



# ENLITE IAS

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**ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT**

## INDEX

### POLITY

1. Cinematograph Bill
2. Multi-State Cooperative Bill
3. Biological Diversity Act
4. IIM Bill
5. Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill
6. Delhi services Bill
7. Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill
8. Anusandhan National Research Foundation Bill 2023
9. Rohini Commission
10. Mines and Mineral Bill 2023
11. Mediation Bill, 2023
12. National Dental Commission Bill, 2023
13. Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023
14. Indian Space Policy – 2023
15. Criminal Justice System

### ENVIRONMENT

1. Himalayan vulture
2. Typhoon Doksuri
3. Indian Eagle-Owl
4. River Rejuvenation Project Devika
5. Mudumalai National Park
6. Blue Crab

### SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

1. National Mission on Libraries Scheme
2. Meri Mati Mera Desh
3. Vivad se Vishwas – II
4. Rajmargyatra
5. Samudrayaan project
6. National Overseas Scholarship schemes
7. Nationwide Digital Life Certificate
8. Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development Programme
9. Digi Yatra

### INTERNATIONAL

#### ORGANISATIONS/INITIATIVES

1. Cocos Islands
2. Yazidi minority
3. Niger

### ECONOMY

1. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)
2. Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act
3. Sagar Setu
4. Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS)
5. Industrial Corridor Projects
6. One District One Product

**HISTORY/ART & CULTURE**

1. Pen monument project
2. Perucetus colossus
3. Rang Mahotsav
4. Quit India Movement

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

1. National Deep Tech Start-up Policy
2. Polar research vessel
3. Synthetic human embryos
4. OS Maya
5. Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)

6. Lymphatic Filariasis
7. Renewable Energy Microgrid Power Plant
8. Luna-2

**DEFENCE**

1. Exercise Malabar
2. C-130J Super Hercules

**INDEX/REPORTS**

1. State of Elementary Education in Rural India report
2. Third National Communication (TNC) report

## POLITY

### 1. Cinematograph Bill

#### In news

Cinematograph Amendment Bill, 2023 aimed at curbing film piracy.

#### About the Bill

- Recently, the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was passed by the Parliament after getting the nod from the Lok Sabha.
- The bill was passed by the Parliament *amending the Cinematograph Act after 40 years* as the last significant amendments in the *Cinematograph Act, 1952* were made in the year *1984*.

#### Provisions of the Bill

- Provisions to *Check Unauthorised Recording and Exhibition of Films Amounting to Piracy*
- Introduction of *age-based categories of certification* by further sub-dividing the *existing UA category into three age-based categories*.
- *Omission of Revisional Powers of Central Government* as per judgment of *Supreme Court* in the case of *K.M. Shankarappa vs Union of India (2000)*.
- Removal of the restriction in the Act on validity of certificate for only 10 years to *perpetual validity of certificates* of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).
- *Recertification of the edited film for Television broadcast*, as only *Unrestricted Public Exhibition* category films can be shown on television.
- *Omission* of references to the erstwhile *State of Jammu and Kashmir* in line with the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.
- The bill aims to comprehensively curb the menace of ‘Piracy’ causing losses to the film industry.
- The provisions include strict *punishment* of minimum 3 months imprisonment and fine of Rs. 3 lakhs which can be extended up to 3 years imprisonment and fine upto 5% of the audited gross production cost.

## Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)



### Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)

- It is also known as the Censor Board.
- It is a statutory body under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.
- It regulates the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952.
- Mission
  - Ensuring healthy entertainment, recreation and education to the public.
  - Making the process of certification more transparent and responsible.
  - Creating awareness among advisory panel members, media and filmmakers about the guidelines for certification and the current trend in films through meetings and workshops.
  - Adopting modern technology for the certification process by computerisation and technology infrastructure.

**Under the axe**

There have been over 1,000 cuts/revisions demanded in 300 movies cleared for screening in cinema halls over the past three months or so

<b>PAST CONCERNS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Violence</li> <li>■ Sexual content</li> <li>■ Abusive language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Security of the State</li> <li>■ Friendly relations with foreign States</li> <li>■ Mentions of the government, PM</li> </ul>
<b>SOME RECENT ADDITIONS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Integrity of India</li> <li>■ With Film Certification Appellate Tribunal abolished in 2021, appeals can only be made in a High Court</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reference to beef</li> </ul>



**Arbitrary cut:** The Telugu version of the film *Gulu Gulu* was ordered to remove a reference to "India Prime Minister", with no explanatory note

- Maintaining transparency about CBFC's activities through voluntary disclosures replies to RTI queries, implementation of e-governance and annual report publication.
- Developing CBFC as a centre of excellence.

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## 2. Multi-State Cooperative Bill

### In News

Rajya Sabha passes Multi-State Cooperative Bill.

### About Multi-state co-operative societies

- Multi-state co-operative societies *operate in more than one state*. They operate in various sectors such as agriculture, textile, poultry, and marketing.
- *States regulate* the incorporation, regulation, and winding up of *state co-operative societies*.
- *Parliament can legislate* on matters related to incorporation, regulation, and winding up of *multi-state co-operatives*.
- The *Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002* provides for the formation and functioning of multi-state co-operatives.
- The *2011* the Act was amended to specify guidelines for running co-operative societies.

### About the Bill

- The Bill was introduced in 2022 to amend the Act in order to *align its provisions with those provided under Part IXB of the Constitution*.
- The Bill was referred to a *Joint Committee* and it submitted its report in 2023 and agreed with most of the provisions of the Bill.

### Highlights of the Bill

- It *establishes the Co-operative Election Authority* to conduct and supervise elections to the boards of multi-state co-operative societies.
- A multi-state co-operative society will *require prior permission of government authorities before the redemption of their shareholding*.
- A *Co-operative Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development Fund* will be established for the revival of sick multi-state co-operative societies.
- The Bill *allows state co-operative societies to merge into an existing multi-state co-operative society, subject to the respective state laws*.

### 3. Biological Diversity Act

#### In News

Rajya Sabha passes amendments to Biological Diversity Act.

#### About the Act

- The Biological Diversity Act was passed by Parliament in **2002**.
- The Act regulates *access to biological resources and associated traditional knowledge*.
- It specifies distinct frameworks for *regulating access by foreign and domestic entities*.
- It sets up a *three-tier structure for regulation*.
- The Act provides for *sharing of benefits with conservers of biodiversity and holders and creators of associated knowledge*.

#### About the Amendment Bill

- The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in Lok Sabha.
- It was subsequently referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

#### Highlights of the Bill

- The Bill amends the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to *simplify compliance requirements for domestic companies*.
- Users of *codified traditional knowledge and AYUSH practitioners* will be *exempted from sharing benefits with local communities*.
- The Bill *removes research and bio-survey activities* from the *purview of benefit sharing requirements*.
- *Benefit sharing* will be *based on terms agreed between the user and the local management committee represented by the National Authority*.
- The Bill *decriminalises all offences under the Act*.

#### 4. IIM Bill

##### In News

The IIM Bill is a bold move.

##### About the bill

- The Indian Institute of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was introduced to **amend the Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017**.
- The 2017 Act declares Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) as **institutes of national importance** and regulates their functioning.

##### Provisions of the Bill

- The Bill designates the **President of India as Visitor of every Institute covered by the Act**.
- The Bill mandates the **Board of Governors to obtain the prior approval of the Visitor before appointing an Institute Director**.
- The **procedure for selecting the Director will be prescribed by the central government**.
- The Bill **reduces the number of Search Committee members from three to two, and adds another member to be nominated by the Visitor**.
- The Bill amends that the **Chairperson of the Board of Governors will be nominated by the Visitor**.
- The Bill removes all the existing provisions, and proposes a new procedure for inquiries. It confers the **power of inquiry upon the Visitor**.
- The Bill provides that the **central government** may prescribe the **conditions and procedure for dissolving or suspending an Institute's Board**.
- The Bill amends that the **Chairperson of Co-ordination Forum will be nominated by the Visitor**.
- The Bill classifies the **National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE), Mumbai as IIM, Mumbai**.

#### 5. Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill

##### In News

Rajya Sabha passes Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 in Parliament.

##### About the Jan Vishwas Bill

- The Bill was first introduced in 2022 and was referred to the Joint Committee of the Parliament.
- A total of 183 provisions are being **proposed to be decriminalized** in 42 Central Acts administered by 19 Ministries/Departments.

- The bill proposes following measures for effective implementation:
  - Pragmatic **revision of fines and penalties** commensurate to the offence committed
  - Establishment of **Adjudicating Officers**
  - Establishment of **Appellate Authorities**
  - **Periodic increase** in quantum of fine and penalties

#### **Benefits of the Amendment Bill**

- It will contribute to **rationalizing criminal provisions** and ensuring that citizens, businesses and the government departments operate without fear.
- It establishes a **balance** between the *severity of the offence/violation committed* and the *gravity of the prescribed punishment*.
- The amendments proposed in the Bill are to **introduce suitable administrative adjudication mechanisms**, wherever applicable and feasible.
- **Decriminalization of provisions** which affect citizens and certain categories of government employees will help them live without the fear of imprisonment for minor violations.

### **6. Delhi services Bill**

#### **In News**

Lok Sabha passes Delhi services Bill amid Opposition walkout.

#### **About the Bill**

- The bill is known as **The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023**.

#### **Highlights of the Bill**

- The Bill establishes the **National Capital Civil Services Authority**
- It consists of the *Chief Minister, Chief Secretary of Delhi, Principal Home Secretary of Delhi*.
- The Authority will make **recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor (LG)** regarding *transfers and postings of officials and disciplinary matters*.
- The Bill **empowers the LG to exercise his sole discretion** on several matters including those recommended by the National Capital Civil Services Authority,
- LG will have the **power for summoning, prorogation and dissolution of the Delhi Legislative Assembly**.
- It *authorises department secretaries* to bring to the notice of the LG, the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary *any matter that may bring Delhi Government into controversy with the Central Government*.



### Background of the Bill

- *Union Territories (UTs)* are directly governed by the President or an administrator appointed by the President.
- The *Delhi Legislative Assembly* has the power to legislate over *subjects in the State List and Concurrent List, except for police, public order and land.*
- *Parliament* has the power to *legislate over all matters in the State and Concurrent Lists related to Delhi.*
- The *Lieutenant Governor (LG)* is designated as the administrator of Delhi, operating with the *aid and advice of the council of ministers of Delhi.*
- The question of power-sharing between the Delhi government and central government has been *raised before the Supreme Court on several occasions.*
- The *Court ruled that the Delhi government will have control over services in Delhi.*
- The GNCTD (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 was promulgated.
- The *Ordinance has been challenged in the Supreme Court, which has started hearing the petition.*
- The *GNCTD (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was introduced and it repeals the Ordinance.*

## 7. Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill

### In News

Lok Sabha passes Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill – 2023

### About the Bill

- The bill seeks to *empower Commander-in-Chief and Officer-in Command of Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) with all disciplinary and administrative powers.*
- It will pave the way for much *greater integration and jointness* amongst the **three Services.**
- The Bill empowers the Central Government to constitute an Inter- Services Organisation.
- The enactment of the Bill will have various tangible benefits
  - *Maintenance of effective discipline* in inter-services establishments by the Heads of ISOs.
  - *No requirement of reverting personnel* under disciplinary proceedings to their parent Service units.
  - *Expeditious disposal of cases* of misdemeanour or indiscipline and saving of public money & time by avoiding multiple proceedings.

## 8. Anusandhan National Research Foundation Bill 2023

### In News

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh introduces a Bill to establish the Anusandhan National Research Foundation in the Lok Sabha.

### About Anusandhan National Research Foundation Bill

- The Bill provides for establishing the *Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF)*.
- It *repeals the Science and Engineering Research Board Act, 2008* and *dissolves the Science and Engineering Research Board* set up under it.

### About NRF

- NRF will be the *apex body* in the country to *provide strategic direction for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship* in the fields of:
  - *Natural sciences including mathematics*
  - *Engineering and technology*
  - *Environmental and earth sciences*
  - *Health and agriculture*
  - *Scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences.*
- NRF will have a *Governing Board* headed by the *Prime Minister of India*, which will provide *strategic direction* to the Foundation and *monitor the implementation*.
- The Foundation will have an *Executive Council* to undertake *implementation* and *Principal Scientific Advisor* will be the *chairperson of the Council*.

### Functions of NRF

- Preparing *short-term, medium-term, and long-term roadmaps* and formulating programs for research and development (R&D)
- Facilitating and *financing the growth of R&D and related infrastructure* in universities, colleges, and research institutions
- *Providing grants* for research proposals
- Supporting *translation of research into capital intensive technology*
- Encouraging *international collaboration*
- *Encouraging investments* in the Foundation by *private and public sector entities*
- Undertaking *annual survey* of scientific research, outcomes, and spending.

## 9. Rohini Commission

### In News

Why are Justice Rohini panel's findings important?

### About the commission

- The *President had formed* the Commission headed by former Delhi High Court Chief Justice G. Rohini in October 2017.
- It was to *examine the question of sub-categorising* of over 2,600 caste groups listed in the *Central OBC list*.
- The Commission was tasked with *first examining how much of 27% reservation meant for OBCs was dominated by which caste groups*.
- It explores *ways of sub-categorising these existing OBC groups* in order to make sure *benefits can be redistributed equitably*.
- The Commission was tasked to *work out a formula* for breaking up the caste groups in a way that would make the highest share of the 27% reservation pie available to the groups that have historically been crowded out.
- The Commission was also tasked with *rationalising the Central OBC list* by suggesting corrections and replacements in spellings.
- It throws up exact numbers on OBC communities that have availed benefits since reservation for them began in 1992.

## 10. Mines and Mineral Bill 2023

### In News

How does the Mines and Mineral Bill 2023 plan to bring the private sector into mineral exploration?

### About the Bill

- The Bill was introduced to *amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957*, which *regulates the mining sector*.
- For regulation, the Act *classifies mining-related activities* into:
  - *Reconnaissance*, which involves a *preliminary survey to determine* mineral resources
  - *Prospecting*, which includes *exploring, locating, or proving* mineral deposits
  - *Mining*, the *commercial activity of extraction* of minerals.

### Provisions of the Bill

- The Act *prohibits pitting, trenching, drilling, and sub-surface excavation* as part of reconnaissance. The *Bill allows these prohibited activities*.

- The **Bill introduces an exploration licence**, which will authorise either reconnaissance or prospecting, or both activities for specified minerals.
- The **Bill declassifies the six minerals** which were *classified as atomic minerals under the Act*.
- The **exploration licence** will be *granted by the state government through competitive bidding*.
- The **central government** will **prescribe details** such as manner of auction, terms and conditions, and bidding parameters for exploration licence **through rules**.
- The Bill **allows activities under a single exploration licence in an area up to 1,000 square kilometres**.
- The **licencee must submit a geological report** regarding findings *within three months of the completion of operations*.
- The **auction for composite licence and mining lease for specified critical and strategic minerals** will be **conducted by the central government**.

## 11. Mediation Bill, 2023

### In News

Lok Sabha passes mediation Bill

### About the Bill

- It is a Bill that **aims to cut down the time to complete mediation proceedings**.
- It will **halve the time for completing mediation proceedings to 180 days**.
- The Bill, makes **pre-litigation mediation voluntary instead of mandatory**.
- It also **sets up a Mediation Council of India** by central government, which would be **a neutral third party**.
- Any party **before filing any suit or proceedings** of civil or commercial nature in any court, shall **take steps to settle the disputes by pre-litigation**.
- **Pre-litigation mediation** is defined as a **process of undertaking mediation**, for settlement of disputes **prior to the filing of a suit or proceeding** of civil or commercial nature.
- It **introduces a list of disputes under "Schedule-I"**.
- The list includes disputes involving allegations of serious and specific fraud, fabrication of documents, forgery, impersonation, coercion, criminal offences etc.
- It will **consists** of a chairperson, two full-time members, three ex-officio members and a part-time member from an industry body.
- The Bill introduces the **concept of "Community mediation"**.

## 12. National Dental Commission Bill, 2023

### In News

National Dental Commission Bill, 2023 Passed by the Parliament to Elevate Dental Education and Healthcare Standards.

### About the Bill

- The bill was introduced to *enhancing healthcare quality and aligning dental education with global standards.*
- It will introduce a groundbreaking **regulatory framework** by *establishing the National Dental Commission (NDC).*
- It will **replace the existing Dental Council of India (DCI)** and **repeal the Dentists Bill, 1948.**

### Key features of the Bill

- Constitution of **National Dental Commission** and **State Dental Councils.**
- Formation of **Three Autonomous Boards.**
- Introduce a **fixed tenure** for the Chairperson Members, and Secretary of the Commission.
- Recognizing the importance of **Industry Collaboration and Technological Innovation**
- Provide an **Online National Register** and **Dental Advisory Council**
- The **appointments** will be a **merit-based selection process conducted by a Search-cum-Committee**
- It will facilitate **joint sittings** with relevant statutory bodies.
- It will frame **guidelines for fee determination** for fifty percent of seats in private dental colleges and deemed Universities.

## 13. Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023

### In News

Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023 clear by both Houses of Parliament of India.

### About the Bill

- The Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment ) Bill, 2023 passed to reiterate that the **coastal aquaculture and activities are permitted activities within the CRZ under the CRZ notifications.**
- The Amendment Bill provides that the **registration granted under Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act shall prevail** and be **treated as valid permission under CRZ Notification.**
- It will enable lakhs of small marginal aquaculture farmers to **avoid the possible need for obtaining CRZ clearances from multiple agencies.**

- The amendment bill *replaces the imprisonment for a period up to 3 years* with suitable ***civil instruments*** such as penalty in line with the principle of decriminalizing civil transgressions.
- It provides for ***broad basing “coastal aquaculture”*** to comprehensively cover all activities of coastal aquaculture under the purview of the Act.
- It ***removes the ambiguity*** existing in the Principal Act between *the farm and other verticals of coastal aquaculture*.
- It has new provisions for empowering the Coastal Aquaculture Authority to better regulate the activities connected with coastal aquaculture.
- It provides for *fixing or adopting the standards for emission or discharge of effluents* from coastal aquaculture units.
- It will make the ***owner liable to pay*** the cost of demolition and cost of damage to the environment.
- It will introduce ***global best practices*** such as mapping and zonation of aquaculture areas.

#### 14. Indian Space Policy – 2023

##### In News

The Indian Space Policy – 2023 opens up the sector for enhanced participation of Non-Government Entities (NGEs).

##### About Indian Space Policy – 2023

- The Indian Space Policy – 2023 has been formulated as an overarching, composite and dynamic framework to implement the reform.  
It opens the doors for ***enhanced participation of Non-Government Entities (NGEs)*** in carrying out end-to-end activities in the space domain.

##### Key Highlights of the Policy

- Encouraging ***advanced Research & Development*** in space sector to sustain and augment the space program.
- Providing public goods and services using space technology for national priorities.
- ***Creating a stable and predictable regulatory framework*** to provide a *level playing field to Non-Government Entities in the Space sector through IN-SPACE*.
- Promoting space-related education and innovation, including support to space-sector start-ups.
- Using space as a driver for overall technology development.

## 15. Criminal Justice System

### In News

Centre to overhaul British-era IPC, CrPC, Evidence Act

### About the Bills

- Three new Bills were introduced to repeal the following which were enacted by the British
  - Indian Penal Code, 1860
  - Criminal Procedure Code, (1898), 1973
  - Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- Indian Penal Code, 1860 will be replaced by ***Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023***
- Criminal Procedure Code, 1898 will be replaced by the ***Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill, 2023***
- Indian Evidence Act, 1872 will be replaced by the ***Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023***
- The soul of the three new laws will be to protect all the rights given to Indian citizens by the constitution.
- The purpose will ***not be to punish but give justice.***
- The three laws made with Indian thought process will bring a huge change in our criminal justice system.

### Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill

- It will replace the Indian Penal Code.
- It will have 356 sections instead of the earlier 511 sections.
- 175 sections have been changed, 8 new sections have been added and 22 sections have been repealed.

### Bhartiya Suraksha Sanhita Bill

- It will replace CrPC
- It now has 533 sections.
- 160 sections of old law have been changed.
- 9 new sections have been added and 9 sections have been repealed.

### Bharatiya Sakshya Bill

- It will replace the Evidence Act.
- It will now have 170 sections instead of the earlier 167.
- 23 sections have been changed, 1 new section has been added and 5 have been repealed.

## ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Himalayan vulture

#### In News

Himalayan vulture bred in captivity for the first time in India.

#### About Himalayan vulture

- The Himalayan vulture or *Himalayan griffon vulture* is *native to the Himalayas and the adjoining Tibetan Plateau*.
- It is *one of the two largest Old World vultures and true raptors*.
- It is the *largest and heaviest bird found in the Himalayas*.
- It has *dark brown greater covert feathers, tail and wing quills*, but a *pale buff uniform upperside and paler tipped inner secondaries*.
- Its *legs are covered with buffy feathers* and vary in colour from *greenish grey to pale brown*.
- The *head is covered in down* which is *yellowish in adults* but *whitish in immature vultures*.
- They *feed on old carcasses* sometimes waiting a couple of days near a dead animal.

### Himalayan Vultures



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#### Why in news?

- Researchers have recorded the first instance of captive breeding of the Himalayan vulture in India at the Assam State Zoo, Guwahati.

#### Himalayan Vultures

- The Himalayan vulture or Himalayan griffon vulture is an Old World vulture.
- IUCN Status - Near Threaten
- Himalayan vultures are diurnal and mostly solitary.
- During winter they migrate to Indian plains.
- Habitat - The Himalayan vulture mostly lives the Himalayas on the Tibetan plateau (India, Nepal and Bhutan, central China and Mongolia) and is also found in the Central Asian mountains (from Kazakhstan and Afghanistan in the west to western China and Mongolia in the east).



#### Common Details About Vultures

- They act an important function as nature's garbage collectors and help to keep the environment clean of waste.
- Conservation Status
  - CITES: Appendix II
  - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I
- Conservation Initiatives
  - National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has approved an Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-2025. Key highlights of the plan include,
    - Vulture Conservation Centre
    - Vulture Safe zone

#### Threats Face by Vultures

1. Use of Diclofenac: A veterinary nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) in 2004 found in the carcass of cattle the vultures feed on.
2. Lack of Nesting Trees
3. Electrocution by power lines
4. Food Dearth and Contaminated Food



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## 2. Typhoon Doksuri

### In News

Death toll rises to 30 in northern China floods.

### About Typhoon Doksuri

- Typhoon Doksuri, known in the Philippines as *Super Typhoon Egay*, was a powerful, deadly and destructive *tropical cyclone*.
- Doksuri caused extensive damage in the Philippines, Taiwan, China and Vietnam, in 2023.
- The name "Doksuri" means *eagle in Korean*.
- Doksuri *started as a low-pressure area* in the Philippines, far off the coast of *Mindanao*.
- Doksuri showered most of the northern and central *Luzon Island* with heavy rains, triggering floods in various regions of Philippines.
- Doksuri moved towards *Fujian, China*, before rapidly weakening overland.

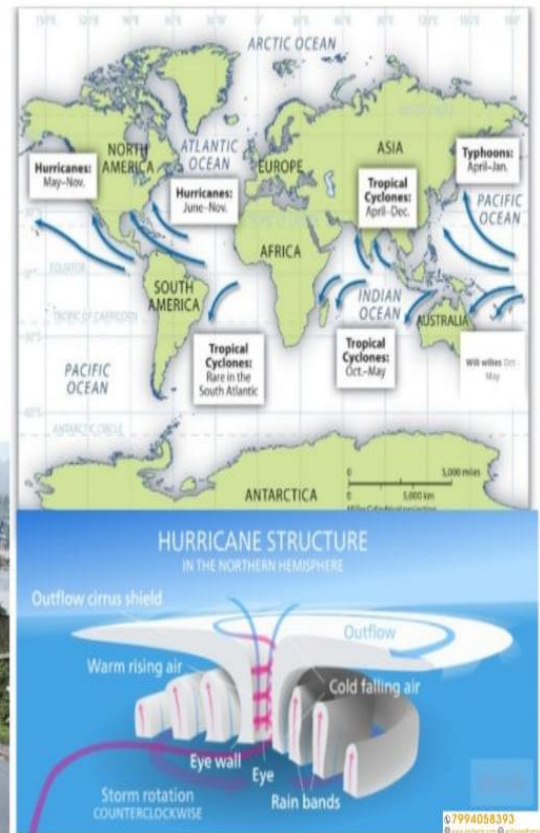
## Tropical Cyclone



**Why in news?** - Death toll rises to 30 in northern China floods caused by Typhoon Doksuri.

### Tropical Cyclones -

- Typhoons are name called to tropical cyclones in the East Asia region of Pacific Ocean.
- Tropical cyclones are violent storms that originate over oceans in tropical areas and move over to the coastal areas bringing about large scale destruction caused by violent winds, very heavy rainfall and storm surges.
- Condition for formation
  1. Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C.
  2. Presence of the Coriolis force.
  3. Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
  4. A pre-existing weak low- pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
  5. Upper divergence above the sea level system.



### 3. Indian Eagle-Owl

#### In News

The enigmatic Indian eagle-owl.

#### About Indian Eagle – Owl

- *Indian eagle-owl (Bubo bengalensis)* is a **large horned owl** species native to hilly and rocky scrub forests in the Indian Subcontinent.
- It is also known as the **Bengal eagle-owl** or **rock eagle-owl**.
- It was **classified as a species only in recent years, thus distinguishing it from the Eurasian eagle-owl**.
- The Indian species is **an imposing bird**.
- The female can reach a total length of two and a half feet, with a wingspan of six feet.
- Its ear tufts that look like horns are seen to project from its head.
- The Indian eagle-owl **does not have a dependency on forests**.
- They fed on rats, bandicoots, bats and doves.
- The Indian eagle-owls nesting near agricultural lands had more, and healthier, owlets than scrubland nesters.
- In rural India, many superstitions surround this bird and its loud double-hoot calls and are considered bearers of ill omens.



### 4. River Rejuvenation Project Devika

#### In News

North India's first River Rejuvenation Project Devika is nearing completion.

#### About the Project

- It is **North India's first River Rejuvenation Project** nearing completion.
- It is built at a cost of over Rs 190 crore **on the lines of Namami Ganga Project**.
- **Devika Rejuvenation Project** is being **constructed by UED** to protect its sanctity.
- The **sharing of fund allocation** is in the ratio of **90:10** by the **Centre and UT** respectively.

- A **Liquid Waste Management Project** and a **Solid Waste Management Project** will also be constructed under Devika Rejuvenation Project.

### About Devika River

- The Devika River flows through **Udhampur in J&K**.
- The Devika River is also known as the **sister of the river Ganges**.
- The river **originates near SuddhaMahadev Temple** in Udhampur, Jammu.
- Devika River is a **manifestation of the mother Goddess Parwati** herself to benefit the people of **Mader Desha** that covers areas between river **Ravi and Chenab**

## 5. Mudumalai National Park

### In News

President of India visits Theppakadu Elephant Camp at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

### About Mudumalai National Park

- Mudumalai National Park is a national park in the **Nilgiri Mountains** in **Tamil Nadu** in southern India.
- It was declared a **tiger reserve** together with a buffer zone of 367.59 km<sup>2</sup> in **2007**.
- It harbours **tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests** with 498 plant species, at least 266 bird species, 18 carnivore and 10 herbivore species.
- **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve** spread over 688.59 sq.km and plays a unique role by forming part of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve.

### About Theppakadu Elephant Camp

- Theppakadu is a village in the Nilgiris district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.
- **Theppakadu Elephant Camp**, one of Asia's oldest Elephant camps, at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.
- The camp was formed over in **1910** for elephants used by timber traders.
- The Elephants are used to give rides to tourists and for patrolling during the monsoon.
- Recently, it got global recognition for its **elephant care management** through **the Oscar winning documentary "The elephant whisperers"**

## Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

**Why in news?**

- President of India visits Theppakadu Elephant Camp at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

**Mudumalai Tiger Reserve**

- Location - Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu state at the tri-junction of three states Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- Part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
- Major Flora - Teak, Rosewood
- Major Fauna - Tiger, Asian Elephant, Malabar Giant Squirrel.



Tamil Nadu



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## 6. Blue Crab

### In News

Italy earmarks 2.9 million euros to tackle blue crab invasion.

### About Blue Crab

- It is a species of crab *native to the waters of the western Atlantic Ocean* and the *Gulf of Mexico*.
- Blue crabs are the most valuable *fishery in the Chesapeake Bay*.
- This crab *inhabits estuaries and brackish coastal lagoons*
- These crabs are *predacious* and *scavenge for food*.
- They *eat other crustaceans (including their own species), recently dead fish, plant materials, clams, oysters, worms, insects, and mussels*.
- The blue crab's mating season occurs between May and October.
- The female will lay up to *two million eggs* in a spongy mass that starts off an orange color, but gets closer to black as it comes time for the crabs to hatch.
- Blue crabs are *not threatened or endangered*.



### About Blue Crab Invasion

- The Blue Crabs have spread across several *lagoon-like locations in Italy*.
- The aggressive crab species is a *threat to the Clams production of Italy*.
- *Italy is Europe's biggest producer of clams, and the third largest in the world behind China and South Korea*.
- Italy's government has earmarked 2.9 million euros (\$3.2 million) to tackle the spread of the Blue Crabs.

## SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

### 1. National Mission on Libraries Scheme

#### In News

National Mission on Libraries Scheme Provides Financial Assistance to State Central Library and District Library in each State and UT.

#### About the Scheme

- To *revamp the Public Library System & Services*, and to *provide digital content based services to the citizens at large*, the **Ministry of Culture** has launched the scheme of **National Mission on Libraries (NML)**.
- **Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF)** was declared as the **nodal agency** for the National Mission on Libraries for administrative, logistic, planning and budgeting purposes.
- It works to **modernise and digitally link** nearly 9,000 libraries across India to provide readers access to books and information.
- The scheme was approved in 2013 and was launched in **2014**.
- It is providing service to the public under the following **four components**:
  - *Creation of National Virtual Library of India*
  - *Setting up of NML Model Libraries*
  - *Quantitative and Qualitative Survey*
  - *Capacity Building*
- The scheme **provides financial assistance** to state central library and district library in each State and Union Territory..
- RRRLF through its *matching and non-matching schemes provides financial assistance* to public Libraries for various purposes.

## 2. Meri Mati Mera Desh

### In News

Meri Mati Mera Desh campaign will be launched to honour our martyred braveheart men and women.

### About Meri Mati Mera Desh

### Meri Mati Mera Desh



**Why in news?**

- Meri Mati Mera Desh campaign will be launched.

**Meri Mati Mera Desh**

- Aim - The campaign is launched to honour our martyred braveheart men and women.
- Features
  - Special inscriptions will also be installed in lakhs of village panchayats of the country.
  - Under this campaign, 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' will also be organised across the country.
  - The Amrit Kalash Yatra' carrying soil in 7500 urns from every corner of the country will reach Delhi.
  - The journey will also carry with it saplings from different parts of the country.
  - Amrit Vatika' will be built near the National War Memorial by fusing the soil and saplings that would arrive in 7500 urns.



Meri Mati Mera Desh

- This 'Amrit Vatika' will also become a grand symbol of 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'.
- More than 60 thousand Amrit Sarovars will be built as part of the programme.

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### About Mission Amrit Sarovar

- Mission Amrit Sarovar has been launched in 2022 with an objective to **harvest and conserve water for future generation.**

### Features of Mission Amrit Sarovar

- Mission Amrit Sarovar is based on **“Whole of Government” approach** with the **participation of multiple ministries.**
- **Every district** of the country will **construct or rejuvenate at least 75 Amrit Sarovars.**
- Every **Amrit Sarovar**
  - will have a **pondage area of at least 1 acre with a water holding capacity of about 10,000 cubic metre.**
  - **Be surrounded by trees like Neem, Peepal and Banyan etc.**
  - **Be a source of generation of livelihoods.**
- Mission is a **visible manifestation of the action during Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.**

### 3. Vivad se Vishwas – II

#### In News

Government launches a one-time settlement Scheme Vivad se Vishwas – II

#### About Vivad se Vishwas – II

- The *Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance* has launched the scheme, Vivad se Vishwas II – (*Contractual Disputes*).
- It is to *effectively settle the pending contractual disputes of government and government undertakings*.
- The scheme was *announced in the Union Budget 2023-24* by the Union Finance Minister.
- A voluntary settlement scheme with standardized terms will be introduced.
- It will be done by *offering graded settlement terms depending on pendency level of the disputes*.
- The scheme will apply to *all domestic contractual disputes where one of the parties is either the Government of India or an organisation working under its control*.
- The *settlement amount* offered to the Contractor will be *up to 85% of the net amount awarded/ upheld by the court*.
- Eligible claims shall be *processed only through GeM*.
- For *non-GeM contracts of Ministry of Railways*, contractors may register their claims on *IREPS*.

#### Vivad se Vishwas – II



##### Vivad se Vishwas – II

- Ministry - Ministry of Finance
- The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24.
- Aim - It is a voluntary settlement scheme to resolve long-standing contractual disputes involving government agencies.
- Implementation - It will be implemented through an online functionality on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal.
- Coverage
  - The scheme will cover all disputes with Central government agencies, including autonomous bodies, public sector banks and financial institutions, central public sector firms, union territories, and the National Capital Territory of Delhi, along with their respective agencies.
  - However, organizations such as metro corporations, where the Centre holds a 50% stake, can choose to opt out of the scheme at their discretion, provided they secure board approvals.

### 4. Rajmargyatra

#### In News

NHAI Launches 'Rajmargyatra' a Unified Mobile Application for National Highway Users.

#### About Rajmargyatra

- 'Rajmargyatra,' a *citizen-centric unified mobile application for improving the highway user experience*.
- .

- This *user-friendly app* is now available for download.
- It *empowers travellers* with *comprehensive information* on *Indian National Highways* while also offering an *efficient complaint redressal system*.
- It will provide a *Seamless FASTag Services*.
- *Over-speeding notifications* and voice-assistance to encourage responsible and safe driving behavior.

## 5. Samudrayaan project

### In News

Samudrayaan project aims to send three personnel to 6 km depth in a submersible to study the deep sea resources.

### About Samudrayaan Project

- Samudrayaan project is *India's manned scientific submersible* that has been proposed to be developed for *deep ocean exploration*.
- It is under the *Deep Ocean Mission* of *Ministry of Earth Sciences*
- The Samudrayaan project is aimed to *send three personnel to 6000m* depth in a submersible.
- It is to study the *deep sea resources* and to *biodiversity assessment*.
- The project will *not disturb ecosystem* as the submersible is used for exploration of resources.
- *National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)* had developed and tested a '*personnel sphere*' for a manned submersible system for 500 metre water depth rating.
- A *Titanium alloy personnel sphere* for manned submersible system for *6000 metre* water depth rating, is under development in association with *Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre*.
- The vehicle under development is called *MATSYA*.
- The Deep Ocean Mission *supports the Blue Economy policy* of the Government.
- It has the potential for country's *GDP growth*, and envisages *sustainable utilization of ocean resources* for economic growth of the country.



## Deep Ocean Mission and MATSYA 6000



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### Deep Ocean Mission

- Ministry - Ministry of Earth Sciences
- Objective - To explore deep ocean for resources and develop deep sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.
- Six major components of the Deep Ocean Mission:
  - Development of technologies for deep sea mining, and manned submersible
  - Development of ocean climate change advisory services
  - Technological innovations for exploration and conservation of deep-sea biodiversity
  - Deep ocean survey and exploration
  - Energy and freshwater from the ocean
  - Advanced marine station for ocean biology

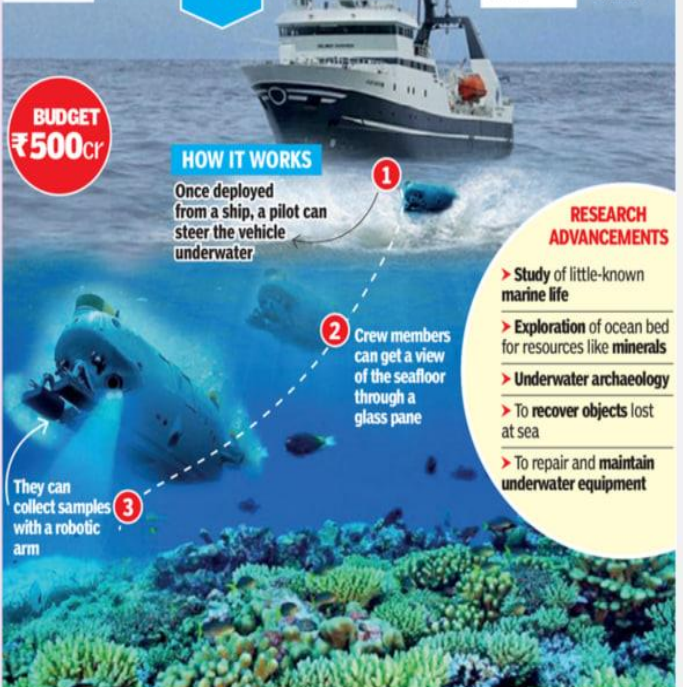
### Matsya 6000

- Matsya 6000, being developed under the Deep Ocean Mission.
- It will be capable of taking three humans to a depth of 6 km.
- The manned submersible facilitates the direct observation by the human in the deep ocean in exploring mineral resources rich in Nickel, Cobalt, rare earth, manganese and other resources which can be used for scientific analysis.

### EXPLORATIONS DOWN UNDER

Manned submersible may be useful in looking for minerals in central and southern Indian Ocean

SHAPE	MATERIAL	DIVING DEPTH	VITAL STATS	CAPACITY	DURATION	DEADLINE
Spherical with a diameter of 3.2m	Titanium. Metal can withstand pressure underwater	6km		Can accommodate a three-member crew	Can remain underwater for 6 to 8 hours	After Centre approves likely to be ready in 5 years



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## 6. National Overseas Scholarship schemes

### In News

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment implements two National Overseas Scholarship schemes.

### About the Schemes

- These schemes are under the *Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment*

#### The first scheme:

- Scheme for *students* from
  - *Scheduled Castes*
  - *Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes*
  - *Landless Agricultural Labourers*
  - *Traditional Artisans.*
- It is *implemented* by the *Department of Social Justice & Empowerment.*
- *Selections* are made for *study in top 500 QS ranked foreign Institutes/Universities* on the basis of *unconditional offer of admission.*
- At least *60% marks or equivalent grade* in the *qualifying examination* are required.
- The *total family income* including the candidate from *all sources* shall *not exceed Rs. 8.00 lakh per annum.*
- The *age* of the candidate shall *not be more than 35 years*

#### The Second scheme:

- It is *implemented* by *Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DoEPwD)* for *students with disabilities.*
- *For Ph.D., First class or 55%* marks or equivalent grade in relevant Master's Degree are required.
- *For Masters' Degree 55%* marks or equivalent grade in relevant Bachelor's Degree are required.
- The age of the candidate shall be *below 35 years*
- The *disbursement of fund* is done by *Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) through Indian Missions abroad.*
- The funds are *sanctioned to MEA* through *Letter of Authorization (LoA)* by *Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.*
- Funds are released to MEA from time to time on demand by the Indian embassy concerned in respect of any NOS student.

## 7. Nationwide Digital Life Certificate

### In News

DOPPW issues Comprehensive Guidelines for Nationwide Digital Life Certificate Campaign 2.0.

### About the Nationwide Digital Life Certificate

- *Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare* introduced *Digital Life Certificate (DLC)* to *enhance 'Ease of Living'* of *Central Government pensioners*.
- It is known as *Jeevan Pramaan* and is under *the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions*
- Initially *submission of DLCs using biometrics* was commenced.
- It developed a *Face Authentication technology* system based on *Aadhar database* whereby it is possible to give LC from *any Android based smart phone*.
- The identity of a person is established through face recognition technique and DLC gets generated.
- It reduced the dependence of pensioners on external bio-metric devices.
- It made the process *more accessible and affordable* to masses by leveraging smartphone-based technology.

### Nationwide Digital Life Certificate Campaign

- DoPPW launched *a nation-wide campaign* in 37 cities through-out the country to spread awareness amongst *all the Central Government pensioners*.
- The benefit of digital modes of Life Certificate submission reaches pensioners in the *remotest corners* of the country.
- Pensioners' Welfare Associations have been sensitized to hold camps for pensioners for DLC submission.

## 8. Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development Programme

### In News

Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development Programme being implemented till 2025-26

### About the Programme

- It is a scheme to *enable indigenous technology development and manufacturing* for wide spread applications of *new and renewable energy*, in an efficient and cost effective manner across the country.

- It is implemented through various *research institutions* and *industry*.
- The *Ministry Of New & Renewable Energy* encourages *research and technology development proposals in collaboration with the industry*.
- It will provide up to **100% financial support** to *Government/non-profit research organizations*
- It will provide **50-70% support** to *Industry, Start-ups, Private Institutes, Entrepreneurs and Manufacturing units*.

## 9. Digi Yatra

### In News

Digi Yatra to be launched at 6 more airports.

### About Digi Yatra

- Digi Yatra is a **decentralised mobile-based ID storage platform** conceived to achieve **contactless, seamless processing of passengers at airports** based on **Facial Recognition Technology (FRT)**.
- There is **no central storage of passenger's Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data**.
- All the passengers' data is **encrypted and stored** in the **wallet of their smartphone**.
- It is **shared only** between **the passenger and the airport of travel origin**.
- The passenger's Digi Yatra ID needs to be **validated at the travel origin airport**.
- The **data is purged** from the airport's system within 24 hours of departure of the flight.

### Objectives of DIGI YATRA

- Enhance passenger experience and provide a simple and easy experience to all air travellers.
- Achieve better throughput through existing infrastructure using "Digital Framework".
- Result in lower cost operations.
- Digitize current manual processes and to bring better efficiencies
- Enhance security standards and improve current system performance.

### Digi Yatra Foundation

- It has been set up as a joint venture (JV) company in 2019 under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- The Foundation was formed, with the objective of creating the Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem (DYCE).
- Digi Yatra Foundation will be a pan-India entity and the custodian of the Passenger ID validation process.
- It will also develop consensus amongst the Aviation Stakeholders in India.
- It would also define the criteria for compliance and guidelines for the local airport systems.

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## Digi Yatra

**Why in news?** - Digi Yatra facility will be launched at 6 more airports namely Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kochi, Lucknow, Jaipur, and Guwahati airports in the month of August 2023.

### What is Digi Yatra?

Digi Yatra is a facility that allows passengers to link their travel, identity documents with a facial scan – doing away with the need for them to show their boarding passes or ID cards at the airport

**WHAT IT PLANS TO ACHIEVE**  
It is conceived to achieve contactless, seamless processing of passengers based on facial recognition technology. Officials say it will help drastically cut down queues and waiting times at security check and boarding gates

**Where is it rolling out?**  
The scheme is originally rolling out for domestic passengers at the airports in three cities – Delhi, Bengaluru and Varanasi – from December 1, 2022. The first phase will also cover another four airports – Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, and Vijayawada – which will get the scheme by March 2023. Later it will be implemented across various airports in the country.

### HOW DOES THE NEW SYSTEM WORK?

**SETTING UP THE APP**

**Step 1** You download and install Digi Yatra app on your phone and complete your registration

**Step 2** You then have to either feed in your Aadhaar card to the app or link your Digi Locker app

**Step 3** You will be asked to take selfie that will record your facial features

**AT THE AIRPORT...**

**1 ENTRY GATE**

- First, you scan your boarding pass at the E-gate
- You will be asked to stand in a marked area, facing a camera which captures your facial data
- The gate opens as your facial data matches the boarding pass

**2 AT THE TERMINAL**

- You can visit the respective airline counter to drop off your check-in baggage, where your boarding pass will also be validated with a facial scan
- If you're performing a self-check-in, then you validate your boarding pass after a facial capture and match

**3 SECURITY CHECK AND BOARDING**

- You stand in a demarcated area where your face is scanned by the camera
- The E-gate opens once it matches your facial biometric with tickets and boarding pass

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/INITIATIVES

### 1. Cocos Islands

#### In News

Two Indian military aircraft visit Australia's strategic Cocos Islands.

#### About Cocos Island

- The **Cocos (Keeling)** Islands are an *Australian external territory* in the *Indian Ocean*.
- The islands lie 3,685 km *west of Darwin*, Northern Territory, on the northern Australian coast, and about 900 km *southwest of Christmas Island*.
- The Island has a total land area 5 square miles (14 square km) and population of 544.
- The islands became an Australian territory under the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955.
- In 1979 the residents of Home Island established the *Cocos Islands Council to administer local affairs*.
- In 1984 the Cocos Islanders voted in *favour of political integration with Australia*.
- An administrator appointed by the Australian governor-general is the senior governmental official in the Cocos.
- The *inhabitants* are predominantly the *descendants of the original plantation workers, mostly of Malay origin*.
- The *production and export of copra* is the territory's economic mainstay.



#### Strategic Importance of the Island

- The Island is a *strategic maritime choke point*.
- Cocos can be an important base for *refuelling and Operational Turnaround for the Indian military*.
- India aims to increase its military-to-military engagement, deepening interoperability in the region.
- Cocos Islands had been a *point of cooperation* between the *space agencies* of the two countries for *India's Gaganyaan human space flight mission*.
- A turnaround from the islands will enhance the on-station time of the Indian Navy's P-8Is to monitor movements into the Indian Ocean.

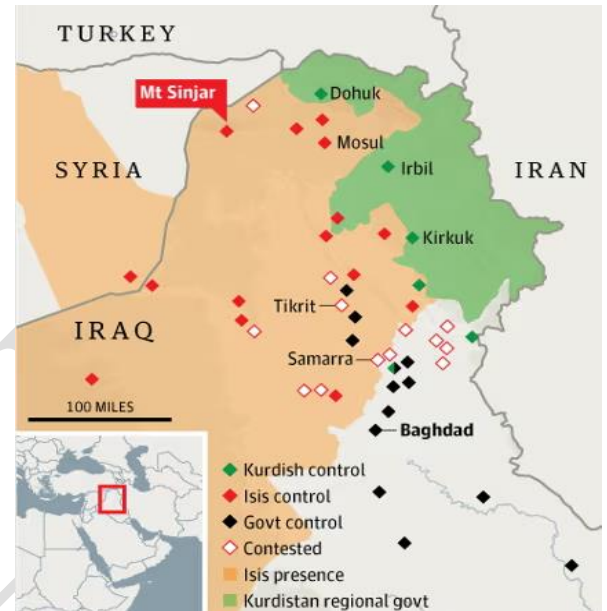
## 2. Yazidi minority

### In News

U.K. formally declares Islamic State atrocities against Iraq's Yazidi minority as genocide.

### About Yazidi

- Yazidis are *member of a Kurdish religious minority* found primarily in *northern Iraq, southeastern Turkey, northern Syria and Iran.*
- The Yazidi religion includes *elements of ancient Iranian religions* as well as *elements of Judaism, Nestorian Christianity, and Islam.*
- The Yazidis have a *well-organized society.*
- They have a *chief sheikh as the supreme religious head and an emir or prince, as the secular head.*
- The global number of Yazidis is estimated around 700,000 people.
- Their belief system is highly concerned with *religious purity*, and follow a *multiplicity of taboos governing aspects of daily life.*
- Contact with outsiders is discouraged, and they avoid military service and formal education.
- Their religious centre and object of the annual pilgrimage is the *tomb of Sheikh 'Adī*, in the town of Lalish, Iraq.



### About the History of Yazidis

- The origins of the Yazidi faith can be traced to areas of the *Kurdish mountains of northern Iraq.*
- A distinct Yazidi community living in the environs of Mosul appears in historical sources as early as the middle of the 12th century.
- The geographic spread and political power of the Yazidis increased in the 13th and 14th centuries.
- Under Ottoman rule in the 18th and 19th centuries alone, the Yazidis were subject to 72 genocidal massacres.

### 3. Niger

#### In News

Explained, what led to the coup in Niger?


#### About Niger

- Niger is a vast, arid country in *West Africa*, twice the size of France.
- It has a population of about 25 million.
- It is *largely-agrarian country* and is one of the poorest in the world.
- It has ranked low on the Human Development Index over the decades.
- It is vulnerable to the *extreme weather effects of climate change* which threatens its *food security*.
- It has *gold mining reserves* and *5-7% of the global production of uranium*.
- It was a *French colony until 1960*.
- It faced a long period of instability post-independence and was rocked by four military coups between 1974 and 2010.
- It has also faced the rise of Islamist extremist groups, armed local militias.

#### Recent developments

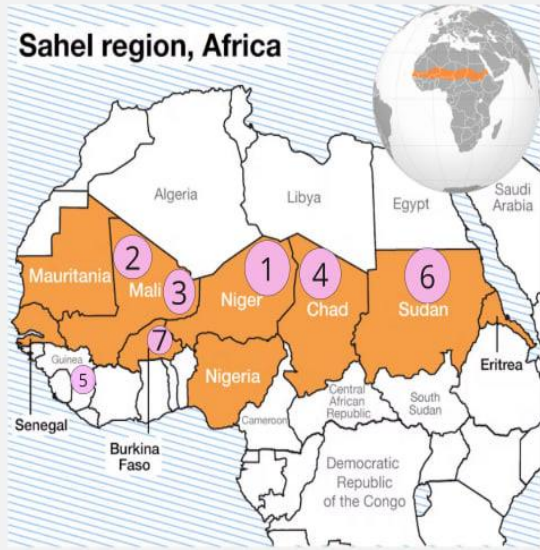
- The President, Mr. Bazoum, and his family were detained by elite troops in Niger.
- The troops declared that they now held power.
- All institutions in the country would be suspended, borders closed and a curfew imposed.
- The rationale behind the military takeover are “continued deterioration of the security situation” and “poor economic and social governance.”
- The country would now be run by a *newly formed military body, the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP)*.

**Coups in Africa**



World leaders condemned an attempted coup in Niger, calling for President Mohamed Bazoum - a key western ally - to be released. Seven coups since 2020 threaten sub-Saharan stability.

#### Sahel region, Africa



<p><b>1 Niger July 26, 2023</b> - Presidential guards members detained President inside palace in Niamey. Elected in February 2021, President Bazoum was Western support in the fight against violent extremism, corruption and widespread poverty.</p>	<p><b>4 Chad, April 2021</b> - Military takes control following death of President Idriss Deby after 30 year rule and Deby son declared President.</p>
<p><b>2,3 Mali, Aug, 2020</b> - President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita ousted. Second coup by Col. Assimi Goita in May 2021, French and UN peacekeeping expelled - Russian Wagner Group deployed.</p>	<p><b>6 Sudan, Oct. 2021</b> - Gen. Abdel Fattah al - Burhan arrests civilian prime minister Abdalla Hamdok and other political leaders just two years after Sudan began transition to full civilian rule.</p>
<p><b>5 Guinea, Sept. 2021</b> - Mamady Doumbouya ousts President Alpha Conde. After promising democratic reforms, Col. Doumbouya and fellow coup leaders arrest opposition leaders and restrict media freedom.</p>	<p><b>7 Burkina Faso, Jan 2022</b> - Army ousts President Roch Kabore. Following second putsch in September, junta leader Capt. Ibrahim Traore seizes power.</p>

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## ECONOMY

### 1. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)

#### In News

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in Indian economy increases from Rs. 32.78 lakh crore (constant 2011-12 prices) in 2014-15 to Rs. 54.35 lakh crore in 2022-23.

#### About GFCF

- GFCF is a *macroeconomic concept* used in official national accounts and *comprises fixed asset acquisitions minus disposals by resident producers*.
- The concept dates back to the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) studies of Simon Kuznets of capital formation in the 1930s, and standard measures for it were adopted in the 1950s.
- It *measures the value of acquisitions of new or existing fixed assets by the business sector, governments and "pure" households less disposals of fixed assets*.
- It consists of *resident producers' investments, deducting disposals, in fixed assets during a given period*.
- It also includes *certain additions to the value of non-produced assets realized by producers or institutional units*.
- The GFCF measure *does not make any adjustments to deduct the consumption of fixed capital (depreciation of fixed assets) from the investment figures*.
- GFCF in the Indian economy has *increased from Rs. 32.78 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs. 54.35 lakh crore in 2022-23*.

### 2. Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act

#### In News

'Save The Children' loses its FCRA permit.

#### About FCRA

- The *Foreign Contribution (regulation) Act, 2010* is an act of the Parliament of India and its scope is to *regulate the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality*
- The *FCRA registration* is a *mandatory* requirement for *receiving foreign funds*.
- The focus of this Act is to ensure that the foreign contribution and foreign hospitality is *not utilized to affect or influence electoral politics, public servants, judges and other people working in important areas*.
- The Act also seeks to *regulate flow of foreign funds to voluntary organizations with objective of preventing any possible diversion of such funds*.



- The government has *cancelled the FCRA registration of 1,827 NGOs in the last five years.*

#### **About Save The Children**

- Save The Children is a leading child rights organisation that focuses on *health, education, hunger and vulnerable children in conflicts.*
- It is present in 116 countries.
- In India it is active since 2008 and is known as *Bal Raksha Bharat* and is spread across 16 States.
- The organisation's request for renewal of its FCRA licence was rejected according to an order of MHA.

### **3. Sagar Setu**

#### **In News**

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launches Port Health Organisation (PHO) under Sagar Setu to enable faster & simpler ecosystem to promote Ease of Doing Business.

#### **About Sagar Setu**

- SAGAR SETU is the *mobile app version of National Logistic Portal (NLP) – Marine* under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- It gives *real-time information* on vessel-related details, gate information, container freight stations, and transactions.

#### **Port Health Organisation (PHO)**

- Port Health Organisation (PHO) *module under Sagar Setu - National Logistics Portal (Marine).*
- It is to *enable faster and simpler ecosystem to promote Ease of Doing Business (EODB).*
- PHO will conduct *disease surveillance, health inspection and quarantine measures* to safeguard citizens and port workers.
- It has been envisaged as a part of Ease of Doing business by covering features like request for PHO clearance certificates, approval by PHO, online certification generation, tracking of request status etc.
- It will help the Shipping Agents, PHO's, Port Authorities, Customs etc allowing easier access to functionalities of PHO clearance through online process.
- It will *boost maritime trade* by enhancing ease of doing business and *implementing digitisation process in Maritime process.*

## National Logistics Portal Marine



### Why in news?

- Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launches Port Health Organisation (PHO) under Sagar Setu to enable faster & simpler ecosystem to promote Ease of Doing Business.

### National Logistics Portal Marine

- Ministry - Ministry of Ports Shipping Waterways and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- Aim - To use IT to connect all logistics community stakeholders, to improve efficiency and transparency by reducing costs and time delays and achieving easier, faster, and more competitive service offerings.
- Features
  - NLP will serve as a single point of contact for all logistics trade processes across the country, including all modes of transportation via waterways, roads, and airways.



- It also enables digital transactions for payments required for the clearance processes such as Port charges, CFS charges, shipping line charges, transportation charges.

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## 4. Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS)

### In News

Union Home Minister will launch the digital portal of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS).

### About CRCS

- The Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies is ***appointed as per article 243ZH(f) of the Constitution and Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act 2002.***
- It is a ***statutory body*** responsible for ***registration*** and other processes of the Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS).
- The office of the Central Registrar is responsible for ***administering the Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002.***
- There are more than 1550 Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) registered in the country.

### Digital portal of CRCS

- The office of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies is being computerized to promote ***ease of doing business in the cooperative sector.***
- It will help to create a ***digital ecosystem***, including registration of new multi-state cooperatives.

- The new portal will *incorporate* the *recently passed amendments to the MSCS Act, 2002 and its rules*.
- The portal will have processing of applications/service requests in a time bound manner through *electronic work flow*.
- It will have provisions for *OTP based user registration, validation checks for compliance* with the MSCS Act and Rules.

## 5. Industrial Corridor Projects

### In News

Government of India developing 11 Industrial Corridor Projects across the country in phased manner.

### About Industrial Corridor Projects

- Industrial corridors help in recognizing the inter-dependence of various sectors and constitute world-class infrastructure.
- They offer *effective integration* between *industry and infrastructure*, leading to overall economic and social development.
- Government of India is *developing eleven (11) Industrial Corridor Projects* under the *Ministry of Commerce & Industry*
- It is part of the *National Industrial Corridor Programme* across the country.
- *National Industrial Corridor Development & Implementation Trust (NICDIT)*, provides funds as *equity/debt* for the development of the projects.
- It will be world-class trunk infrastructure in the industrial nodes/regions under industrial corridors.
- The *States are responsible* for making available *contiguous and encumbrance free land parcels*.
- *Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)* has sanctioned and released funds amounting to *Rs. 9,899.89 crore* for the Project.



## 6. One District One Product

### In news

One District One Product 'ODOP Wall' launched.

- *Ministry:* Ministry of Commerce & Industry

### About the ODOP

- The One District One Product (ODOP) program, an initiative under the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- It aims at *manifesting the vision to make the country and its people self-reliant by fostering balanced regional development* across all districts of the country.
- The program selects, brands, and promotes one unique product from each district.
- It showcase the diverse range of products across the country which encompasses various sectors, including handlooms and handicrafts.

### About ODOP Wall

- It is a joint effort of **One District One Product (ODOP) and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.
- The ODOP Wall was launched at the SARAS Aajeevika Store in New Delhi.
- It serves as a powerful symbol of synergy between the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Rural Development.
- The Wall illustrating the shared dedication to fostering local talents and economic growth.

## One District One Product (ODOP) Initiative



#### Why in news?

- One District One Product 'ODOP Wall' launched.
- **One District One Product (ODOP) Initiative**
- Ministry - Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- Launched - 2018
- Objective - To help districts reach their full potential, foster economic and socio-cultural growth, and create employment opportunities, especially, in rural areas.
- Aims
  - The initiative aims to select, brand, and promote at least One Product from each District of the country for enabling holistic socioeconomic growth across all regions.
  - ODOP Initiative aims to turn every district in India, into an export hub through promotion of the product in which the district specialises.
- The initiative plans to accomplish this by scaling manufacturing, supporting local businesses, finding potential foreign customers and so on, thus helping to achieve the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' vision.
- The ODOP Initiative has identified a total of 1102 products from 761 districts across the country.
- This initiative is carried out with the 'Districts as Exports Hub' initiative by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce.



#### ODOP Wall

- Ministry - Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- It is a joint effort of One District One Product (ODOP) and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
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## HISTORY/ART & CULTURE

### 1. Pen monument project

#### In News

Supreme Court dismisses challenge to Pen monument project.

#### About the Project

- It is the *proposed Monument off the Marina beach in Chennai in memory of the late DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi.*
- The monument, which will be *shaped like a giant pen,* will symbolize his contributions to *Tamil literature and culture, as well as his political legacy.*
- The project was announced in 2022 and is expected to cost Rs 81 crore and cover an area of 8,551 sq m in the Bay of Bengal.
- It will be connected with the access road having 650 metres in length and 9 metre in width from the existing Muthamizh Arignar Dr Kalaighnar memorial.
- It will incorporate regional motifs, architecture, and designs with Tamil heritage elements.
- The design of the monument is *based on the Veena,* a traditional Carnatic musical instrument.
- The *design for the landscaped garden on the memorial pedestal* is inspired by *Sikku Kolam.*



### 2. Perucetus colossus

#### In News

Massive extinct whale ‘may be heaviest animal that ever lived’.

#### About Perucetus colossus

- Perucetus colossus is an *extinct genus of early whale* from the *Eocene of Peru.*
- Its fossil was first *discovered more than a decade ago* by Mario Urbina of the University of San Marcos Natural History Museum in Lima.
- It was unearthed from the *Ica desert of Peru,* a region that was *once underwater and now known for its marine fossils.*
- An international team spent years excavating the side of the hill to reveal 13 vertebrae from the whale’s backbone, four ribs, and a hip bone.
- The enormous Perucetus colossus fossils, which are estimated to be *around 39 million years old.*

- Each of its vertebrae weighs over 220 pounds (100 kilograms), and the ribs stretch to nearly 5 feet (1.4 meters) in length.
- The research team applied *modern technology* to study the Perucetus colossus bones further.
- They utilized *3D scanners* to analyze the surface and even *drilled* into them to peek inside.
- Calculations indicated that the massive whale weighed somewhere between 94 and 375 tons (85 and 340 metric tons),
- Its body stretching to *around 66 feet (20 meters) long*.
- The density of its bones are much heavier than those of a blue whale.
- The new discovery is that it *can possibly the heaviest animal ever but not the longest*.

### 3. Rang Mahotsav

#### In News

Prime Minister has expressed delight on Arunachal Rang Mahotsav

#### About Rang Mahotsav

- Arunachal Rang Mahotsav is an initiative by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh to bring forward the *untold stories of Arunachal Pradesh's unsung heroes*.
- It is a celebration of Arunachal Pradesh's *rich cultural tapestry*.
- It aligns with the *principles of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*.
- It is being celebrated in *different parts of India* including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Guwahati.

### 4. Quit India Movement

#### In News

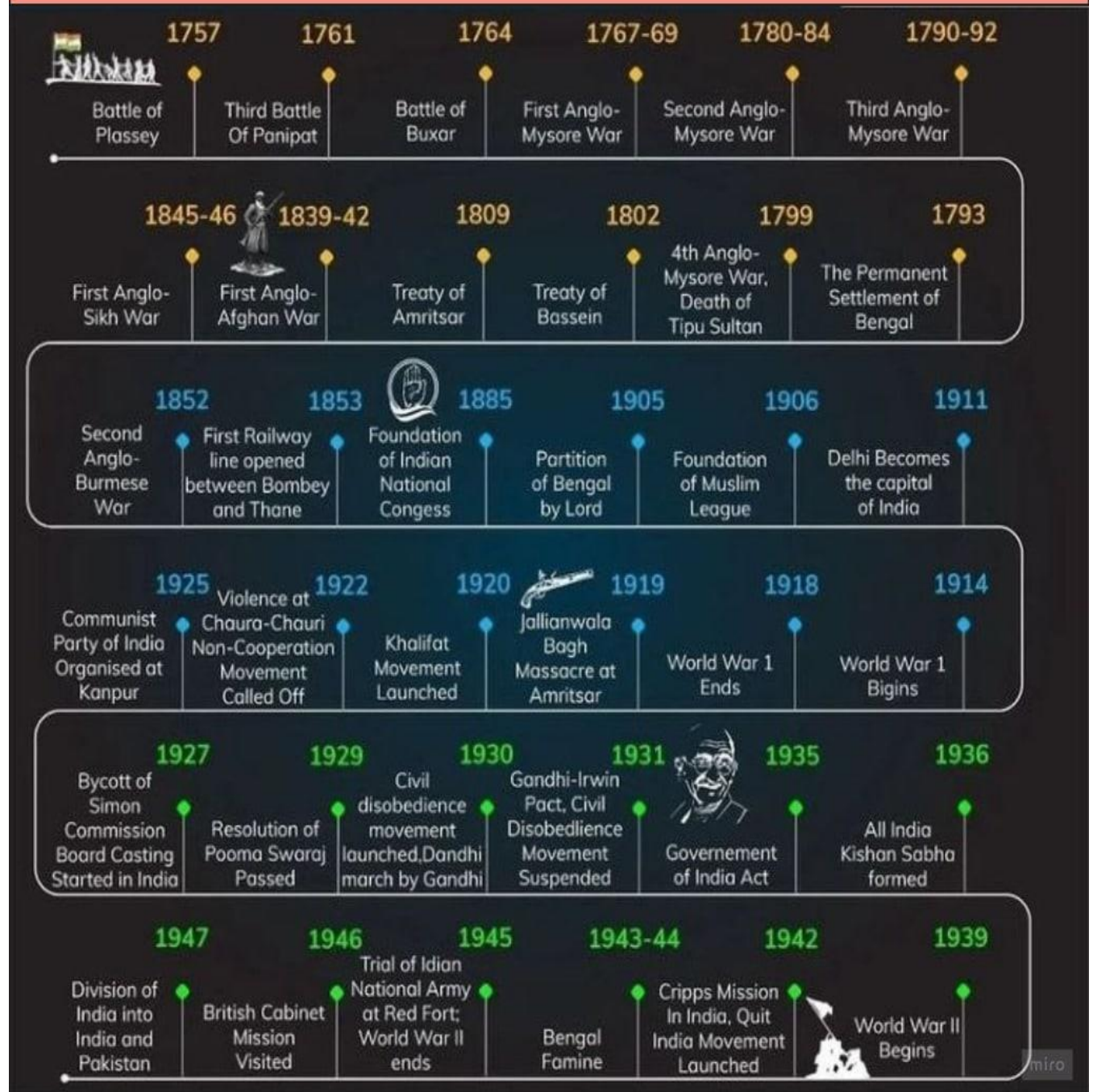
Rajya Sabha pays homage on the 81st Anniversary of Quit India Movement.

#### About Quit India Movement

- The Quit India Movement was a movement launched at the *Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on 9 August 1942*.
- It is also known as the *Bharat Chhodo Andolan*.
- Gandhi made a call to *Do or Die* in his Quit India movement.
- The All India Congress Committee launched a mass protest *demanding an Orderly British Withdrawal from India*.
- The movement included *boycott of the British government* and *rejection of transactions involving the government*.
- The British arrested tens of thousands of leaders, keeping them *imprisoned until 1945*.

- Various *violent incidents took place* around the country against the British regime.
- Almost the *entire leadership of the Indian National Congress was imprisoned without trial within hours of Gandhi's speech.*
- The **British had the support** of:
  - the Viceroy's Council
  - the All India Muslim League
  - the Hindu Mahasabha
  - some of the princely states.
- The *major outside support to quit india movement came from the Americans.*
- The *movement ended in 1945* with the *release of jailed freedom fighters.*
- *Martyrs of this freedom movement* include Mukunda Kakati, Matangini Hazra, Kanaklata Barua, Kushal Konwar, Bhogeswari Phukanani and others
- *Viceroy Linlithgow* remarked the movement to be *by far the most serious rebellion since 1857.*

## MAJOR EVENTS IN MODERN INDIAN HISTORY





## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **1. National Deep Tech Start-up Policy**

#### **In News**

Draft National Deep Tech Startup Policy published by Principal Scientific Adviser.

#### **About Deep Tech**

- Deep Technology refers to *innovations founded on advanced scientific and technological breakthroughs*.
- **Deep Tech Start-up** refers to those startups whose *business model* is based on high tech innovation in engineering, or significant scientific advances.
- Due to their *disruptive nature*, they have the *potential to solve India's most pressing societal issues*.

#### **About Draft National Deep Tech Startup Policy (NDTSP)**

- It is strategically formulated to *stimulate innovation, spur economic growth, and promote societal development through the effective utilization of deep tech research-driven innovations*.
- It helps in *solidifying India's financial stability* and stimulating the transition towards a *knowledge-centric economy*, consequently augmenting India's overall productivity.
- NDTSP aims to harness the *transformative potential of technological advancement* across diverse sectors.
- It will serve as a *catalyst to stimulate ripple effects throughout the economy*.
- It will lay the *groundwork for new industry creation*.
- It aims to significantly *strengthen India's capabilities and enhance global competitiveness*.

### **2. Polar research vessel**

#### **In News**

India to have its first polar research vessel in five years.

#### **About the Polar research vessel (PRV)**

- The Polar Research Vessel (PRV), commonly referred to as *icebreaker ship* and helps to perform *research and logistics in the polar region*.
- It can also serve as a *research platform* for scientists to undertake research in the *ocean realm*, including the Southern Ocean.
- India aims to have its first **Polar Research Vessel (PRV) in the next five years**, will play a crucial role in supporting India's bases in Antarctica and the Arctic.
- The Cabinet had approved **₹1,051 crore** to acquire the vessel.

### 3. Synthetic human embryos

#### In News

Synthetic human embryos could allow for research beyond the 14-day limit, but this raises ethical questions.

#### About Synthetic human embryos

- They are *similar to early embryos*, a tiny ball of cells arising from a sperm fertilising an egg, **but created from stem cells grown in the lab.**
- These structures *haven't been wholly synthetically created.*
- It is *generated from the stem cells came from an embryo originally.*
- It has *certain differences to naturally formed embryos.*
- It is also known as *stem-cell-based embryo models.*
- **Advantages** of the Synthetic human embryos:
  - It could increase our *understanding of human development and genetic disorders.*
  - It will help to learn *how to prevent early miscarriages, lead to improvements in fertility treatment.*
  - Eventually it will allow for *reproduction without using sperm and eggs.*
- The synthetic embryos *do not behave in exactly the same way as normal embryos.*
- Scientists have already developed *synthetic mouse embryos with evidence of a developing brain and beating heart.*
- *Scientists in China have implanted synthetic monkey embryos into female monkeys - although, all the pregnancies failed.*

### 4. OS Maya

OS Maya	In News
<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence Ministry to switch to locally built OS Maya amid threats.</li> </ul> <p><b>OS Maya</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence Ministry has decided to replace the Microsoft Operating System (OS) in all computers connected to the Internet with a new OS, Maya.</li> <li>• It is based on open-source Ubuntu developed locally.</li> <li>• It was developed by government development agencies.</li> <li>• Maya has the interface and all functionality like Windows and users will not feel much difference</li> <li>• An end point detection and protection system called Chakravayuh, is also being installed in the systems.</li> <li>• Currently, Maya is being installed only in Defence Ministry systems</li> <li>• Reason for the Switching - increasing cyber and malware attacks on defence as well as critical infrastructure across the country.</li> </ul>	<p>Defence Ministry to switch to locally built OS Maya amid threats.</p> 

## 5. Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)

### In News

Aadhaar enrolment devices to get NavIC link.

### About NavIC

- *NavIC or the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)* is designed with a *constellation of 7 satellites and a network of ground stations.*
- It has a *total of eight satellites however only seven remain active.*
- The *ground network* consists of *control centre, precise timing facility, range and integrity monitoring stations, two-way ranging stations, etc.*
- It offers *two services*:
  - *Standard Position Service (SPS) for civilian users*
  - *Restricted Service (RS) for strategic users.*
- Its *SPS signals are interoperable* with the other global navigation satellite system (GNSS) signals namely *GPS, Glonass, Galileo and BeiDou.*

### About NavIC – Aadhar link

- NavIC will be integrated into Aadhaar enrolment devices.
- Currently the *Aadhaar enrolment kits that are used to collect and verify personal details are linked to GPS.*
- The *Department of Space* has facilitated successful conduct of field trials, and is providing technical expertise in finalisation of procurement specification of the devices.

### Other applications of NavIC

- The *National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)* was already *utilising NavIC as an alert dissemination system.*
- The *Indian National Centre for Ocean Information System (INCOIS)* uses it to *broadcast cyclones, high waves, and tsunamis alert messages.*

## Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)

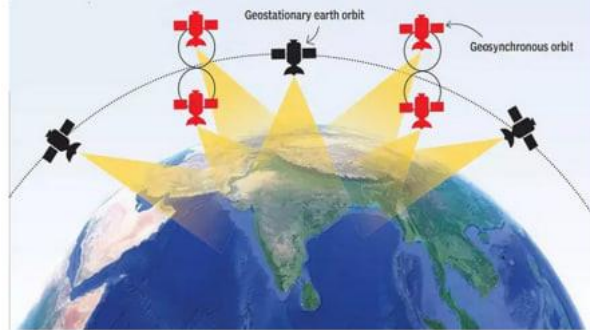


**Why in news?**

- NavIC, satellite system will soon be integrated into Aadhaar enrolment devices across the country, the Department of Space (DoS) told the Parliamentary Committee of Science and Technology.

**Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)**

- It is an autonomous regional satellite navigation system established and maintained by ISRO.
- Coverage**
  - It covers India and a region extending up to 1,500 km beyond Indian mainland (primary coverage area) with plans of extension.
- Satellites**
  - The system currently consists of a constellation of seven satellites, with two additional satellites on ground as stand-by.
  - Three of the seven satellites in constellation are located in geostationary orbit (GEO) and four in inclined geosynchronous orbit (IGSO).



**Accuracy**

- The system is intended to provide an absolute position accuracy of better than 10 metres throughout Indian landmass and better than 20 metres in the Indian Ocean.

<b>IRNSS, India's answer to Global Positioning System, will cover a radius of 1,500km with India at the centre. Here is where India stands in a comity of space-faring nations</b>		
	<p><b>GPS</b></p> <p>Country   <b>US</b></p> <hr/> <p>No. of Satellites   <b>31</b></p> <hr/> <p>Coverage   <b>Global</b></p> <hr/> <p>First satellite launch   <b>1978</b></p> <hr/> <p>Lifetime of each satellite   <b>10 years</b></p> <hr/> <p>Precision   <b>5m</b></p>	
	<p><b>GALILEO</b></p> <p>Region   <b>European Union</b></p> <hr/> <p>No. of satellites   <b>40 (10 in orbit now)</b></p> <hr/> <p>First launch   <b>2011</b></p> <hr/> <p>Area of coverage   <b>Global</b></p> <hr/> <p>Lifetime of each satellite   <b>12 years</b></p> <hr/> <p>Precision   <b>1m for public and 1cm for military</b></p>	
	<p><b>BEIDOU</b></p> <p>Country   <b>China</b></p> <hr/> <p>Has two separate satellite constellations- limited test system and full-scale global navigation system</p>	
	<p><b>GLONASS</b></p> <p>Country   <b>Russia</b></p> <hr/> <p>No. of satellites   <b>24</b></p> <hr/> <p>Coverage   <b>Global</b></p> <hr/> <p>First satellite launch   <b>October 1982</b></p> <hr/> <p>Lifetime of each satellite   <b>10 years</b></p> <hr/> <p>Precision   <b>5m to 10m</b></p>	
<p>No. of satellites   <b>35 (20 now in orbit)</b></p> <hr/> <p>First launch   <b>October 2000</b></p> <hr/> <p>Area of coverage   <b>global</b></p> <hr/> <p>Lifetime of each satellite   <b>12 years</b></p> <hr/> <p>Precision   <b>10m for public and 10cm for military</b></p>		
<p><b>IRNSS</b></p> <p>Country   <b>India</b></p> <hr/> <p>No. of satellites   <b>7(5 in orbit)</b></p> <hr/> <p>Area of coverage   <b>Radius of 1500km</b></p> <hr/> <p>First satellite launch   <b>2013</b></p> <hr/> <p>Lifetime of each satellite   <b>12 years</b></p> <hr/> <p>Precision   <b>20m for civilian, 10m for military</b></p>		

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## 6. Lymphatic Filariasis

### In News

Union Health Minister inaugurates the second phase of the annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative for Lymphatic Filariasis.

### About Lymphatic Filariasis

- Lymphatic filariasis *impairs the lymphatic system* and will lead to the *abnormal enlargement of body parts, causing pain, severe disability and social stigma.*
- It is a **Vector Borne Disease** caused by *Culex mosquitoes* which *causes disability.*
- Over 882 million people in 44 countries worldwide remain threatened by lymphatic filariasis.
- Lymphatic filariasis can be *eliminated by stopping the spread of infection through preventive chemotherapy.*
- More than 9 billion cumulative treatments have been delivered to stop the spread of infection since 2000.
- There is a 74% decline since the start of *WHO's Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis in 2000.*

### About Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative

- It is a nationwide campaign aimed at *ending disease transmission* through the *door-to-door administration of anti-filarial drugs.*
- It mainly focuses on 10 filaria affected states.
- India aims to *eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027, three years ahead of the global target.*

## 7. Renewable Energy Microgrid Power Plant

### In News

MeitY Secretary Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma inaugurates Renewable Energy Microgrid Power Plant.

### About Renewable energy microgrid

- It is an *indigenous Technology of Hybrid Green Energy Microgrid.*
- It is developed for Electrical energy requirements of the *Rural communities.*
- It was *developed by C-DAC, Thiruvananthapuram.*
- It is a part of *National Mission on Power Electronics Technology (NaMPET) Program.*
- A renewable energy microgrid is an *autonomous, localised and self-contained energy system.*

- It **incorporates renewable energy sources as its primary generation inputs.**
- The major building blocks of a renewable energy microgrid include various components and systems that work together.
- In the **off-grid mode of operation** of a microgrid, it **generates, stores, and distributes electricity within a specific area.**
- It prioritizing the use of renewable energy to minimize reliance on fossil fuels and reduce environmental impact.
- In the **on-grid mode of operation**, the microgrid will be able to **interact with utility grid and export power if the generation is excess of what is locally needed.**

## 8. Luna-25

### In News

Russia launches Luna-25 in a bid to return to the moon.

### About Luna -25

- The Luna-25 is the **first lunar mission by Russia** to touch down on the moon's surface **in 47 years.**
- The Luna 25 mission's main objective is to **execute a pinpoint landing near the moon's south pole.**
- It is a region that has garnered scientific interest due to its **potential for revealing critical insights into the moon's geological composition.**
- The mission is primed to collect geological samples which will give scientists the opportunity to study the unexplored region of the moon.
- The mission aims to **find water or at least its building blocks** which could **aid in establishing human colonies** in the near future.
- The landing craft was launched in a **Souyz-2 Fregat rocket** from the Vostochny Cosmodrome.
- The Luna-25 **landing craft is stationary.**
- It is expected to **stay on the moon for a year.**
- It will collect samples using its robotic arm, collect data from its spectrometers.
- It will use the **imaging systems to take pictures and beam all the information back to Earth.**
- The last successful lunar mission by Russia was the Luna-24 probe launched by the **Soviet space programme in 1976.**

## Chandrayaan-3



### Why in news?

- Russia's space agency Roscosmos, which launched the Luna - 25 has said that its landing on the moon would not impede India's Chandrayaan- 3

### Chandrayaan-3

- Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2
- The propulsion module will carry the lander and rover configuration till 100 km lunar orbit.
- It would be launched by LVM3
- Mission Life - One Lunar day (~ 14 earth day).
- Chandrayaan-3 mission is aimed at demonstrating critical technologies to land the spacecraft on the south pole of the moon.
- Components - propulsion, lander and rover.

### Launch Vehicle MarkIII (LVM3)

- LVM3 is configured as a three stage vehicle with two solid strap-on motors (S200), one liquid core stage (L110) and a high thrust cryogenic upper stage (C25).
- LVM3 is the new heavy lift launch vehicle of ISRO for achieving a 4000 kg spacecraft launching capability to GTO (Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit) in a cost effective manner.

### Luna - 25

- Luna-25, launching from the Vostochny cosmodrome, aims to explore the moon's south pole region, believed to hold substantial ice deposits.
- The spacecraft, weighing 1.8 tons and carrying 31 kg of scientific equipment, will orbit the moon for five to seven days before descending to one of three potential landing sites near the pole.
- Luna-25's primary task is to collect rock samples from depths of up to 15 cm, testing for the presence of frozen water, a critical resource for potential lunar bases.



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## DEFENCE/MILITARY EXERCISES

### 1. Exercise Malabar

#### In News

Exercise Malabar to be held off Sydney

#### About Exercise Malabar

- The 31st edition of the Malabar multilateral exercise held off Sydney.
- Australia hosted the war games for the first time this year.
- It had two phases - a harbour and sea phase.
- Malabar has grown in size, scope and complexity with Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) training emerging as a major focus area.

## Malabar Naval Exercise



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**Why in news?**

- The 31st edition of the Malabar multilateral exercise comprising India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. will be held off Sydney from August 11 to 21, as Australia hosts the war games for the first time this year

**Malabar Naval Exercise**

- History
  - It was started in 1992 as a bilateral naval exercise between India and US navy.
  - The first Malabar Exercise in the Bay of Bengal took place in 2007.
  - It was expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015.
  - In 2020, the Australian Navy joined the Malabar Exercise, making it a quadrilateral naval exercise.
- Aim - To coordinate for a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- It takes place annually in the Indian Ocean and Pacific Oceans alternatively.
- This exercise includes a diverse range of activities such as fighter combat operations and maritime interdiction operations.



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## 2. C-130J Super Hercules

### In News

Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures delivers 200th C-130J Super Hercules empennage.

### About C-130J Super Hercules

**C-130J Super Hercules**



#### Why in news?

- Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures delivers 200th C-130J Super Hercules empennage.

#### C-130J Super Hercules

- C-130J Super Hercules is a four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft.
- It is a comprehensive update of the Lockheed C-130 Hercules, with new engines, flight deck, and other systems.
- The C-130J is the newest version of the C-130 Hercules, and the only model currently in production.
- Important Features
  - Dual HUDs for increased situational awareness
  - Block 7.0/8.1 software, installed in-line during production
  - Automated maintenance fault reporting
  - Integrated defensive suite
  - 250 knot ramp/door
- The C-130Js support critical worldwide search and rescue, peacekeeping, combat delivery, maritime patrol, special operations, aerial refuelling, commercial cargo transport, medevac and humanitarian response missions.



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#### About empennage

- An empennage is the **tail structure** located at the rear of an aircraft.
- **Empennage assemblies** produced by the company include the aircraft's horizontal and vertical stabilisers along with leading edges and tip assemblies.
- The empennages made by TLMAL are included in C-130Js operated by seven countries.
- Empennage helps the Super Hercules **take flight to support critical missions** that impact lives and make history.

## INDEX/REPORTS

### 1. State of Elementary Education in Rural India report

#### In News

More students using smartphones for entertainment than study: survey.

#### About the Report

- It is the first ‘**State of Elementary Education in Rural India**’ report *conducted by Development Intelligence Unit (DIU)*
- It is based on data accumulated from 6,229 rural households across 21 states.
- The study was focused on *children in rural communities* between the *age of 6 to 16 years*.

#### Finding of the Survey

- **49.3%** of students in *rural* India have access to smartphones.
- **76.7%** of the children primarily use mobile phones to *play video games*.
- **56.6%** used the devices for downloading and watching *movies*, while **47.3%** used them to download and listen to *music*.
- Students belonging to Class VIII and above had more access to smartphones.
- **Only 40% of parents** have *conversations with their children* about *learning in school every day*, while **32%** have such conversations with their children *a few days a week*.
- **78% parents of girls** in rural areas want to educate their children to *graduation*.
- Above **82 %** parents of boys in rural areas want to educate their children.
- **84%** of parents regularly attend parent-teacher meetings at school.

### 2. Third National Communication (TNC) report

#### In News

India succeeds in reducing emissions rate by 33% over 14 years: sources.

#### About the Report

- The TNC describes *national GHG inventories*.
- It has a set of measures, actions and strategies that enable us to *reduce greenhouse gases* and to *adapt to potential climate change impacts*.
- It is a report that *each Party to the Convention prepares periodically*.
- It is prepared according to the *guidelines provided by the Conference of Parties (COP)*.
- The countries are preparing their TNC *reports to update the UNFCCC on their efforts to mitigate emissions*.

### About TNC India

- The report's findings showed India *well on the way to meeting a commitment to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*.
- The commitment is to *reduce emissions intensity by 45% from the 2005 level by 2030*.
- The *total amount of greenhouse gas emissions emitted for every unit increase of gross domestic product (GDP) - fell by 33% from 2005 to 2019*.
- The *average rate of reduction in emissions increased to 3% annually* in the period 2016-2019, from just about 1.5% in the period 2014-2016.
- The progress made on reducing emissions intensity will help *India avert pressure by developed nations to stop using coal*.
- India has been trying to *promote green hydrogen*, manufactured by splitting water molecules using renewable energy.