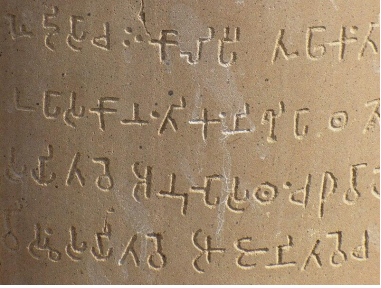





14 Oct 2024

**National and International News**

<p><b>Brahmi Inscription</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>Brahmi inscription</b>, written in the <b>Prakrit language</b> and <b>Brahmi script</b> from the <b>2nd century C.E.</b>, was recently discovered in Dharanikota village, <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Brahmi Inscription:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brahmi Script:</b> The <b>earliest writing system</b> developed in India after the <b>Indus script</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Language:</b> Most Brahmi inscriptions found in <b>North and Central India represent the Prakrit language</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Left to Right Writing:</b> Unlike earlier scripts like <b>Kharosthi</b>, which was written right to left, <b>Brahmi was written from left to right</b>, setting the precedent for most later Indian scripts.</li> <li>• <b>Earliest Inscriptions:</b> The earliest known Brahmi inscriptions are from the <b>edicts of Ashoka</b>, the <b>Mauryan emperor (268-232 BCE)</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Geographic Spread:</b> Brahmi script traces have been found not only in the <b>Gangetic plains</b> but also in <b>Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Sri Lanka</b>, mainly on pottery shards.</li> <li>• <b>Descendant Scripts:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Indo-Gangetic Plain:</b> Scripts like <b>Devanagari, Bengali, and Gujarati</b>.</li> <li>○ <b>Deccan Region:</b> Scripts for <b>Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Tele MANAS</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Tele MANAS App</b>, a comprehensive mobile platform, is <b>now available to the public</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Tele MANAS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launched by:</b> The <b>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2022</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To provide a <b>24x7 tele-mental health service</b>.</li> <li>○ It offers <b>free tele-mental health services</b> across India, especially for people in remote and underserved areas.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A <b>video consultation feature</b> was introduced in 2024 to allow mental health professionals to gain more insights into a caller's condition during history-taking.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Tele MANAS App</b> is part of the <b>National Tele Mental Health Programme of India</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It contains a <b>library of self-care tips, distress signal recognition, and early stress management techniques</b>.</li> <li>○ The app <b>allows users to access confidential mental health support</b> from trained professionals <b>24x7 for immediate counselling</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Aurora Borealis</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>northern lights</b>, or <b>aurora borealis</b>, recently illuminated the night sky, visible in parts of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, and even <b>Hanle village in Ladakh</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Aurora Borealis:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aurora:</b> A <b>natural light display in Earth's sky</b>, visible mainly in high-latitude regions (<b>Arctic and Antarctic</b>).</li> <li>• <b>Cause:</b> Occurs due to the <b>interaction of solar wind particles (electrons and protons) with atoms in Earth's upper atmosphere</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Patterns:</b> Displays dynamic light patterns such as curtains, rays, spirals, and flickers that can cover the sky.</li> <li>• <b>Types:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights):</b> Seen in the northern hemisphere, near the Arctic Circle.</li> <li>○ <b>Aurora Australis (Southern Lights):</b> Seen in the southern hemisphere.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Locations for Aurora Borealis:</b> Predominantly visible in countries like Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Canada, and Alaska.</li> <li>• <b>Colors:</b> The light displays are primarily <b>green, red, and purple</b>, with the <b>colors determined by Earth's atmospheric gases</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Mechanism:</b> Caused by charged <b>solar particles</b> colliding with Earth's <b>magnetosphere and atmospheric gases</b>, producing vibrant light shows.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government recently stated that the <b>Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)</b> has met the <b>safety, efficacy, and quality indicators</b> set by the <b>World Health Organization (WHO)</b> for a <b>functional vaccine regulatory system</b>.</li> </ul>



	<p><b>About CDSCO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>National Regulatory Authority (NRA)</b> for India's medical devices industry under the <b>Drugs &amp; Cosmetics Rules</b>.</li> <li>● Operates under the <b>Ministry of Health &amp; Family Welfare</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)</b> heads the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).</li> <li>● <b>Headquarters:</b> New Delhi.</li> <li>● <b>Responsibilities under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Approval of new drugs.</b></li> <li>○ Conduct of <b>clinical trials</b>.</li> <li>○ Establishing standards for drugs.</li> <li>○ Controlling the quality of imported drugs.</li> <li>○ Coordinating with state drug control organizations.</li> <li>○ <b>Granting licenses for specialized drugs</b> like blood products, I.V. fluids, vaccines, and sera (in collaboration with state regulators).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Shale Gas	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A recent study by scientists from the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), Lucknow, highlights <b>significant shale gas generation potential in the eastern South Karanpura coalfield</b>, located in the Ramgarh district of <b>Jharkhand</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Shale Gas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Shale gas is <b>natural gas</b> found in <b>shale deposits</b>, trapped in <b>microscopic or submicroscopic pores</b>.</li> <li>● It is a <b>mixture of hydrocarbon gases</b>, mainly <b>produced from the decomposition of organic matter</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Composition:</b> Shale gas typically consists of <b>70-90% methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)</b>, which is the main exploration target.</li> <li>● <b>Prospective Shale Gas Basins in India:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cambay Basin</li> <li>○ Gondwana Basin</li> <li>○ Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin</li> <li>○ Cauvery Basin</li> <li>○ Indo-Gangetic Basin</li> <li>○ Assam &amp; Assam-Arakan Basin</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Applications:</b> Shale gas is used for electricity generation, domestic heating, and cooking.</li> </ul>



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