



ENLITE IAS

Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys

FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

Dec 15- 31

ONDC

Open Network for Digital Commerce



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POLITY

1. Hattee community

In News

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Third Amendment) Bill, 2022 was passed by the Parliament to grant ST status to Hatti community in *Himachal Pradesh*.

About Hattee Community

- They are often termed as *trans-Giri community*, named after the river Giri.

- The Hatti community would get listed in the *Fifth Schedule* as a Scheduled Tribe under *article 342 of the constitution*.



- The Tons River marks the border between Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand

2. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

In News

The Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Kiren Rijju informed that NJDG is under trial and testing stage for making Supreme Court data available in public domain.

About NJDC

- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments and case details of connected *District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts*.
- It is as an online platform on which data is updated on a *near real-time basis*.
- The NJDG is a part of the **e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project**
- NJDG works as a monitoring tool to identify, manage & reduce pendency of cases.

3. Betta-Kuruba community

In News

Parliament passed a bill on Thursday to include “*Betta-Kuruba*” along with “*Kadu Kuruba*” in the list of Scheduled Tribes in *Karnataka*

About Betta-Kuruba

- The community has only 5000 members living in Karnataka.

Betta Kuruba



Why in news?

- Lok Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2022 to include Betta-Kuruba on the Scheduled Tribes list of Karnataka.

Betta Kuruba

- Word Meaning - Betta meaning 'Hill', Kuruba meaning 'shepherd'
- Habitation - Hilly regions of Karnataka, and is one of the few indigenous communities of the Nilgiris.
- Traditionally - Kuruba people drew sustenance from hunting, gathering and collecting wild honey.
- Other Activities - agricultural labourers in coffee, spice (such as pepper, ginger, cardamom) and tea plantations.
- Culture
 - They speak Betta Kurumba language (Betta Kurumba) is a Dravidian language closely related to Tamil.
 - They are generally believed to be the descendants of the Pallavas.
 - Consanguineous marriages like cross-cousin marriages are preferred among the Kurumbas.



4. Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill

In News

Rajya Sabha passes Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill.

About the Bill

- It would enable India to discharge its obligations under *the United Nations' Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)*.
- The bill has provisions for *death penalty and life imprisonment* for those convicted of various acts of piracy.
- Offences will be considered **extraditable**.

- The Bill will apply to high seas which includes *EEZ(200 nautical miles from the coastline)*. and all waters beyond the jurisdiction of any other state (country other than India)

5. Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022

In News

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022, was introduced in Lok Sabha.

- **Ministry:** Commerce and Industry
- **Aim of Bill:** To decriminalising and rationalising minor offences to further enhance trust-based governance *for ease of living and doing business.*

About the Bill

- The Jan Vishwas Bill, 2022 proposes to amend *183 provisions across 42 Acts administered by 19 ministries.*
- Some Acts that are amended by the Bill include: *the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991, and the Information Technology Act, 2000.*
- The bill envisages the rationalisation of monetary penalties, depending on the gravity of the offence, bolstering trust-based governance.

6. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

In News

NCPCR warned NGOs over depiction of vulnerable children for fundraising

About NCPCR

- NCPCR is a statutory body established 2007 under the *Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005*
- The commission consist of the following members - *A chairperson and six members, out of which at least two are woman.*
- **Ministry:** *Ministry of Women and Child Development.*
- NCPCR has developed and launched the portal **G HAR** - Go Home and Reunite, with the sole purpose of restoration and repatriation of children.

7. Delimitation

In News

ECI initiates delimitation of Assembly & Parliamentary Constituencies in the State of Assam.

About Delimitation

- Delimitation literally means the act or process of **fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies** in a country **to represent changes in population.**
- Under **Article 82**, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act *after every Census.*
- Delimitation Commissions have been constituted 4 times in India:
 - In **1952** under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952
 - In **1963** under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962
 - In **1973** under Delimitation Act, 1972
 - In **2002** under Delimitation Act, 2002
- The Delimitation Commission is **appointed by the President** of India and works in **collaboration** with the **Election Commission of India.**
- **Composition:** Retired Supreme Court judge, Chief Election Commissioner, Respective State Election Commissioners
- The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law and *cannot be called in question before any court.*

8. Zeliangrong United Front

In News

Government of India and the Government of Manipur sign cessation of Operation Agreement with ZUF.

About ZUF

- The Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) is an insurgent group which is active in Manipur.
- The group claims that its objective is to work towards and safeguard the interest of the *'Zeliangrong Naga tribes of Manipur, Assam and Nagaland.'*

9. Triple Test Survey

In News

The Allahabad HC recently ordered the Uttar Pradesh government to hold urban local body elections without reservation for OBCs as the 'triple test' requirement for it had not been met

About the Triple Test Survey

- The Supreme Court put forth the triple test in the case *Vikas Kishanrao Gawali vs. State of Maharashtra and others* on 2021
- The triple test requires the government to complete three tasks for finalisation of *reservation to OBCs in the local bodies*.
- It include:
 - *Set up a dedicated commission* to conduct a rigorous empirical inquiry into the nature and implications of the backwardness in local bodies.
 - Specify the *proportion of reservation* required in local bodies in light of recommendations of the commission.
 - Ensure reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs taken *together does not exceed an aggregate of 50 per cent of the total seats*.

ENVIRONMENT

1. National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC)


In News

The information on NMSKCC was given by the Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

About the Scheme

- It is implemented by the Department of Science and Technology, under the National Action Plan for climate change (NAPCC)
- NMSKCC is one of the eight National Missions under National Action Plan for climate change.
- It seeks to build a vibrant and dynamic knowledge system for ecologically sustainable development.

National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)


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National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)

- The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was launched in 2008 by the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change.
- Aim - It outlines a national strategy that aims to enable the country to adapt to climate change and enhance the ecological sustainability.

Features

- Protection of the underprivileged and vulnerable segments of society through inclusive and sustainable development strategies that are climate change-aware.
- Improvements in ecological sustainability are brought about by qualitative changes in national growth.
- Deployment of suitable technology at a rapid and extensive rate for both adaptation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Mechanisms for voluntary cooperation and regulation to advance market innovation and sustainable development.
- Effective plan implementation by employing special connections like local governments and civic society through public-private partnerships.

8 National Missions Forming the Core of the NAPCC



- Encouragement of global IPR regulation and appropriate funding for research, development, exchange, and transfer of data and technologies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

2. Carbon Market

In News

The Ministry for Power, New & Renewable Energy is taking steps to establish a Carbon Credit Market to help the country meet its *Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)*.

About Carbon Market

- It is a trading system where carbon credits or allowances can be bought and sold. It is a kind of tradable permit. It can be compliance or voluntary.
- One Carbon credit is equal to one tonne of carbon dioxide removed, reduced, or sequestered from the atmosphere (UN standards).
- Mechanisms under Kyoto protocol:
 - Joint Implementation (JI)
 - Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
 - International Emissions Trading (IET)

3. New Global Biodiversity Framework

In News

COP-15 summit of CBD held in Montreal adopts historic biodiversity deal.

About the Framework

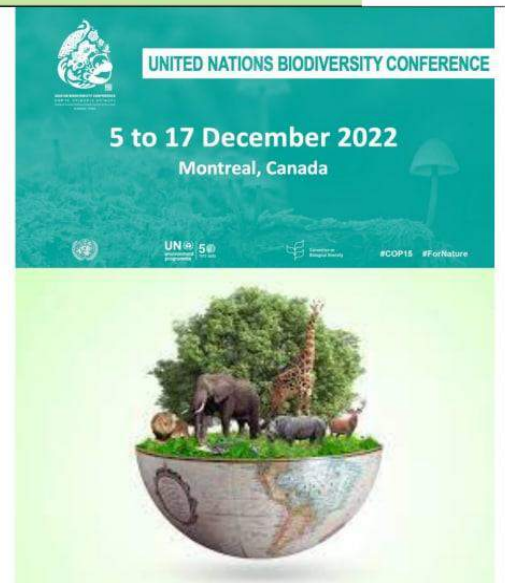
- The countries adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) that sets out four goals for 2050, and 23 targets for 2030.
- It ensures that 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems come under effective restoration.
- The GBF goals and targets call for sustainable use, and a sharing of benefits from genetic resources.
- It emphasises respect for the rights of indigenous communities that traditionally protect forests and biodiversity.
- GBF goals for 2050
 - Maintaining ecosystem integrity and health to halt extinctions.
 - Measuring and valuing ecosystem services provided by biodiversity.
 - Sharing monetary and non-monetary gains from genetic resources and digital sequencing of genetic resources with indigenous people and local communities.
 - Raising resources for all countries to close a biodiversity finance gap of an estimated \$700 billion.

Global Biodiversity Framework



Global Biodiversity Framework

- Established at the UN Biodiversity Conference, COP15 in Montreal
- GBF is considered equivalent to the Paris Agreement on climate change in terms of its significance for protecting biodiversity.
- Objective
 - To restore natural ecosystems.
 - Countries agreed to protect 30 percent of the planet by 2030.
 - Reducing pesticides use by half
 - Raising annual international financial flows from developed to developing countries to at least 20 billion dollars by 2025, and to at least 30 billion dollars by 2030.
 - To reduce harmful government subsidies worth 500 billion dollars annually, while vowing to identify subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity by 2025.



Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Decoding the 23 targets set at COP15

A total of 196 countries have signed a historic deal to protect 30% of the world for nature by 2030 in Montreal

REDUCING THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

- 1) Halting biodiversity loss:** Bringing the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance close to zero, while respecting the rights of indigenous people
- 2) Effective restoration:** At least 30% of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration
- 3) Mapping linkages:** Sustainable use of above areas is consistent with conservation outcomes
- 4) Saving endangered species:** Urgent steps to halt human induced extinction of threatened species; maintain their diversity through in situ and ex situ conservation
- 5) Protecting wild species:** Sustainable, safe and legal use of wild species; preventing overexploitation
- 6) Invasive alien species:** Mitigating their impacts by reducing rates of introduction by 50%; controlling them in priority sites such as islands
- 7) Tackling pollution:** Reduce pollution risks to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions
- 8) Climate crisis:** Minimise impact of climate change and ocean acidification through nature-based solutions



Monitored wildlife populations have seen a 69% drop on average since '70, say WWF, LPF

MEETING HUMAN REQUIREMENTS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE USE

- 9) Serving humans:** Ensure use of wild species yields benefits for humans, especially for those most dependent on biodiversity
- 10) Ecosystem productivity:** Sustainable management of areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry for resilience and long-term productivity
- 11) Handling nature's contributions:** Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people through regulation of air, water, and climate
- 12) Biodiversity in urban fabric:** Increase the area and quality and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas
- 13) Sharing genetic resources:** Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures to ensure equal sharing of benefits of genetic resources



Indigenous rights have been included in one-third of the new framework's targets

TOOLS AND SOLUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINSTREAMING

- 14) Policy-making:** Integration of biodiversity and its values into policies across all levels of govt, other sectors
- 15) Legal perils for businesses:** Regular assessments by transnational firms of their risks, dependencies, impacts on biodiversity; report on compliance with regulations
- 16) Making eco-friendly choices:** Encouraging people to make sustainable consumption choices, reduce global footprint of consumption
- 17) Biosecurity measures:** Adopting such steps for handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits
- 18) Removal of harmful incentives:** Identify by 2025, and eliminate/reform incentives harmful for biodiversity; cut them by \$500 bn per year by 2030
- 19) Biodiversity finance:** Increasing financial resources, mobilising \$200 billion per year by 2030
- 20) Technical cooperation:** Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology
- 21) Sharing knowledge:** Access to information by decision makers, practitioners and public; access to technologies of indigenous peoples only with their consent
- 22) Equal representation:** Ensuring equitable representation in decision-making
- 23) Gender based review:** A gender-responsive approach by recognising women's rights and access to natural resources



Signatories aim to ensure \$200bn per year is channelled to conservation initiatives

4. Polar bears

In News

Polar bears in 'bear capital of the world'(Churchill,Western Hudson Bay) are continuing to die in high numbers.

About

- IUCN Status: Vulnerable
- Habitats: Arctic Ocean, sea ice, and adjacent coastal areas
- About Polar Bear
 - Polar bears are the planet's biggest land-based carnivores.
 - Polar Bears are classified as Marine Mammals

5. Project Nilgiri Tahr

In News

The *Tamil Nadu government* recently launched an initiative for the conservation of the Nilgiri Tahr.

About the project

- Local Name: Varaiaadu.
- IUCN Status:It has been listed as an endangered species and is protected under Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.
- Habitat and Distribution:
 - The animal inhabits meadows with steep cliffs at elevations between 300 metres and 2,600 metres above sea level.
 - Historically, the Nilgiri Tahr was known to inhabit a large portion of the Western Ghats.
 - Today it remains restricted to a few scattered patches in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

6. Bar-headed Goose

In News

The bar-headed goose were spotted at *Rushikulya river in Odisha*

About

- The bar-headed goose (*Anser indicus*) is considered to be one of the world's highest-flying birds. It is native to Central Asia

CURRENT AFFAIRS – FORTNIGHTLY (DECEMBER II)

- Its preferred winter grounds are freshwater marshes, lakes, streams or river wetlands, mountain grasslands, cultivated fields, or flooded agricultural areas.
- IUCN Status: Least Concern

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SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

1. Museum Grant Scheme (MGS)

In News

Ministry of Culture operates Museum Grant Scheme (MGS) and Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science for establishment of New Age Museums.

About the scheme

- Aim of the Scheme: The schemes aim to provide financial assistance to State Governments, Societies, Autonomous bodies, Local Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings and Trusts registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 for setting up new Museums and Strengthening & modernization of the existing museums,
- The scheme will also support Online Virtual Museums and Virtual Experiential Museums (VEM)
- The maximum amount of financial assistance provided under this Component is limited to Rs.10 crore.

2. Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme

In News

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) has been named as Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme.

About the Scheme

- It is a Central-Sector Scheme, which focuses on the skilling, entrepreneurship and leadership training requirements of the minority and artisan communities across the country.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Minority Affairs
- The scheme is intended to be implemented in convergence with the 'Skill India Mission' of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and through integration with the Skill India Portal (SIP).
- It converges with other Ministries like Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Education along with Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme

Why in news?

- The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) has now been named as Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme

- Ministry - Minister of Minority Affairs,
- The integrated scheme converges five erstwhile schemes of the Ministry viz. Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil.
- The scheme has been approved by the Cabinet for the period of 15th Finance Commission.
- PM VIKAS aims to improve livelihoods of the minorities, particularly the artisan communities, using the components of skill development, education, women leadership & entrepreneurship.
- Objective of the scheme to increase the incomes of the beneficiaries and provide support by facilitating credit and market linkages.



3. Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

About the scheme

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), being implemented by Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- **Aim of the Scheme:** The Programme aims to address development deficits in the identified minority concentration areas through infrastructure development projects.
- The Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) was restructured and renamed as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram in 2018.
- The priority sectors under the scheme are education, health, skill development and women centric projects.

- Projects under PMJVK are implemented and managed by the concerned State/ UT Government.
- The projects under PMJVK could be proposed in area where the concentration of minority population is more than 25% in the catchment area

4. Eco-Circuit

In News

Eco Circuit identified as one of the 15 thematic circuits under *Swadesh Darshan Scheme* to promote Eco Tourism.

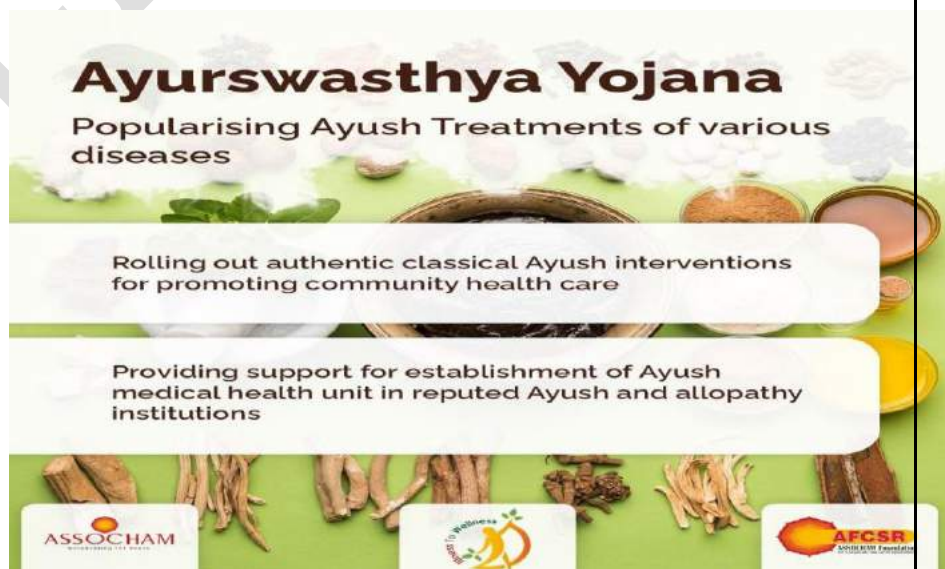
About the Scheme

- The Indian eco-tourism circuit covers 6 states: Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, and Mizoram.
- Ministry: Ministry of Tourism

5. AYURSWASTHYA Yojana

About the Scheme

- AYURSWASTHYA Yojana is a Central Sector Scheme.
- **Ministry:** AYUSH Ministry
- It has two components:
 - AYUSH and Public Health
 - Centre of Excellence (CoE)
- It was formed by merging two schemes:
 - Central Sector Scheme of Grant-in-Aid for Promotion of AYUSH Intervention in Public Health Initiatives (PHI)
 - Central Sector Scheme for assistance to AYUSH organizations.



- It provides financial assistance to eligible individual organizations/institutes for establishing and upgrading their functions & facilities and/or for research & development activities in AYUSH.
- The maximum financial assistance for an organization / institute is Rs.10 crore for a period of three years.

6. Hill Area Development Programme


In News

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has sanctioned 41 projects worth Rs.90.00 crore, under Hill Area Development Programme.

About the Scheme

- **The Pilot Scheme** aims for a holistic and inclusive development of the hill districts of **Tamenglong including Noney**.
- 41 projects worth of Rs.90 crore have been sanctioned for the districts of Tamenglong and Noney districts.

Hill Area Development Programme


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Empowering Aspirants & Advancing Success

Hill Area Development Programme

- Ministry - Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.
- Aim - Holistic and inclusive development of Hill District.
- Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) is a pilot project launched for the hill district of Tamenglong in Manipur.
- Expected outcomes of the programme:
 - Enhancing livelihood by increasing the income of the people
 - Increase in production and value addition
 - Improvement of healthcare outcome
 - Increase tourist footfalls
 - Enhancement of physical and social infrastructure.

Components

- STEP 01** Development of Physical Infrastructures in village.
- STEP 02** Leveraging Technology to take health and education in remote areas.
- STEP 03** Setting up technology facility centres.
- STEP 04** Promotion of eco-tourism.



7. National Food Security Act (NFSA)

In News

The Central Government has decided to *merge the PMGKAY with the National food security Act (NFSA)* and aims to provide free foodgrains to all 81 crore beneficiaries covered under the NFSA for one year.

Salient Features of NFSA

- 75% of Rural and 50% of urban population is entitled to receive highly subsidised foodgrains under two categories of beneficiaries – Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH).
- Under the *Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution*
- Identification of beneficiaries/households under NFSA is done by respective State/UT Government, which is required to frame its own criteria.
- Highly subsidised Central Issue Prices of Re.1, Rs.2 and Rs.3 for Coarse-grains, Wheat and Rice respectively, kept unchanged till June 2019.
- Eldest woman of the beneficiary household (18 years or above) is considered as 'Head of Family' for the purpose of issuing ration cards.
- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKAY), launched during the lockdown in April 2020, is scheduled to end on December 31, 2022.

8. Revamped e-HRMS 2.0 Portal

In News

Recently, the Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has launched revamped *Probity Portal, e-HRMS 2.0 Portal and Mobile Application of iGoTKarmayogi Portal*.

eHRMS

- It was introduced to facilitate a digital working environment, and streamline Human Resource services for *Government employees*.
- The portal provides various services such as transfers (rotation/mutual), deputation, APAR, IPR, iGOT trainings, vigilance status, deputation opportunities, service book and other basic HR services like leave, tour, reimbursements, etc.
- The revamped e-HRMS 2.0 is the *first digital system* in Govt. of India to provide end-to-end HR Services.

iGoT Karmayogi Portal

CURRENT AFFAIRS – FORTNIGHTLY (DECEMBER II)

- The platform will allow all government servants, at multiple levels, to undergo continuous training, depending on their domain areas. The app and the platform will provide *anytime-anywhere-any-device learning*.

9. National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS)

In News

The Union government has made *digitally capturing MGNREGA attendance universal* from January 1, 2023 through NMMS.

About NMMS

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development
- This app launched in 2021 is aimed at bringing more *transparency* and to *ensure proper monitoring* of the MGNREGS schemes.
- It permits taking real time attendance of workers at **MGNREGA** worksites along with *geo-tagged photograph*.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005

- **Ministry** - Ministry of Rural Development
- **Aim** - It provides a legal right for 100 days of employment in every financial year to at least one member of every rural household whose adult members agree to do unskilled manual work.
- **Features**
 - Women were guaranteed one-third of the jobs made available under the MGNREGA.
 - The MGNREGA programme also helps in creating durable assets (such as roads, canals, ponds and wells).
 - Work to be provided within 5 km of workers' residence and minimum wages are to be paid.
 - Right to get unemployment allowance in case employment is not provided within 15 days of applying.
 - The involvement of contractors is banned.
 - The Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory, which ensures accountability and transparency.



Related Constitutional Provisions

- Article 41 - 'Right to work'
- Article 21 guarantees the right to life with dignity to every citizen of India
- Article 16 guarantees equality of opportunity in matters of public employment
- Article 40 mandates the State to organize village panchayats and award them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government.
- Article 46 which requires the State to promote the interests of and work for the economic uplift of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and protect them from discrimination and exploitation

10. Scheme for Economic Empowerment of De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (SEED)

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

- The scheme aim for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic *Tribes (DNT)*.
- DNT's are deprived of the support unlike Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

About the Scheme

- A Scheme for empowerment of DNT communities has been formulated for families having income from all sources of Rs.2.50 lakh or less per annum.
- The Scheme has following four objectives:
 - To provide **coaching** of good quality for DNT/NT/SNT candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations.
 - To facilitate **livelihoods initiative** at community level to build and strengthen small clusters of DNT/NT/SNT Communities institutions.
 - To provide **financial assistance** for construction of houses to members of the DNT/NT/SNT Communities.
 - To provide **health insurance** to DNT/NT/SNT Communities.

11. PRASHAD project

In News

President of India lays foundation stone for PRASHAD project in Bhadrachalam and at ***Rudreshwar Temple (also known as the Ramappa Temple)***.

Bhadrachalam Temple

- It is a 17th Century temple is closely associated with epic of Ramayana.
- It is situated on the left bank of the Godavari river at Telangana

Rudreshwar Temple (Ramappa Temple)

- It was built during the ***Kakatiyan period*** (1123–1323 CE) under rulers Rudradeva and Recharla Rudra.
- The temple is made of sandstone.
- It is located in the village of Palampet, Telangana.
- It has been inscribed on ***UNESCO's World Heritage list***.

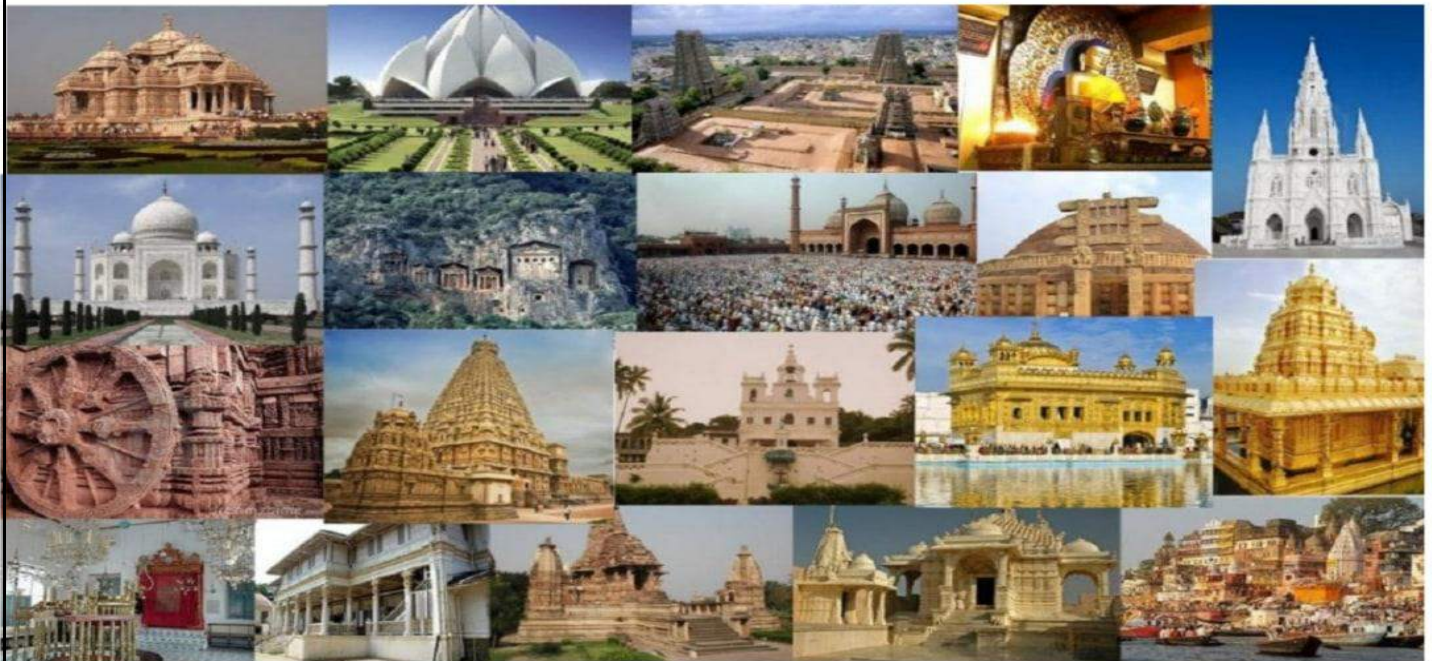
PRASAD Project

Why in news?

- The President of India inaugurated PRASAD project at the tourism facilitation centre in the pilgrim town of Srisailem in Andhra Pradesh.

Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) Project

- Launch - 2014 - 15
- Ministry - Ministry of Tourism
- Aim - To integrate pilgrimage destinations in a prioritised, planned and sustainable manner to provide a complete religious tourism experience.
- Funding
 - It is a central sector scheme.
 - It is also funded by Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).



INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/INITIATIVES

1. Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)

In News

Recently Shri Piyush Goyal participated in the virtual Ministerial Meeting on Economic Benefits for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).

About IPEF

- The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity is an initiative between the United States and 13 other countries.
- These countries together represent more than 40% of global GDP.
- India is a member country in IPEF.
- The IPEF has four pillars:
 - Connected economy: digital, environment, and labour issues
 - Resilient economy: supply chain cooperation and coordination
 - Clean economy: decarbonization and infrastructure development
 - Fair economy: taxation and anti-corruption efforts
- IPEF allows partner countries to join any of the four pillars without having a commit to all four.
- This framework does not constitute a traditional free trade agreement.
- The framework would be open to other countries willing to join in the future.

2. G20 Digital Innovation Alliance (G20-DIA) and Stay Safe Online Campaign

In News

As part of India's G20 presidency, the *Ministry for Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)* has launched the "*Stay Safe Online*" campaign and the "*G20 Digital Innovation Alliance*" (G20-DIA)

- **G20 Digital Innovation Alliance**
 - G20 Digital Innovation Alliance (DIA) is a programme under the G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG).

- The objective of the G20 Digital Innovation Alliance (G20-DIA) is to identify, recognize, and enable the adoption of innovative and impactful digital technologies.
- It will bring together the key players in the innovation ecosystem from both G20 member countries and the invited non-member countries.
- **Stay Safe Online Campaign**
 - It is to raise awareness among citizens to stay safe in the online world.
 - The campaign will be carried out in English, Hindi and local languages to reach a wider audience.

G20 Grouping



G20 Grouping

- It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union (EU).
- It has representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- Headquarters - It does not have a permanent secretariat or Headquarters.

Facts about G20 Grouping

- Consists of two-thirds of the world's population.
- It account 85% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.

Recent Development

- Formation of G20 Troika with members like Indonesia, Italy and India.
- India convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in India in 2023 in September.

G20 members countries



3. Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project

In News

The Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project, which was implemented with the assistance from **India**, was recently handed over to the Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) in **Bhutan**.

About the project

- The Mangdechhu hydroelectric project (HEPP) is a 720MW run-of-river power plant built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag District, central Bhutan.
- It has been awarded the prestigious Brunel Medal for excellence in civil engineering by the UK-based Institute of Civil Engineers.

ECONOMY

1. Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

In News

ONDC to *democratize e-Commerce* and enable millions of small traders to avail opportunities offered by e- Commerce.

Ministry: Ministry of Commerce

About ONDC

- ONDC is an initiative of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- It is a non-profit, Section-8 company.
- ONDC is aimed at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over electronic networks.
- It is based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.
- It is being developed as a counter to the current duopoly in the Indian e-commerce market.
- The ONDC platform lies in the middle of the interfaces hosting the buyers and the sellers.
- The company was incubated at the Quality Council of India, an autonomous organization with DPIIT
- Major objectives are:
 - Democratisation and decentralization of eCommerce
 - Inclusivity and access for sellers, especially small and medium enterprises as well as local businesses
 - Increased choices and independency for consumers

2. Carbon Market

In News

Explained | What are carbon markets and how do they operate?

About Carbon Market

- Carbon market is a tool for putting a price on carbon emissions.
- Carbon markets are trading systems in which carbon credits are sold and bought.
- One tradable carbon credit equals one tonne of carbon dioxide or the equivalent amount of a different greenhouse gas reduced, sequestered or avoided.
- Carbon allowances or caps are determined by countries or governments according to their emission reduction targets.

Types of carbon markets

- There are broadly two types of carbon markets: compliance and voluntary.
- Voluntary carbon markets – national and international – refer to the issuance, buying and selling of carbon credits, on a voluntary basis.
- Compliance markets are created as a result of any national, regional and/or international policy or regulatory requirement. Ex: European Union’s ETS
- The European Union launched the world's first international emissions trading systems (ETS) in 2005.
- Operating on a “cap-and-trade” principle - Polluters that exceed their permitted emissions must buy permits from others with permits available for sale (i.e., trade).
- Last year, China launched the world’s largest ETS, estimated to cover around one-seventh of global carbon emissions from the burning of fossil-fuels.
- The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), adopted under the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, is another well-known example of an international compliance market.

3. Surety Bond Insurance

In News

Shri Nitin Gadkari launches first-ever ‘Surety Bond Insurance’ for infrastructure projects.

About Surety Bond

- A surety bond is defined as a form of written agreement to guarantee compliance, payment, or performance of an act.
- It is a unique type of insurance because it involves a three-party agreement.
- The three parties in a surety agreement are:
 - Principal – the party that purchases the bond and undertakes an obligation to perform an act as promised.

- Surety – The insurance company or surety company that guarantees the obligation will be performed.
- Oblige - the party who requires, and often receives the benefit of— the surety bond.

Surety bond for infrastructure projects

- Surety Bond Insurance will act as a security arrangement for infrastructure projects and will insulate the contractor as well as the principal.
- It is a risk transfer tool for the Principal.
- It shields the Principal from the losses that may arise in case the contractor fails to perform their contractual obligation.
- The Surety Bond Insurance does not require large collateral.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. HPV vaccine

In News

Union Health Ministry holds meeting on HPV vaccine.

What is HPV?

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a viral infection that's passed between people through skin-to-skin contact.
- There are over 100 varieties of HPV, more than 40 of which are passed through sexual contact and can affect your genitals, mouth, or throat.
- HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI).
- Some types of HPV can lead to the development of genital warts and even cancers of the cervix, anus, and throat.

HPV Vaccine

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines are vaccines that prevent infection by certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV).
- The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends HPV vaccines as part of routine vaccinations in all countries.

2. MATSYA 6000

In News

Samudrayaan Mission is aimed at sending *three personnel to 6000-metre depth in a vehicle called 'MATSYA 6000.*

Ministry: Ministry of Earth Sciences

About MATSYA 6000

- Matsya 6000 is an Indian crewed deep-submergence vehicle.
- Three personnel will be send to 6000-metre depth in this vehicle.
 - It comes under deep ocean mission.
 - It is intended to be utilised for deep-sea exploration of rare minerals.
 - It is being designed and developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)

- It has an endurance of 12 hours under normal operation and 96 hours in case of

Samudrayaan Mission													
<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the Ministry of Earth Science, the Samudrayaan Mission is expected to be realised by year 2026. <p>Samudrayaan Mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mission is aimed at sending three personnel to 6000-metre depth in a vehicle called 'MATSYA 6000' for the exploration of deep-sea resources like minerals. • 'MATSYA 6000' vehicle is being designed and developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai under Ministry of Earth Sciences. • It is India's first unique manned ocean mission and is a part of the Rs 6000-crores Deep Ocean Mission. • It will also boost the Central government's vision of 'New India' that highlights the Blue Economy as one of the ten core dimensions of growth. 	<p>DEEP OCEAN MISSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deep Sea Mining through 'Underwater Vehicles' and 'Underwater Robotics' ➤ Asserting exclusive rights to explore polymetallic nodules from seabed over 75,000 sq km of areas in international water ➤ Estimated polymetallic nodules resource potential: 380 million tonnes (MT) ➤ Development of ocean climate change advisory services ➤ Technology for sustainable utilisation of marine bio-resources <p>THESE POLYMETALLIC NODULES CONTAIN</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Manganese</td> <td>92.6</td> <td>MT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nickel</td> <td>4.7</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Copper</td> <td>4.3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cobalt</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>(*figures are rounded off)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deep ocean survey and exploration ➤ Energy from the ocean and offshore-based desalination ➤ Krill fishery from southern ocean 	Manganese	92.6	MT	Nickel	4.7		Copper	4.3		Cobalt	1	
Manganese	92.6	MT											
Nickel	4.7												
Copper	4.3												
Cobalt	1												

emergency for human safety.

Samudrayaan Mission

- It is India's first manned mission to send humans 6,000 metres deep in ocean.
- It will send three people to a depth of 6000 metres in the sea in a manned submersible vehicle MATSYA 6000

3. Gaganyaan

In News

India's maiden human space flight "Gaganyaan" is targeted to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2024.

About Gaganyaan

- It is demonstration of human spaceflight capability by **launching crew of 3 members** to an **orbit of 400 km** for a **3 days mission** and bring them back safely to earth, by landing in **Indian sea waters**.
- The **first uncrewed flight**, named Gaganyaan 1 (G1), is targeted to launch in the last quarter of 2023.
- The second uncrewed 'G2' mission in the second quarter of 2024.
- The final human space flight 'H1' mission in the fourth quarter of 2024.
- The Gaganyaan is the part of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme (IHSP)

4. Sepsis

In News

Sepsis is one of the most expensive medical conditions in the world – new research clarifies how it can lead to cell death.

About Sepsis

- Sepsis is a life-threatening condition arising from the *body's overreactive response against an infection*, leading it to injure its own tissues and organs.
- The first known reference to “sepsis” dates back more than 2,700 years
- It affects nearly 50 million people globally each year.

How it works?

- The body's response to infection by releasing molecules like cytokines that help eliminate the infection.
- Cytokines are a broad group of small proteins that recruit *other immune cells* to the site of infection or injury.
- Uncontrolled cytokine production can lead to a dangerous cytokine storm associated with sepsis.
- This uncontrolled immune response can lead to *multi-organ failure and death*.

HISTORY

1. Miocene hominid

In News

Fossil lizards and snakes indicate climate of Late Miocene hominid locality of Haritalyangar, Himachal Pradesh, India.

About Miocene

- The Miocene is the *first geological epoch of the Neogene Period* and extends from about 23.03 to 5.333 million years ago.
- The Miocene is *preceded by the Oligocene* and is followed by the Pliocene.
- The Hominidae whose members are known as the *great apes* or hominids are a taxonomic family of primates.
- Hominid is a member of the family Hominidae, the great apes.
- Eons are divided into eras and eras are further divided into periods and periods are divided into epochs and epochs are divided into ages (Eons>Eras>Periods>Epoch>Ages)

2. UNESCO Tentative List

In News

Three more sites in India added to tentative list of UNESCO.

About the news

- Three new sites added to tentative list by India are:
 - Gujarat's Vadnagar town
 - The iconic Sun Temple at Modhera
 - The rock cut sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura

(Refer next page)



Places Recently Added to UNESCO Tentative List

Unakoti

- Location - Unakoti
- It is a 'Shaiba' (Saivite) pilgrimage site with gigantic rock cut sculptures.
- The site displays almost the same mystical charm as the Angkor Wat temple of Cambodia. Hence, it is called the Angkor Wat of North-East.
- Unakoti means 'one less one crore' in Hindi and Bengali and it is believed that these many rock carvings (ninety-nine lakh ninety-nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine) are present here.
- In the local Kokborok language, Unakoti is called Subrai Khung



Modhera Sun Temple

- Location - Gujarat
- It is situated on the bank of the river Pushpavati.
- It was built after 1026-27 CE during the reign of Bhima I of the Solanki dynasty.
- No worship is offered now and is protected monument maintained by Archaeological Survey of India.
- The temple complex has three components: Gudhamandapa, the shrine hall; Sabhamandapa, the assembly hall and Kunda, the reservoir.

Vadnagar Town

- Location - Gujarat
- A multilayered historic town has a recorded past stretching back to nearly 8th century BC.
- It is primarily religious and residential in nature.
- In 2014, the excavation work was taken over by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and the combined efforts have thrown up Buddhist relics and around 20,000 artefacts, some dating back to the 2nd century.



3. Humayun Mahal

In News

Humayun Mahal to house Independence Day museum.

About Humayun Mahal

- Humayun Mahal is a heritage building in *Chepauk Palace complex*.
- It is *250-year-old* and is spread over 76,567 sq.ft.
- Humayun Mahal was built in *Indo-Saracenic style* of architecture between 1868 and 1871.
- The single-storey majestic red building has 13 long halls and four corridors.
- It has vibrant Athangudi heritage tiles and complex Mughal/thervai wall plastering.

4. Kalayarkoil war

In News

Kala Pani, depicting the Kalayarkoil war and its consequences, bags Sahitya Akademi award.

About Kalayarkoil war

- It was the battle between the British and Marudu brothers.
- It took place in the forests of Kalayarkoil for six months in 1801.
- The Marudu brothers were defeated in the battle and were hanged at Tirupattur (south Tamil Nadu) on October 24, 1801.

5. Srimukhalingam temple

In News

Union government urged to include Srimukhalingam temple in UNESCO list.

About tht Temple

- Srimukhalingam temple is located in Mukhalingam village, Jalumuru Mandal, Srikakulam district, in the northeastern corner of Andhra Pradesh.
- It is on the banks of *River Vamsadhara*.
- It is famously known as *Dakshina Kashi*.
- It was constructed in the *Indo-Aryan architectural sculpture* style.

- The temple was also known as *Kalinganagaram* which was the capital of the early Eastern Ganga Dynasty.
- It was the capital of Kalinga Ganga Kings for over 600 years.

Srimukhalingam Temple



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Why in news?

- Union government urged to include Srimukhalingam temple in UNESCO list

Srimukhalingam Temple

- The Srimukhalingam temple was also known as Kalinganagaram and Dakshina Kaasi
- Associated Dynasty - Eastern Ganga Dynasty
- Location - Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh
- Associated River - Vamsadhara River
- Architectural style - Kalinga architectural style (during 9th century CE).
- Deity - Lord Srimukha Lingeswara (a form of Shiva).



DEFENCE

1. Agni-V ballistic missile

In News

India test-fires *Agni-V* ballistic missile having range of **5,000 km**.

About Agni-V

- It is a **nuclear capable intercontinental ballistic missile** developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- The actual range of Agni V is **more than 7,000**

kilometers.

- It is a **three-stage, road-mobile and solid-fueled**

intercontinental ballistic missile.

- It can be transported by a truck and launched via a canister.

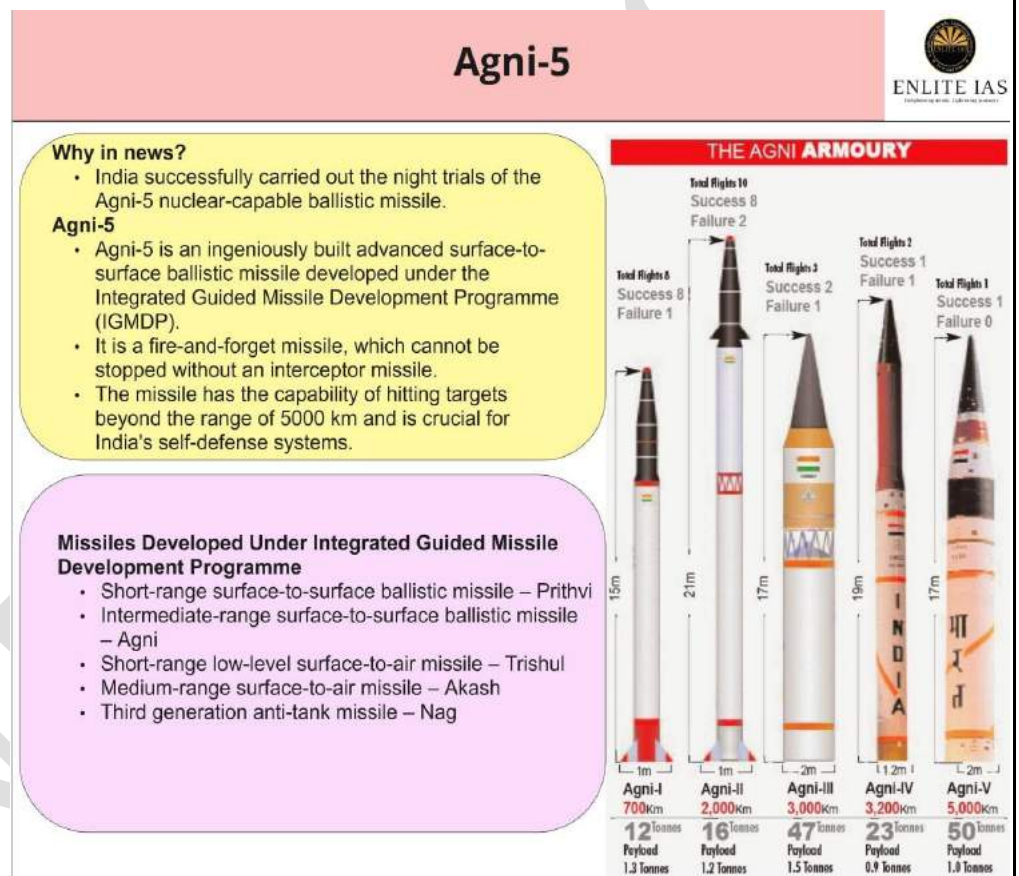
- The missile will allow India to strike targets across Asia and into Europe.
- It has a launch mass of around 50 tonnes.

2. Exercise “Surya Kiran –XVI

In News


Indo - Nepal Joint Training Exercise “Surya Kiran –XVI to Commence at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal)

About the Exercise



CURRENT AFFAIRS – FORTNIGHTLY (DECEMBER II)

- Exercise “SURYA KIRAN” is a bilateral exercise conducted annually between India and Nepal.


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Surya Kiran

Why in news?


- The 16th Edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise “Surya Kiran” between India and Nepal is being conducted at Saljhandi, Nepal from 16 - 29 December 2022.

Surya Kiran


- It is a military exercise conducted annually between India and Nepal.
- The 15th edition of Surya Kiran took place at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand, India.

Objective of the Surya Kiran

- 01 Establish military relations in inaccessible mountainous areas by the soldiers of both countries,
- 02 Provide humanitarian assistance under disaster management.
- 03 Get training in anti-terrorist operations.
- 04 Build interoperability and sharing expertise between the two countries.



Kalapani Disputed Region Between Both



3. INS Mormugao

In News

Missile destroyer INS Mormugao commissioned into Indian Navy.

About INS Mormugao

- INS Mormugao (D67) is a warship of the P15B class of stealth guided-missile destroyers.
- It is the second of the four ‘Visakhapatnam’ class destroyers.
- It was indigenously designed by the Indian Navy’s in-house organisation Warship Design Bureau.

INS Mormugao

Why in news?

- Indian navy commissioned INS Mormugao.

INS Mormugao

- INS Mormugao is the second ship of the Visakhapatnam-class stealth guided missile destroyers of the Indian Navy.
- INS Mormugao was designed by the Warship Design Bureau.
- The ship sailed out for her maiden sea sortie on 19th December 2021 to coincide with the Goa Liberation Day.
- Named after the port city in Goa
- It is the second ship built under Project 15B
- Features
 - The ship is armed with several indigenous weapons like medium-range surface-to-air missiles, BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles.
 - It is also equipped with indigenous torpedo tube launchers, anti-submarine indigenous rocket launchers and 76mm super rapid gun mount in addition to various gun systems having wide-range sensors.
 - The stealth destroyer will be capable of operating two multiple-role helicopters.



Other Classes of Destroyers in Indian Navy

Kolkata class		Stealth guided missile destroyer	INS Kolkata INS Kochi
Delhi class		Guided missile destroyer	INS Delhi INS Mysore INS Mumbai
Rajput class		Guided missile destroyer	INS Rajput INS Rana INS Ranjit INS Ranvir INS Ranvijay

Project - 15B

- Ships under this project are built by M/s Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.
- Ships Build Under this project
 - Visakhapatnam
 - Imphal
 - Surat
 - Mormugao

4. INS Vagir

In News

Delivery of fifth Scorpene Submarine 'Vagir' to Indian Navy.

Scorpene design

- The Scorpène-class submarines are a class of **diesel-electric attack submarines** jointly developed by the French Naval Group and the Spanish company Navantia.
- It features diesel propulsion and an additional **air-independent propulsion (AIP)**.
- It is now marketed as the Scorpène 2000.

About INS Vagir

- INS Vagir (S25) is the fifth submarine of the first batch of **six Kalvari-class submarines** for the Indian Navy.

CURRENT AFFAIRS – FORTNIGHTLY (DECEMBER II)

- The fifth submarine of the **Project – 75**.
- Project – 75 includes **indigenous construction** of six submarines of Scorpene design.
- It is a diesel-electric attack submarine based on the Scorpène class.
- It is designed by **French naval defence** and energy group Naval Group and manufactured by Mazagon Dock Limited.
- The submarine inherits its name from INS Vagir (S41) which served in the Navy from 1973–2001, and was named after a species of sandfish.

INS Vagir



Why in news?

- The 5th Scorpene class submarine of Project-75 named INS 'Vagir' has been delivered to the Indian Navy.

INS Vagir

- Built by - Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)
- The design of Kalvari class of submarines is based on Scorpene class of submarines of France which have Diesel Electric transmission systems.
- The Kalvari-class submarines have the capability of operating in a wide range of Naval combat including anti-warship and anti-submarine operations, intelligence gathering and surveillance, and naval mine laying.
- It can reach the highest speeds of 11 knots when surfaced and 20 knots when submerged.
- These submarines have the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)



Names of Ships under Project 75	
Name of Ship	Origin of Name
INS Kalvari	Tiger Shark
INS Khanderi	Maratha Emperor Chatrapathi Shivaji Maharaj 's island fort of Khanderi .
INS Karanj	Karanja island of Maharashtra
INS Vela	Name of an Indian fish from the stingray species
INS Vagir	Name of an from the sandfish species
INS Vagsheer	Name of an from the sandfish species

Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) Technology

- AIP is a mechanism that allows the batteries to be charged even while the boat is submerged.
- However, even with AIP, the submarine needs to surface every three weeks or so.
- It offers the possibility of increasing underwater endurance by a factor of up to 3 or 4, which reduces the indiscretion ratio significantly.

5. Veer Guardian 2023

In News

India, Japan maiden bilateral air exercise in January 2023 .

About the Exercise

- Veer Guardian 23 will be the *first bilateral Air Exercise* between India and Japan.
- It will take place at Hyakuri air base and Iruma air base in Japan.
- It will strengthen defence cooperation between the forces

Veer Guardian 2023



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Veer Guardian 2023

- First bilateral Air Exercise between India and Japan.
- Aim - To promote mutual understanding and strengthen defence cooperation between the Air Forces and enhance JASDF's tactical skills.
- Location - Hyakuri air base and Iruma air base in Japan.
- IAF is fielding four Su-30MKI fighters, one IL-78 mid-air refueller, and two C-17 transport aircraft.
- The JASDF would be fielding four F-15s and four F-2 fighter jets for the exercise.



INDEX

1. Social Progress Index (SPI)

In News

EAC-PM to release the *Social Progress Index (SPI)* for states and districts.

Issued by: Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

About SPI

- SPI is a comprehensive tool intended to be a *holistic measure of the Social Progress* made by the country at the national and sub-national levels.
- The index complements the conventional measures of economic growth and development.
- It sheds light on the achievements of the districts that have performed well on the index and the role of the states in achieving social progress.
- SPI assesses the performance of states and districts on three dimensions of social progress:
 - Basic Human Needs
 - Foundations of Wellbeing
 - Opportunity.

2. City Finance Rankings

In News

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launches 2 key initiatives - *City Finance Rankings, 2022, and City Beauty Competition* to take *India's Urban Rejuvenation* journey to next level.

Aim: To evaluate, recognize and reward India's cities on the basis of the quality of their current financial health and improvement over time in financial performance.

City Finance Rankings, 2022

- The 'City Finance Rankings, 2022' aim to *evaluate, recognize and reward* India's cities (Urban Local Bodies or ULBs) on the basis of the *quality of their current financial health*

- It will motivate city/state officials and decision makers, to implement municipal finance reforms.
- The participating ULBs will be evaluated on 15 indicators across *three key municipal finance assessment parameters*. The three parameters are:
 - Resource Mobilization
 - Expenditure Performance
 - Fiscal Governance.
- The cities will be ranked at the national level on the basis of their scores under four population categories.
- The four population categories are: (i) Above 4 million (ii) Between 1-4 million (iii) 100K to 1 million (iv) Less than 100,000.
- All 4500+ cities across all states/UTs would be encouraged to participate in the City Finance Rankings 2022.

City Beauty Competition

- The 'City Beauty Competition' aims to encourage and recognize the transformational efforts made by cities and wards in India to create beautiful, innovative and inclusive public spaces.