



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 11-01-2024

GS-1

1. Yakshagana

GS-2

2. PRERANA program
3. Why international law matters

GS-3

4. Direct-to-mobile (D2M) technology services
5. Snow leopard

Yakshagana

Syllabus: GS-1; Art and Culture

Context

- *The over-a-century old Yakshagana mela, the Kateel Durgaparameshwari Prasadita Yakshagana Mandali, in Dakshina Kannada will revert to all-night shows from January 14 2024, after the **High Court of Karnataka** gave the go-ahead for the same last month subject to adherence to **noise pollution** rules.*



About

- *Yakshagana is a **traditional theatre**, developed in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, Shimoga and western parts of Chikmagalur districts, in the state of Karnataka and in Kasaragod district in Kerala that **combines dance, music,***

dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form.

- *It is believed to have evolved from pre-classical music and theatre during the period of the **Bhakti movement**.*
- *It is sometimes simply called "Aata" or āṭa (meaning "the play").*
- *This theatre style is mainly found in coastal regions of Karnataka in various forms.*
- *Towards the south from Dakshina Kannada to Kasaragod of Tulu Nadu region, the form of Yakshagana is called **Thenku thittu** and towards the north from Udupi up to Uttara Kannada it is called **Badaga thittu**. Both of these forms are equally played all over the region.*
- *Yakshagana is traditionally presented from dusk to dawn.*
- *Its stories are drawn from **Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata** and other epics from both **Hindu and Jain** and other ancient Indic traditions.*

Origins

- *Yakshagana in its present form is believed to have been strongly influenced by the **Vaishnava Bhakti movement**.*
- *Yakshagana was first introduced in Udupi by **Madhvacharya's disciple Naraharitirtha**.*
- *Naraharitirtha was the **minister in the Kalinga Kingdom**.*
- *He also was the **founder of Kuchipudi**.*

PRERANA program

Syllabus: GS-2: Social justice – education.

Context:

- *Ministry of Education launches PRERANA program.*

About PRERANA program:

Program Introduction:

- *"Prerana: An Experiential Learning program" by the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India.*
- **Aim:** *Provide a meaningful, unique, and inspiring experience to participants, empowering them with leadership qualities.*

Philosophy and Commitment:

- *Driven by the commitment to integrate **Indian education system principles** and value-based education (NEP 2020).*
- *Focus on **experiential and inspirational** learning for students (class IX to XII).*

Program Structure:

- **Week-long residential program** in Vadnagar, Gujarat, at a Vernacular School established in 1888.
- **Batch of 20 selected students** (10 boys and 10 girls) each week from various parts of the country.
- Curriculum prepared by **IIT Gandhi Nagar**, rooted in nine value-based themes.

Value-Based Themes:

- **Examples of themes** include Swabhiman and Vinay, Shaurya and Sahas, Karuna and Sewa, etc.
- Aim to inspire youth, foster respect for Bharat's unity in diversity, and contribute to the vision of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam."

Daily Schedule:

- Includes yoga, mindfulness, and meditation sessions, experiential learning, thematic sessions, and hands-on activities.
- Evening activities involve visits to ancient sites, film screenings, creative activities, talent shows, etc.

Participant Selection:

- Open for students to register through the portal.
- Selection process involves evaluations at the School/block level during designated 'Prerana Utsav' day.

Impact and Future Role:

- Participants, after completing the program, are expected to carry the ethos of Prerana into their communities.
- Aim to become change makers, sparking positive change and inspiring others.

Why international law matters

Syllabus: GS-2: International Relations.

Context:

- *Israel's war in Gaza has resulted in significant death and destruction.*

The Complex Role of International Law

- **Israel's war in Gaza and Russia's invasion of Ukraine** have led to claims about the death of international law.
- **Thomas Franck's** historical perspective suggests that this is not the first-time international law has been declared dead.

Structural Deficiencies and Criticisms of Compliance

- Critics argue that **poor compliance records** question the significance of international law.
- **Structural deficiencies**, imperial and colonial origins, and the lack of a global police force are noted challenges in international law.
- **Compliance-focused perspectives** may oversimplify international law's impact on a global scale.

Beyond Compliance: A Broader Perspective

- **Robert Howse and Ruti Teitel** emphasize that compliance alone doesn't capture international law's normative effects.
- **National courts use international law** to interpret domestic law, expanding its content without legislative implementation.
- **Harold Hongju Koh** outlines a transnational legal process where countries engage with international law, internalizing global norms for material benefits.

Accountability and the Function of International Law

- **Monica Hakimi** argues that international law's significance lies in its ability to distinguish between public power and legitimate authority.
- **Accountability is achieved through** argumentative practices, allowing questioning of those wielding public power.
- **The South Africa vs. Israel case** at the International Court of Justice illustrates the accountability aspect.
- **Accountability involves** invoking international law to question actions, prompting explanations from those in power.
- **The Israel Defence Forces'** attempts to legitimize their actions through international law language showcase the importance of accountability.

Conclusion: The Imperfect Yet Crucial Role of International Law

- *International law and its structures are acknowledged as imperfect but crucial in making powerful entities explain their actions.*

- **Nanjala Nyabola highlights** *the universal aspiration towards compliance, emphasizing the need for more fair international law to restrain illiberal tendencies and hold the powerful accountable.*

Direct-to-mobile (D2M) technology services

Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology -Telecom.

Context:

- *Indian telecom operators have asked the government to auction the spectrum that will be used for direct-to-mobile (D2M) technology services.*

About Direct-to-mobile (D2M) Technology:

Technology Foundation:

- *Similar to FM radio, D2M employs a device's receiver to access diverse radio frequencies.*

Broadband-Broadcast Fusion:

- *D2M represents a fusion of broadband and broadcast technologies, leveraging mobile phones to capture local digital TV signals.*

Content Streaming Capability:

- *D2M facilitates the direct streaming of multimedia content, including live TV matches, to mobile phones without reliance on the internet.*

Key Applications:

- *Enables the direct, reliable delivery of emergency alerts, ensuring connectivity even in the absence of internet or cellular networks.*
- *Authentic and targeted delivery of Disaster Management audio content.*

Government Communication:

- *Governments can utilize D2M to broadcast citizen-centric information, enhancing communication strategies.*

Consumer Benefits:

- *Reduces consumer dependence on internet data consumption for staying informed and entertained.*

Challenges Involved:

Developmental Stage:

- *D2M technology is currently in the developmental stage, indicating ongoing advancements.*

Stakeholder Collaboration:

- *The primary challenge involves garnering support from diverse stakeholders, including the telecommunications sector, for the widespread adoption of D2M technology.*

Practice Question

In the context of governance and communication, critically examine the potential of Direct-to-mobile (D2M) technology. Assess its applications, benefits, and the challenges faced in its implementation on a wide scale. (10 marks, 150 words)

Snow leopard

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Biodiversity Conservation.

Context:

- *With world's largest number of Snow Leopards in captivity, how Darjeeling zoo, India's lone Conservation Breeding Programme, scripted a success story.*

Darjeeling Zoo's Snow Leopard Success Story: Key Points

- **World's largest captive population:** *14 snow leopards (7 males, 7 females)*
- **High cubs record:** *6 cubs from 3 mothers - highest ever*
- **First & only conservation breeding program in India**
- **77 cubs born since 1989:** *some transferred to other zoos*
- **Careful pairing for breeding:** *wide genetic pool used*
- **Naturalistic enclosures & CCTV monitoring:** *simulates natural habitat & ensures welfare*
- **Biosecurity protocols in place:** *hygiene, parasite control, and disease prevention*
- **Zoo plays key role nationally:** *coordinating zoo for snow leopards since 2007*
- **Continuous research & improvements:** *2013 study aided breeding center development*

About Snow Leopard:

Habitat and Distribution:

- *High mountain regions of Central and South Asia, including Himalayas, Tibetan Plateau, Afghanistan, Mongolia, China.*
- *Primarily found in alpine and subalpine zones at elevations of 3,000-4,500m.*
- *Known as the "Ghost of the Mountains" due to their elusive nature and camouflage in snowy environments.*

Ecological Significance:

- *Apex predator in high-altitude ecosystems, maintaining herbivore populations like blue sheep and ibex, ensuring healthy grasslands.*
- *Indicator species for the health of mountain ecosystems.*
- *Loss of snow leopards can cause trophic cascades, disrupting ecosystem balance.*

Protection Status:

- **IUCN List of Threatened Species:** *Vulnerable.*
- **CITES:** *Appendix I.*
- **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** *Schedule-I.*

Indian Initiatives for Snow Leopard Conservation:

- **Flagship Species:** *The Indian government recognizes the snow leopard as a crucial indicator of Himalayan health, prioritizing its conservation efforts.*
- **Global Commitment:** *India actively participates in the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP program), collaborating with international partners on broader snow leopard protection.*
- **Community Engagement:** *HimalSanrakshak empowers local communities as volunteers, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for snow leopards.*
- **Effective Monitoring:** *The National Protocol for Snow Leopard Population Assessment provides standardized methods for tracking population trends and informing conservation strategies.*
- **Sustainable Development:** *SECURE Himalaya supports high-altitude biodiversity conservation while building long-term resilience for local communities.*
- **Inclusive Approach:** *Project Snow Leopard prioritizes collaboration and participation of stakeholders, ensuring comprehensive and sustainable conservation efforts.*
- **Critical Species Focus:** *The Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change recognizes the snow leopard's critical status and includes it in its recovery program for endangered species.*

- **Breeding Program:** *Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park leads the national breeding program, contributing to population restoration and research.*