



# SRK IAS ACADEMY

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### ❖ **Rajnath Singh chairs meeting of central Zonal Council in Lucknow**

- The Central Zonal Council comprises states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand.
- The Council's meeting aims at addressing common concerns of the participating states and settling cross-border concerns, if any.
- Five Zonal Councils -- central, western, northern, southern and eastern -- have been established under the State Reorganization Act, 1956. The last meeting of the council was held in January 2015.

### ❖ **PM Modi dedicates Sikkim's Pakyong Airport to the nation today**

- It is Sikkim's first airport and the 100th operational airport in the country

### ❖ **India successfully test fires Prithvi Defence Vehicle**

- India successfully conducted an interceptor missile test off the Odisha coast last night, achieving a major milestone in developing a two-layer Ballistic Missile Defence system.

### ❖ **PM launches Ayushman Bharat - PMJAY at Ranchi**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today launched the health assurance scheme: Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - at Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- The first part of Ayushman Bharat - the health and wellness centres, was launched on Babasaheb Ambedkar's birth anniversary, and the second part - the health assurance scheme, is being launched two days before Deendayal Upadhyay's birth anniversary.

### ❖ **Israel, India to commemorate Centenary of the Battle of Haifa today**

- Centenary celebrations to commemorate hundred years of liberation of Haifa in Israel by the Indian troops in 1918 culminates with a grand function in New Delhi.

### ❖ **Maldives: Opposition leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih wins presidential election with over 58 % of the popular vote**

## ❖ Nepal to be world's first country to double its tiger population.

### **KNOWLEDGE BITS**

#### **Zonal Council**

**Zonal Councils** are advisory councils and are made up of the states of India that have been grouped into six zones to foster cooperation among them.

Five Zonal Councils were set up vide Part-III of the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**.

The North Eastern States' special problems are addressed by another statutory body - The North-Eastern Council, created by the North Eastern Council Act, 1971

- Northern Zonal Council, comprising Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Rajasthan;
- North-Eastern Zonal Council, comprising Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura; The State of Sikkim has also been included in the North Eastern Council vide North Eastern Council (Amendment) Act, 2002 notified on 23 December 2002.
- Central Zonal Council, comprising the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh
- Eastern Zonal Council, comprising Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal;
- Western Zonal Council, comprising Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, and Maharashtra;
- Southern Zonal Council, comprising Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep are not members of any of the Zonal Councils.<sup>[4]</sup> However, they are presently special invitees to the Southern Zonal Council.

#### ❖ **ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF ZONAL COUNCILS**

- Chairman - The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils.
- Vice Chairman - The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council for that zone by rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.
- Members- Chief Minister and two other Ministers as nominated by the Governor from each of the States and two members from Union Territories included in the zone.

- Advisers- One person nominated by the Planning Commission for each of the Zonal Councils, Chief Secretaries and another officer/Development Commissioner nominated by each of the States included in the Zone
- Union Ministers are also invited to participate in the meetings of Zonal Councils depending upon necessity.

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