



# ENLITE IAS

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**FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE**

*March 1 - 15*

## UN HIGH SEAS TREATY



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## **POLITY**

### **1. Punchhi Commission**

#### **In News**

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided to start the process of seeking the states' comments on the Punchhi Commission's report on Centre-state relations.

#### **The Punchhi Commission**

- The Punchhi Commission was constituted by the *Union Government in April 2007* under the chairmanship of former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Madan Mohan Punchhi.
- The Commission examined and reviewed how the existing arrangements *between the Union and States were functioning*, as well as various court rulings regarding the powers, duties, and responsibilities in all areas, including legislative relations, administrative relations, the role of governors, emergency provisions and others.

#### **Major recommendations include**

- Governor:
  - Should not be in active politics
  - convention of making the Governors as chancellors of universities should be done away with
  - should be appointed in consultation with Chief minister of the State
- Article 355 and 356 should be amended
- Guidelines for the appointment of chief ministers during hung assembly

### **2. Grievance Appellate Committee**

#### **In News**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launched the Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) portal under the *IT Rules, 2021*.

#### **The Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC)**

- The committee will have a chairperson and other members *selected by the central government*.
- Any individual who feels treated unfairly by a decision made by a social media network grievance officer may make a complaint with the grievance appellate committee *within 30 days* of receiving notification from the grievance officer.

#### **GAC portal**

- It is developed by *the National Informatics Centre (NIC)*.

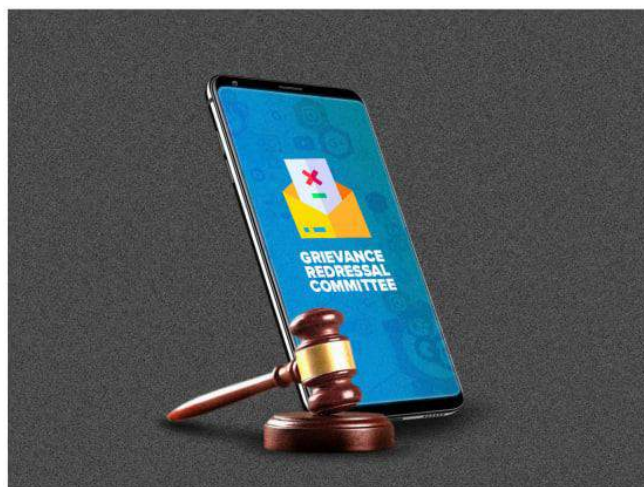
# Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) Portal

## Why in news?

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launched the Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) portal.

## Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC)

- Established under the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- Aim - To ensure a Safe & Trusted and Accountable Internet for Indian users.
- The GAC is an online dispute resolution mechanism.
- The GAC deals with the appeals of users (Digital Nagriks) aggrieved by decisions of Grievance Officers of social media intermediaries and other intermediaries on complaints of users or victims against violation of the IT Rules and any other matters pertaining to the computer resources made available by the intermediaries.



## Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) Portal

- It will be a virtual Digital platform that will operate only online and digitally
- The entire appeal process, from the filing of the appeal to the decision thereof, shall be conducted digitally through the new portal.
- The new portal lists detailed FAQs for the convenience of users.
- The appellants can track the status of their appeal through the Appellant Login window.
- GAC will upload its order on the portal, and the appellant will receive notification of the same by SMS and email.

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### 3. Transit Anticipatory Bail

#### In News

The Delhi High Court recently granted transit anticipatory bail to a person in a First Information Report (FIR) lodged against him by the Tamil Nadu police.

#### About Transit Anticipatory Bail

- A transit anticipatory bail is sought when a case against a person has been or is likely to be filed in a state different from the one in which the person is likely to be arrested.
- The purpose of transit bail is to allow the person bail, so they can ***approach the appropriate court in the state in which the case has been filed for anticipatory bail.***

- The concept of transit anticipatory bail is *not codified in Indian law* but has found its identity through judicial practice and legal precedents.

### **Bail**

- Bail is a judicial release of an accused person from custody on the condition that the accused person will appear in court at a later date.
- Under the CrPC, bail can be granted to an accused person *either by a police officer or by a judicial magistrate*.

### **Anticipatory Bail**

- Anticipatory Bail is bail before the arrest, and the police can't arrest an individual if the Court has granted anticipatory Bail.
- Under Section 438 of CrPC, any individual who discerns that he may be *tried for a non-bailable offense* can apply for anticipatory bail.

## **4. Safe Harbour Clause**

### **In News**

The Indian government is planning to introduce a Digital India Bill as a replacement for the decades-old Information Technology Act, of 2000. It may replace or modify the safe harbour provision given to intermediaries.

### **The Safe Harbour Clause**

- Under Section 79 of the IT Act, ISPs and *other intermediaries are not held responsible for any third-party(user) content that they host or transmit on behalf of others*, as long as they comply with certain conditions.

## **5. Compassionate Appointment (CA)**

### **In News**

Supreme Court in a recent judgement held that compassionate appointment is *not a vested right* of dependents of a deceased employee.

### **About**

- Concept of compassionate appointment can be traced to *Article 39* (right to livelihood), which is under Directive Principles of State Policy.
- It aims to provide employment on compassionate grounds to *dependent family members of a government servant who dies in harness* or retires on medical grounds, leaving the family without any source of sustenance.



# WE LIGHTENED THEIR JOURNEY'S THEY CREATED US

**ANJALI SURENDRANATHAN IFS**  
Second Secretary (Political) &  
Special Assistant to Ambassador  
UPSC 2017 AIR 26



Team Enlite has an excellent Civil Service preparation program with personalized guidance. I am sure that no other institute can have an amazing mentor like Mahesh sir who can make the preparation simple and enjoyable for the students.

**ANANDU SURESH GOVIND IAS**  
Assistant Collector & SDM, Pardi  
UPSC 2018 AIR 127



I have done my complete preparation in general studies papers as well as optional subject (Philosophy) at Enlite IAS. I have also attended the current affairs classes and the interview program there. I owe my success largely to the guidance and support I received from team Enlite and especially Mahesh Sir. I'm glad that I made the right choice in choosing the best institute.

**ARJUN MOHAN IAS**  
Additional District Magistrate (HQ)  
- Central Islands & Minicoy  
UPSC 2018 AIR 66



I cannot quantify in words the support provided by Team Enlite in helping me secure 66th rank in Civil Services Examination 2018. Personal care provided by the mentors - Abhilash sir, Mahesh Sir, Abu Sir helped me complete the syllabus in an efficient manner in less than seven months. True to their motto team Enlite enlightens anyone who associate with them and I owe my success completely to ENLITE IAS

**DR. ASWATHY SRINIVAS IAS**  
Subcollector, Thiruvananthapuram  
UPSC 2019 AIR 40



My decision to join and learn with Enlite IAS Academy was the turning point in my life. Words can't explain, the amount of sincere concerted efforts Mahesh sir and Abhilash sir put into everyone of us, including me. The learner centric environment at Enlite gave me the strength and confidence which ensured my overall success, stands testimony to their incredible way of work. This success is synonymous with Enlite for me. ENLITE IS LIGHT!!!

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## ENVIRONMENT

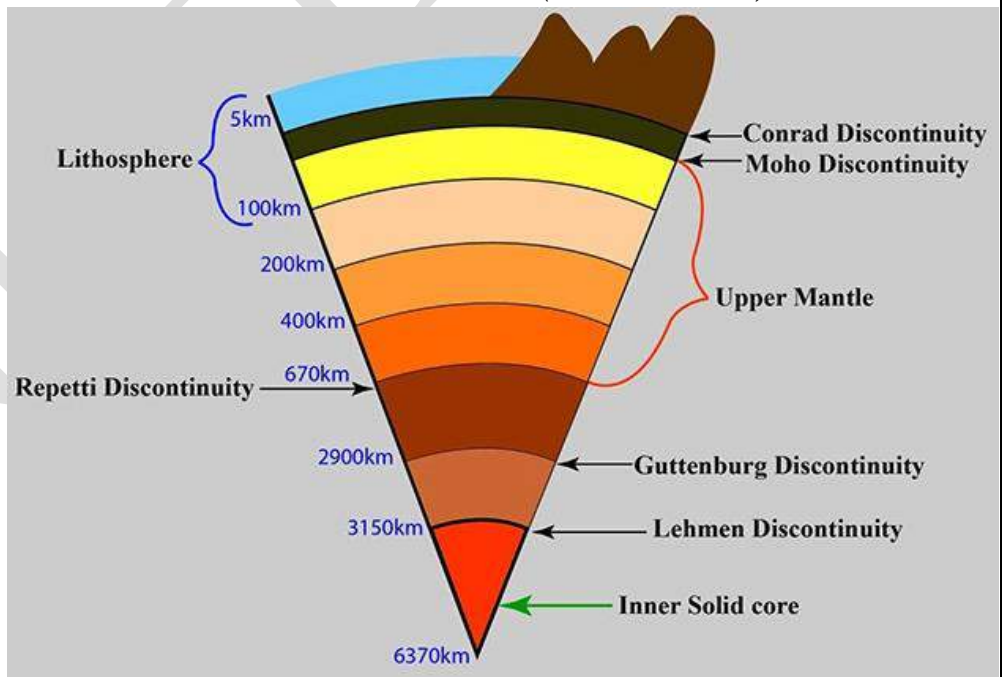
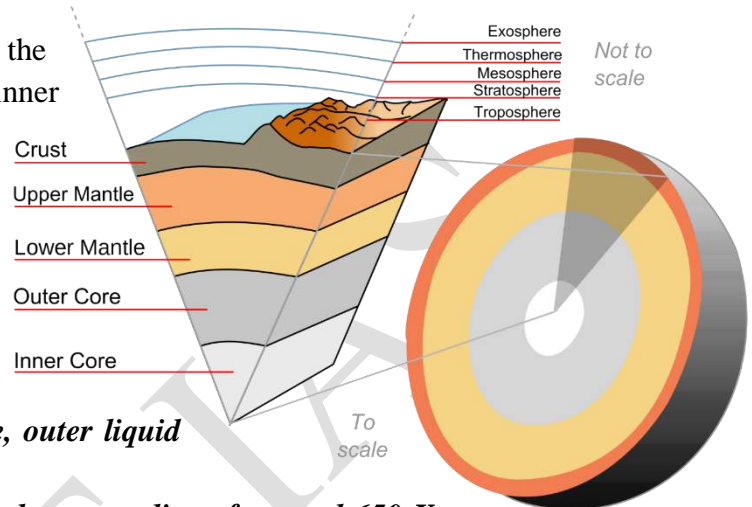
### 1. Earth's 5th Layer

#### In news

Scientists, in a new study, have confirmed the existence of a 5th new layer - the innermost inner core (apart from the 4 layers: crust, mantle, outer liquid and inner solid core)

#### About

- Scientists, in a new study, have confirmed the *existence of a 5th new layer - the innermost inner core (apart from the 4 layers: crust, mantle, outer liquid and inner solid core)*
- The innermost inner core is *assumed to have a radius of around 650 Km* (inner core radius (whole) - 1,221 km).
- This 5th layer is made of the *same material as the inner core (iron and nickel)* and the *main difference* between the two is the *way the atoms are arranged to form a solid*.
- The idea that the Earth could hold a 5th layer was proposed in 2002.
- Scientists rely on *seismic waves* to study earth's interiors. These waves *behave differently as they pass through diverse materials*.
- According to the analysis done, the innermost inner core slows down the seismic waves at a point between the rotation axis (from pole to pole) and the equatorial plane (perpendicular to the poles). In contrast, the outer shell of the inner core slows down the waves only in the equatorial plane.





## 2. Greater Panna Landscape Council

### IN News

The Greater Panna Landscape Council (GPLC) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh with members from all the stakeholders to ensure systematic and time bound implementation of the Greater Panna Landscape Management plan

### **Panna Tiger Reserve**

- Panna Tiger Reserve is a critical tiger habitat located in **Vindhya Hill in northern Madhya Pradesh.**
- The dominating vegetation type is ***dry deciduous forest*** inter-spread with grassland

### **Ken-Betwa Link Project**

- Under this, the transfer of excess water from the River Ken to the Betwa basin through the use of a concrete canal is proposed.
- It is the first project under the National Perspective Plan for the interlinking of rivers.
- It aims to provide ***irrigation to the Bundelkhand region***, which is one of the worst drought-affected areas in India.

## 3. Methane Global Tracker Report



### In News

Methane Global Tracker report has recently highlighted that the fossil fuel companies have failed to take substantial action to curb methane emissions.<sup>4</sup>


## Panna Tiger Reserve

**Panna Tiger Reserve**

- Location - Vindhya Hill in northern Madhya Pradesh.
- Vegetation
  - vegetation type is dry deciduous forest interspread with grassland
  - In the north, it is surrounded by teak forest & in the east, it is surrounded by Teak-Kardhai mixed forest.
- Associated River - Ken and Betwa Rivers
- Fauna - Leopard, Wild dog, wolf, Hyaena, Sloth bear etc.
- Region is known diamond mining.

**Booster shot** Key aspects of the ₹18,000 crore Ken Betwa river interlink project



- The Ken Betwa project will transfer surplus water from the Ken river to the Betwa basin to help irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region and the adjoining areas
- The 230 km concrete canal will pass through Jhansi, Banda and Mahoba districts of U.P. and Tikamgarh, Panna and Chatarpur districts of M.P.
- The project will also benefit U.P. and M.P in terms of meeting their irrigation and drinking water needs

**Hazards:** The project involves deforesting a portion of the Panna Tiger reserve (approximately 10%) in M.P.

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## About the Report

- Report Released annually by **International Energy Agency**.
- The report said 75 per cent of methane emissions from the energy sector can be reduced with the help of cheap and readily available technology.

## Methane Initiatives

- **Global Methane Pledge:** It was announced by the US and EU in 2021. It aims to reduce methane emissions by 30% in 2030 as compared to 2020.

- India, is not a part of the Global Methane Pledge, is among the top five methane emitters globally

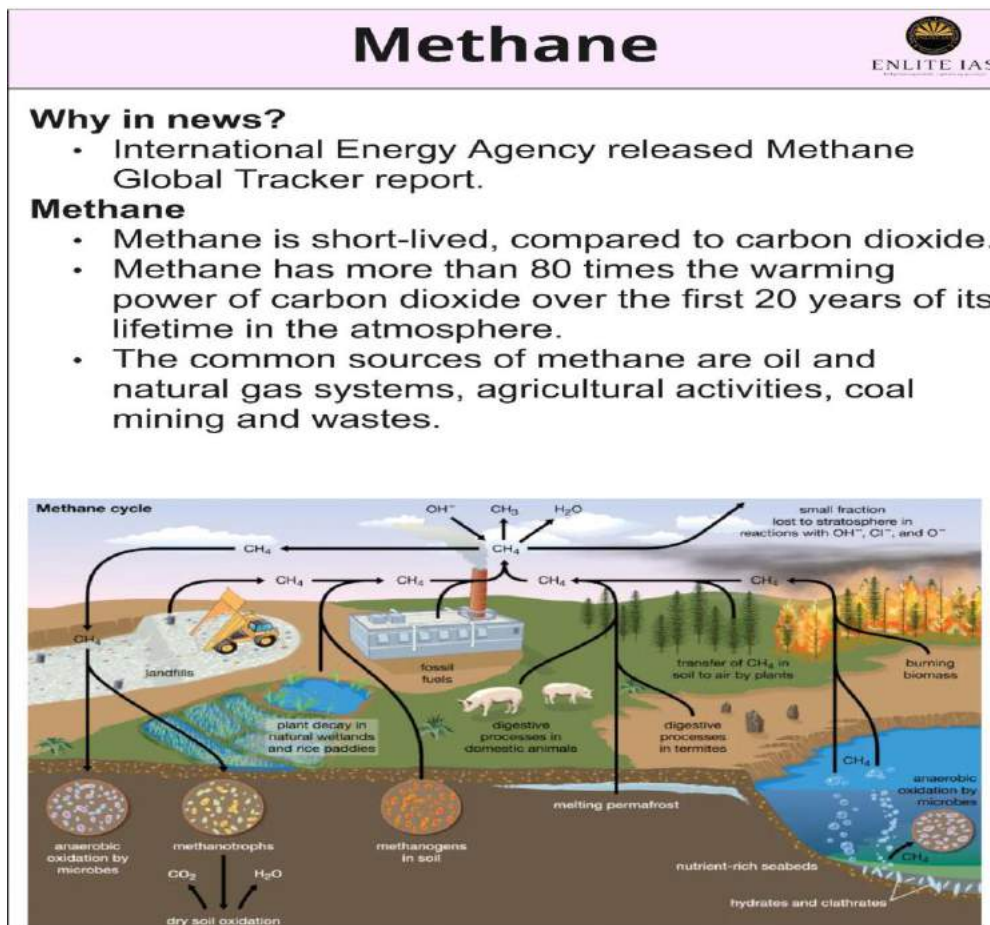
- **MARS:** MARS is Methane Alert and Response System. It integrates data related to methane emissions. It was launched by the **United Nations Environment Programme**. It is a satellite-based monitoring programme

## 4. Mugger crocodile

### In News

Anthropogenic threats like illegal fishing and sand mining pose a threat to the mugger crocodiles (*Crocodylus plaustris*) of the Rapti River

### **Rapti River**




- The Rapti originates in the Mahabharat Hills and lower range of the Himalayas and flows westward along the northern border of the Chitwan National Park in south-central Nepal, contiguous to the **Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar** (only tiger reserve of the state)
- It joins the river Ghaghara which is a major left-bank tributary of the Ganga.

# Mugger Crocodiles

**Why in news ?** - According to a recent study, anthropogenic threats like illegal fishing and sand mining pose a threat to the mugger crocodiles (*Crocodylus plaustris*) of the Rapti River flowing along the Chitwan National Park.

**Mugger Crocodiles**

- Distribution - Middle Ganges and Chambal region.
- Conservation Status
  - CITES - Appendix I
  - IUCN Red List - Vulnerable
  - Wildlife Protection Act 1972 - Schedule 1



**Other Crocodiles in India**

**Gharial**

- It is the longest among all living crocodilians.
- IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I
- CITES : Appendix I

**Saltwater or Estuarine Crocodile**

- Habitat: Blackish and freshwater regions of eastern India, Southeast Asia, and northern Australia.
- IUCN Red List: Least Concern
- Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

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## 5. Madhav National Park

### In News

Three Tigers, as part of a tiger reintroduction project, will soon be released in Madhav National Park.

## Madhav National Park



### Why in news?

- Three Tigers, as part of a tiger reintroduction project, will soon be released in Madhav National Park.

### Madhav National Park

- Location - Shivpuri District, Madhya Pradesh
- Naming - Named after Madho Rao Scindia, the Maharaja of Gwalior belonging to the Scindia dynasty of the Marathas.
- Historical Connection - The Park was the hunting ground of Mughal emperors and Maharaja of Gwalior.
- Associated Lakes - Sakhya and Madhav Sagar lakes
- Vegetation - Northern Tropical dry deciduous mixed forest as well as dry thorn forest.
- Flora - Species are Khair (Acacia catechu), Salai, Kerdhai, Dhawda, Tendu, Palash
- Fauna:
  - It is home to antelopes like Nilgai, Chinkara, Chowsinga, and Deer, including Chital, Sambar, and Barking Deer.
  - Animals like the Leopard, Wolf, Jackal, Fox, Wild Dog, Wild Pig, Porcupine, Python etc., are also sighted in the park.



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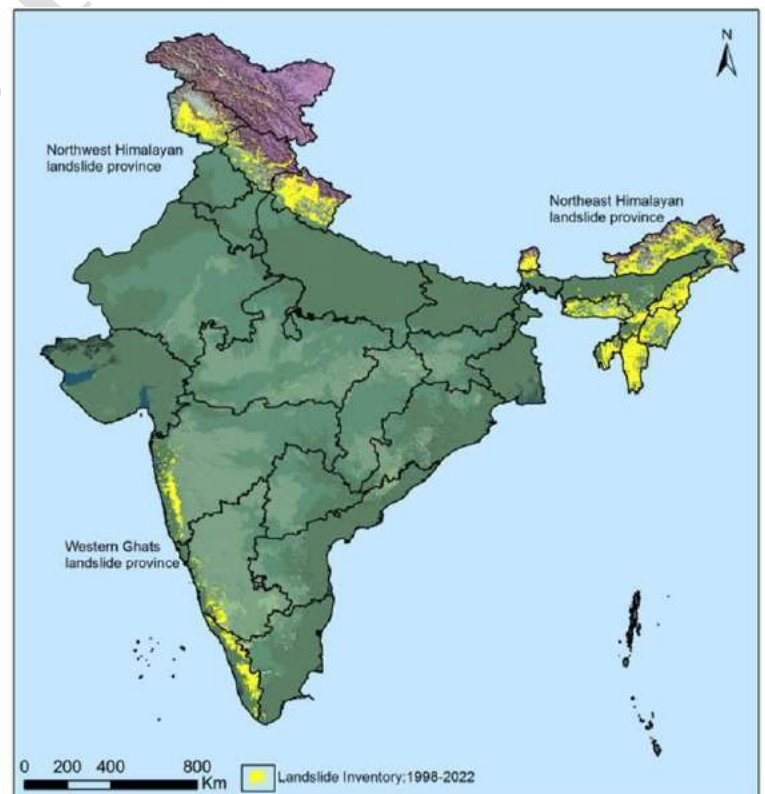
## 6. Landslide Atlas of India

### In News

ISRO recently released the Landslide Atlas of India identifying landslide hotspots in the country

### **India's Vulnerability:**

- India is among the top five landslide-prone countries globally, where at least one death per 100 sq km is reported in a year due to a landslide event.
- Excluding snow-covered areas, the Atlas states that
  - ✓ approximately 12.6 per cent of the country's geographical land area (0.42 million sq km) is prone to landslides.
  - ✓ As many as 66.5 percent of the landslides are reported



from the North-western Himalayas, about 18.8 per cent from the North-eastern Himalayas, and about 14.7 per cent from the Western Ghats.

### State-wise Distribution:

- Uttarakhand, Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh reported the highest number of landslides during 1998 – 2022.
- Mizoram topped the list, recording 12,385 landslide events in the past 25 years, of which 8,926 were recorded in 2017 alone.

## 7. Mount Merapi

### In News

Mount Merapi erupted with avalanches of searing gas clouds and lava, forcing concerned national authorities to halt tourism and mining activities.

## Indonesia



### Why in news?

- Mount Merapi of Indonesia erupts.

### Indonesia

- Indonesia is a country in Southeast Asia and Oceania between the Indian and Pacific oceans.
- Capital - Jakarta
- Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic state
- Land Borders - Papua New Guinea, East Timor, and the eastern part of Malaysia.
- Maritime Border - Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Australia, Palau, and India (Andaman and Nicobar Islands).
- Geographic Significance - Part of Pacific Ring of Fire
- Strategic Significance - Share border with Malacca Strait



### Mt Merapi

- Merapi (Mountain of Fire) is the most active of Indonesia's 130 active volcanoes.
- It rises to 2,911 metres and has steep slopes with dense vegetation on its lower sides.
- It is located near the centre of the island of Java and Indonesia's cultural capital, Yogyakarta.



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## 8. Green Climate Fund

### In News

Rwanda has been selected to host 35th meeting of Board of GCF which will be held in Kigali, capital of Rwanda.

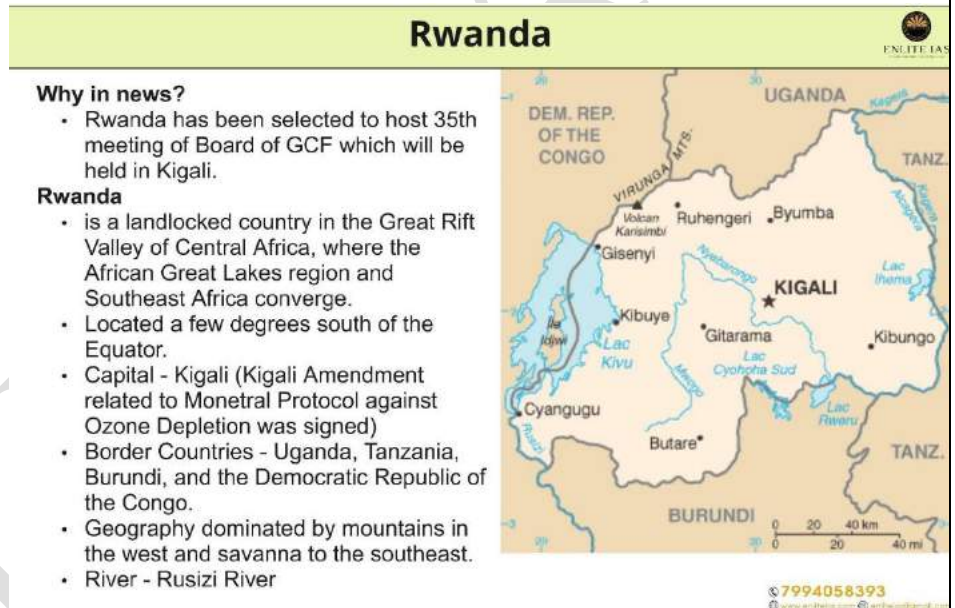
### **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**

- GCF was established in 2010 under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to help developing countries reduce their GHG emissions and adapt to impact of climate change.
- Secretariat is located in Songdo, Incheon- South Korea.
- **Key features of GCF**

- ✓ Country-driven approach i.e., developing countries lead GCF programming and implementation.

- ✓ Balanced allocation i.e., GCF is mandated to invest 50% of its resources to mitigation and 50% to adaptation in grant equivalent.

- ✓ Provide financial support through flexible combination of grant, concessional debt, guarantees or equity instrument.



## SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

### 1. India's First DNA Vaccine for Dengue

Researchers at India's National Centre for Biological Sciences, in collaboration with nine other institutions in India, Africa, and the US, have developed *India's first and only DNA vaccine candidate for dengue fever.*

#### DNA Vaccine

- A DNA vaccine is a type of vaccine that uses a small piece of DNA that codes for a specific antigen (a molecule that triggers an immune response) from a pathogen, such as a virus or bacterium, to stimulate an immune response.
- The DNA is injected directly into the body's cells, where it instructs the cells to produce the antigen.
- DNA vaccines are third-generation vaccines.
- The ZyCoV-D is the world's first and India's indigenously developed DNA based vaccine for COVID-19.

## Dengue



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Why in news? - India's first prospective DNA vaccine against dengue is under clinical trials.



- Found in tropical and sub-tropical climates worldwide, mostly in urban and semi-urban areas.
- The primary vectors that transmit the disease are Aedes aegypti mosquitoes.
- The virus responsible for causing dengue is called the dengue virus (DENV).
- It can be transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes.
- There is no specific treatment for dengue

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### 2. Adopt a heritage Scheme

#### In News

Under the Centre's 'adopt a heritage' scheme, Dalmia Bharat Group has developed the Red Fort and set up a museum as well as a sound and light show inside the 17th-century monument to narrate its history to visitors.

## Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan Scheme



### Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan Scheme

- Launched in 2017 on World Tourism Day
- Joint effort of Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India.
- Aim - To encourage companies from public sector, private sector, corporate citizens, NGOs, individuals and other stakeholders to become 'Monument Mitras'.
- Monument Mitras will take up the responsibility of developing and upgrading the basic and advanced tourist amenities at these sites as per their interest and viability in terms of a sustainable investment model under CSR.



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### 3. **SWAYATT Initiative**

#### **In News**

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) commemorates the success of “SWAYATT”.

#### **About**

- SWAYATT is a government initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions on Government eMarketplace (GeM).
- **Parent Ministry:** SWAYATT scheme is being implemented under the *Ministry of Commerce and Industry*.

#### **Government eMarketplace (GeM)**

Government eMarketplace (GeM) is a one-stop National Public Procurement Portal to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Central and State Government Departments/Organizations/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

### 4. **SATHEE (Self-Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams) Platform**

#### **In News**

The Ministry of Education (MoE) is set to launch a self-assessment platform for Indian students.

#### **About**

- SATHEE is a new initiative by the *Ministry of Education in association with IIT Kanpur*.
- It will help students gain access *to training and coaching for competitive examinations for free*.
- SATHEE aims to make the students learn the concepts and focus on their weak topics so they feel confident to give any exams by watching *videos prepared by IIT and IISc faculty members*.
- It provides free learning resources, including 800 videos in 12 regional languages.
- The platform will also provide regular all-India mock tests to help prepare for competitive exams, in addition to mentorship sessions by IIT and AIIMS students who shall act like SATHEES.
- The interactive programme is currently open for coaching help for JEE and NEET.
- It makes use of an indigenously developed AI programme called *Prutor*, which was developed by IIT-Kanpur.

## 5. Samarth (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector)

### In News

The *Ministry of Textiles* has invited proposals for empanelment from the textile industry and industry associations to broad base the panel of implementing partners for Samarth.

### About SAMARTH

- Samarth is a demand driven and placement-oriented umbrella skilling programme of the Ministry of Textiles.
- **Coverage:** The scheme has been penetrated across 28 States and 6 Union territories of the country
- Employment linkage is mandated in the courses under organiazed textile sector with mandatory placement-70% in entry level & 90% for Upskilling programmes.

**SAMARTH Scheme**

**SAMARTH Scheme**

- Samarth (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector) is a demand-driven and placement-oriented umbrella skilling programme.
- Ministry - Ministry of Textiles
- Implementation Period -Up to March 2024
- Aim - To incentivize and supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding Spinning and Weaving.

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## 6. Old Pension Scheme (OPS)

### In News

The government has decided to give a one-time option to select Central government employees to migrate to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), who applied for jobs advertised before December 22, 2003.

### About

#### **Old Pension Scheme (OPS):**

- An employee is entitled to a 50% amount of the last drawn salary as a pension.

## Old vs New

A look at the difference between the old and the new pension schemes

Old Pension Scheme	National Pension Scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The scheme guarantees a <b>life-long income, post-retirement</b></li> <li>■ <b>Government bears the expenditure</b> incurred on the pension</li> <li>■ Under the scheme, a monthly payment is assured, where the <b>amount is equivalent to 50% of the last drawn salary</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ It is a participatory scheme, where <b>employees contribute to their pension corpus from their salaries</b>, with matching contribution from the government</li> <li>■ The funds are invested in earmarked investment schemes through Pension Fund Managers</li> <li>■ <b>On retirement, 60% of the corpus, which is tax-free</b>, is withdrawn while the remaining 40% is invested in annuities, which is taxed</li> </ul>

- The government bears all the expenditure incurred on the pension. It was discontinued by the NDA government in 2003 with effect from April 1, 2004.

### National Pension System (NPS):

- It replaced Old Pension Scheme, came into effect on 1st April, 2004.
- The scheme is common *for all salaried and non-salaried persons across the country*. Anyone can subscribe to this scheme.
- In this scheme, the employee has to *contribute 10% of his salary while the employer makes an equal contribution*
- NPS is mandatorily applicable to Central Government employees (except Armed Forces) recruited on or after 01.01.2004.
- Under the new pension scheme (NPS), Central Government employees contribute 10% of

## Old Pension Scheme(OPS) and National Pension System (NPS)



### Why in news?

- Select central government employees covered by the National Pension System (NPS) will now get a one-time option to switch to Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 popularly known as the old pension scheme (OPS).

### Who are eligible to switch to OPS from NPS?

- Those central government employees whose appointment was made against the posts or vacancies advertised or notified for recruitment before the notification for NPS i.e. 22.12.2003 are eligible to switch to the old pension scheme from NPS with a deadline.

### Old Pension Scheme

- It was discontinued in 2004.
- It guaranteed life-long income after retirement.
- As per the scheme insured amount is equal to 50% of the most recently drawn salary.
- The expenditure incurred on the pension is borne by the government.

### National Pension System (NPS)

- It is a government-sponsored pension scheme.
- It is a voluntary, defined contribution retirement savings scheme
- It was launched in January 2004 for government employees.
- However, in 2009, it was opened to all sections.
- The scheme allows subscribers to contribute regularly in a pension account during their working life.
- On retirement, subscribers can withdraw a part of the corpus in a lumpsum and use the remaining corpus to buy an annuity to secure a regular income after retirement.
- This system is managed by PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority).



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their basic salary towards pension while the government contributes 14%. (enhanced from 10 % in 2019)

- It is being administered and regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) set up under PFRDA Act, 2013.
- *Private sector employees can also join NPS*

## 7. Real Time Train Information System (RTIS)

### In News

The Indian Railways is collaborating with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) under the Real Time Train Information System (RTIS) project.

### About

- RTIS enable real time tracking of train movements with the assistance of satellite imagery
- RTIS devices that are installed on the trains automatically acquire its “movement timing at the stations, including that of arrival and departure or run-through”.
- These timings get automatically plotted on the control chart of those trains in the Control Office Application (COA) system.
- Applications of RTIS:
  - ✓ RTIS gives mid-section updates with a periodicity of 30 seconds.
  - ✓ The Train Control can now track the location and speed of RTIS-enabled locomotives/train more closely, without any manual intervention.
  - ✓ It allows passengers to get the real-time location or train running status of a train

## Real Time Train Information System (RTIS) Project



### Why in news?

- The Indian Railways is collaborating with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) under the Real Time Train Information System (RTIS) project.

### Real Time Train Information System (RTIS) Project

- RTIS devices that use satellite imagery are being installed on the trains to automatically acquire its “movement timing at the stations, including that of arrival and departure or run-through”.
- These timings get automatically plotted on the control chart of those trains in the Control Office Application (COA) system.
- The project is executed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS).
- RTIS is developed in collaboration with ISRO.
  - ISRO has launched GSAT satellites that have GAGAN payloads for tracking the movement of trains.



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on their smartphone

## 8. MSME Competitive (LEAN) Scheme

### In News

The Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises launched the MSME Competitive (LEAN) scheme.

### **About the Scheme**

- The Scheme is a business initiative to reduce "waste" in manufacturing.
- Scheme involves
  - ✓ Building awareness of lean manufacturing practices in MSME clusters
  - ✓ Cost sharing of consultant's fees with MSME units who opt for lean manufacturing practices
- Under the scheme, the *Centre's contribution will be 90 percent* of the implementation cost for handholding and consultancy fees
- Nodal Agency: **National Productivity Council (NPC)**
- Eligibility: The Scheme is open to Micro, Small or Medium as per the definition of the MSME Act. (The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006.)
- Lean Manufacturing Techniques are adopted with the objective of
  - ✓ reducing waste,
  - ✓ increasing productivity,
  - ✓ introducing innovative practices for improving overall competitiveness,
  - ✓ inculcating good management systems and imbibing a culture of continuous improvement.

## 9. ATL Sarthi

### In news

**NITI Aayog recently launched** ATL Sarthi, a comprehensive self-monitoring framework to strengthen the ever-growing ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).

### **About ATL Sarthi:**

- The initiative has four pillars ensuring *the performance enhancement* of ATLs through regular process improvements like
- MyATL Dashboard: It is a self-reporting dashboard.

### **Atal Innovation Mission**

- It was set up by the Central Government in 2016.
- Objectives:
  - ✓ To promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

- ✓ To provide a platform for and establish collaboration opportunities for various stakeholders.
- ✓ To act as an umbrella structure, encompassing and overseeing the entire innovation ecosystem of the country.
- Implementing Agency: NITI Aayog

**Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)**

- It is an initiative to promote creativity and innovation in the minds of school children.
- Under this initiative *Children as young as 12 years* of age gain access to technological innovation.
- The concepts of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths are taught through various tools and equipment of the like.
- Financial aid of Rs. 20 lakh is given to each school.



# WE LIGHTENED THEIR JOURNEY'S THEY CREATED US

**ASWATH BAJI IRS**  
Assistant Commissioner  
Indian Revenue Service  
UPSC2018 Rank : 541



Enlite answer writing program helped me a lot in improving my answer writing skills. Individual analysis and objective evaluation helped me understand my weakness. The guidance and confidence given by Mahesh sir and his team helped me to focus on my work with full dedication in both mains and interview. Thanks ENLITE

**ARUN K PAVITHRAN IPS**  
Assistant Superintendent of Police  
Mattancherry, Kerala  
UPSC2019 Rank 561



Enlite is my 'Home away from home' where I felt most comfortable during my entire journey of preparation. This success would not have been possible without the constant support of my mentors Mahesh Sir, Abhilash Sir and the entire Team Enlite who raised me whenever I fell down. My mentors asked me to have faith in myself and not to overthink during the prelims. It was Mahesh Sir, who constantly demanded me to get my answers corrected during the Mains preparation including Malayalam optional which gave me the much-needed scope for improvement. The one-on-one session with him gave me the confidence to articulate my opinion before the interview board. I am so grateful to Enlite for my success.

**ANKITHA MISHRA IPS**  
UPSC2021 Rank : 169



Enlite IAS was an integral part in my preparation along with Philosophy Optional, GS Mentorship & Ethics as well as Interview Preparation by Mahesh Sir has really made the difference.

**VISHNURAJ P IAS**  
SUB COLLECTOR & RDO FORT KOCHI  
UPSC2018 Rank 234



Enlite IAS has played a crucial role in helping me sail through all the three stages of the civil service examination. Apart from the dynamic nature of classes, thought provoking questions in the prelims and mains tests makes journey at Enlite very unique. Also the personal mentorship by Mahesh sir to me acted as a real game changer in this huge process. A family, which shows the right path and stands strongly giving energy to fight during hard times - That is ENLITE IAS.

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## INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/INITIATIVES

### 1. Windsor Framework

#### In News

The UK government reached a landmark deal with the European Union (EU) on post-Brexit trade rules that will govern Northern Ireland

#### **The Northern Ireland Protocol**

- The protocol is post Brexit arrangement between UK and EU to manage cross border movements of goods
- However, the two Irelands have had a long history of conflict, with a hard-fought peace secured only in 1998 under the *Belfast Agreement, also called the Good Friday agreement.*



#### **About 'Windsor Framework'**

- The 'Windsor Framework' will replace the Northern Ireland Protocol
- Framework introduced a Green lane and Red lane system for goods
- Green lane: British goods meant for Northern Ireland will use the green lane at the ports and will be allowed to pass with minimal paperwork and checks.
- Red lane: Goods destined for Ireland or the rest of the EU will have to take the red lane, with the attendant customs and other checks.
- The 'Stormont Brake': It allows Northern Ireland lawmakers and London to veto any EU regulation they believe affects the region adversely.

### 2. UN High Seas Treaty

#### In News

For the first time, United Nations members have agreed on a unified treaty to protect *biodiversity in the high seas.*



### Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty/ High Seas Treaty

- The treaty is negotiated under the *United Nations Convention on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS)* of 1982 which governs the rights of countries regarding marine resources.
- Treaty aims to create an updated framework to protect marine life in high seas, which *are regions outside national boundary waters*.
- Treaty will create a new body to manage the conservation of ocean life and establish

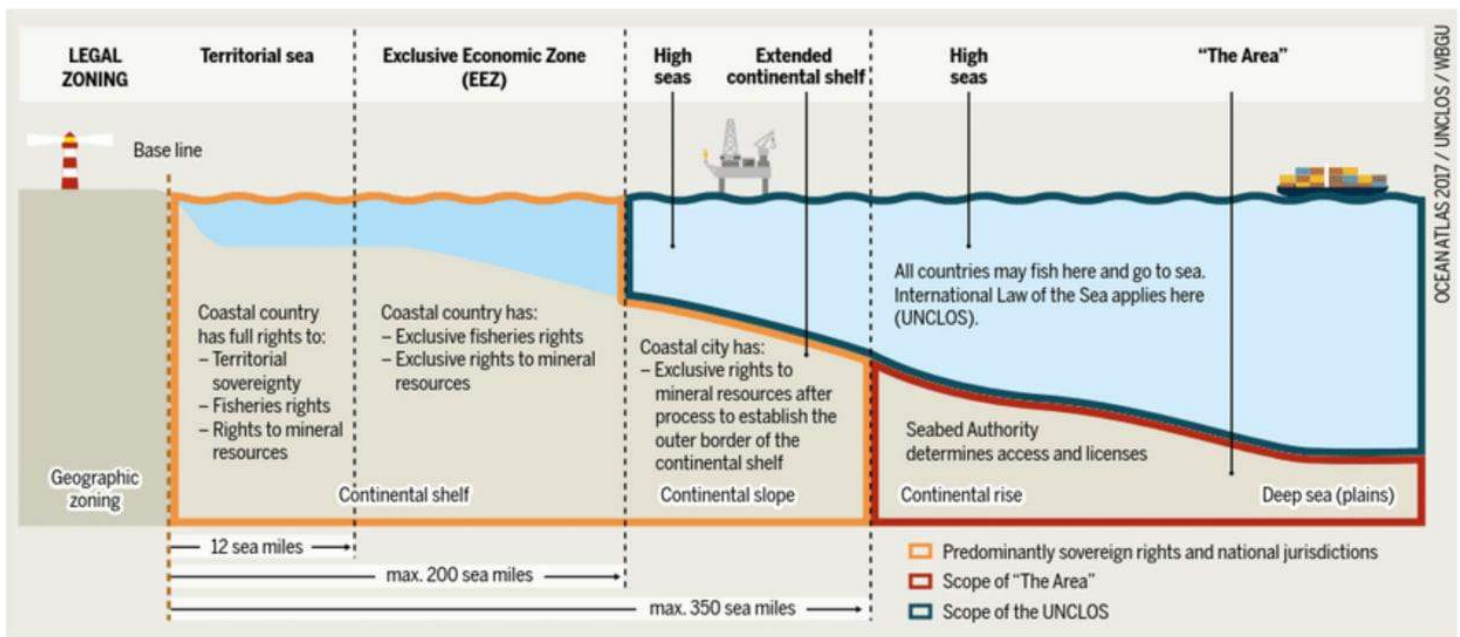
## UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)



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### UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

- The UNCLOS, 1982 is an international agreement that establishes the legal framework for marine and maritime activities.
- It is also known as Law of the Sea.
- It divides marine areas into five main zones namely- Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas.
- India ratified the UNCLOS in 1995.
- Significance
  - It is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.
  - It provides a different legal status to different maritime zones.
  - It provides the backbone for offshore governance by coastal states and those navigating the oceans.
  - It not only zones coastal states' offshore areas but also provides specific guidance for states' rights and responsibilities in the five concentric zones.



marine protected areas on the high seas.

### 3. India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFP)

#### In News

Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh will jointly inaugurate the maiden cross-border oil pipeline between the two countries

**About India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL):**

**India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL)**

**Why in news?**

- Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh will jointly inaugurate the maiden cross-border oil pipeline between the two countries.

**India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL)**

- IBFPL will carry diesel from Assam-based Numaligarh Refinery Ltd's (NRL) marketing terminal at Siliguri in West Bengal to the Parbatipur depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
- IBFPL is 5 Kilometers long, out of which 126.5 kilometer pipeline is in Bangladesh and 5 kilometers in India.
- The pipeline has a capacity of one million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA).
- The total project cost for the construction of the IBFPL is Rs 377.08 crore.
- The project is built under grant assistance from the government of India.

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### 4. Black Sea Grain Initiative

#### In News

Russia recently agreed to extend the Black Sea grain deal following talks with the United Nations for an additional 60 days.

**About Black Sea Grain Initiative**

- It was set up to resume vital food and fertilizer exports from Ukraine to the rest of the world.
- It was brokered between **Russia and Ukraine by the United Nations and Turkey.**
- The Initiative allowed exports of grain, other foodstuffs, and fertilizer, including ammonia, to resume through a safe maritime humanitarian corridor from three key Ukrainian ports: Chornomorsk, Odesa, and Yuzhny/Pivdennyi, to the rest of the world.

## 5. Doha Political Declaration on LDCs

### In News

The 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) concluded with adoption of the ‘Doha Political Declaration’ by the world leaders.

### **About Doha Programme of Action:**

It focuses on implementing the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA), the 10-year plan to put the world’s 46 most vulnerable countries back **on track to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**.

### **Least Developed Countries**

- Currently, there are 46 countries on the United Nations' list of LDCs.
  - Africa (33);
  - Asia (9);
  - Caribbean (1): Haiti;
  - Pacific (3): Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.



- The list of LDCs is reviewed every three years by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), a group of independent experts that report to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

## 6. Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)

### In News

Armenia has repeatedly criticised the CSTO for its failure to protect itself

## Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)



**Why in news?**

- Armenia has repeatedly criticised the CSTO for its failure to protect itself

**Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)**

- The CSTO is a Russia-led military alliance of seven former Soviet states that was created in 2002.
- Members - Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan. Afghanistan and Serbia hold observer status in the CSTO.
- Its purpose is to ensure the collective defence of any member that faces external aggression.
- It has been described by political scientists as the Eurasian counterpart of NATO, which has 29 member states, while the CSTO has just six.

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# WE LIGHTENED THEIR JOURNEY'S THEY CREATED US

**SMILNA SUDHAKAR – IFoS**  
AGMUT Cadre  
UPSC2019 Rank : 458



I owe the largest share of my success to the tireless and constant support of the Enlite IAS academy team. Being part of such a committed group of Individuals has truly been an enriching and rewarding experience. I am deeply indebted to Mahesh sir and Abhilash sir, both of whom exemplify the true spirit of Enlite. They have been pillars of support throughout the entire process, helping me navigate and overcome every obstacle that this journey has thrown at me.

**PRASAD KRISHNAN IRS**  
UPSC2020 Rank 209



I joined Enlite PCM batch in 2018 and since then the institute has guided me throughout my journey. Be it the classes, mentorship sessions, mocks, Interview guidance or peer group discussions, Enlite IAS has translated my efforts to the maximum output possible. Special thanks to Mahesh sir, Abhilash sir and Abu sir for all the help.

**MANOJ MADHAV S IFS**  
Third Secretary (EP)  
Embassy of India – Brussels, Belgium  
UPSC2019 Rank : 105



Team Enlite has played a quintessential role in helping me clear the Civil Services Examination. The mentorship under Mahesh Sir throughout all the stages of the exam is something I owe my success largely to. Quality guidance from faculties like Abu Sir and Abhilash Sir was helpful in improving my overall performance as well. Thank you Team Enlite!

**AMITH MP IAS**  
Asst. Collector - Tindivanam,  
Villupuram Dist, Tamil Nadu  
UPSC2018 Rank 405



I attended philosophy optional enrichment program @ ENLITE IAS. The unique insights I got during the course played a vital role in my success in the civil service examination. Also 90% of the questions in the exam directly appeared from the class room sessions. It helped in tuning my Interview preparation to an optimum level.

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## ECONOMY

### 1. Fugitive Economic Offenders

#### In News

India has called upon *G20 countries* to adopt *multilateral action* for faster extradition of fugitive economic offenders and recovery of assets.

#### About

- India made the demand on the Anti-corruption working group meeting:
- First anti-corruption working group meeting of G20 Nations was held in Gurugram, Delhi.

#### Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018

- Definition: *The 'fugitive economic offender' (FEO)* is defined as an individual against whom a *warrant of arrest* in relation to *scheduled offence* has been issued by *any court in India* and who has *left the country so as to avoid criminal prosecution*; or the FEO abroad, refuses to return to face criminal prosecution.
- Aim: The Act aims to help *confiscate assets of high-value economic offenders absconding* from India till they submit to the jurisdiction of the appropriate legal forum.

#### Procedure to be followed:

- The investigating agencies have to file an application in a Special Court under the *Prevention of Money-Laundering Act*.
- The Special Court will issue a notice for the person to appear at a specified place and date at least six weeks from the issue of notice.
- Proceedings will be terminated if the person appears.
- If not the person would be declared as a Fugitive Economic Offender based on the evidence filed by the investigating agencies.
- *The Enforcement Directorate is mandated to attach the properties* of the fugitive economic offenders who have escaped from India.

### 2. Expected Credit Loss (ECL) regime

#### In News

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently proposed to move the banking system to an expected credit loss-based provisioning approach from an “incurred loss” approach.

#### About Expected Loss-based model

- Banks now have to *assess expected loss* on their overall financial assets and *make provisions after assessment, rather than making it after the loan turns into a non-performing asset (NPA)*.
- *Prior to this*, banks used to make loan loss *provisions based on an 'incurred loss' approach*. In this method, banks need to make provisions for losses incurred on loans.
- Under the new framework, banks need to classify their financial assets into one of three categories, viz., Stage 1, Stage 2, and Stage 3, depending on the assessed credit losses on them.
- As of now, these norms are meant for *only scheduled commercial banks, excluding regional rural banks*.
- The *impact* of adopting the *forward looking expected credit loss approach* to estimating loss provisions, is likely to *result in excess provisions* as compared to shortfall in provisions

### 3. SWAMIH Investment Fund

#### In News

In three years since its inception in 2019, the Fund has already completed 20,557 homes and aims to complete over 81,000 homes in the next three years across 30 tier 1 and 2 cities.

#### About SWAMIH Fund

- The *Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) Investment Fund* is a social impact fund specifically formed for *completing stressed and stalled residential projects*.
- The Fund is *sponsored by the Ministry of Finance*, Government of India, and is *managed by SBICAP Ventures Ltd.*, a State Bank Group company.
- It is considered the lender of last resort for distressed projects.

### 4. Indian Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

#### In News

MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) recently said that IPPB wants to convert itself to a universal bank

#### About Indian Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

- IPPB has been established under the *Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication, with 100% equity owned by the Government of India*.
- IPPB was launched on September 1, 2018.

- **Mandate:** To remove barriers for the unbanked and under-banked and reach the last mile leveraging a network comprising 160,000 post offices (145,000 in rural areas) and 400,000 postal employees.
- **Functions:** It will *accept deposits upto Rs 2 lakh, beyond which the account will be automatically converted into a post office savings account.*

### **Payments Banks**

- Set up on the recommendations of the *Nachiket Mor Committee*.
- **Objective:** Widen the spread of payment and financial services to small businesses, low-income households, and migrant labor workforce in a secured technology-driven environment.
- They are *registered under the Companies Act 2013* but are *governed by* a host of legislations such as the *Banking Regulation Act, 1949; RBI Act, 1934; Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, etc.*
- Activities that can be performed:
  - ✓ It can take *deposits up to Rs. 2,00,000.*
  - ✓ It *can accept demand deposits in the form of savings and current accounts.*
- The money *received as deposits -75% of it should be invested in secure government securities* only in the form of *Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)*.
- The remaining 25% is to be placed as time deposits with other scheduled commercial banks.
- It can *offer remittance services*, mobile payments/transfers/purchases, and other banking services like *ATM/debit cards, net banking*, and third party fund transfers.

### **Activities that cannot be performed:**

- ✓ It *cannot issue loans and credit cards.*
- ✓ It *cannot accept time deposits or NRI deposits.*
- ✓ It *cannot set up subsidiaries to undertake non-banking financial activities.*



## HISTORY/ART & CULTURE

### 1. Ancient city of Sisupalgarh

#### In News

Land mafias have damaged a portion of the wall of the fortified ancient city of Sisupalgarh.

#### About

- It is located near the city of ***Bhubaneswar in Odisha.***
- It was ***once the capital of Kalinga***, which is the ancient name of Odisha.
- It is considered one of the largest and best-preserved ancient fortifications in India.
- The fortifications are over 2,000 years old and date back to the ***3rd or 4th century BC.***
- The remains of the fortification were discovered in 1948 by the Indian archaeologist B.B. Lal.
- It was designed and constructed in a complete square shape that was surrounded by defensive walls.
- There is evidence of stone-lined reservoirs that were likely used for ***harvesting rainwater.***
- Intelligent traffic management, pedestrian-friendly pathways, grand gateways with guard houses, wide roads, and a vast open space were some of the key features of this ancient city.

### 2. Yaoshang Festival

#### In News

The five-day-long Yaoshang festival, Manipur's version of Holi, has begun.

#### About Yaoshang Festival

- The festival is ***celebrated every year on the full moon of Lamta month*** (February-March) of the Meitei lunar calendar, by the ***Meitei people*** who are predominantly Hindu.
- It is celebrated at the same time as Holi and is known as '***Manipur's version of Holi***'.
- The five-day-long celebration begins with the ***burning of 'yaoshang' (a small thatch hut/straw hut)*** which is constructed with ***bamboo and straws*** on the first day
- The highlight of the festival is the ***ThabalChongba, a traditional Manipuri folk dance*** where boys and girls hold hands and sing and dance in a circle.
- The festival marks the rejuvenation of the spirit of life and ***commemorates the birthday of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.***

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1. Bio-Computers

#### In News

Scientists have taken initial steps to create an ‘organoid intelligence’ which aims to create “biocomputers”

#### About

- **“Organoid intelligence” like Artificial intelligence** is an area of study to **create independent decision-making units using organoids**.
- **Organoids are tiny, self-organized three-dimensional tissue cultures that are derived from stem cells**.
- Such cultures can be crafted to replicate much of the complexity of an organ, or to express selected aspects of it like producing only certain types of cells.
- Organoids means creating individualized, complex collections of cells that bear a resemblance to a patient’s own tissues.
- The scientists ultimately aim to create **“biocomputers”: which are brain cultures grown in the lab and coupled to real-world sensors** and input/output devices.
- These biocomputers like human brains can be used for complex information processing.
- These organoids can reveal the biological basis of human cognition, learning, and memory.
- They can help in drug development and in decoding the pathology of degenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s disease and microcephaly.

### 2. Megha-Tropiques-1

#### In News

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) brought down the decommissioned weather satellite Megha-Tropiques-1 in a controlled manner and burned up in the atmosphere.

#### About

- Megha-Tropiques-1 was developed as a **joint mission by India and France** to study the **tropics’ water cycle and energy exchanges**.
- The satellite worked for over a decade, providing valuable data for climate models.
- The 1,000-kg satellite was **launched in 2011 with a mission life of three years**.
- The **Decommission of the Satellite** via controlled atmospheric re-entry is part of ISRO’s measures to improve the compliance level with the internationally accepted guidelines on space debris mitigation

### 3. Real Time Train Information System (RTIS)

#### In News

The Indian Railways is collaborating with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) under the Real Time Train Information System (RTIS) project.

#### About

- RTIS enable *real time tracking of train movements with the assistance of satellite imagery*
- RTIS devices that are *installed on the trains* automatically acquire its “movement timing at the stations, including that of arrival and departure or run-through”.
- These timings get automatically plotted on the control chart of those trains in the Control Office Application (COA) system.
- The project is executed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS).
- RTIS is *developed in collaboration with ISRO*. ISRO has launched *GSAT satellites that have GAGAN payloads* for tracking the movement of trains.
- The Train Control can now track the location and speed of RTIS-enabled locomotives/train more closely, without any manual intervention.
- It allows passengers to get *the real-time location or train running status* of a train on their smartphone

### 4. Interstellar Boundary Explorer

#### In News

NASA engineers successfully reset the Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX) spacecraft after it went into contingency mode for 3 weeks.

#### About Interstellar Boundary Explorer:

- *NASA's Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX)* was launched in October 2008 to study the *outer edge of the heliosphere*.
- *Heliosphere* is the region where the *constant flow of particles from our Sun, called the solar wind*, collides with material from the rest of the galaxy.
- The spacecraft is designed *to map the boundary where winds from the Sun interact with winds from other stars*.
- The solar system's boundary is studied by observing *energetic neutral atoms or ENAs*.
- ENAs are high-energy particles produced at the very *edge of our solar system*.
- This spacecraft fully mapped the heliosphere within a year after its launch.
- Its most famous discovery is uncovering a *dense region of particles, the 'IBEX ribbon*

## 5. Multi-Angle Imager for Aerosols mission

### In News

NASA announced that it is partnering with the *Italian Space Agency ASI (Agenzia Spaziale Italiana)* to build and launch the *MAIA mission*.

### About Multi-Angle Imager for Aerosols mission

- A joint mission between *NASA and the Italian Space Agency ASI*.
- This will investigate *the health impacts of air pollution in the world's most populated cities*.
- It will consist of the *PLATiNO-2 satellite, which will be provided by ASI*, and a science instrument that will be built at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).
- The MAIA mission will collect and analyse data from the observatory, sensors on the ground and atmospheric models.
- During the course of the three-year mission, MAIA will focus on 11 primary target areas that *include major urban centres across the world*: Los Angeles, Atlanta, Boston, Rome, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Barcelona, Spain, Beijing, Johannesburg, *New Delhi*, Taipei, Taiwan; and Tel Aviv.
- The MAIA observatory is *set to launch before the end of 2024*.

## **DEFENCE/MILITARY EXERCISES**

### **1. Exercise Shinyuu Maitri**

#### **In News**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise Shinyuu Maitri with the Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF).

#### **About**

- Exercise Shinyuu Maitri is a bilateral military exercise between ***Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)***.
- The exercise is being organized on the ***sidelines of the Indo-Japan Joint Army Exercise, Dharma Guardian***.

### **2. Exercise FRINJEX-23**

#### **In News**

The maiden Joint Military Exercise FRINJEX-23 between Indian Army and French Army will be conducted in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

#### **About**

- Joint Military Exercise between ***Indian Army and French Army***
- It is ***for the first time that the armies of both nations*** are engaging in this format with each contingent comprising of a Company Group each from the Thiruvananthapuram-based Indian Army troops and French 6th Light Armoured Brigade.
- Other regularly held joint exercises include
  - ✓ Varuna (navy),
  - ✓ Garuda (air force),
  - ✓ Shakti (army).

### **3. TROPEX 2023**

#### **In News**

Indian Navy's major Operational level exercise TROPEX 2023, culminated in the Arabian Sea.

#### **About**

- It is an operational level exercise that is conducted biennially and witnesses participation not only by all ***Indian Navy*** units but also of ***Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard assets***.

- It included *Coastal Defence exercise Sea Vigil and the Amphibious Exercise AMPHEX*.
- It was set in the *Indian Ocean including the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal*.
- TROPEX 23 witnessed participation of approximately 70 Indian Navy ships, six submarines and over 75 aircraft.
- The exercise is being conducted in different phases, both in harbour and at sea, encompassing various facets of combat operations, including live weapon firings.

#### **4. Exercise La Perouse – 2023**

##### **In News**

A multilateral exercise La Perouse is scheduled to be conducted in the Indian Ocean Region from 13 to 14 March 2023

##### **About**

- The *biennial exercise La Perouse* is conducted by the *French Navy* and is aimed at enhancing maritime domain awareness and optimising maritime coordination amongst the participating navies in the *Indo-Pacific Region*.
- The *third edition of the multilateral maritime exercise* is conducted in the Indian Ocean Region.
- This edition will witness the participation of personnel, ships and integral helicopters of the *Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force, Royal Navy and the United States Navy*.

#### **5. SIPRI Report on India's Arms Imports**

##### **In News**

According to a recent report released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), *the five largest arms importers in the world during 2018-22 were India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Australia, and China*.

##### **About India's Arms Imports**

- India remained the *world's largest arms importer for the five-year period between 2018-22*.
- India accounted for an *11 percent share of total global arms imports in 2018–22*.
- Russia accounted for *45% of India's imports, followed by France (29%) and the US (11%)*.
- India has seen an *11 percent drop in its arms import between 2013-17 and 2018-22*.

- India was the biggest arms export market to three countries — Russia, France, and Israel and the second largest export market to South Korea.
- The *US was the world's topmost military exporter in the past five years, accounting for 40% of global exports, followed by Russia (16%), France (11%), China (5.2%), and Germany (4.2%).*

## 6. **Bold Kurukshetra**

### **In News**

The *Singapore Army and Indian Army* participated in Exercise Bold Kurukshetra which was held at Jodhpur Military Station, India

### **About Bold Kurukshetra**

- It was the 13th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral military exercise between *India and the Singapore army*.
- For the first time in the exercise series, both armies participated in a command post Exercise, which involved Battalion and Brigade level planning elements and computer wargaming.
- *First conducted in 2005*, this exercise underscores the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between both countries and enhances cooperation between the two armies.

## INDEX/REPORTS/AWARDS

### 1. Porter Prize 2023

#### In News

Recently, the *Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry has received the Porter Prize 2023.*

#### About

- The prize was awarded in recognition of the government's strategy in managing COVID-19, also the approach, and involvement of various stakeholders, especially involvement of ASHA workers in the industry to create PPE Kits.

#### Porter Prize

- It is named after award-winning economist Michael E. Porter.

### 2. Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2023

#### In News

Prime Minister of India recently felicitated awardees of the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar during the 3rd Session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR).

#### About Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

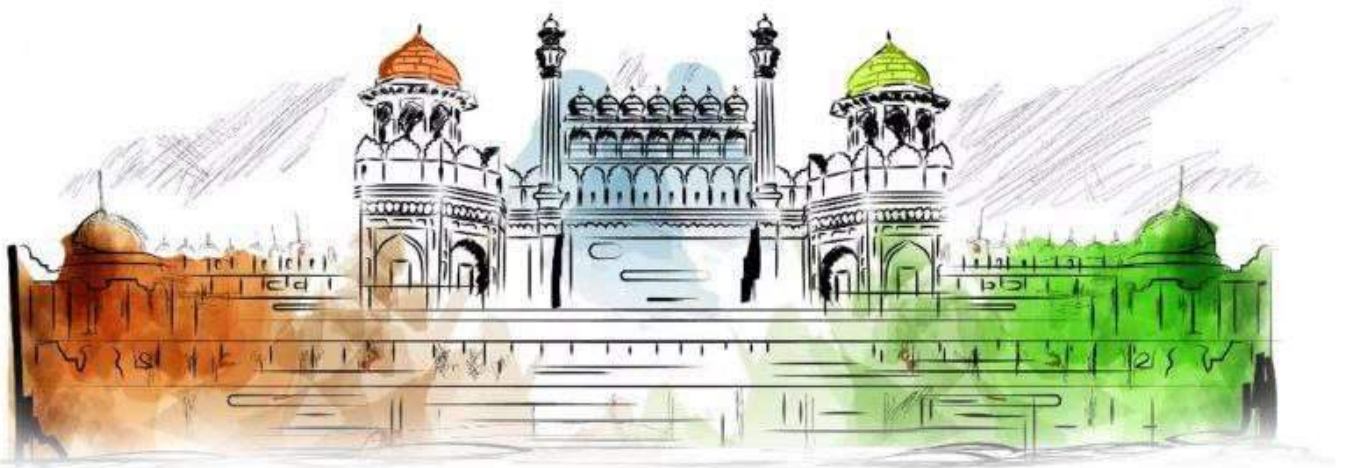
- It is an *award* to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by *individuals and organizations* in India in the field of *disaster management*.
- **Eligibility:**
  - ✓ *Only Indian nationals and Indian institutions* are eligible to apply for the award.
- Institutions, voluntary organisations, corporate entities, academic/research institutions, response/ uniformed forces or any other institution may apply as an institution for the award.
- The candidate for the award must have worked in the area of Disaster Management like Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Rescue, Response, Relief, Rehabilitation, Research/ Innovations or Early Warning related work in India.
- The *award is announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.*





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