

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)

- The Government recently raised the interest rates on the **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)** scheme by **20 basis points** to **8.2 percent** from the existing **8 percent**.



❖ About the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana:

- ❑ SSY is a **savings scheme** launched in **2015** under the Government of India's "**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**" campaign, which aimed to **promote the education of girl children**.
- ❑ SSY is a **small-deposit scheme** tailored specifically for the girl child.
- ❑ This scheme **enables guardians to open a savings account** for their girl child with an authorized **commercial bank or India Post branch**.

❖ Eligibility:

- ❑ The girl must be an **Indian resident**.
- ❑ The account can be **initiated by the parent or legal guardian** of the girl child.
- ❑ The girl child **must be below the age of 10** at the time of opening the account.
- ❑ **Only one SSY account is allowed per girl child**.
- ❑ A family is **limited to opening a maximum of two SSY scheme accounts**.
- ❑ **NRI's are not eligible** to open these accounts.
- ❑ The girl must **operate the account once she attains the age of 18 years**.

❖ Features:

- ❑ The **minimum and maximum deposits** that can be made in an account in a financial year are **250 and Rs.1.5 lakh**, respectively. The **deposits can be made in multiples of 100**.
- ❑ **Deposits** towards the scheme **should be made for a period of 15 years**. However, the **scheme matures after 21 years**.
- ❑ **No interest** will be **payable once the account completes twenty-one years** from the date of opening.

Bhil Tribe

- Recently, a **stone deity** worshiped by the **Bhils** in **Madhya Pradesh's Bagh** was proved to be a **fossilized dinosaur egg**.



❖ About Bhil Tribe:

- ❑ Bhils are considered as one of the **oldest tribes in India**.
- ❑ The name 'Bhil' is derived from the **word villu or billu**, which according to the Dravidian language is known as Bow.
- ❑ They could be identified as one of the Dravidian racial tribes of Western India and belong to the **Australoid group of tribes**.
- ❑ They are mainly divided into two main groups: the **central and eastern or Rajput Bhils**.
- ❑ The central Bhils are found in the mountain regions in the Indian states of **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan**. Bhils are also found in the north eastern parts of Tripura.
- ❑ They speak **Bhili**, which is an Indo Aryan language.
- ❑ Religion practice among the Bhils differ from place to place.
- ❑ Most of them worship local deities like **Khandoba, Kanhoba, Bahiroba**, and Sitalmata. Some worship the Tiger God called 'vaghdev'.
- ❑ They consult **Badvas** -the hereditary sorcerers on all the occasions.
- ❑ The **Baneshwar fair** is the main festival celebrated among the Bhils. This fair is held during the period of Shivratri and is dedicated to Baneshwar Mahadev also known as **Lord Shiva**.

Indian Meteorological Department : New Logo

- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) recently got a new logo ahead of the commencement of its **150th year** of providing weather and climate services to the country.



❖ Key Highlights:

- ❑ The new logo, in a mix of orange and green colours, depicts numerical **150** embedded with the present logo showing the Indian monsoon winds crossing over India.

- ❑ IMD was established in 1875. It is the National Meteorological Service of the country and the principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.
- ❑ It works as an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India.
- ❑ It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ❑ IMD is also one of the six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres of the World Meteorological Organization.
- ❑ Roles and Responsibilities is to take meteorological observations and to provide current and forecast meteorological information for optimum operation of weather-sensitive activities like agriculture, irrigation, shipping, aviation, offshore oil explorations, etc. and To warn against severe weather phenomena like tropical cyclones, norwesters, dust storms, heavy rains and snow, cold and heat waves, etc., which cause destruction of life and property.

OPEC : Angola Exits

- Angola, one of Africa's two biggest oil producers, has announced it is leaving the oil producers' organization Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) over a dispute on output quotas.

❖ Key Highlights:

- ❑ OPEC and 10 allied nations decided to further slash oil production in 2024 to prop up volatile global prices, which Angola said goes against its policy of avoiding decline and respecting contracts.
- ❑ The OPEC (headquartered in Vienna, Austria) is a permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- ❑ Angola joined the group in 2007. Angola's exit from OPEC will leave it with 12 members.



Srimukhalingam Temple

- Archaeological Survey of India assured to send a note to UNESCO over inclusion of Srimukhalingam temple in Andhra Pradesh in world heritage structures' list.

❖ About Srimukhalingam Temple:

- ❑ It is located in the state of **Andhra Pradesh**.
- ❑ This temple is built in the **Kalinga architectural style**.
- ❑ It is located on the banks of **Vamsadhara River** and is dedicated to lord Srimukha Lingeswara (a form of Shiva).
- ❑ The Shivalinga here has a mukha or facial representation of Lord Shiva.
- ❑ It was constructed in **the 9th century CE** by kings of the **Eastern Ganga Dynasty**.
- ❑ It contains exquisite sculptures from that period.
- ❑ It is believed that visiting this temple and taking a dip in the river relieves one from the cycle of rebirth.
- ❑ It is housing 3 ancient temples at one Location. The Trinity of **Madhukeshwara, Someswara and Bheemeswara Temples** are a testimony to the magnificent architectural skills of Kalinga Kings.
- ❑ It was built by **Kamarnava II**, ruler from the family line of Eastern Ganga.



Ammonia Gas Leak From An Underwater Supply Pipeline : Chennai

- An ammonia gas leak from an underwater supply pipeline to an industrial unit in Chennai, caused hundreds of residents to complain of difficulty in breathing and burning of eyes and faces.

❖ Key Highlights:

- ❑ The leak originated from the Coromandel International Limited fertiliser manufacturing facility, which receives ammonia shipments from Iran or Saudi Arabia.
- ❑ Ammonia is a colourless, pungent gas with the chemical formula NH_3 . It's made up of hydrogen and nitrogen.
- ❑ In its aqueous form, it's called ammonium hydroxide.
- ❑ Ammonia is a natural byproduct and respiratory stimulant.
- ❑ It's produced naturally in the human body and in nature, including in water, soil, and air. In human health, ammonia and the ammonium ion are important components of metabolic processes.
- ❑ In its concentrated form, ammonia is dangerous and caustic.

