



# ENLITE IAS

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**FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE**

*March 15 - 31*

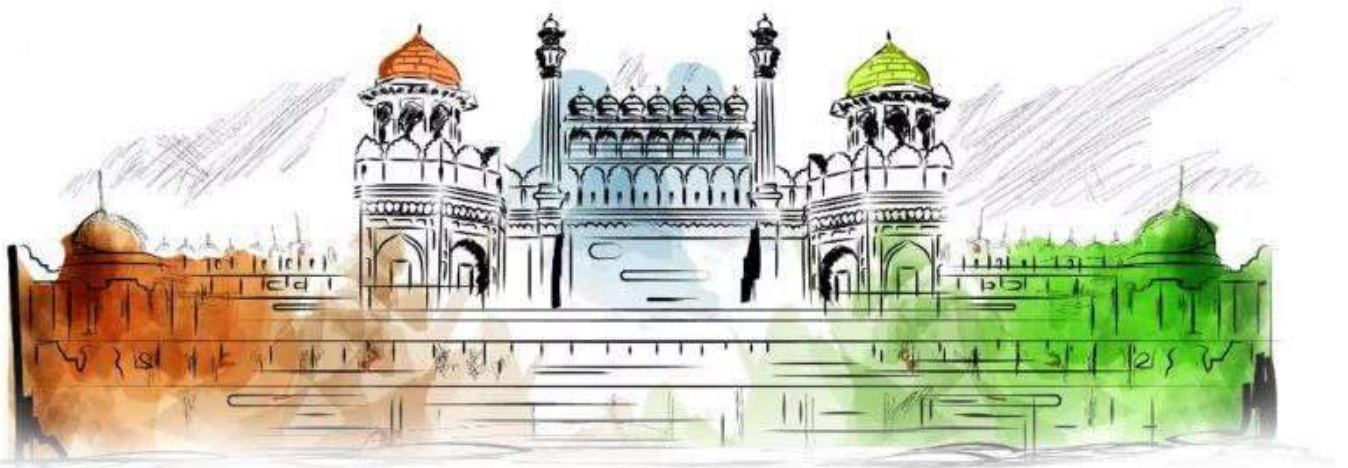


*\*Sarada Peeth, Ladakh*



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## POLITY

### 1. Bar Council of India (BCI)

#### In News

Foreign lawyers, firms can operate in India: BCI.

#### About BCI

- The BCI, a *statutory body* under the Advocates Act, 1961.
- It performs the regulatory function by *prescribing standards of professional conduct and etiquette* and by exercising disciplinary jurisdiction over the bar.
- It sets *standards for legal education* and *grants recognition to universities* whose degree in law will serve as qualification for enrolment as an advocate.
- The foreign lawyers and firms *would not be entitled to practice law in India without registration with the BCI.*
- The foreign lawyer or firm cannot have an office in India, and their practice cannot exceed 60 days in any 12-month period.

### 2. President's Colour

#### In News

President Droupadi Murmu presents President's Colour to INS Dronacharya.

#### About President's Colour Award

- The President's Colour is one of the highest honours that can be awarded to any military unit, military training establishments, and state/UT Police Forces of India.
- The President's Colour is bestowed upon a military unit in *recognition of exceptional service rendered to the Nation*, both in peace and in war.
- *Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force*, to be awarded the President's Colour in 1951.
- It is also known as "*Rashtrapati ka Nishaan*".
- The President's Colours is very significant, if the unit lose their colours, it is a disgrace for that unit.
- The 'Standards' are awarded to Heavy Cavalry and the 'Guidons' are awarded to Light Cavalry.

#### INS Dronacharya

- It is the *gunnery school* of the Indian Navy.
- It also trains personnel from Coast Guard, paramilitary, and police forces.

- It is the nodal centre for training Sagar Prahari Bal and the Navy's centre for training several Indian Ocean Region (IOR) nations in constabulary operations.

### **3. International Criminal Court (ICC)**

#### **In News**

International Criminal Court issues arrest warrant against Putin over Ukraine.

#### **About the Court**

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) is *an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal*.
- It is seated in *The Hague, Netherlands*.
- ICC investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: *genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression*.
- As a court of last resort, it *seeks to complement, not replace, national Courts*. Governed by an international treaty called the *Rome Statute*.
- ICC has six official languages - English, French, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish.

### **4. Enemy Properties**

#### **In News**

Government starts process of eviction and sale of 'enemy properties' worth over Rs 1 lakh crore.

#### **About Enemy Property**

- Enemy Properties are the immovable assets left behind by people who have taken citizenship of Pakistan and China.
- The highest number of enemy properties were found in Uttar Pradesh.
- The enemy properties are vested with the *Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI)*.
- The Office of the *CEPI is a statutory authority* under the provisions of the Enemy Property Act, 1968
- The office of the Custodian of Enemy Property for India, worked under the aegis of the *Ministry of Home Affairs*.

## 5. Interpol Red Notice

### In News

Interpol takes down Red Notice against Mehul Choksi.

#### What is Red Notice?

- Red Notices are published by **INTERPOL** at the *request of a member country* and must comply with INTERPOL's Constitution and Rules.
- A Red Notice is an international alert for a wanted person, *but it is not an arrest warrant*.

## International Police Organisation (Interpol)



#### Why in news?

- The Interpol has withdrawn the Red Corner Notice (RCN) issued against Mehul Choksi.

#### International Police Organisation (Interpol)

- It is an international organization facilitating international police cooperation against cross-border terrorism, trafficking, and other crime.
- All decisions regarding the activities of INTERPOL are made by the General Assembly which is its supreme governing body which meets annually.
- It is 'NOT' a unit or part of a united nation system. It is an independent international organization.
- Headquarters - Lyon , France



## 6. Federal Structure in India

### In News

Naveen, Mamata affirm commitment to a robust federal structure in the country.

### **What is Federal Structure?**

- In a federal structure, power and responsibility are distributed across different layers of Government.

### **About India Federal Structure**

- The term 'Federation' has nowhere been used in the Constitution.
- Article-1 describes India as a Union of States which implies two things:
  - ✓ Indian Federation is not the result of an agreement by the states
  - ✓ No state has the right to secede from the federation.
- Indian Constitution has been variously described as 'federal in form but, unitary in spirit', 'quasi-federal' 'bargaining federalism' 'co-operative federalism' 'federation with a centralising tendency'

## Federal and Unitary Features of Indian Constitution



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### **Federal Features of Indian Constitution**

- Two Government
- Division of powers
- Written Constitution
- Supremacy of Constitution
- Rigidity of Constitution
- Independent judiciary and bicameralism

### **Unitary Features of Indian Constitution**

- Strong Centre
- Single Constitution
- Single citizenship
- Flexibility of Constitution
- Integrated judiciary
- Appointment of state governor by the Centre
- All-India services
- Emergency Provision

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## 7. MP disqualification

### In News

Rahul Gandhi stands disqualified as an MP following his conviction

### Disqualification of Member of Parliament



### PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

#### On Constitutional Grounds:

- If s/he holds any office of profit under the Union or state government (except that of a minister or any other office exempted by Parliament).
- If s/he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a court.
- If s/he is an undischarged insolvent.
- If s/he is not (or not anymore) a citizen of India.
- If s/he is disqualified under any law made by Parliament.

#### On Statutory Grounds (Representation of People Act, 1951):

- Found guilty of certain election offences/corrupt practices in the elections.
- Convicted for any offence resulting in imprisonment for two or more years (detention under a preventive detention law is not a disqualification).
- Has been dismissed from government service for corruption or disloyalty to the State.
- Convicted for promoting enmity between different groups or for the offence of bribery.
- Punished for preaching and practising social crimes such as untouchability, dowry and sati.

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## 8. Affinity test

### In News

Recently SC said that an affinity test is not an essential part of the process of the determination of correctness of a caste or tribe claim in every case.

### **What is it?**


- An affinity test mandates the study and preparation of a report by authorities on caste/tribe claims.
- It was used to ascertain if the person follows the traditional cultural traits of the community.
- It is done based on the peculiar anthropological and ethnological traits, deities, rituals, customs, mode of marriage, death ceremonies, methods of burial of dead bodies, etc. of the particular caste or tribe and the applicant's knowledge of them.

## 9. Prevention of Money Laundering Act

### In News

Supreme Court seeks Centre's response on plea challenging Sections 50, 63 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

### Prevention of Money Laundering Act(PMLA)



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**Prevention of Money Laundering Act(PMLA)**


- It is a criminal law of the Parliament of India passed by the NDA government in 2002
- PMLA became law and came into force on July 1, 2005.
- It has blanket powers assigned to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under PMLA for seizing, investing, searching and attaching assets.
- Introduced due to India's commitment at the Vienna Convention to combat money laundering.

**On ED's power under PMLA**

An upshot of the judgment by the Supreme Court on the validity of certain provisions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act

- The offence of money laundering is as heinous an offence as terrorism
- Section 3 (definition of money laundering), Section 24 (reverse burden of proof), and Section 5 (attachment of property) to stay
- Stringency in granting bail under the Act is legal and not arbitrary
- It is not mandatory to give an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) in every case as it was not an FIR
- The statements made to ED are considered admissible
- Provision of attachment of property of accused as proceeds of crime 'balances' the interests of the accused and the State
- The question of enactment of PMLA amendments through the Money Bill route is to be decided by a larger Bench





**Aim:**

- Prevention and controlling money laundering
- Confiscation and seizing of property involved in or derived from money laundering.
- Providing punishment to offenders
- Appointment of adjudicating authority and appellate tribunal concerning money laundering matters
- Dealing with every issue related to money laundering

## **10. Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022**

### **In News**

Competition law amended to tighten scrutiny of Big Tech firms.

- The Competition Commission of India and the Competition Appellate Tribunal have been established under the Competition Act, 2002.
- Ministry: Ministry of Corporate affairs.

### **About the amendment bill 2022**

- Mergers and acquisitions deal with transaction value of more than Rs 2,000 crore will require CCI's approval.
- The Bill proposes to reduce the timeline for the CCI to pass an order on such transactions from 210 days to 150 days.
- The Bill decriminalises certain offences under the Act by changing the nature of punishment from imposition of fine to civil penalties.
- The phrase "turnover" will refer to the "*global turnover* derived from all the products and services by a person or an enterprise"



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**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. Coffee Berry Borer

#### In News

Berry borer infestation: Coffee Board issues advisory to farmers.

#### **About Berry Borer**

- *Hypothenemus hampei*, the coffee berry borer beetle, is a small beetle **native to Africa**.
- It is among **the most harmful pests to coffee crops** across the world where coffee is cultivated.
- In India, the pest was first noticed on a few plantations in the Nilgiris during early 1990.

### 2. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

#### In News

How can EU's carbon tax hurt India?

#### **About CBAM**

- The **European Union** had formalised a method to stop '**carbon leakage**' or moving production of high-polluting products to nations outside of the EU. This is called the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism**.
- CBAM is part of the EU's plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Carbon leakage** occurs when companies based in the EU move carbon-intensive production abroad to countries where less stringent climate policies are in place than in the EU.

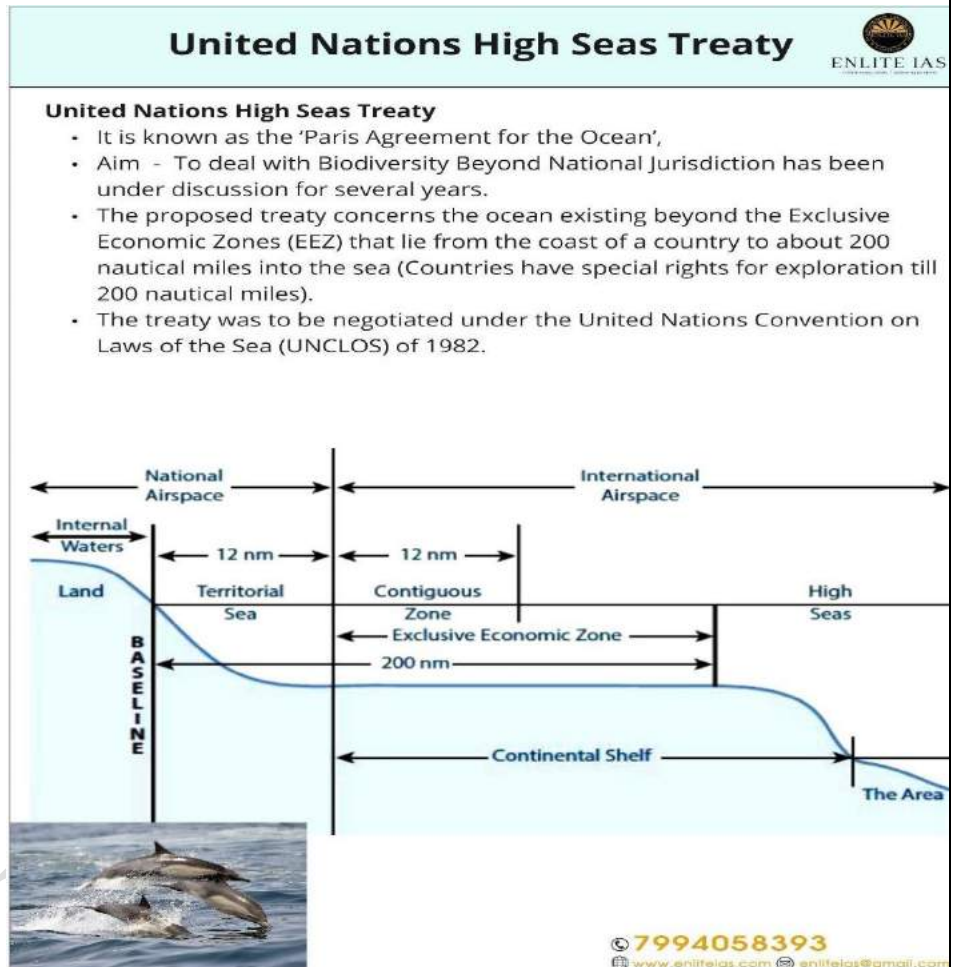
### 3. High Seas Treaty

#### In News

What the new High Seas Treaty means for India, and the world.

#### About the Treaty

- It is an international agreement on the **conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity** of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- It is also known as **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) treaty**.
- The new instrument was developed within the framework of the United Convention on the Law of the Sea (**UNCLOS**).
- The high seas refer to the ocean water column that lies beyond the boundaries of any one country, also known as areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).



### 4. Horseshoe crabs

#### In News

Horseshoe crabs disappearing off Odisha's coast.

#### About Horseshoe crabs

- Horseshoe crabs are marine and brackish water arthropods of the family Limulidae and the **only living members of the order Xiphosura**.
- These are found on the east coasts of **Asia and of North America**.
- These animals are not crabs at all but are related to scorpions, spiders, and extinct trilobites.

## 5. Nagar Van Udyan Yojana

### In News

Nagar Van Yojana aims to create green and sustainable cities.

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
- **Aim:** To create/ develop at least one CITY FOREST in each City having Municipal Corporation/ Class I Cities.

## 6. Sarus crane

### In News

U.P.'s 'missing' sarus crane that's stirred up a hornet's nest in the State's politics.

### About Sarus Crane

- The sarus crane is a large nonmigratory crane found in parts of the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and Australia.
- It is the **tallest flying bird in the world** standing 152-156 cm tall.
- It has a predominantly grey plumage with a naked red head and upper neck and pale red legs.

# Nagar Van Udyan Yojana



### Nagar Van Udyan Yojana

- Ministry: Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
- Aim: To create/ develop at least one CITY FOREST in each City having Municipal Corporation/ Class I Cities.
- Phases
  - Nagar Van-Udyan Yojana was implemented for a period of five Years (beginning 2015-16).
  - The second phase is from the year 2020-21 - 2024-25.
- Objectives of the Yojana
  - To create 200 City Forests in the Country.
  - Creating green space and an aesthetic environment in an urban set-up.
  - To create awareness on plants and biodiversity.
  - Conservation education on important flora and fauna of the region including threat perception.
  - Ecological rejuvenation of the cities.
  - In-situ Biodiversity conservation.
  - Health benefits to citizens.
  - Making cities climate resilient.



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## Sarus Crane



### Sarus Crane

- Sarus Crane is state bird of Uttar Pradesh
- It is the tallest flying bird in the world.
- The Sarus crane has predominantly grey plumage with a naked red head and upper neck and pale red legs.
- It is known to mate for life with a single partner, and its breeding season coincides with heavy rains during the monsoon season.
- Protection Status
  - Wildlife Protection Act , 1972 - Schedule IV
  - IUCN - Vulnerable



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## SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

### 1. Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)

#### In News

Parliamentary panel pulls up Panchayati Raj Ministry over non-release of funds under RGSA.

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- **Launched:** 2018

#### About the RGSA

- It is the '*Transformation of Aspirational Districts*' program.
- It *aims to quickly and effectively transform* selected districts.
- RGSA was proposed to be implemented as a core *Centrally Sponsored Scheme* (CSS) for four years.
- The sharing ratio for the State components will be in the ratio of 60:40 and 90:10 for NE and Hilly States.

### 2. PM MITRA scheme

#### In News

States identified for PM MITRA scheme to be announced soon.

- **Ministry:**  
Ministry of  
Textiles

#### About the Scheme

- PM MITRA is Prime Minister Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel.
- Ministry has issued a notification to set up 7 PM MITRA Parks

## PM MITRA Scheme


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**PM MITRA Scheme**

- Full form - Prime Minister MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) scheme.
- Ministry - Ministry of Textiles
- Aim - To realize the vision of building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat by positioning India strongly on the Global textiles map.
- The PM MITRA parks will provide the best ecosystem for the textile industry to be collectively present in one location, with plug-and-play infrastructure, and improve the competitiveness of the textile value chain.
- It will also give a boost to the five F (farm, fibre, factory, fashion, foreign) vision of the Prime Minister.

**FEATURES OF PARKS**

**CORE INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Incubation centre and plug & play facility
- Developed factory sites, roads, power, water, and wastewater system

**SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Logistics park and workers' hostels and housing
- Warehouses and medical centres
- Training & skill development facilities





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- **Goal 9** - Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

### 3. Vedic Heritage Portal

#### In News

Government tapping technology to secure ancient scriptures for future.

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Culture
- **Aim:** The portal aims to communicate message enshrined in the Vedas.


### 4. Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP)

#### In News

India aims at becoming ‘*Global Hub for Green Ship*’ building by 2030 with launch of Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP).

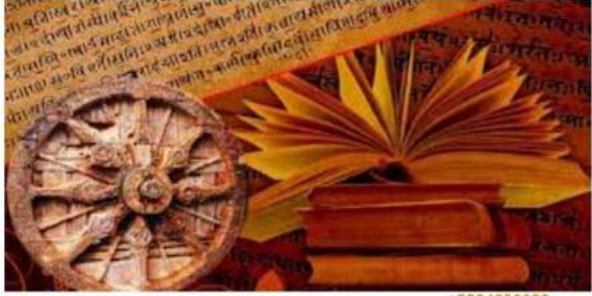
#### **About GTTP**

### Vedic Heritage Portal


  
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**Vedic Heritage Portal**

- Ministry- Ministry of Culture
- Aim - The portal aims to communicate message enshrined in the Vedas.
- The Vedic Heritage Portal is created by the Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)
- The portal will be a one-stop solution for the user who search any information regarding the Vedic heritage.
- The portal has Vedas in the form of abstract oral traditions, or the textual tradition.



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### Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP)



  
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**Why in news?**

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched the ‘Green Tug Transition Programme’ (GTTP).

**Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP)**

- Green Tugs Transition Programme (GTTP) was launched for operating green tugs in all major ports by 2025.
- Nodal Entity - National Centre of Excellence in Green Port and Shipping (NCoEGPS)
- Aim - India aims at becoming a ‘Global Hub for Green Ship’ building by 2030 with the launch of the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP).
- ‘Green Hybrid Tugs’ will be powered by Green Hybrid Propulsion systems. These Green hybrid tugs will subsequently adopt non-fossil fuel solutions like (Methanol, Ammonia, and Hydrogen).
- At least, 50% of all the Tugs are likely to be converted into Green Tugs by 2030.



**Do You Know?**

Tug - A tug boat or tugs are marine vessels that manoeuvre ships by pushing or pulling them, mostly using tow lines. They tug ships in circumstances where the ships cannot or do not move using their power like in narrow harbours, canals, etc.

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- **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW)** launch of Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) with an aim to make India a Global Hub for Green Ship.
- **National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS)** is the nodal agency of the programme.
- **NCoEGPS** is a collaboration between the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** and **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**.

## 5. Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) Scheme

### In News

5,648 vacant houses converted into affordable rental housing for urban poor and migrant workers.

- **Aim:** It aims to create a conducive ecosystem for Public/ Private Entities to leverage investment in rental housing
- **Ministry of housing and urban affairs**

### **What is it?**

- Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) as a **Sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U)**.
- It is to provide affordable rental housing to urban migrants/ poor, close to their workplace.
- It will be implemented in all Statutory Towns, Notified Planning Areas and areas under Special Area/ Development Authorities/ Industrial Development Authorities.
- It will be exclusively used for rental housing for a minimum period of 25 years.
- A total of 5,648 vacant houses built under various government schemes have been converted into ARHC.

## 6. LaQshya Programme

### In News

The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar gave the status of LaQshya in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

- Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Aim: To improve the quality of care in labour room and maternity Operation Theatre (OT).
- Goal: To reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity and stillbirths associated with the care around delivery in Labour room and Maternity OT and ensure respectful maternity care.

## LaQshya Programme



**Why in news?**

- 2,660 Labour Rooms and 1989 Maternity Operation Theatres certified facilities under the LaQshya programme conduct the sensitization/ orientation of the latest Labour Room Protocols.

**LaQshya Programme**

- It focuses on improving the quality of care in the labour room and maternity Operation Theatre (OT).
- Ministry - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- It targets all Government Medical College Hospitals, District Hospitals & equivalent health facilities, designated FRUs as well as high case load CHCs.
- Goal – To reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity and stillbirths associated with the care around delivery in the Labour room and Maternity OT and ensure respectful maternity care.

**LaQshya**  
Program

-  **To improve quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres.**
-  **To reduce preventable maternal and new-born mortality, morbidity and stillbirths.**
-  **Benefit every pregnant woman and new-born delivering in public health institutions**
-  **Till date 2427 Public health facilities across country have been identified**




LAQSHYA

लक्ष्य

Natural Birth

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## 7. Great Nicobar project

### In News

No evictions for Great Nicobar project.

### About the Project

- The Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Project is four 'interlinked' projects that together constitute the new Greenfield city at Great Nicobar.
- The four projects are the International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT), Greenfield International Airport, a power plant, and a township.
- The project being implemented by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO).
- The utilisation of tribal reserve area will be subject to the interests of the local tribespeople living in the area.

# Andaman and Nicobar Islands

## Why in news?

- The Union government will not allow the displacement of tribespeople to make way for the ₹72,000crore Great Nicobar island project, the Tribal Affairs Ministry told the Rajya Sabha.
- The project, being implemented by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO), includes a trans shipment port, an airport, a power plant, and a greenfield township

## Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- Location - Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands or Emerald Islands is a union territory of India consisting of 572 islands, of which 38 are inhabited
- Capital - Port Blair(In South Andaman Island)
- It comprises two island groups, the Andaman Islands (partly) and the Nicobar Islands.
- The island chains are thought to be a submerged extension of the Arakan Mountains.
- Highest Peak - Saddle peak (737 m) in North Andaman
- Vegetation - The Islands have dense tropical rain forests.
- Volcanic Islands
  - Barren Island - Active Volcano
  - Narcondam Islands - Dormant volcano

## Straits

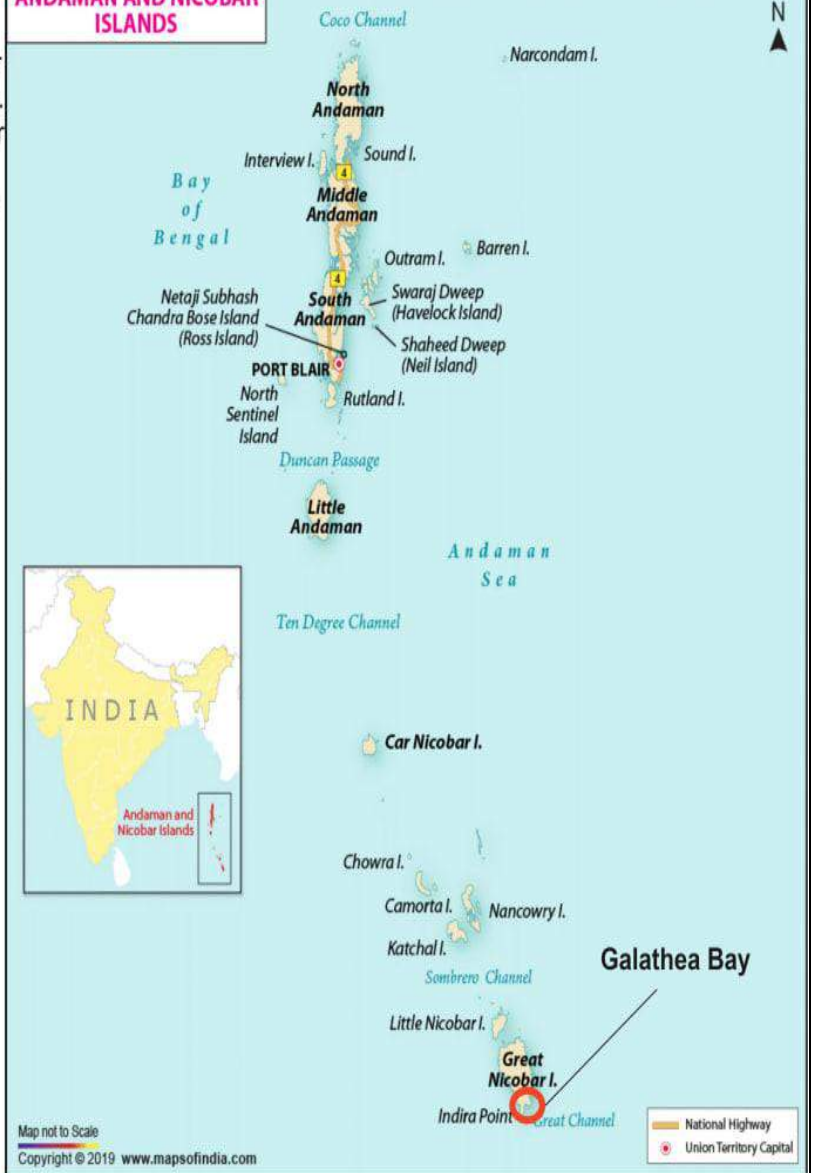
- Coco Strait - Separates Coco Island(Myanmar) and Andaman Group of Islands
- Ten Degree Channel (on the 10°N parallel) - Separates Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Duncan passage - Separates Little Andaman from South Andaman.
- Great Channel - Nicobar Island and Indonesia.

## Significance Galathea Bay

- 40 nautical miles away from the Malacca Strait international shipping channel, which handles about 35% of the annual global sea trade
- Galathea Bay is an iconic nesting site in India of the Giant Leatherback, the world's largest marine turtle and Nicobar Megapode.
- Galathea National Park is a part of the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve , a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- The Galathea Bay is home to the indigenous Shompen community



## ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS



## Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Tribes	Race
Great Andamanese	Negrito
Onge	Negrito
Jarawa	Negrito
Sentinelese	Negrito
Shompen	Mongoloid
Nicobarese	Mongoloid

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/INITIATIVES

### 1. Civil 20 India (C20)

#### In News

The first plenary session of the Civil-20 (C-20) India 2023 Inception Conference was held in Nagpur.

#### **About C20 India**

- It is one of the official Engagement Groups of the G20. It provides a platform *for Civil Society Organizations (CSO)* around the world to voice people's aspirations to the world leaders in G20.
- C20 Indian motto – “You Are the Light”.
- It will focus on solving the socio-economic matters which touch the daily lives of the people.

## G20 Grouping



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#### **Why in news?**

- The first plenary session of the Civil-20 (C-20) India 2023 Inception Conference which is one of the official Engagement Groups of the G20 was held in Nagpur.

#### **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**



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- It will conduct regular consultations with national and international Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

## **2. U.N. report on climate change**

### **In News**

Nations approve key U.N. science report on climate change.

- **Publisher:** U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

### **About the Report**

- It integrates the main findings of the *Sixth Assessment Report* (AR6) based on contributions from the three Working Groups, and the three Special Reports.
- This report recognizes the interdependence of climate, ecosystems and biodiversity, and human societies
- Concentrations of the warming gas CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere are at their highest in 2 million years.
- The world is now warmer than at any time in the past 125,000 years.

## **3. Air Information Sharing agreement**

### **In News**

India and U.S. working to finalise Air Information Sharing agreement.

### **About the agreement**

- It is an information-sharing agreement between air forces.
- India and USA will be signing an agreement on sharing of jet engine technology.
- Surveillance and joint development of jet engines and space capabilities as areas where the two sides could build together.

### **Signed four foundational agreements**

- India has signed all four foundational agreements with the U.S.
  - ✓ General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)
  - ✓ The logistics agreement
  - ✓ Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)
  - ✓ Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial cooperation (BECA).

### **Other agreements in pipeline**

- The two countries continue exploring opportunities under *Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)*.
- Two countries announced an initiative on *Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET)*.

## ECONOMY

### 1. Extended Fund Facility (EFF)

#### In News

IMF clears \$3-billion bailout for Sri Lanka.

#### About EFF

- The *Extended Fund Facility* is lending facility of the *Fund of the IMF* and it was established in 1974.
- It provides *financial assistance to countries facing serious medium-term balance of payments problems.*

#### Eligibility

- *All member countries facing actual or potential external financing needs.*
- Low-income countries sometimes use the EFF together with *the Extended Credit Facility (ECF).*

### 2. Securities Transaction Tax (STT)

#### In News

Government raises Securities Transaction Tax on derivatives.

#### What is STT?

- The STT is a type of *financial transaction tax payable in India on every purchase or sale of securities* that are *listed on the Indian stock exchanges.*
- The securities include *shares, derivatives or equity-oriented mutual funds investment units.*

#### About STT

- It is categorized as a *direct tax.*
- The securities transaction tax (STT) was introduced in India *to stop tax avoidance of capital gains tax.*
- Collection of this tax is a statutory requirement which a broker needs to follow.
- The rates of STT are prescribed by the Central / Union Government through its Budget from time to time.

#### Applicability of STT

- STT would be applicable on following securities:

- ✓ Shares, bonds, debentures, debenture stock or other marketable securities
- ✓ Derivatives
- ✓ Units or any other instrument issued by any collective investment scheme
- ✓ Security receipt as defined in section 2(zg) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002
- ✓ Government securities of equity nature
- ✓ Rights or interest in securities
- ✓ Equity-oriented mutual funds

## Securities Transaction Tax (STT)

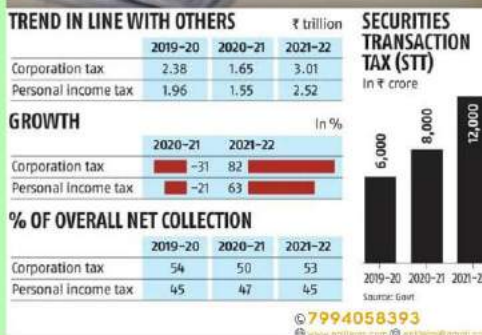


### Why in news?

- The government recently hiked the securities transaction tax (STT) by 23.52 percent on the sale of options and 25 percent on the sale of futures contracts.

### Securities Transaction Tax (STT)

- It is a direct tax charged on the purchase and sale of securities listed on the recognized stock exchanges in India.
- It is levied and collected by the central government of India.
- STT is governed by Securities Transaction Tax Act (STT Act).
- Taxable securities include equities, derivatives, or equity-oriented mutual funds investment units (excluding commodities and currency).
- The rate of taxation is different for different types of securities.
- STT is not applicable to off-market transactions or to commodity or currency transactions.
- The liability of applying the STT is on the broker when the client undertakes transactions in the stock market. The collected amount is then paid to the government.
- The charges and rate of STT are reflected on the contract notes which a broker provides to its clients for every execution of trades.



### Recent Development

- The government has raised the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) on futures and options contracts in the stock market by 25%.
- The increase in STT will shore up revenues of the government.

### 3. Captive Investors

#### In News

- EPFO subscribers are 'captive investors' of two Adani stocks.

#### Captive Investors

- Captive investors refer to *individuals, institutions or organizations that invest their funds primarily or solely in a particular company* or group of companies.



- Captive investors are somewhat limited in their investment options.

#### 4. Debt Mutual Fund

##### In News

Government scraps long-term tax benefit for debt mutual funds investing less than 35% assets in equity.

##### What is it?

- **Debt Funds are a kind of Mutual Funds** that generate *returns by lending your money to the government and companies.*

- It is a *relatively stable investment* avenue that could help to generate wealth

- The lending duration and the kind of borrower determine the risk level of a Debt Fund.

- Debt funds are also referred to as **Fixed Income Funds or Bond Funds.**

- A few major advantages of investing in debt funds are **low-cost structure,**

**relatively stable returns, relatively high liquidity** and reasonable safety.

- Debt funds are ideal for investors who aim for **regular income, but are risk-averse.**
- Debt funds are **less volatile and, hence, are less risky than equity funds.**

### Debt Mutual Funds

**Why in news?**

- As per the amendments made in Budget 2023, no benefit of indexation for the calculation of long-term capital gains tax on debt mutual funds will be available for investments made on or after April 1, 2023.

**Debt Mutual Funds**

- Debt funds are mutual fund schemes which invest in fixed-income generating securities such as Commercial Papers (CP), Certificate of Deposit (CD), Corporate Bonds, T-Bills, government securities and other money market instruments.
- These instruments have a fixed maturity date and interest rate that the buyers could earn till the maturity of the security.
- They are considered to be less volatile than equity funds

FD vs. Debt Mutual Funds		
Fixed Deposits	Criteria	Debt Mutual Funds
Guaranteed returns	Returns ⌚	Market-linked returns
Negligible risk (₹1 lakh insurance on bank FD)	Risk Factor ⚠	Significant risk involved
Anytime withdrawal on payment of penalty	Liquidity 👉	Anytime withdrawal on payment of exit load
No charges	A/c Opening Charges 👉	Multiple charges (Maintenance charges, admin. charges, etc.)

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## 5. Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs)

### In News

HDFC board clears raising ₹57,000 crore through non-convertible debentures.

### What are NCDs?

- Non-convertible debenture meaning refers to a *debt instrument (debenture) that the buyers can not convert to shares or equities* at any point of time until maturity.

### About NCDs

- NCDs have a *fixed maturity date and the interest can be paid along with the principal amount either monthly, quarterly, or annually.*
- They benefit investors with their supreme returns, liquidity, low risk and tax benefits.
- Individuals, primary dealers, banking companies, corporate bodies, and unincorporated bodies can make NCD investments In India.
- *NCDs cannot be withdrawn before maturity.*
- The NCDs are *listed on the stock market* and they *can be sold in the secondary market.*
- NCDs held in Demat form are exempted from TDS.
- NCDs are not insured but are secured against the company assets.

### Types of NCDs

- Secured NCDs:
  - ✓ Secured NCDs are *non-convertible debentures backed by the issuing company's assets.*
  - ✓ These are *safer* as the investors can claim payments through the liquidation of company
- Unsecured NCDs:
  - ✓ *Unsecured NCDs are non-convertible debentures that issuers do not back with their assets.*
  - ✓ The investors cannot claim compensation through liquidating assets.
  - ✓ The unsecured NCDs are *riskier* than secured assets.

## 6. Index Providers

### In News

SEBI getting set to regulate index providers.

### What is an Index/Indices?

- Indices are indispensable *financial tools to track a market's performance, evaluate the portfolio*, or to invest in index-linked investment products.

### Who is an Index Provider?

- An index provider is a *specialized firm that is dedicated to creating and calculating market indices* and licensing its intellectual capital as the basis of passive products.
- They are companies that design and calculate indexes.


### About Index Providers

- They have the *responsibility to set the rules that decide what securities to include in each index*.
- They decide how the index will be managed and how securities will be added or removed from that index over time.

### Index Providers in India

- The most prominent indices in India are the *Nifty50 by NSE Indices and Sensex provided by a venture of S&P Dow Jones Indices and BSE*

## Index Provider




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**Why in news?**

- The Central Government recently put the onus of regulating the practices of market index providers on the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

**Index Provider**

- Index providers are those institutions that formulate and manage indices.
- One of the important roles of the index provider is to classify and define markets, as their indices represent a market or a proportion of a market and provide a benchmark of performance for that market or sector.
- They have the responsibility to set the rules that decide what securities to include in each index, how the index will be managed and how securities will be added or removed from that index over time.



- They also usually determine how stocks can be classified, e.g. is a particular stock a Healthcare or an Oil & Gas stock, or is it a Developed or Emerging market stock.
- An index allows investors and other stakeholders to get a snapshot of the market.

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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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## **HISTORY/ART & CULTURE**

### **1. Geoheritage Sites**

#### **In News**

Writ in stone: Do you know India's geoheritage sites of *Jhamarkotra and Zawar*?

#### **What is geoheritage site?**

- *Geoheritage refers to sites that offer insights into the evolution of the earth* and can be used for research, reference, and awareness.
- *The Geological Survey of India has recognised* a number of geoheritage sites around the country.

#### **Importance of Indian sites**

- Landscapes across the Indian subcontinent bear signatures of many geological events.
- These events include:
  - ✓ Meteorite impacts
  - ✓ Volcanic eruptions that laid down the Deccan Traps
  - ✓ The collision of continents that birthed the Himalaya
  - ✓ Lakshadweep's coral atolls
  - ✓ The birth of rivers and how they shaped fertile river valleys
  - ✓ Massive deltas, and the world's largest mangrove forests

#### **About Jhamarkotra**

- The Jhameswar has a *stromatolite fossil park*.
- It hosts stromatolites dating back 1.8 billion years.
- It exhibits a variety of textures and sizes.
- Jhamarkotra's fossils are phosphate-rich because the trapped sediments were mainly phosphate minerals.

#### **About Zawar**

- Zawar is the *world's oldest known zinc-smelting site*.
- It is 40 km south of Udaipur.

#### **About Stromatolite**

- A Stromatolite is a *layered sedimentary rock created by microorganisms*.
- The *Stromatolite fossils preserve records of cyanobacteria, commonly known as blue-green algae* – the earliest life on the planet.

## 2. Chola-Dynasty

### In News

Stolen Chola-era Hanuman idol brought back to India.

### About Cholas

- The Chola dynasty was a Tamil empire of southern India and one of the longest-ruling dynasty.
- The Cholas formed one of three ruling families in Tamil-speaking south India.
- The Chola Empire was *founded by Vijayalaya*.
- The dynasty originated in the *rich Kaveri River valley*.
- *Uraiyur (now Tiruchchirappalli)* was its oldest capital.
- Chola kings and emperors bore the *titles Parakesharivarman and Rajakesharivarman*.
- In the *mid-ninth century the family came to dominate* the region and built an empire that lasted more than four hundred years.
- During the eleventh century they ruled much of *south India and as far as Sri Lanka and the Maldiv Islands*.
- *Revenue administration, village self-government, and irrigation* were highly organized under the Cholas.
- The society and its culture saw massive developments in the reign of the Cholas.
- Temple building received great impetus *during the reign of Rajaraja Chola and his son Rajendra Chola I*.
- The Chola period is remarkable for its sculptures and bronzes.
- The Chola era was the *golden age of Tamil culture, marked by the importance of literature*.
- The Chola dynasty *ended in 1279*.

## 3. Sharda Peeth

### In News

Government will attempt to open corridor to Sharda Peeth in PoK for devotees.

### About Sharad Peeth

- Sharada Peeth is a *ruined Hindu temple and ancient centre of learning located in the Neelum Valley of Kashmir*.
- It is believed to be an ancient center of learning *established even before the Takshila and Nalanda universities*.
- Currently it is in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) across Teetwal village in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, along the Line of Control (LoC).

- During the period of 6th to 12th centuries CE, it was among the most prominent temple universities in the Indian subcontinent.
- It was considered the centre of knowledge in the Indian subcontinent.
- It played a key role in the development and popularisation of the *Sharada script*.
- Sharada script is the *original script of Kashmir*.
- Sharada Peeth has appeared in various historical and literary texts.
- Its *earliest mention is in the Nilamata Purana (6th – 8th century CE)*.
- The *11th century Kashmiri poet Bilhana describes both the spiritual and academic elements of Sharada Peeth*.
- The shrine was abandoned after India and Pakistan 1947-48 war over Jammu and Kashmir.
- The *government will move forward to open Sharada Peeth on the lines of the Kartarpur corridor*.

## Sharada Peeth



### Why in news?

- Union Home Minister said that the government will move forward to open Sharada Peeth on the lines of the Kartarpur corridor.

### Sharada Peeth

- Sharada Peeth is an abandoned Hindu temple and ancient centre of learning.
- Location - Village of Sharda in the valley of Mount Harmukh, along the Neelam River in the Pakistani-administered territory of Azad Kashmir.
- History
  - As a Centre of Learning: Between the 6th and 12th centuries CE, it was one of the foremost centres of higher learning, hosting scholars such as Kalhana, Adi Shankara, and Vairotsana.
  - It is also said to be where Panini and Hemachandra completed and stored their writings on Sanskrit grammar.
- Religious significance
  - Sharada is the most revered religious place for Kashmiri Pandits. They believe that Sharada in Kashmir is a tripartite embodiment of the goddess Shakti: Sharada (goddess of learning), Saraswati (goddess of knowledge), and Vagdevi (goddess of speech).
  - It is one of the 18 Maha Shakti Peethas throughout South Asia that commemorate the location of fallen body parts of the Hindu deity Sati.



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## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

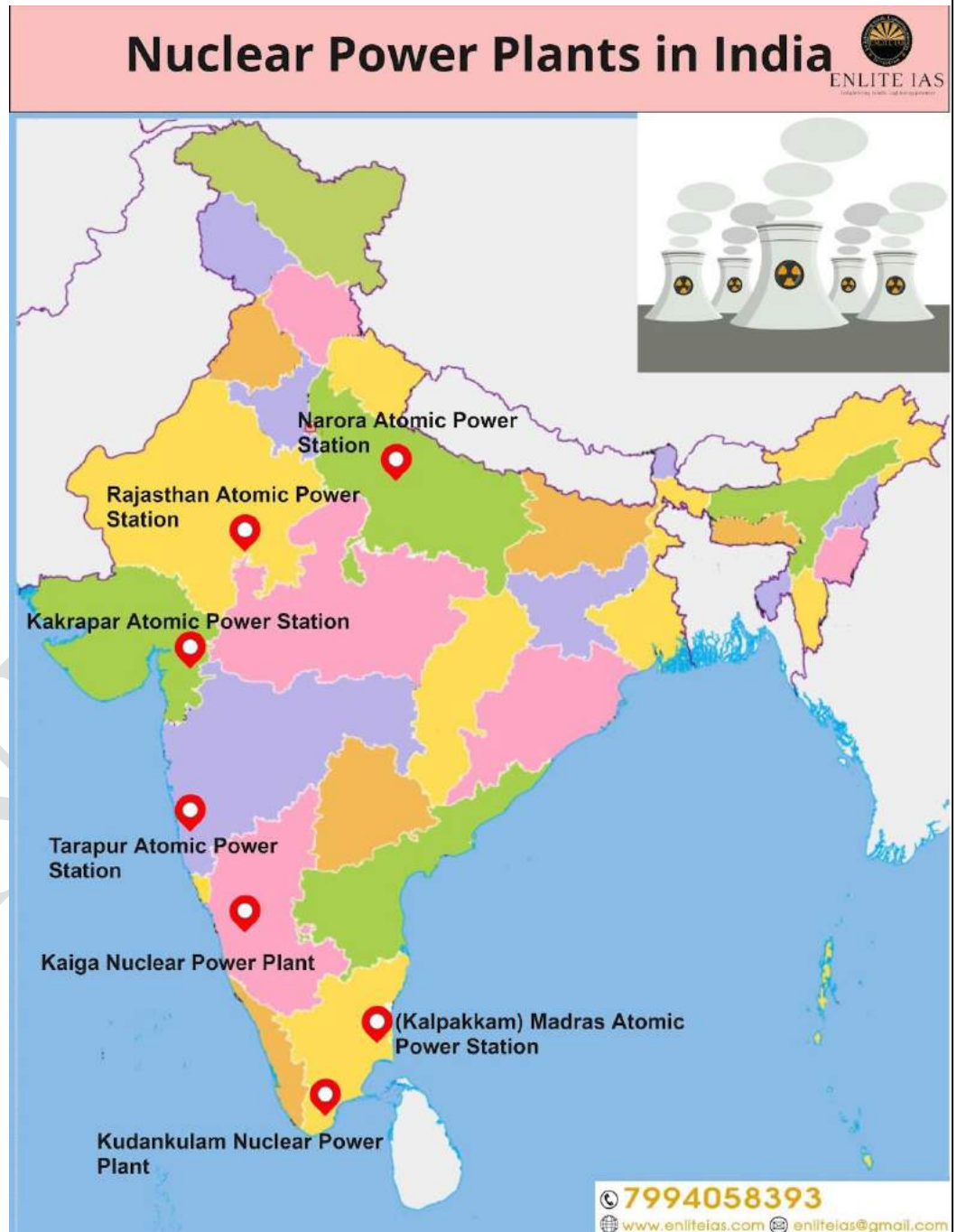
### 1. Nuclear power sector

#### In News

Nuclear power sector saves 41 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year: Govt.

#### Status of Indian Nuclear Power Generation

- *Nuclear power currently comprises 3% of India's total electricity generation.*
- The present installed nuclear power capacity is 6,780 MW.
- It is a *low carbon generating electricity systems.*
- The *nuclear power sector is saving 41 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually.*
- It can deliver base load power free of intermittency in place of energy from fossil fuels.





## Future Targets

- Current policy targets a ***three-fold rise in nuclear-installed capacity by 2032***
- In the next three years, a capacity addition of 5,300 MW is planned.
- It is set to increase to 22,480 MW by 2031.

## 2. Adenovirus

### In News

Adenovirus alert: West Bengal Govt forms 8-member task force to monitor cases.

### About the Virus

- Adenoviruses are ***common viruses that typically cause mild cold or flu-like illness.***
- They are usually ***spread*** from an ***infected person to others by close personal contact.***
- The virus is ***transmitted through the air by coughing and sneezing*** and also by touching an object or surface with adenoviruses on it.
- The virus ***can affect people of any age group.***
- The children with low and compromised immunity are at a higher risk.

### Symptoms of the viral infection are:

- Common cold or flu-like symptoms,
- Acute bronchitis, pneumonia, pink eye (conjunctivitis)
- Acute gastroenteritis.

### Recent Issue

- Recently a recombinant of ***two strains of adenovirus cause a spike in viral infections in West Bengal.***
- 19 children below the age of five years have died in State-run institutions due to acute respiratory infection (ARI).

## 3. Goldilocks star

### In News

A 'Goldilocks' star reveals hidden step in how water gets to planets like Earth.

### About Goldilocks

- The ***habitable zone is the region around a star where an orbiting planet could host liquid water and, therefore, possibly support life.***

- The habitable zone is the area around a star where it is not too hot and not too cold for liquid water to exist on the surface of surrounding planets.
- It is also known as the Goldilocks zone because planets orbiting at that just right distance from a star are not too hot or too cold to host liquid water.
- The *distance Earth orbits the Sun is just right for water to remain a liquid. This distance from the Sun is called the habitable zone, or the Goldilocks zone.*

#### 4. XBB1.16

##### In News

XBB1.16 is pushing up COVID cases but no alarming severity yet.

##### About Recombinations of Virus

- *A co-infection of multiple lineages of the virus could result in recombinations between genomes* which can give rise to chimeric genomes also called *recombinants*.
- There is a rare possibility that recombination could result in the creation of a new lineage of the virus with better functional capabilities than either of the parent lineages.

#### 5. Bharat 6G vision document

##### In News

PM Modi unveils India's 6G vision document.

##### About the Document

- Bharat 6G vision document is *prepared by Technology Innovation Group on 6G (TIG-6G)*.
- The document will be key in boosting the faster adaptation of new technology in India.
- TIG-6G was constituted in 2021.
- It was constituted to develop roadmap and action plans for 6G in India.
- It has *members from various Ministries/Departments, research and development institutions, academia, standardisation bodies, Telecom Service Providers and industry.*

##### About 6G

- It is a future technology and conceived as a *far superior technology promising internet speeds up to 100 times faster than 5G*.
- 6G promises to offer *ultra-low latency with speeds up to 1 terabits per second*.
- It will support a lot of sustainability as most of the 6G supporting devices will be battery powered, added the document.

- It will use significantly advanced network devices, including **MIMO (multiple input, multiple output) antennae**.
- 4G uses 2x2 MIMO and 4x4MIMO, and 5G uses around 200 antenna elements, 6G may support upto 1024 antenna elements.
- It will be beneficial to the advancement of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

## 6. Ethical guidelines for AI usage in healthcare

### In News

**ICMR releases ethical guidelines for AI usage in healthcare.**

Released by: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Health Research.

### Why the guidelines?

- The purpose of these guidelines is to **ensure ethical conduct** and address emerging ethical challenges **in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in biomedical research and healthcare**.
- These guidelines are meant to provide a framework for ethical decision-making in medical AI.
- Applications of AI in Healthcare
  - ✓ Diagnostics and Screening
  - ✓ Therapeutics, Drug Discovery and Development
  - ✓ Clinical Care
  - ✓ Epidemiology and Prevention of Disease
  - ✓ Behavioral and Mental Healthcare
  - ✓ Health Management Systems using AI

## 7. Biotransformation Technology

### In News

Explained | What is Biotransformation technology?

### What is Biotransformation?

- Biotransformation technology is a **novel approach to ensure plastics that escape refuse streams are processed efficiently and broken down**.
- It was co-developed by the Imperial College in London, UK, and a Britain-based startup, Polymateria.

### About Biotransformation

- It is the *world's first technology that ensures polyolefins fully biodegrade in an open environment causing no micro plastics.*
- The technology would digest the plastic packaging waste naturally.
- It is *done with the help of microbes* and biodegrade the waste without leaving behind any microplastics.

**How it works?**

- *Plastics made using this technology are given a pre-programmed time.*
- During that time the manufactured material looks and feels like conventional plastics.
- *Once the product expires and is exposed to the external environment, it self-destructs and biotransforms into bioavailable wax.*
- *This wax is then consumed by microorganisms, converting waste into water, CO2, and biomass.*

**8. South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA)**

**In News**

NASA Is Tracking a Huge, Growing Anomaly in Earth's Magnetic Field.

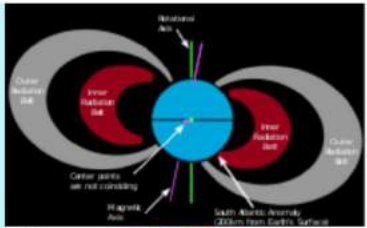
**About SAA**

- The South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA) is an area *where Earth's inner Van Allen radiation belt comes closest to Earth's surface*, dipping down to an altitude of 200 kilometres.
- The *SAA is the near-Earth region where Earth's magnetic field is weakest relative to an idealized Earth-centered dipole field.*
- The anomaly is not a new appearance but a recurrent magnetic event that may have affected Earth since as far back as 11 million years ago.
- The *space agency's satellites and spacecraft are particularly vulnerable to the weakened magnetic field strength within the anomaly.*

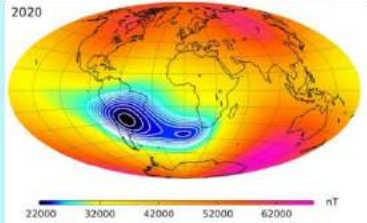
**South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA)**

**South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA)**

- It is a region at the Earth's surface where the intensity of the magnetic field is particularly low.
- It stretches out between South America and southwest Africa.
- Why it occurs?
  - Earth's magnetic field acts like a protective shield around the planet, repelling and trapping charged particles from the Sun.
  - SAA exists because the Earth's inner Van Allen radiation belt comes closest to the planet's surface, causing an increased flux of energetic particles.
  - This leads to the penetration of solar energetic particles deep into Earth's atmosphere, posing severe problems for airplanes and ships' positioning systems as well as spacecraft electronic systems.



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- It will result in exposure to charged particles from the Sun.
- *Radiation from the SAA has affected spacecraft, sometimes leading to their doom.*

## 9. Anji Khad bridge

### In News

A look at *India's first cable-stayed rail bridge*.

### About Anji Khad

- The Anji Khad bridge is an under-construction *cable-stayed bridge*.
- It will *connect Katra and Reasi Section of Jammu–Baramulla line*.
- The proposed bridge will connect tunnel T2 on Katra side and tunnel T3 on Reasi side.
- It is located in the picturesque mountains of the Himalayas.
- The cable-stayed bridge is a type in which the weight of the deck is supported by cables running directly to one or more towers.
- The bridge is supported by a single pylon — a large vertical tower-like structure.
- The total length of the bridge is 725 meters, out of which the cable-stayed portion is 473.25 meters.
- It can sustain winds blowing up to 216 kilometres per hour.

## Anji Khan Bridge



### Why in news?

- According to officials, the last deck portion of the Anji Khan bridge is expected to be completed soon.

### Anji Khan Bridge

- It is an under-construction railway bridge in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It will be the first cable-stayed railway bridge in India.
- It forms a part of the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link Project (USBRL) connecting Katra and Reasi Station on the Jammu-Baramulla line.
- It stands at the height of 331 metres above the Anji river bed.



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## **10. LVM3-M3 OneWeb India-2 mission**

### **In News**

ISRO puts 36 OneWeb satellites in orbit.

### **About the Mission**

- LVM3 M3/ OneWeb India-2 Mission is *the sixth consecutive successful flight of LVM3.*
- The vehicle *placed 36 satellites* belonging to the OneWeb Group Company in their intended 450 km circular orbit with an inclination of 87.4 degrees.

### **About LVM3 M3**

- *The Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM 3) is a three-stage medium-lift launch vehicle developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).*
- It was *previously referred as the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk3).*
- The LVM3 had *five consecutive successful missions, including the Chandrayaan-2 mission.*



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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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## DEFENCE/MILITARY EXERCISES

### 1. Exercise Sea Dragon 23

#### In News

Navy deploys P-8I for anti-submarine drills hosted by U.S. Navy.

#### About the Exercise

- Exercise Sea Dragon is a multi-lateral *Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise* for Long Range MR ASW aircraft, *conducted by the US Navy*.
- The participating Navies are - *United States, Canada, India, Japan, and South Korea*.
- Exercise Sea Dragon 23 is the *third edition of the exercise*.

### 2. AFINDEX-23

#### In News

India to host African Chiefs Conclave, field training exercise.

## AFINDEX



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#### Why in news?

- The Indian Army is set to host the second edition of the Africa-India field training exercise (AFINDEX-23) from March 21 to 30 and African Chiefs Conclave on March 28 in Pune.

#### AFINDEX

- The first Africa-India Field Training Exercise was held in Pune in March 2019.
- The exercise is divided into four phases in which trainers would be initially trained. This would be followed by a humanitarian mine action and a peace-keeping operations phase.
- Maximum use of indigenous equipment is being made during the exercise and new-generation equipment manufactured in India would be showcased during the exercise.
- Objective:
  - To continue building upon initiatives taken to strengthen India-Africa relations, with a focus on enhancing peace and security, and creating opportunities to exchange ideas and perspectives.
  - Learning from the African experience in cooperative security, management of security crises and conflicts, and promoting a collaborative approach in capacity enhancement of African armies



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### About AFINDEX

- AFINDEX is *Africa-India field training exercise*
- The *Indian Army is hosting the second edition, ie. AFINDEX-23.*
- *20 countries will be part of the exercise.*
- The objective is to continue to build upon the initiatives taken to strengthen *India-Africa relations.*

### 3. INS Androth

#### In News

Anti-submarine craft INS Androth launched.

#### About INS Androth

- INS Androth is an *Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC).*
- It was *built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata.*

## INS Androth



#### Why in news?

- The INS Androth, the second in a series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), was launched .

#### INS Androth

- Built by - Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata for the Indian Navy.
- Primary Role - To conduct anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, low-intensity maritime operations, and mine-laying operations.
- It is also capable of full-scale sub-surface surveillance of coastal waters and various surface platforms and coordinated ASW operations with aircraft.
- Features:
  - It is propelled by three diesel-driven water jets.
  - It can attain a maximum speed of 25 knots.
  - It carries lightweight torpedoes, ASW rockets and mines, a close-in weapon system (with a 30 mm gun), and 16.7 mm stabilized remote-controlled guns.
  - It will be fitted with hull-mounted sonar and a low-frequency variable depth sonar.



#### Do You Know?

Androth is a small inhabited island in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep

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- It is the *second of 08 x ASW Shallow Watercraft (SWC) Project.*

- The *first ship of the series, the INS Arnala, was launched in 2022.*
- The ship has been named Androth to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to *the island of Androth, Lakshadweep.*

#### 4. BrahMos missile Checkout Equipment (COE)


##### In News

BrahMos missile project has *achieved 75% indigenous capacity.*

##### About BrahMos Missile Project

- The project was aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in missiles programme by developing and producing a comprehensive range of missiles.
- It includes the intermediate range and short range ones.
- It is a *joint venture entity between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyenia (NPOM).*

## Brahmos Missiles



**Why in news?**

- BrahMos project achieves 75% indigenous capacity, says scientist of BrahMos Aerospace.

**Brahmos Missiles**

- Brahmos is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation of India and NPOM of Russia.
- It is named after the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva.
- It is a two-stage, solid propellant engine in the first stage and a liquid ramjet in the second.
- It can be launched from land, air, and sea and multi a capability missile with pinpoint accuracy
- It works both day and night irrespective of the weather conditions.
- It operates on the "Fire and Forgets" principle.
- These are called "standoff range weapons", fired from a range far enough to allow the attacker to evade defensive counter-fire.
- Brahmos is one of the fastest cruise missiles currently operationally deployed with the speed of Mach 2.8, which is nearly 3 times more than the speed of sound.
- The first test of the initial version of the Brahmos Air Launched Cruise Missile was conducted in 2017.

**Technical Specifications**


Maximum range	400+ km	Warhead mass	200-300 kg
Velocity	Mach 2.8	Altitude	■ Cruise: 15 km ■ Terminal: 10-15 metre
Weight	2.5 tonnes		

**Special Features**

- Universal for multiple platforms
- "Fire and Forget" principle of operation
- High supersonic speed all through the flight
- Long flight range with varieties of flight trajectories
- Low radar signature
- Shorter flight times leading to lower target dispersion and quicker engagement
- Pin point accuracy with high lethal power aided by large kinetic energy on impact

**Compared to existing state-of-the-art subsonic cruise missiles, BrahMos has**

- 3 times more velocity
- 2.5 to 3 times more flight range
- 3 to 4 times more seeker range
- 9 times more kinetic energy



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- The aim of the partnership was to design, develop, manufacture and market *world's only supersonic cruise missile system - BRAHMOS.*
- *The first successful launch of BRAHMOS took place on June 12, 2001.*

- The missile was test fired from its land-based launcher at the Interim Test Range off the Chandipur coast in Orissa.
- The *land-launched, ship-launched and air-launched versions* are already in service.
- A *hypersonic version of the missile, BrahMos-II, is also presently under development* with a speed of Mach 7–8. It was expected to be ready for testing by 2024.
- The indigenous capacity of BrahMos was only 30% in 1998, now 75% indigenous capacity has been achieved.

## 5. 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).

## 6. Project Akashteer and Sarang system

### **In News**

Army to get satellite, will help provide mission critical data.

- Ministry of Defence signed two contracts with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Ghaziabad to bolster the defence capabilities of the country.

### **About Project Akashteer**

- The first contract with BEL is for the procurement of Automated *Air Defence Control & Reporting System 'Project Akashteer'*.
- The Project Akashteer will empower the Air Defence units of the Indian Army with an indigenous, state-of-the-art capability, to effectively operate in an integrated manner.

### **Sarang systems**

- Sarang is an *advanced Electronic Support Measure system for helicopters* of the Indian Navy.

## **INDEX/REPORTS**

### **1. World Air Quality Report 2022**

#### **In News**

- *India had 12 of 15 most polluted cities in Central and South Asia in 2022.*
- Publisher: *Swiss firm IQAir*

#### **About the Report**

- It is the 5th Annual World Air Quality Report.
- It reveals alarming details of the world's most polluted countries, territories, and regions in 2022.

#### **Key findings of the Report**

- *The top five most polluted countries in 2022 were Chad, Iraq, Pakistan, Bahrain and Bangladesh*

#### **About Indian Air Quality**

- *Twelve of the 15 most polluted cities in Central and South Asia in 2022 were in India.*
- *Bhiwadi was the most polluted city in the country at an annual PM2.5 levels of 92.7 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.*

### **2. City Finance Rankings 2022**

#### **In news**

- Government launches City Finance Rankings 2022.
- Ministry: *Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs*
- Objective: To evaluate, recognise and reward municipal bodies across the country on the basis of the quality of their current financial health and improvement over time in financial performance.

#### **About the Ranking**

- It is a Rankings under which *urban local bodies in the country will be evaluated on the basis of their financial health.*
- The urban local bodies will be evaluated on *15 indicators across three key parameters.*
- *The three parameters are:*
  - ✓ *Resource mobilisation*
  - ✓ *Expenditure performance*
  - ✓ *Fiscal governance*
- *Quality Control of India (QCI) is the Project Monitoring Unit of ranking process.*

### About City Finance Platform

- The City Finance platform serves as a *national framework of standardized, timely and credible financial information on India's cities* (urban local bodies).

### 3. U.N. report on climate change

#### In News

- Nations approve key U.N. science report on climate change.
- Publisher: *U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*.

#### About the Report

- The report summarises the state of knowledge of climate change, its widespread impacts and risks, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- It *integrates the main findings of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)* based on contributions from the three Working Groups, and the three Special Reports.
- This report *recognizes the interdependence of climate, ecosystems and biodiversity, and human societies*
- Clean energy and technology can be exploited to avoid the growing climate disaster.
- Climate scientists warned a key global temperature goal will likely be missed.
- The report lays out how rapid cuts to fossil fuels can avert the worst effects of climate change.
- Small islands in the Pacific are some of the countries expected to be worst hit by climate change.
- By 2100 extreme coastal flooding that used to happen once-a-century is expected to occur at least annually in half of the world's tidal gauge locations.
- Dramatic changes can be achieved rapidly by a massive falls in the price of energy made from solar and wind.

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

- It is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations responsible for advancing knowledge on human-induced climate change.
- It was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Headquarter - Geneva, Switzerland.
- Function - To provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

**ipcc**  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON  
climate change

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- Changes driven by consumers in terms of diet, food waste and switching to low carbon transport can achieve significant cuts in emissions.

#### 4. Global Terrorism Index (GTI)

##### In News

- India one of the most impacted countries from terror, D-Company still present in Mumbai, says report.
- Publisher: *Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)*

##### What is GTI?

- The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) is a report on terrorism around the world **published annually by the IEP**.
- It is a comprehensive study analysing the impact of terrorism for 163 countries covering 99.7 per cent of the world's population.
- GTI is a composite measure made up of **four indicators: incidents, fatalities, injuries and hostages**.

##### Key findings of GTI 2023

- *Afghanistan remains the country most impacted by terrorism for the fourth consecutive year.*
- *India ranked 13th on the index, marking only a marginal decrease from the previous year.*

## Global Terrorism Index 2023



### Why in news?

- The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) corrected its report related to Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2023 after the Communist Party of India (CPI) was wrongly included in the list of deadliest terror groups of 2022.

### Global Terrorism Index 2023

- Released by - Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).
- The index provides a comprehensive summary of the key global trends and patterns in terrorism over the past 15 years.
- The report ranks 163 countries (99.7% of the world's population) on the impact of terrorism.
- Indicators: Include the number of terrorist incidents, fatalities, injuries, and hostages.

### Highlights of Global Terrorism Index 2023:

- Afghanistan retains the top spot on the list of the country impacted by terrorism. Afghanistan has topped for the fourth consecutive year.
- India ranked 13th on the index, marking only a marginal decrease from the previous year.
- Pakistan saw the second-largest increase in terror-related fatalities globally last year, with a total of 643 dead.
- Military people made up at least 55% of all casualties of terrorism.

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## 5. Deforestation Report by Our World in Data

### In News

- India lost 668,400 ha of forest cover in the last 30 years.
- Publisher: *Our World in Data*

### About the Report

- India ranked the *second highest for the rate of deforestation*.
- India had lost 668,400 hectares of forest cover in the last 30 years.
- Brazil and Indonesia clocked in at first and third ranks.
- India also topped the chart for biggest increase in deforestation between 1990 and 2020.
- The biggest contributor to increased deforestation is climate change.



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**K AMAN CHANDRAN IFS**  
Third Secretary (PIC)  
Embassy of India – Madrid, Spain  
UPSC2019 Rank : 197



The Enlite team has supported and guided me throughout my UPSC journey. Whether it was the PCM classes, prelims and mains test series, philosophy optional preparation, or interview guidance, Enlite provides the best possible standards in the country. The atmosphere at Enlite is friendly and conducive to an ideal study environment. Nobody understands the demand of the exam better than Enlite!

**ADHARSH RAJEENDRAN IAS**  
Andhra Pradesh Cadre  
UPSC2019 Rank 405



ENLITE IAS is the best option for civil service aspirants in Trivandrum. I have attended their prelims and mains test series, answer writing sessions and interview guidance programme and I can definitely say that you can't get a better option in Kerala other than Enlite IAS.

**ANGEL RAJ**  
Indian Postal Service  
UPSC2018 Rank : 623



I stand tall on the shoulders of "TEAM ENLITE" I attended the MTS and Last Lap courses of Enlite IAS. The individualized feedback by subject experts were truly a game changer for me in this attempt. For the interview Mahesh sir and Abhilash sir were instrumental in giving me an analytical and focused outlook on current events. I thank Mahesh Sir who could calm any stressed student with wise words and entire team (Abhilash sir, Abu sir, Abu Cherian sir) for truly enlightening my civil service preparation.

**AKHIL SANALKUMAR IAAS**  
Deputy Accountant General,  
Indian Audit and Accounts Department (CAG India)  
UPSC2016 Rank 452



The courses offered by the institute is of the highest quality with candidates being given individual attention so as to rectify the issues in their style and develop in a well-rounded manner. In short, Enlite IAS is a one-stop solution for all civil service aspiring candidates.

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