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### National & International News

#### Uttar Pradesh Model for Tackling Malnutrition

##### Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme



Serving Children of 0-6 years and Pregnant & Lactating Mothers

Supplementary Nutrition

Immunization

Pre-School Education

Health Check-ups

Health & Nutrition Education

Referral Services



#### Context:

- Uttar Pradesh demonstrates the effectiveness of **women's empowerment in combating malnutrition** through community-based micro-enterprises.
- Self-help groups produce **fortified and nutritious foods** for pregnant/breastfeeding mothers and children, distributed through the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme**.

#### ICDS Programme:

- The Umbrella scheme - **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** is a centrally sponsored scheme initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 1975.

#### Schemes under ICDS

- Anganwadi Services Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
- National Creche Scheme
- Scheme for Adolescent Girls
- Child Protection Scheme
- POSHAN Abhiyaan

#### Major Objectives of ICDS:

- Improve the nutritional and health status of children aged **0-6 years**.
- Ensure proper **psychological, physical, and social development of the child**.
- Reduce **mortality, morbidity, malnutrition**, and school dropout rates.
- Coordinate policy and implementation across departments.
- Enhance the capability of mothers to meet the health and nutritional needs of their children.
- Educate and empower adolescent girls for self-reliance and awareness.**

#### 1st BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships

#### Context:

- Anurag Singh Thakur initiated the BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships 2024 in **New Delhi's Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Swimming Pool Complex** which will be held from **February 6th to 9th, 2024**.
- The championship marks the first of its kind within the **BIMSTEC region**.



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### BIMSTEC



Stands for **The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation**

Founded in 1997 through **Bangkok Declaration**

#### 7 MEMBER COUNTRIES



#### Importance of BIMSTEC

- Accounts for **22%** of the world's population
- Combined GDP of **\$2.7 trillion**
- One-fourth of the world's traded goods cross the Bay every year
- Six focus areas- trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries

First summit held in Thailand

Sri Lanka is the current Chair

### Vision and Background

- Narendra Modi announced the **BIMSTEC Youth Water Sports competition** during the **4th BIMSTEC Summit in 2018**.
- Initially planned for 2021, the event was rescheduled to 2024 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Competitions include Swimming, Water Polo, and Diving events for the under-20 age category.

### BIMSTEC:

- **BIMSTEC (The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)** constitutes a unique link between South and South-East Asian countries with five members from **South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka)** and two members from **South-East Asia (Myanmar & Thailand)**.
- BIMSTEC It is an economic bloc that came into being in **June 1997** through the **Bangkok Declaration**.
- BIMSTEC was initially formed with four member states- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand on June 6, 1997.
- Nepal became an observer state in 1998 and became a full-time member of the bloc along with Bhutan in February 2004.

### Myanmar's Civil Unrest

### Context:

- Myanmar's internal conflict intensifies as opposition to military rule strengthens, with **Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs)** gaining control in various regions.
- The recent capture of **Paletwa by the Arakan Army**, a town with strategic importance on the **western border**, underscores the growing complexity of the situation.
- The fall of Paletwa shifts the dynamics between the Chin and Arakan ethnic groups, sparking tensions over historical territorial claims.

### Impact on Kaladan Project:

- The developments in Paletwa affect **India's Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)**, aimed at providing **northeast India with an alternative trade route**.
- Delays in the Kaladan project are attributed to various challenges, including security concerns and local attitudes toward the project.



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	<p><b>China's Economic Expansion and Geopolitical Influence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• China's investments in Myanmar, particularly in the <b>Rakhine State</b>, include <b>oil and gas pipelines</b> and plans for a deep-sea port and economic zone.</li><li>• <b>The China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC)</b> aims to further enhance connectivity between the two countries, potentially altering regional power dynamics.</li><li>• China's influence in Myanmar poses challenges for <b>India's connectivity and development projects</b>, necessitating a nuanced approach to regional diplomacy.</li></ul>
<p><b>CBSE Urges Schools for National Credit Framework Preparation</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CBSE has requested affiliated schools to plan <b>credit allocation patterns</b> in line with the <b>National Credit Framework (NCrF)</b>.</li><li>• Draft guidelines have been proposed by <b>CBSE</b>, currently open for feedback.</li></ul> <p><b>Credit Allocation and Subject Structure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CBSE plans to introduce a <b>new credit framework for Classes 9 to 12</b>, emphasizing the allocation of credits to subjects.</li><li>• Students are required to clear five subjects, with additional hours allocated for <b>internal assessments in subjects like Physical Education, Health, Art Education, and a third language</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>Expansion of Subjects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The proposal suggests an expansion of compulsory subjects from 5 to 10 for Classes 9 and 10.</li><li>• Additional subjects include a compulsory <b>third language, interdisciplinary studies, physical education, art education, and a skill-related subject</b>.</li></ul> <p>Schools are encouraged to adopt the credit system internally to ensure preparedness for official implementation next year.</p>
<p><b>Dusted Apollo</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Dusted Apollo, a rare high-altitude butterfly, has been sighted and photographed in <b>Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district</b>.</li><li>• Previously undocumented in Himachal Pradesh, this species inhabits altitudes ranging from <b>3,500 to 4,800 meters in the inner Himalayas</b>.</li></ul>



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### Key points:

- The Dusted Apollo bears a strong resemblance to the **Ladakh Banded Apollo**.
- Apollo butterflies face threats from poaching due to their commercial significance, highlighting the urgent need for conservation efforts to protect endangered species.

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