

## SHORTNEWS:

### 1.ENEMY PROPERTY

**Context:** Recently , the **Madhya Pradesh High Court** reversed the **1999 ruling** declaring Saif Ali Khan and his family sole heirs to Bhopal properties.

#### About the Saif Ali Khan Property Dispute

- **Inheritance and Dispute:** Saif Ali Khan inherited Bhopal properties through his grandmother Sajida Begum, but in 1999, extended royal family members challenged this under the **Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Act, 1937**.
- **Enemy Property Designation:** In 2014, the **Custodian of Enemy Property** classified these assets worth over ₹15,000 crore, as enemy property due to **Abida Begum's 1950 migration to Pakistan**.
- **Legal Developments:** The Madhya Pradesh High Court, in January 2025, advised Saif to approach the **Appellate Authority**.
  - Currently it overturned the 1999 trial ruling and now remanded the **matter back to the trial court for fresh proceedings**.

#### What is Enemy Property?

- **Definition:** Enemy property refers to assets (movable and immovable) left in India by individuals who migrated to **enemy nations of Pakistan and China**.
- Following the wars between **India and Pakistan in 1965 and 1971**, and the **Sino-Indian War in 1962**, the Indian government assumed control of properties and businesses owned by those who adopted the nationality of Pakistan or China.

#### Legal Provisions

- **Enemy Property Act, 1968:** Vests such properties permanently with the **Custodian of Enemy Property for India** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2017:**
  - **Expanded “enemy subject”** to include even Indian citizen heirs of enemy nationals.
  - **Bars inheritance or transfer**, even if the legal heir is not an enemy citizen.
  - **Custodians retain ownership** regardless of the enemy subject's death or change in nationality.

#### Judicial Precedence

- **Union of India vs. Raja Mohammad Amir Mohammad Khan (2005):** The SC ruled in favor of an Indian heir of a Pakistani national (Raja of Mahmudabad), recognizing his inheritance rights.
  - However, the 2017 amendment nullified such interpretations for future cases.

### 2.SHEESH MAHAL OF DELHI

**Context:** Recently the restored **Mughal-era Sheesh Mahal in Delhi's Shalimar Bagh** was reopened to the public.

#### About Sheesh Mahal

- **Built by:** Sheesh Mahal was **constructed in 1653** , commissioned by **Izz-un-Nissa Begum** under the reign of **Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan**.

- **Architectural Style:** It reflects **classic Mughal architecture** with **symmetrical planning, intricate ornamentation, and integration of water features**, in line with Shah Jahan's grand design sensibilities.
- **Unique Features:** The palace's name, "Sheesh Mahal" (Palace of Mirrors), refers to its embellished interiors with mirror-work, though much of it has deteriorated over time.
- **Cultural Significance:** It is historically significant as the **site of Aurangzeb's first coronation in 1658**.
  - Shalimar Bagh was originally called **Aizzabad Garden**, built in memory of **Aizzun-Nisha Begum**.
  - The name "**Shalimar**" derived from 'Shala' and 'Mara,' means "**abode of pleasure,**" a term reportedly **given by Shah Jahan himself**.
- The surrounding **Char Bagh-style garden** (a four-part paradise garden) divided by water channels was **recreated by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to reflect the original layout**.
- **Use of Traditional Materials:** Restoration involved traditional Mughal materials such as **lime surkhi, lakhauri bricks**, and organic binders like **gud, belgiri, and urad dal** ensuring historical authenticity.

### 3.SIERRA LEONE

**Context:** Nyangai Island in **Sierra Leone's Turtle Islands** has lost two-thirds of its land in under a decade due to rising Atlantic sea levels.

#### About Sierra Leone

- **Geographic Location:** Sierra Leone with its **capital at Freetown** is **located in West Africa**, bordered by **Guinea** to the north and east, **Liberia** to the south, and the **Atlantic Ocean** to the west.
  - It lies in the **Northern and Western Hemispheres** of the Earth.
- **Territorial Extent and Terrain:** It spans 71,740 sq. km and features diverse landscapes including wooded hills, coastal mangrove swamps, river plains, and interior mountains like **Mount Bintumani**.
- **Rivers:** **Major rivers** such as the **Rokel, Sewa, and Moa** crisscross the country.
- **Climate Vulnerability:** Sierra Leone is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, especially sea level rise and coastal erosion, threatening over two million coastal residents.
- **Cultural and Economic Importance of Islands:** The Turtle and Plantain Islands have deep cultural significance and are centers for fishing, trade, and historical tourism, but now face imminent submersion.

### 4.DARK WEB

**Context:** A Kerala-based engineer has been arrested by the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** for allegedly running a major drug operation through the **dark web**.

- He was reportedly a "**level-four darknet vendor**", and in possession of LSD blotters, ketamine, and cryptocurrency worth around ₹1 crore.

### What is the Dark Web ?

- A part of the internet that is **not indexed by search engines** and requires **special software** (like Tor) to access.
- Designed to keep online activity **anonymous and private**, which can serve **both legal and illegal purposes**.

### Origin of the Dark Web

- The concept began in the **1990s**, when the **US Naval Research Laboratory** developed **The Onion Routing (Tor)** to secure government communications.
- **Tor** works by encrypting internet traffic in multiple layers, similar to an onion, to hide user identity.

### Legal and Ethical Use Cases

- **Whistleblowers** use it to share sensitive information without revealing their identity.
- **Victims of abuse, political dissidents, and activists** rely on it for secure communication.
- **Journalists and human rights defenders** use it to protect sources and ensure privacy.
- Citizens accessing **uncensored information** in authoritarian countries

### Illegal Use Cases

- Trade in **drugs, weapons, stolen data, pornographic material**, and other illicit goods.
- Often used by **cybercriminals** due to its anonymous nature.

### What is a Level-Four Vendor?

- Darknet marketplaces often use a **reputation-based tier system** to rate sellers.
- The grading of the vendor depends upon the potency of the drugs sold and “the customer service” offered.

**Deep Web:** Refers to all web content that is **not indexed by search engines** but **accessible with a regular browser** if the URL or login credentials are known.

## 5.BATTERY PASSPORT

**Context:** India is set to introduce a “**Battery Passport**” system to enhance EV safety, ensure quality, and support global exports through traceable digital battery data.

### What is a Battery Passport?

- **Digital Identity for Batteries:** A battery passport is a **unique digital record embedded in a QR code**, providing detailed data on a battery’s origin, composition, and performance.
- **Lifecycle and Supply Chain Transparency:** It offers end-to-end traceability of the battery lifecycle, from raw material sourcing to recycling helping verify the manufacturing year and vintage of cells.
- **Global Best Practice Alignment:** Similar to the **European Unions’s Battery Regulation**, battery passports aim to align India’s EV ecosystem with global quality, safety, and carbon reporting standards.

### Significance of Battery Passport

- **Ensures Safety and Quality:** Following fire incidents in EVs, the passport system will help eliminate unsafe practices like mixing cells of different manufacturing years in a single battery.

- **Boosts Consumer Trust and Informed Choices:** Buyers can access real-time data about battery health, expected lifespan, and performance by scanning a QR code—enhancing consumer confidence in EV technology.
- **Supports Battery Swapping and Recycling:** Battery passports will be crucial to the upcoming battery swapping policy, enabling tracking, refurbishment, and safe disposal or reuse of EV batteries.
- **Enhances EV Export Potential:** With traceable, certified battery systems, Indian-made EVs will be more compliant with international standards, opening up greater opportunities in the global market.
- **Encourages Accountability Across Stakeholders:** The system will involve data sharing by battery manufacturers, miners, recyclers, and automakers, promoting sustainable and transparent supply chains.

## 6. NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP (NOS) SCHEME

**Context:** Recently, the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** withheld provisional award letters for 66 NOS candidates **due to fund constraints** and sought additional allocation.

### About National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme

- The scheme is a flagship initiative to promote social empowerment and economic inclusion by enabling students from marginalized communities in India to pursue **postgraduate and doctoral studies** at prestigious foreign universities.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- **Eligible Beneficiaries:** The scheme benefits students from **Scheduled Castes (SCs), Denotified Tribes, Semi-Nomadic and Nomadic Tribes**, landless agricultural labourers, and traditional artisan families.
  - **30% of the awards** for each year are earmarked for **women candidates**.
- **Types of Courses Funded:** The NOS scheme supports **Master's and Ph.D. programs** in accredited foreign institutions across disciplines, including **engineering, management, social sciences, and pure sciences**.