

SHORT NEWS

1. Guru Tegh Bahadur

Context – Indian Railways is celebrating the 350th Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the ninth Sikh Guru, to share his teachings.

About Him – Served as Guru from 1664–1675. Born as Tyag Mal in Amritsar in 1621, he was the youngest son of Guru Hargobind (6th Guru). Trained in martial arts and spirituality, he earned the name 'Tegh Bahadur' (brave sword) for his valor in battle. His son, Gobind Rai, became Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th Sikh Guru.

Teachings – Advocated for truth, humility, and human rights. Composed 115 hymns included in the Guru Granth Sahib. Emphasized the values of being fearless (Nirbhau) and without enmity (Nirvair).

Martyrdom – He opposed the forced conversion of Kashmiri Pandits to Islam by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. He was publicly executed in Delhi in November 1675. Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib in Chandni Chowk marks the site. His martyrdom is remembered as Shaheedi Diwas.

Legacy – He is revered as a champion of religious freedom and is central to the Sikh concept of the Sant-Sipahi (Saint-Soldier).

The Ten Sikh Gurus –

1. **Guru Nanak Dev Ji** – Founder of Sikhism.
2. **Guru Angad Dev Ji** – Introduced the Gurmukhi script.
3. **Guru Amar Das Ji** – Established the Manji system.
4. **Guru Ram Das Ji** – Founded the city of Amritsar.
5. **Guru Arjan Dev Ji** – Compiled the Adi Granth.
6. **Guru Hargobind Ji** – Introduced the concept of Miri and Piri (temporal and spiritual power).
7. **Guru Har Rai Ji** – Emphasized environmentalism.
8. **Guru Har Krishan Ji** – Known for his compassion.
9. **Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji** – Martyred for religious freedom.
10. **Guru Gobind Singh Ji** – Founded the Khalsa.

2. INS Tamal and INS Surat

Context – These two Indian Naval Ships arrived at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to strengthen Indo-Saudi defense ties.

About INS Tamal – An upgraded Krivak-class frigate built in Russia. Features 26% Indian systems, including the BrahMos supersonic missile. Armed with surface-to-air missiles, a 100 mm gun, torpedoes, and anti-submarine rockets. It is 125m long, has a speed of over 30 knots, and enhanced stealth features. The name 'Tamal' refers to the mythical sword of the god Indra.

About INS Surat – The fourth and final stealth guided-missile destroyer under Project 15B. Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in India. It is 164m long, weighs 7,400 tonnes, and has a speed of 30 knots. Powered by a Combined Gas and Gas (COGAG) propulsion system. It is the first Indian Navy warship to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) for better operational efficiency.

3. Daruma Doll

Context – PM Narendra Modi was gifted a Daruma Doll during his visit to Japan.

About the Doll – A traditional Japanese papier-mâché doll symbolizing perseverance, resilience, and good luck. It is modeled after Bodhidharma, the 5th-century founder of Zen Buddhism.

Cultural Practice – You paint one eye when you set a goal or make a wish. You paint the second eye when the goal is achieved. Its rounded shape allows it to stand back up when tipped over, reflecting the proverb, "Fall seven times, stand up eight."

Indian Connection – Bodhidharma was a monk from Kanchipuram, India. The doll is armless and legless because he is said to have meditated for nine years facing a wall. The word 'Daruma' comes from the Sanskrit word 'Dharma'.

Shorinzan Daruma-ji Temple – This temple in Takasaki, Japan, is considered the origin place of Daruma dolls.

4. State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI)

Context – The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, released the SSEE 2024 to rank states on their energy efficiency performance.

About the Index – Developed by BEE and the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE). This is the sixth edition, covering all 36 states and UTs for the year 2023–24.

Performance Categories – States are ranked as Front Runners (>60%), Achievers (50–60%), Contenders (30–50%), or Aspirants (<30%).

Top Performers – Maharashtra (large state), Andhra Pradesh (medium state), Assam (small state), and Tripura (smallest state).

Key Findings – 24 states have adopted the new Energy Conservation Building Code, and 31 states have electric mobility policies.

About BEE – A statutory body set up in 2002 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, to help reduce the energy intensity of the Indian economy.

5. Strength of the Supreme Court

Context – With two new judges sworn in, the Supreme Court is now at its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

Composition – The court has 1 Chief Justice and 33 other judges.

Constitutional Provision – Article 124(1) establishes the Supreme Court. The number of judges can be increased by Parliament.

History – The court started with 8 judges in 1950 and the strength was gradually increased to 34 in 2019.

Appointment of Judges – Judges are appointed by the President of India. The appointments are made through the Collegium system.

Evolution of the Collegium System –

1. **First Judges Case (1981)** – Gave the executive primacy in appointments.
2. **Second Judges Case (1993)** – Created the Collegium system, making the Chief Justice's opinion binding.
3. **Third Judges Case (1998)** – Expanded the Collegium to the CJI + 4 senior-most judges.
4. **Fourth Judges Case (2015)** – The Court struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) and restored the Collegium system.

6. National Cyber Forensic Laboratory (NCFL)

Context – The second NCFL was inaugurated in Assam. The first one was established in Delhi.

About NCFL – It functions under the Home Ministry's Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C). It has specialized labs for Memory, Malware, and Cryptocurrency Forensics.

Significance – The new lab will serve all 8 northeastern states. It will help police forces tackle cybercrime, drug trafficking, and smuggling. It supports the government's move towards forensic-based investigation under the new criminal laws. About I4C – The national agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs to coordinate the fight against cybercrime in India.

7. Syria's Druze Heartland

Context – Recent sectarian violence erupted in **Syria's Sweida province**, which is a Druze-majority region bordering Jordan.

About Syria – A country in Western Asia on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

Borders – Turkey (north), Iraq (east), Jordan (south), Israel and Lebanon (southwest).

Geography – Major features include the Anti-Lebanon Mountains and the **Euphrates River**.

Climate – Mediterranean on the coast and arid in the desert regions.

8. National Deep Water Exploration Mission

Context – The Prime Minister announced a new mission to discover oil and gas reserves under India's seabed to reduce energy imports.

About the Mission – A flagship initiative to strengthen India's energy security. Led by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Objectives - Reduce India's high dependency on crude oil (88%) and natural gas (50%) imports. Boost domestic production and promote Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance) in the energy sector.

Significance - Will lower the country's import bill and strengthen control over energy resources. Supports India's vision of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

Andaman Basin - This region is considered India's next oil and gas hotspot due to its proximity to reserves in Myanmar. 25 exploration blocks have been offered here.

