewed for the survey.

3. [India acts against bottom trawling](#)

Context:

- Bottom trawling by Indian fishermen had emerged as a major issue because of the disruptive impact it left on the coastal communities of Sri Lanka.
- Earlier in July, Sri Lanka banned bottom trawling, increasing the chances of interception of more Indian bottom trawlers.

In news:

- India informed Sri Lanka that it has taken measures to stop bottom trawling by its fishermen in the waters near the Sri Lankan coastline.
- During a weekend meeting of the **Joint Working Group (JWG)** in Delhi, officials expressed satisfaction over the release of Indian fishermen by Colombo, and reiterated the need to bring the rest of them back to India.

Initiatives taken by the Government of India to end bottom trawling:

- Recent initiatives taken by the Government of India to end bottom trawling in the **Palk Bay area** include the launch of a programme on diversification of bottom trawlers into deep-sea fishing vessels for tuna long lining under the **Blue Revolution Scheme**, construction of **Mookaiyur** and **Poompuhar fishing harbours**, and capacity-building programmes for fishermen of the Palk Bay area in deep sea tuna long lining.
- Besides, fresh registration for bottom trawlers in the Palk Bay area has been banned by the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- India has informed that schemes promoting **seaweed farming** and **sea-cage farming** have begun in the **Palk Bay area** to wean away fishermen from **deep-sea trawling**.

Joint Working Group (JWG) mandate:

- From the beginning, the JWG has been dealing with the twin problems of arrest of Indian fishermen and boats by Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka's complaint against Indian fishermen for using "bottom trawling" which erodes aquatic resources in the Palk Bay area.

Category: INTERNAL SECURITY

1. [A bigger nuclear submarine is coming](#)

In news:

- India's second strategic nuclear submarine **Arihant** is just a few weeks from sea launch.
- There are plans to build a bigger and more potent version of the indigenous nuclear submarine in the immediate future.

New features to be added:

- The leap for India's ballistic nuclear submarine capabilities would come with the fourth submarine planned in the same class, named **S4-Star**.
- It would have a stronger weapons configuration integrated into an extra compartment that would be added to **Arihant's** original design.

Strategic capabilities:

- The indigenously built second nuclear submarine will add to India's growing nuclear capabilities, in the face of the new strategic realities of the region, including the assertive Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean.

Key Facts:

- Last October, India commissioned its first Ballistic Nuclear Submarine, **INS Arihant**.

- The vessel, weighing 6,000 tonnes, is powered by an 83 MW pressurised light water nuclear reactor.
- The project to build a strategic nuclear submarine to carry nuclear missiles began as the Advanced Technology Vessel project in the 1980s, and the vessel project was launched in 2009 by Dr. Manmohan Singh.
- Arihant, which can carry nuclear tipped ballistic missiles, is of the ship submersible ballistic nuclear class.

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F. Practice Questions for UPSC Prelims Exam

G. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

GS Paper II

1. Exercise of CAG’s powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether audit of the Government’s policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction.

GS Paper III

1. What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro-irrigation in increasing the water-use efficiency.