# The Hindu

## Front Page

**Former Japan PM Abe assassinated (Page no: 1)**
**(GS Paper 2, International Relations)**
Former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the longest-serving leader, died after being shot while campaigning for a parliamentary election, public broadcaster.
A man opened fire on Mr. Abe, 67, from behind with an apparently homemade gun as he spoke at a drab traffic island in the western city of Nara, Japanese media showed earlier.
It was the first assassination of a sitting or former Japanese premier since the days of pre-war militarism in the 1930s.
Speaking before Mr. Abe's death was announced, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida condemned the shooting in the "strongest terms" while Japanese people and world leaders expressed shock at the violence in a country in which political violence is rare and guns are tightly controlled.
"This attack is an act of brutality that happened during the elections - the very foundation of our democracy - and is absolutely unforgivable," said Mr. Kishida, struggling to keep his emotions in check.
Police said a 41-year-old man suspected of carrying out the shooting had been arrested. NHK quoted the suspect, identified as Tetsuya Yamagami, as telling police he was dissatisfied with Abe and wanted to kill him.
Mr. Abe was making a campaign speech outside a train station when two shots rang out at about 11:30 a.m. (8 a.m. IST). Security officials were then seen tackling a man in a grey T-shirt and beige trousers.

## Editorial

**A plan that is much more than just planting trees (Page no: 6)**
**(GS Paper 3, Environment)**
Last month, about 100 women, employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), were seen digging pits, planting trees and watering them in Nangal Khurd village, in Mansa district in Punjab, just in time for World Environment Day that is observed every year on June 5.
Working alongside them were over 50 young people from a local club. The district administration was involved too. It was an example of community effort.
Let us move to this month. It is also time for Van Mahotsav, which literally means "celebrate the forest". The history of Van Mahotsav Day goes back to July 1947, when it was first organised by the Punjabi botanist, M.S. Randhawa.
Subsequently, in 1950, Kanaiyalal Maneklal Munshi, an environmentalist and Union Minister of Agriculture and Food, expanded its reach and national scope.
In today's world, forests need to be celebrated more than ever before. Simultaneously, more forests need to be created and restored. However, there is much debate about the efforts around tree planting. Is there a right way to do it.
According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), deforestation and forest degradation contribute around 12% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The total area occupied by primary forests in India has decreased by 3.6%.
Typically, governments have relied on afforestation and reforestation as a means of establishing trees on non-treed land. These strategies have now evolved.
The focus is now on forest landscape restoration — the process of regaining ecological functionality and improving human welfare across deforested or degraded forest landscapes.
This approach keeps in mind multiple land uses and people's needs in the short and long terms. Forest landscape restoration seeks to involve communities in the process of designing and executing mutually advantageous interventions for the upgradation of landscapes.
Nearly two billion hectares of degraded land in the world (and 140 million hectares in India) have scope for potential restoration as forestland.

**Beating the heat (Page no: 6)**
**(GS Paper 3, Environment)**
The steady rise in the planet's temperature as a consequence of humanity's unfettered use of fossil fuel forms the backdrop to altered weather patterns everywhere. India too has been registering instances of anomalous weather with alarming frequency with an erratic monsoon and coastal erosion.

However, some recent changes are seemingly paradoxical. An analysis of public weather data over the last half a century by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), suggests that the all-India average temperature during the monsoon months (June-September) is higher than the summer months (March-May).

Monsoon temperatures are 0.3°C higher than average summer temperatures when compared from 1951-80. In 2012-2021, this anomaly rose to 0.4°C.

The India Meteorological Department has said that India's average temperature has risen 0.62°C from 1901-2020 but the CSE analysis says — supporting similar studies on these lines — that this has not meant a uniform rise in temperatures across seasons.

It is the winter (January and February) and post-monsoon (October-December) average all-India temperatures that have risen faster than even the monsoon and summer temperatures.

Average daily maximum temperature for north-western States in March was 30.7°C, whereas the all-India average was 33.1°C or 2.4°C hotter.

The average daily minimum temperature showed an even larger (4.9°C) difference. Central India's normal maximum was 2°-7°C higher, while south peninsular India's normal minimum was 4°-10°C higher than temperatures in northwest India.

# News

**13 killed as flash floods hit yatra camp (Page no: 8)**
**(GS Paper 3, Disaster Management)**
At least 13 people, mainly Amarnath pilgrims, have died and dozens went missing after flash floods caused landslips near the Baltal base camp in central Kashmir's Ganderbal area.

An official said the flash floods occurred around 5.30 p.m. and washed away scores of tents. "At least 13 people are feared dead. The bodies are being retrieved and the missing being located.

One estimate suggested that around 40 people are missing at the site of flash floods. Scores of injured were shifted to temporary medical camps set up in Baltal. "We are planning to shift the seriously injured to hospitals in Srinagar.

The exact location of cloudburst and flash floods is Kali Mata Y Junction, located at the lower Amarnath cave towards the Baltal base camp.

A top meteorologist told *The Hindu* that there is yet no confirmation that a 'cloudburst' was responsible for the flooding.

A cloudburst, said M. Mohapatra, Director General, India Meteorological Department, would mean rainfall in excess of 10 cm an hour whereas data from instruments at the Amarnath cave suggest that it was no more than 2.5 cm.

I can't confirm that it was a cloudburst. However, it is possible that there was more rain in the northern stretches. But we have no measurements and so that cannot be confirmed.

Cloudbursts are short-duration, intense rainfall events over a small area. The IMD defines it as a weather phenomenon with "unexpected precipitation" exceeding 100mm/h over a geographical region of approximately 20-30 square km.

Meanwhile, several teams of the police, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have launched multiple rescue operations.

**Defence exports touch? ₹13,000 cr.: official (Page no: 10)**
**(GS Paper 3, Defence)**
India's defence exports for 2021-22 were estimated at ₹13,000 crore, the highest ever, Sanjay Jaju, Additional Secretary (Defence Production) in the Defence Ministry. The U.S. was a major buyer, as also nations in Southeast Asia, West Asia and Africa.

The private sector accounted for 70% of the exports, while public sector firms accounted for the rest," Mr. Jaju said. Earlier, the private sector used to account for 90% but now the share of defence public sector units had gone up.

While India's defence imports from the U.S. have gone up significantly in recent years, Indian companies have been increasingly becoming part of the supply chains of U.S. defence companies.

Explaining the methodology of accounting the defence exports, Mr. Jaju said only components which needed defence authorisation were accounted, listed under the SCOMET 6 category. So, several aviation components and dual-use items, which did not come under the list, were not counted.

In January, India signed a $374.96-million deal with the Philippines, its single biggest defence export order, for the supply of three batteries of shore-based anti-ship variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

On July 11, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate a symposium and exhibition on "Artificial Intelligence in defence", organised by the Department of Defence Production.

Talking to presspersons, Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar said 75 newly developed AI products and technologies, having applications in defence, would be launched. Nature of modern warfare is changing. AI will play a significant role in all forms of modern warfare.

In 2018, the Defence Ministry had created a task force to work out an action plan to prepare the armed forces for AI and the challenges, he said and based on the feedback of the task force, "lot of work was done."

"These are products that are tried and tested, and have been deployed or in the process of being deployed," Dr. Kumar said.