



26 October 2024

National and International News

<p>Line of Actual Control (LAC)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a major diplomatic breakthrough, India and China have agreed to resume patrolling at key friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. This agreement follows years of military standoffs since the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, which had left both nations in a deadlock. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LAC is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory. It is divided into three sectors: the eastern sector which spans Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, the middle sector in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, and the western sector in Ladakh. In May 2020, Indian and Chinese troops clashed at various points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). These points included: Pangong Tso, Galwan Nalah and Demchok in Ladakh and at Naku La (a mountain pass at an altitude of over 5000 meters) in Sikkim. Key highlights of the recent patrolling agreement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rekindling hope : The pact has rekindled hopes of early restoration of diplomatic and bilateral political ties. Depsang Plains is significant : The Depsang Plains is 30 km southeast of the strategically important Daulat Beg Oldie post near the Karakoram Pass in the north.
<p>National Mission for Manuscripts</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Ministry of Culture plans to "revive and relaunch" the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) and is considering the establishment of an autonomous body to assist in the preservation of ancient texts in India. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Mission for Manuscripts was established in 2003, by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India. The key objectives of the National Mission for Manuscripts are documentation, conservation, digitization, and online dissemination of the manuscript heritage of India. To achieve this mandate, the mission has established more than 100 Manuscripts Resource Centres and Manuscripts Conservation Centres all over India. India possesses an estimated ten million manuscripts, probably the largest collection in the world. These cover a variety of themes, textures and aesthetics,



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	<p>scripts, languages, calligraphies, illuminations, and illustrations.</p> <p>Do you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A manuscript is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf, or any other material dating back at least seventy-five years that has significant scientific, historical, or aesthetic value. • They are found in hundreds of different languages and scripts.
<p>21st Livestock Census</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 21st Livestock Census Operation, a landmark initiative led by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, is set to be launched by the Union Minister. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Date: October 25, 2024 • Ministry Involved: Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying • Frequency: Conducted every five years since 1919; the last census took place in 2019. • Census Period: Scheduled from October 2024 to February 2025. • Scope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Covers 15 livestock species, including cattle, buffalo, yak, sheep, and goats. ○ Includes poultry species such as fowl, ducks, turkeys, and quail. ○ Gather data on 219 indigenous breeds across 16 species. • New Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The first census to independently capture data on livestock holdings by pastoralists. ○ Will provide insights into the gender of individuals primarily involved in livestock rearing. • Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Employs mobile technology for accurate and efficient data collection and transmission. • Field Officials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approximately 100,000 veterinarians and para-veterinarians will carry out the door-to-door survey. • Importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provides essential data for policy-making and supports the growth and development of the livestock sector.
<p>Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have signed an agreement to design and conduct experiments that will be integrated into the upcoming Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), India's planned indigenous space station.



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	<p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAS is India's planned space station for scientific research which will orbit around 400 – 450 km above the Earth's surface • It will have five modules and will be built in phases. • Targets: The first module (the Base Module) will be launched in 2028 and BAS will be operationalized by 2035. • Current Status: BAS is currently in conceptualization phase, under which overall architecture, number and types of modules, docking ports etc. are being studied. • Significance of BAS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spaceflight and human habitation ○ Earth observation ○ Microgravity research ○ International Prestige
<p>MGNREGA</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 8.48 million workers registered under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) had their names removed from the program. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MGNREGA is the abbreviation for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005. • It is a law passed by the Indian government in 2005 that guarantees the "right to work" to rural citizens of India. • Under this, the government assures a minimum of 100 days of unskilled manual work to an adult member of an eligible rural household. • The main objective of the MGNREGA is to provide employment to rural citizens and improve their economic conditions. • Eligibility Criteria: For receiving the benefits of the MGNREGA Scheme, the following eligibility criteria are to be met by the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Citizen of India ○ 18 years of age at the time of application ○ Rural Household ○ Willing to do unskilled work • Unemployment Allowance: If work is not assigned within 15 days, the applicant is entitled to receive an unemployment allowance. This allowance is 1/4 of the minimum wage for the first 30 days and a half for the following period.
<p>Coking Coal</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's coking coal imports reached a six-year high in the first half of 2024-25. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coking coal (or metallurgical coal) is a bituminous coal with a suitable quality that allows the production of metallurgical coke, or simply named coke.

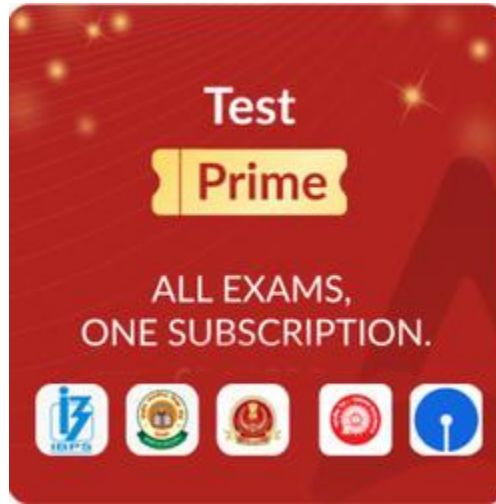


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- Coking coal has a **higher carbon content than steam coal**, as well as a lower level of sulfur, phosphorus and alkalis (World Coal Institute 2009).
- Coke is the main product of the **high-temperature carbonisation of coking coal**.
- By-products of coke production such as **tar, benzole, ammonia sulfate and sulfur** are used for the manufacture of chemicals, as well as coke oven gas used for heat and power generation.
- **Coking Coal Mission:**
 - The Coal Ministry launched Mission Coking Coal to address the **growing domestic demand for coking coal** as projected in the **National Steel Policy 2017**.
 - The mission envisions significantly reducing coking coal imports through a transformative measure under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative.
 - These measures encompass **exploration, enhanced production, technological adoption, private sector involvement in coking coal blocks**, the establishment of new washeries, increased research and development activities, and quality enhancement.





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