

## DAILY NEWS SNIPPETS (DNS)

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

### 1. J&K Assembly's first session begins, L-G calls for restoration of Statehood

#GS 2 – Polity & Governance



- In his address on the first day of the first session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Lieutenant-Governor underscored the need to restore Statehood to the Union Territory.
- Praising the people for the high voter turnout in the elections, Lieutenant-Governor said, “The [Union Territory] government will make all efforts for the restoration of full Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and constitutional guarantees available to a State. It would be a befitting reciprocation of the faith reposed by the people in our democratic institutions. It reflected the enduring faith of the people in democratic processes.”

- The Lieutenant-Governor’s speech sounded in tune with the ruling National Conference’s approach. Lieutenant-Governor promised to strive for measures on many fronts, including addressing the issue of unemployment in the State and promoting tourism, industry, horticulture and the power sector. He announced distribution of free power up to 200 units to deserving families.
- The day saw Peoples Democratic Party legislator bringing a resolution, against protocol, on revocation of Article 370, causing an uproar.
- In his speech, the Lieutenant-Governor said the high turnout, particularly in regions that traditionally could not participate fully in the elections because of a vociferous minority sympathetic to separatist sentiments, indicated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir continued to see electoral participation as a means to voice their concerns and aspirations. “The aspiration for a return to the Statehood remains strong. The Prime

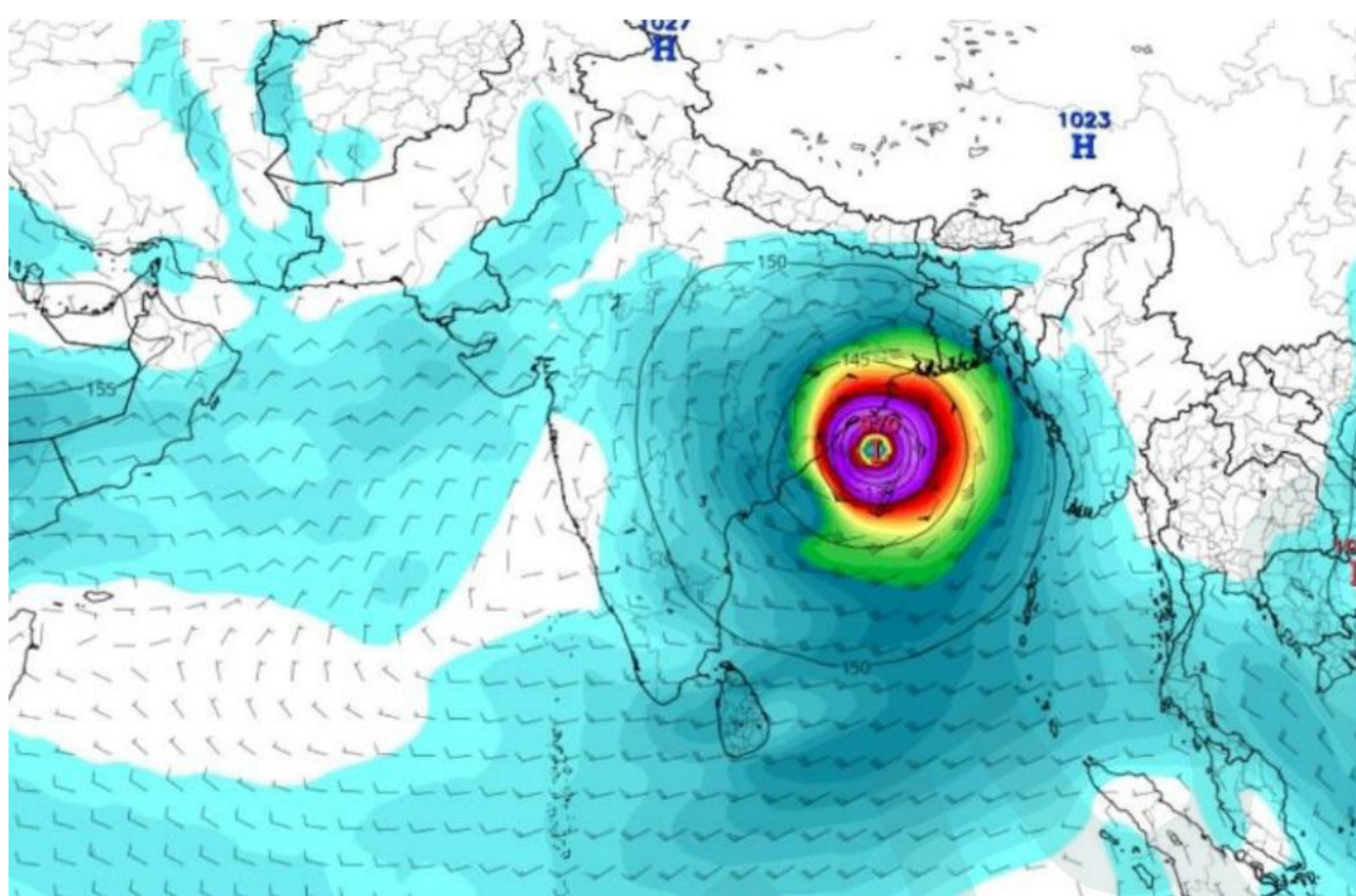
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Minister, on several occasions, has already expressed his commitment to restoring Statehood, which has rekindled hope and reassurance for the people. The Council of Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir has recently passed a unanimous resolution calling for the

immediate restoration of Statehood. This resolution reflects the collective will of the elected representatives, echoing the aspirations of the people for the reinstatement of full democratic governance,” he said.

### 2. Tsunami mock drill in coastal States

#GS 3 – Disaster Management

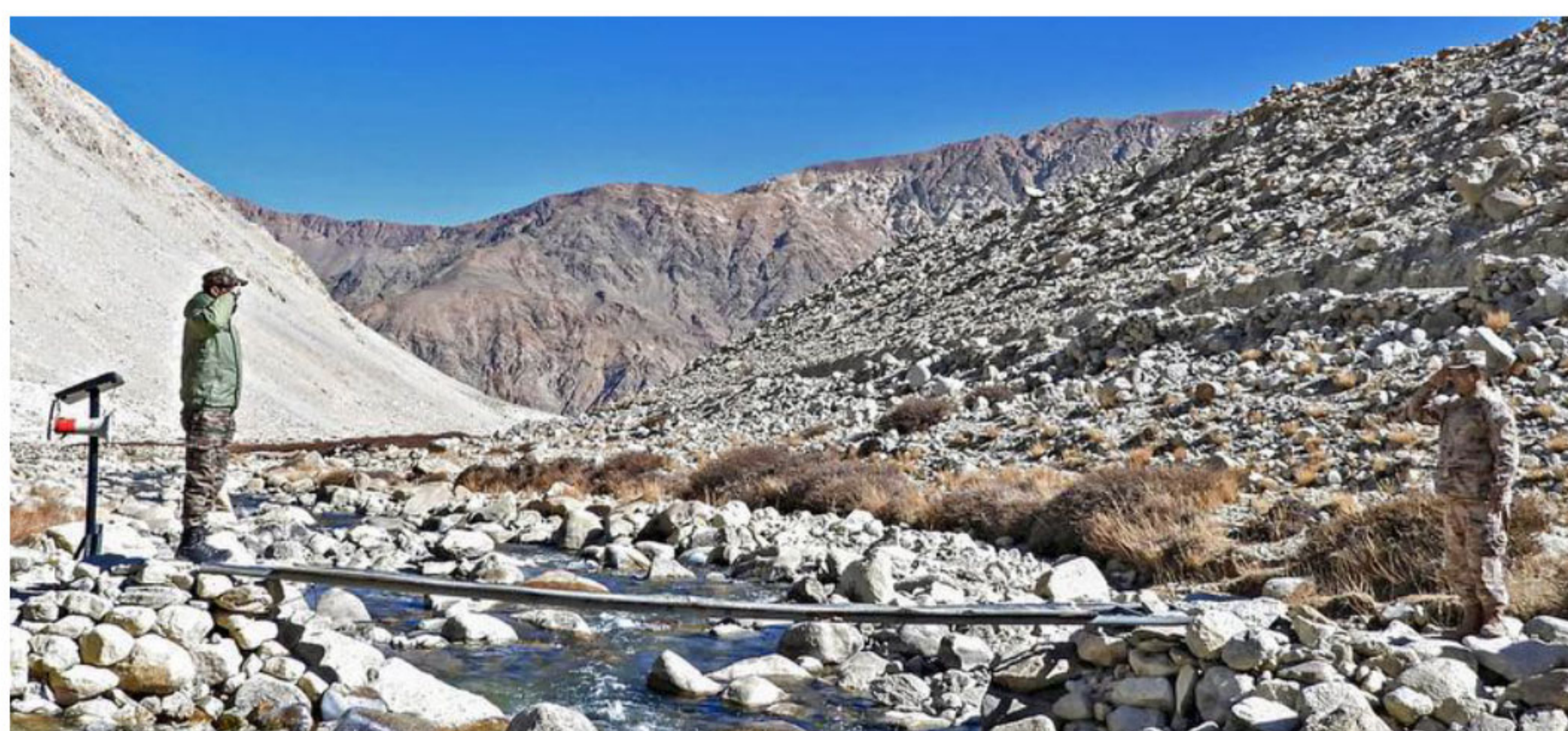


- The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), in coordination with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), is organising a National Tsunami Mock Exercise on November 5.

- A mock scenario simulating a 9.3 magnitude earthquake in Northern Sumatra, Indonesia (where the 2004 Tsunami occurred), followed by an ocean-wide tsunami, in which a simulated wave will hit all coastal states of India will be taken up between 9.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m., said INCOIS director.
- INCOIS will generate and issue seven tsunami bulletins to its registered contacts through email, fax, SMS as well as web while ensuring the public is not inadvertently alarmed.
- The preparedness exercise coincides with World Tsunami Awareness Day.

### 3. Indian Army resumes patrolling in Depsang

#GS 2 –International Relations



- The Indian Army has successfully patrolled one of the five Patrolling Points in Depsang Ara of eastern Ladakh, the

Leh-based 14 Corps announced late on Monday. This marks the resumption of patrolling in the area for the first time since disengagement was undertaken last week and after the stand-off that began in May 2020.

- “Following the consensus reached between the Indian and Chinese Side for disengagement and resumption of patrolling in Depsang and Demchok, the

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Indian Army patrol to one of the patrolling points in Depsang was successfully conducted today. This is yet another positive step towards maintaining peace and tranquillity on the LAC [Line of Actual Control],” the 14 Corps said.

- Patrolling Point 10 was accessed in the patrol as agreed by the two aides, sources said.
- disengagement was completed from Demchok and Depsang in eastern Ladakh, which were also the last two friction points of the 2020 stand-off, amid a return to the pre-April 2020 status quo.
- Following this, the Army resumed patrolling in Demchok a day later.
- Resumption of patrolling at Depsang means the Indian Army can carry out patrols up to Patrolling Points 10, 11, 11A, 12, and 13 in the area which it last managed to access in January 2020.
- While Patrolling Points 11A, 12 and 13 are located on the Limit of Patrolling (LoP) area, 10 and 11 are located much before

LoP. Depsang is also the place where the distance from the LoP to the LAC is the maximum.

- With disengagement now completed from all the friction points, the next step is to work out new patrolling norms along the LAC and resume patrolling at other friction points as well – Galwan, Patrolling Points 15 and 17A in Gogra Hotsprings area, and north and south banks of Pangong Tso – where currently buffer zones are in place.
- Following completion of disengagement, both sides undertook verification to confirm it on the ground. Ground commanders, of the ranks of Brigadier and below, held meetings last Wednesday to work out the modalities for patrolling at Depsang and Demchok.
- However, given that there has been a stand-off at Demchok since 2017 and the latest agreement is for restoring the ground situation to pre-April 2020 situation, it is not clear up to what point the Army would get to patrol in the Demchok area.

### 4. Waqf Bill: Opposition MPs may disassociate themselves from JPC

#GS 2 – Polity & Governance



- The Opposition MPs in the parliamentary committee scrutinising the Waqf (Amendment) Bill have threatened to disassociate themselves from the panel,

accusing Chairperson of stonewalling them, by not giving adequate time to discuss and deliberate the submissions made by the witnesses.

- They have accused of taking “unilateral” decisions on fixing dates of sittings, sometimes stretching for three consecutive days without “reasonable time gap” between the sittings for academically and legally scrutinising the submissions made by the witnesses.
- There are more than 100 amendments in the newly drafted Bill, as against the claim of only 44 amendments by the government, the members have contended.

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- The Joint Parliamentary Committee is a mini-Parliament and “should not be treated as a mere ventilating chamber to get the Bill passed as desired by the

government ignoring the parliamentary process by using the so-called majority undemocratically”, the members said.

### 5. SC to consider ‘perpetual ban’ on firecrackers in the national capital

#GS 3 -Environment



- The Supreme Court asked the Delhi government to take a call on imposing a “perpetual ban” on the use of firecrackers in the national capital, noting that pollution reached an “all-time high” during Deepavali.
- “The Government of Delhi may take a call on the perpetual ban on the use of firecrackers in Delhi,” the apex court recorded in its order. A Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka indicated it would, on getting the Delhi government’s response, contemplate extending the much-flouted firecracker ban beyond the Deepavali season to cover other events and festive occasions, including weddings and even elections.
- “There is no dispute the ban was hardly implemented. As an effect of non-

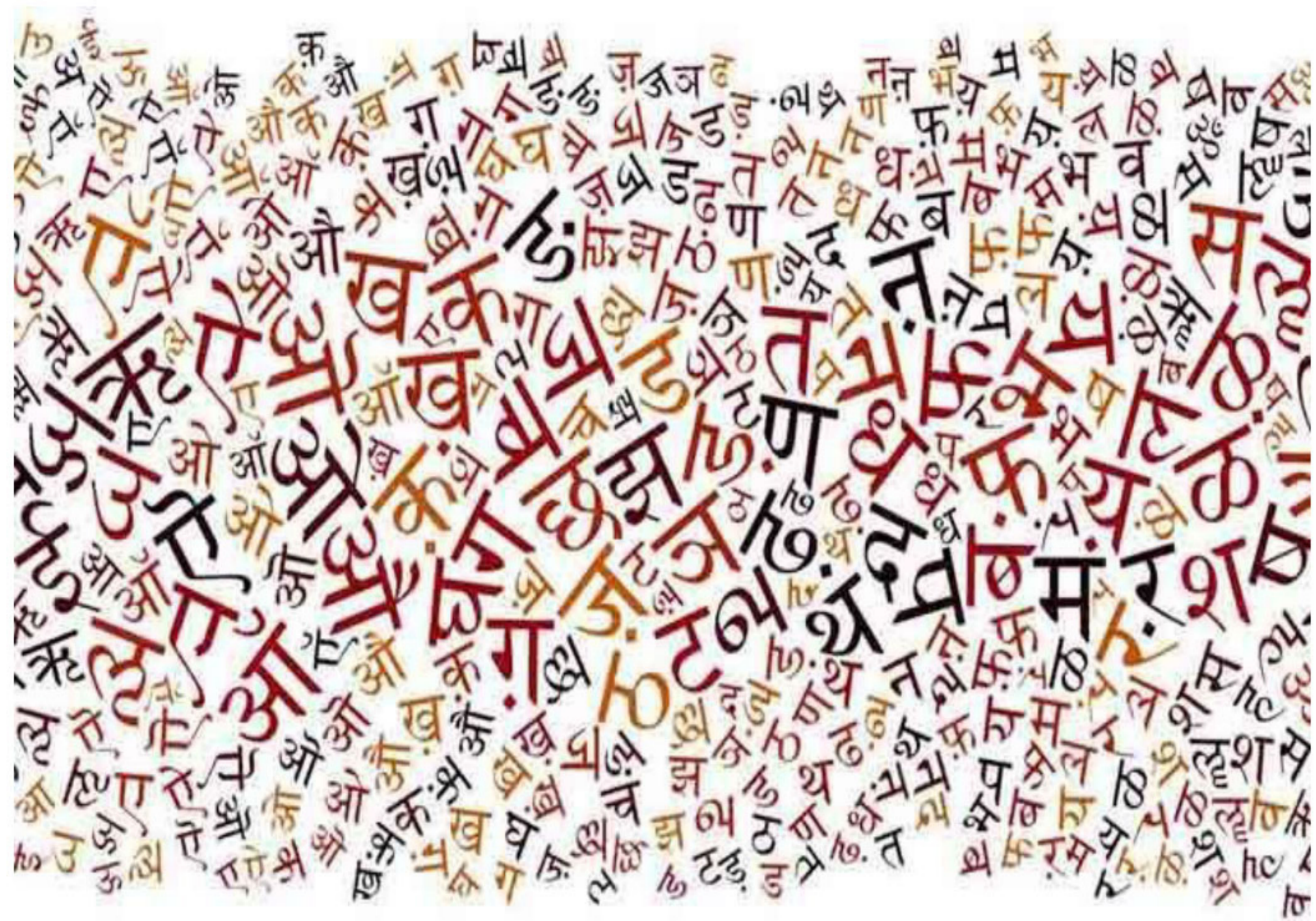
implementation, the pollution levels in Delhi are at an all-time high, in fact, higher than during the Deepavali days of 2022 and 2023,” the court noted in its order, referring to an expert report from the Centre for Science and Environment.

- “The problem is the amendments that came into force in the Air Pollution Act from April 1, 2024... The penal provision has been taken away by the Government of India... violators need to only pay a penalty,” Justice Oka observed orally. The apex court made the observation after taking cognisance of newspaper reports that a series of its orders from 2016, banning firecrackers in Delhi, had gone up in smoke during Deepavali.
- The court ordered the Delhi government and the Commissioner of Police to file affidavits explaining why the court’s ban was not enforced. The police chief has to detail the steps which were taken to enforce the “complete ban on firecrackers in Delhi”.
- The court ordered the Delhi government and the Police Commissioner to reveal their plans to stop the sale and use of firecrackers in 2025. The affidavits have to be filed in a week.

### 6. Shah calls for Hindi to be made flexible, universally accepted

#GS 2 -Governance

## DAILY NEWS SNIPPETS (DNS)



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah said there was a need to develop a long-term policy for the enhancement, preservation, and longevity of Hindi literature and its various grammatical forms, a statement by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said.
- Mr. Shah said it was also necessary to translate all modern education curricula into Hindi and other Indian languages, while putting stress on making Hindi universally accepted and flexible.
- Mr. Shah was speaking at the 32nd meeting of the Kendriya Hindi Samiti, which is the highest body that provides guidelines for the promotion and progressive use of Hindi.
- The Samiti's role is to coordinate the work and programmes implemented by various Ministries and departments of the Government of India for the development and promotion of Hindi.
- The 21-member committee is headed by the Prime Minister and includes nine Union Ministers, six Chief Ministers, the Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language, and three conveners.
- Mr. Shah said that recently five more Indian languages were granted classical language status. He highlighted that India is the only country in the world where 11 languages are recognised as classical languages.

### 7. **Factory activity rebounded in October from 8-month low in Sept.**

#GS - Economic Development



- Manufacturing activity in India's private sector recovered in October, breaking a three-month streak of deceleration after hitting an eight-month low in September, as per the survey-based HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) which inched up to 57.5 from 56.5 in the previous month.
- A reading of over 50 on the PMI indicates an expansion in activity.
- The 400-odd factories surveyed for the index by S&P Global Market Intelligence reported an acceleration in output growth in October, with new orders and international sales driving the uptick.
- Fresh export orders rebounded in October, after rising at the mildest pace in 18 months during September, with

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- firms reporting new deals from clients in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the U.S.
- Production volumes rose, led by robust gains in consumer and investment goods, with companies referring to demand buoyancy, positive sales pipelines and favourable market conditions as key factors.
  - However, inflation pressures increased as input costs rose at a three-month high pace, with firms attributing most of these pressures to freight, labour and material costs. In response, firms opted to raise output price at a solid rate that outpaced the trend.

- Firms ramped up hiring from September, with about 10% of the surveyed firms reporting higher staff even as 1% of them shed jobs. Firms also significantly scaled up pre-production inventories, S&P Global said in the report.
- Importantly, confidence levels also improved from September, when they had hit the lowest level since April 2023. Just around 23% of surveyed firms had expected output growth a year ahead. In October, producers were becoming more optimistic about future output volumes, with an “above average” level of positive sentiment.

### 8. Israel tells UN it is severing ties with Palestine aid agency

#GS 2 – International Relations



- Israel formally notified the United Nations of its decision to sever ties with the agency supporting Palestinian refugees, it said, after lawmakers voted to ban the organisation vital to the occupied territories.
- The ban, which sparked global condemnation including from key Israeli backer the U.S., should come into force

in late January, with the UN Security Council warning it would have severe consequences for millions of Palestinians.

- Israel has accused a dozen employees of the agency, UNRWA, of participating in the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas, the deadliest in Israeli history.
- “On the instruction of Foreign Minister Israel Katz, the Ministry of foreign affairs notified the UN of the cancellation of the agreement between the State of Israel and UNRWA,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.
- an UNRWA spokesman, said the ban would probably cause the collapse of aid efforts to Gaza.

### 9. National Tiger Conservation Authority

#GS 3 – Biodiversity & Environment

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- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- It was established in 2005 following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.

- It was constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it.

### Objectives:

- Providing statutory authority to Project Tiger so that compliance of its directives becomes legal.
- Fostering accountability of Center-State in management of Tiger Reserves by providing a basis for MoU with States within the federal structure.
- Providing for an oversight by Parliament.
- Addressing livelihood interests of local people in areas surrounding Tiger Reserves.