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POLITY

1. Sedition law

In News

Sedition law can be retained but with safeguards: Law Commission

About Sedition law

- Sedition is an offence against the state, and it is covered in the Indian Penal Code as **Section 124A**.
- Sedition penalises any material which can bring *hatred, contempt, or disaffection for the government*.
- It is a widely criticised and misused section, mainly used to crack down on dissent against the government.
- It hinders the exercise of freedom of speech and expression by the people.

Recommendations of Law Commission

- The Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) dealing with sedition needs to be retained.
- Certain amendments could be made for greater clarity regarding its usage.
- The sedition being a “colonial legacy” is not a valid ground for its repeal.
- The panel has recommended that the Centre issue model guidelines to curb any misuse of Section 124A.

Law Commission of India


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Why in news?

- The Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) dealing with sedition needs to be retained but certain amendments could be made for greater clarity regarding its usage, the 22nd Law Commission has said in its report to the government.

Law Commission of India

- History:
 - The first Law Commission was established during the British Raj era in 1834 by the Charter Act of 1833 and was chaired by Lord Macaulay.
 - In 1955, the first independent Law Commission was created.
- The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the Government of India from time to time.
- Ministry - Ministry of Law and Justice
- Objective: To carry out research in the field of law and makes recommendations to the Government (in the form of Reports) as per its terms of reference.



सत्यमेव जयते

Law Commission of India

- The commission's recommendations are not binding on the Government.
- The commission consists of legal experts and is headed by a retired judge.
- The Commission is constituted for a fixed tenure.

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2. National Electricity Plan

In News

Central Electricity Authority notifies the National Electricity Plan for the period of 2022-32.

About National Electricity Plan

- **Central Electricity Authority** has been mandated to prepare a National Electricity Plan (NEP) in accordance with the National Electricity Policy.
- It is as per section 3(4) of the **Indian Electricity Act, 2003**.
- The National Electricity Plan normally have three plan documents, they are:
 - The review of the last five years (2017-22)
 - A detailed plan for the next five years (2022-27)
 - The prospective plan for the next five years (2027-32)
- The likely Installed Capacity for the year 2031-32 is estimated to be 900,422 MW.
- The projection of total capacity addition is in line with the **target of the country to achieve a non-fossil based installed capacity of around 500 GW**.
- The share of non-fossil-based capacity is likely to increase to 57.4% by the end of 2026-27.

3. Forest Amendment Bill

In News

Supreme Court stays Madras HC order stalling press communique on Forest Amendment Bill

About the Bill

- **The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023** was introduced in Lok Sabha in Mar 2023.
- The Bill **amends the Forest Conservation Act, 1980**.
- The Act provides for the conservation of forest land.
- The new Bill adds and exempts certain types of land from the purview of the Act.
- It **expands the list of activities permitted** to be carried out on forest land.
- The Act restricts the de-reservation of forest or use of forest land for non-forest purposes.
- The Bill provides that **two types of land** will be under the purview of the Act:
 - **Land declared/notified as a forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927.**
 - **Land not covered in the first category but notified as a forest on or after 1980.**
- The Act will not apply to land changed from forest use to non-forest use on or before Dec 1996.
- The **Bill also exempts certain types of land** from the provisions of the Act such as:
 - **Forest land along a rail line or a public road to a habitation, or to a rail, and roadside amenity up to a maximum size of 0.10 hectare.**
- The Bill provides that the assignment of forest lands may be done to any organisation subject to terms and conditions prescribed by central government.
- The Bill adds that the central government may issue directions for the implementation of the Act to any other authority/ organisation under or recognised by the centre, state, or union territory.

4. UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2023

In News

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan releases the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2023.

About UGC Regulations

- The first set of Regulations was notified in the year 2010, which was revised in 2016 and 2019.
- UGC Regulations regulates:
 - The procedure for the declaration of status (General) & De Novo,
 - The establishment of off-campus centre,
 - The minimum eligibility to acquire the status,
 - The governance

About new Regulation

- The new regulations will facilitate creation of more quality-focused deemed to be universities in an objective and transparent manner.
- Salient features of the new regulations are as follows:
 - Regulations are aligned with National Education Policy 2020.
 - It clearly specifies the eligibility criteria to apply for deemed to be university status
 - A cluster of institutions managed by more than one sponsoring body can also apply for deemed to be university status.
 - The regulations are quality focused.

5. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)

In News

CDSCO starts probe into eye drops linked to infection

About CDSCO

- The **CDSCO is the Central Drug Authority** for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act**.
- CDSCO has six zonal offices, four sub-zonal offices, 13 port offices and seven laboratories under its control.
- Functions of CDSCO:
 - **Regulatory control** over the import of drugs, approval of new drugs and clinical trials
 - Meetings of Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) and Drugs **Technical Advisory Board (DTAB)**
 - **Approval of certain licenses** as Central License Approving Authority is exercised by the CDSCO.
- The **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)** regulates pharmaceutical and medical devices and is positioning within the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- Manufacturers who deal with the authority required to name an Authorized Indian Representative (AIR) to represent them in all dealings with the CDSCO in India.
- The government has announced its plan to bring all medical devices, including implants and contraceptives under a review of the CDSCO.

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)



Why in news?

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6. Fact-Checking Unit (FCU)

In News

Won't notify fact-checking unit until July 10: Centre tells Bombay High Court.

About FCU

- The government created a fact-check unit (FCU) to track fake and misleading news online related to the government on online platforms.
- The content labelled as such by the FCU will have to be taken down by online intermediaries.
- The unit verifies claims about government policies, regulations, announcements and measures.

About the Amendments to the Information Technology Rules, 2021

- The ministry of electronics and information technology (Meity) notified amendments to the Information Technology Rules, 2021.
- It will allow to **appoint a fact-checking body** that will take a call on whether online information related to the **Union government** is accurate.
- Any news item identified as "fake" by the fact-checking unit of the Centre's nodal agency will not be allowed to go online on any platform.

- Press Information Bureau (PIB) was considered the Nodal agency but the *final draft has removed the reference to the PIB.*
- In 2023 the government promulgated certain amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
- The new rules state that an online intermediary should make reasonable efforts to not host content related to the central government that is identified as fake or misleading.
- It *requires intermediaries to exercise due diligence* once the FCU identifies content as untrue.
- *If any piece of information is marked as fake by the FCU, social media sites will have to take down such posts.*
- The internet service providers will have to block URLs of such content.

7. Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

In News

President of India interacts with the members of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups at Rashtriya Bhawan.

What is Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups?

- Some tribal groups have some specific *features such as dependency on hunting, gathering for food, having pre-agriculture level of technology, zero or negative growth of population and extremely low level of literacy.*
- These groups are called *Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.*

About Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

- PVTGs are *more vulnerable among the tribal groups.*
- *In 1975*, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a *separate category called PVTGs.*
- In 1975, 52 tribes were declared as PVTGs.
- In 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a *total of 75 PVTGs spread over 17 states and one Union Territory (UT).*
- **Criteria for identification of PVTGs:**
 - *Pre-agricultural level of technology*
 - *Low level of literacy*
 - *Economic backwardness*
 - *A declining or stagnant population*
- The President invited the Members of 75 PVTGs for a visit to the Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- It is for an extensive interaction with and apprised them about the various Schemes and Initiatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Nearly 1350 tribals of 75 PVTGs participate in the historic event.

8. Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

In News

Law Commission seeks fresh inputs on Uniform Civil Code

About UCC

- The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) calls for the formulation of one law for India in matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc.
- It will mean a *set of common personal laws for all citizens*.
- The origin of the UCC dates back to colonial India when the British government submitted its report in 1835.
- The *purpose of Uniform Civil code is to replace the personal laws* based on the scriptures and customs of each major religious community.
- The constitution has a provision for **Uniform Civil Code in Article 44 as a Directive Principle of State Policy**.

About Article 44

- The UCC comes under Article 44 of the Constitution.
- It lays down that the state shall endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code for the citizens throughout the territory of India.
- The objective of Article 44 was to address the discrimination against vulnerable groups and harmonise diverse cultural groups across the country.
- The 22nd Law Commission of India sought fresh suggestions from various stakeholders on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

9. General Consent by States

In News

T.N. withdraws general consent granted to CBI

About General Consent

- **Consent given by a state government to the CBI can come in two forms**, either case-specific, or 'general'.
- **General consent**, as the name indicates, allows the **CBI to operate seamlessly within states**.
- If **CBI does not have the general consent** of a state government, it is required to apply for consent on a case-by-case basis.
- **It cannot act before the consent is given**.
- Withdrawal of general consent also means that the CBI will not be able to register any fresh case in that state.
- The CBI can continue to investigate cases in a state registered prior to the withdrawal of general consent.
- Till 2014, almost all Indian states, barring a few exceptions, had given general consent to the CBI.
- The **first state to withdraw general consent to the CBI was Mizoram in 2015**.
- In November 2018 West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh withdrew general consent.
- Chhattisgarh withdrew consent in 2019 and Punjab, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Kerala, and Jharkhand followed in 2020.
- Reason stated by these states for the withdrawal of General Consent was the misuse of the central agency (CBI) by the Central Government.
- Recently Tamil Nadu joined the above list of states to withdraw the General Consent.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/INITIATIVES

1. Universal Postal Union (UPU)

In News

Cabinet approves establishment of a Regional Office of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in New Delhi


About UPU

- The Universal Postal Union (UPU) was established in 1874.
- It was established by the Treaty of Bern of 1874
- Its headquarters in the Swiss capital Berne.
- The UPU is the *primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players*.
- It sets the rules for international mail exchanges.
- Any member country of the United Nations may become a member of the UPU.
- The UPU has now 192 member countries.
- The UPU consists of 4 bodies - the Congress, the Council of Administration, the Postal Operations Council, and the International Bureau.

About Regional Office of UPU in New Delhi

- The Union Cabinet has approved to establish a Regional Office of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in New Delhi.
- It is to undertake UPU's development cooperation and technical assistance activities in the region by entering into an agreement with UPU.

Universal Postal Union (UPU)


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Why in news?

- Cabinet approves establishment of a Regional Office of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in New Delhi

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

- Formation
 - Established in 1874 by the Treaty of Bern.
- Headquarters - Swiss capital Berne.
- It is the second oldest international organization worldwide.
- Functions
 - The UPU is the primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players.
 - It sets the rules for international mail exchanges.
 - It helps to ensure a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services.
 - The organizations roles are - an advisory, mediating and liaison role, and provides technical assistance where needed.
 - It makes recommendations to stimulate growth in mail, parcel and financial services volumes and improve quality of service for customers.



UPU

- Membership
 - Any member country of the United Nations may become a member of the UPU.
 - The UPU has now 192 member countries.
- Composition
 - The UPU consists of 4 bodies - the Congress, the Council of Administration, the Postal Operations Council, and the International Bureau.

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2. Centralized Laboratory Network (CLN)

In News

India joins Centralised Laboratory Network (CLN) for testing vaccines

About CLN

- The *Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)* has established a global *network of laboratories called CLN*.
- It is for to centralise testing and enable comparison of immunological responses generated by COVID-19 vaccines.
- The CEPI centralised laboratory network is a global resource.
- The Network is the largest global group which has standardised methods and materials for testing.
- The network aims to identify the most promising vaccine candidates rapidly and accurately against emerging infectious diseases.
- The expanded network is working at supporting sustainable regional outbreak preparedness infrastructure.
- **Recently India has joined the Centralized Laboratory Network (CLN)** which currently has 15 partner facilities in 13 countries.

About Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)

- CEPI is an innovative global partnership between public, private, philanthropic, and civil society organisations.
- It is working to accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and enable equitable access to these vaccines for people during outbreaks.

3. BBINM countries

In News

Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal calls for greater cooperation among BBINM countries.

About BBINM

- ***Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal & Myanmar is the full form of BBINM.***
- Greater cooperation among BBINM countries is needed for maximising maritime trade potential.

Major Initiatives of BBINM

- The Act East Policy should reach its maximum potential for growth & development of the BBINM countries.
- ***Trade through National Waterways 1 and 2 to NER*** for ensuring transit transportation of North East Cargo ***through Bangladesh/North East Region/Myanmar.***
- The Trade Ties with Bangladesh can increase by facilitation of movement of goods between SMP Kolkata and various ports of Bangladesh (Chittagong, Mongla) involving IWAI.
- Collaboration with *Myanmar's Sittwe Port* in Myanmar to transport cargo to NE India, via Mizoram.

4. G-20 cybersecurity agreement

In News

Draft of cybersecurity agreement outlined for G-20 countries.

About the Cybersecurity agreement

- A draft of the cybersecurity agreement was announced by the National Cybersecurity Coordinator of India at the G20 business event held in Delhi.
- The agreement will be called **Delhi Declaration**.
- It will have a series of commitments to “responsible state behaviour in cyberspace” for G-20 member countries.
- It is drawn from existing non-binding norms that have already signed onto under the auspices of the United Nations.
- The draft was prepared with **the help of Microsoft Corporation**.
- Once adopted it will commit to:
 - Not damage critical infrastructure or other essential systems
 - Cooperate, mitigate and investigate cyber incidents, and other malicious activities in cyberspace.
 - Protect and not disrupt software supply chains
 - Respect international law and rule of law in cyberspace
 - Protecting the humanitarian sector

G20 Grouping



Why in news?

- Lieutenant General Rajesh Pant (retd.), the National Cybersecurity Coordinator, outlined a draft of what he called the “Delhi Declaration”, a series of commitments to “responsible state behaviour in cyberspace” for G20 member countries, drawn from existing non binding norms that they have already signed onto under the auspices of the United Nations

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



Note - European Union is also member

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5. Svalbard mission

In News

ISRO, Norway and the ‘Svalbard mission’ of 1997.

About the Mission

- The **Svalbard Rocket Range or SvalRak as it is named**, is a launch site for **sounding rockets at Ny-Ålesund in Svalbard, Norway**.

- ***In 1997 ISRO bagged the Norway mission to launch a rocket*** for Norway and the name of the Project was ***Svalbard Mission***.
- It was the first space mission of Norway.
- The first proper launch was an ***Indian Rohini RH-300 MkII sounding rocket*** purchased from ISRO and christened Isbjørn 1 (Polar Bear 1).
- The commercial arm of ISRO Antrix Corporation won a global tender floated by the Norwegian space agency.
- India send four senior Scientists from ISRO to Norway to make sure everything went off all right.
- Recently, Norwegian Ambassador visited the ISRO headquarters and recall this challenging mission which took place 26 years ago.

SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

1. World's Largest Grain Storage Plan

In News

Cabinet approves Constitution and Empowerment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) for Facilitation of “World’s Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector.

About the Plan

- It is approved with a vision to build the *World’s Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector*.
- It will be done by *convergence of various schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Ministry of Food Processing Industries*.
- **Ministry of Cooperation will implement a pilot project** in at least 10 selected Districts of different States/ UTs in the country.
- It aims to address the shortage of agricultural storage infrastructure in the country by facilitating establishment of godowns at the level of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).
- The plan entails setting up various types of agri-infrastructure, including warehouse, custom hiring center, processing units, etc.

Inter-Ministerial Committee

- An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) will be constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister of Cooperation.
- It is for the facilitation of the “World’s Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector”
- The ministries are Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- The Plan would be implemented by utilizing the available outlays provided under the identified schemes of the respective Ministries.

2. City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)

In News


Cabinet approves City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0) from 2023 to 2027

About CITIIS 2.0

- CITIIS 2.0 is a program conceived by the *Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)*.
- It is in partnership with the *French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)*.
- The program will run for a period of four years, **2023 to 2027**.

- The program envisages to support competitively selected projects promoting circular economy.
- It focus on:
 - Integrated waste management at the city level
 - Climate-oriented reform actions at the State level
 - Institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination at the National level.
- It will contribute positively to India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and Conference of the Parties (COP26) commitments.

CITIIS and CITIIS 2.0




Why in news?

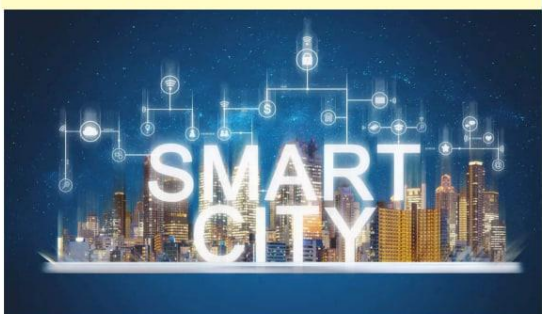
- The Union government on approved the second phase of the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) project.

City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) Project

- CITIIS is a sub-component of the Government of India's Smart Cities Mission.
- Initially launched in 2018 in 12 cities.
- Aim - Aims to promote integrated waste management and climate oriented reform actions
- It is a joint program of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Agence Francaise de Development (AFD), the European Union (EU), and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).
- The projects would be in four sectors – sustainable mobility, public open spaces, urban governance & ICT and social and organizational innovation in low-income settlements.

Key Values of CITIIS





City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) Project 2.0

- The CITIIS 2.0 will be implemented in 18 cities which would be selected based on a competition
- Aim - Aims to support competitively selected projects promoting circular economy with a focus on integrated waste management at the city level, climate oriented reform actions at the State level, and institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination at the national level.
- It would span over a period of four years from 2023 - 2027
- Funding - The funding for CITIIS 2.0 would include a loan of ₹1,760 crore from AFD and KfW, split equally, and a technical assistance grant of ₹106 crore from the European Union.

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3. Nyaya Vikas Portal

In News

Nyaya Vikas Portal created for monitoring the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

About Nyaya Vikas

- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) under the Department of Justice.**
- It was implemented for the development of *Infrastructure Facilities for Districts and Subordinate Judiciary since 1993-94.*
- The funds sharing pattern under the Scheme for Center and State is 60:40 in respect of States other than North Eastern and Himalayan States.
- The funds sharing pattern is 90:10 in respect of North Eastern and Himalayan States; and 100% in respect of Union Territories.

Nyaya Vikas



Why in news?

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Nyaya Vikas

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) under the Department of Justice.
- It was implemented for the development of Infrastructure Facilities for Districts and Subordinate Judiciary since 1993-94.
- In this scheme the central assistance is provided to the State Government / UT Administrations for construction of court halls and residential units for Judicial Officers.
- The funds sharing pattern under the Scheme for Center and State is 60:40 in respect of States other than North Eastern and Himalayan States.
- The funds sharing pattern is 90:10 in respect of North Eastern and Himalayan States; and 100% in respect of Union Territories.



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4. Price Support Scheme (PSS)

In News

Government removes ceiling for procurement of Tur, Urad and Masur under Price Support Scheme (PSS) for 2023-24.

- **Ministry: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**

About PSS

- The Price Support Scheme (PSS) in India is a government initiative aimed at providing minimum support prices (MSP) to farmers for certain agricultural commodities.
- The Price Support Scheme (PSS) is being *implemented by the Government of India in all the states.*
- Price Support Scheme (PSS) has been *in existence for more than three decades.*

- Main crops that are covered are Bajra, Jowar, Maize, Paddy, Cotton, Tur, Moong, Urad, Groundnut, Sesamum Wheat, Gram, Mustard, and Sugarcane etc.
- In PSS *all stocks would be purchased directly from farmers by various institutions* to avoid malpractices of mediators.
- Purchase centres are located close to CWC/SWC godown and processing mill to bring down transportation cost.
- The purchases are made via an online mechanism, and central/state procuring agencies display the details of purchases regularly on their website.
- Only fifty bags of produce can be purchased from one farmer in a day.

PSS on Tur, Urad and Masur

- The government has removed the procurement ceilings of 40% for tur, urad and masur under Price Support Scheme (PSS) operations for 2023-24.
- It assures the procurement of these pulses from farmers at MSP without ceilings.
- It is to enhance the domestic production of pulses.
- It helps motivate the farmers to enhance sowing area in respect of tur, urad and masur in the upcoming Kharif and Rabi sowing seasons in order to enhance the production.

Price Support Scheme (PSS)



Why in news?

- In a significant step towards enhancing domestic production of pulses, the government of India has removed the procurement ceilings of 40% for tur, urad and Masur under Price Support Scheme (PSS) operations for 2023-24.

Price Support Scheme (PSS)

- It is one of the components of the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (AASA) scheme.
- Implemented by - The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation implements this scheme for procurement of oil seeds, pulses and cotton, through NAFED which is the Central nodal agency, at the MSP declared by the government.
- Main crops covered - Bajra, Jowar, Maize, Paddy, Cotton, Tur, Moong, Urad, Groundnut, Sesamum Wheat, Gram, Mustard, Sugarcane etc.



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5. Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme

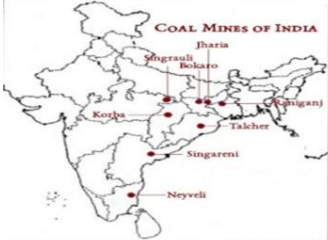
In News

Union Cabinet approves continuation of Central Sector Scheme of 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme'.

About the Scheme

- Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme is a **Central Sector Schemes under Ministry of Coal**.
- Exploration under the scheme generates the crucial data to delineate, estimate and evaluate coal/lignite resources of India by preparation of geological reports (GRs).
- These reports are utilised for the new coal blocks to be put for auction/allocation.

- The regional exploration helps to categorise the prognosticated occurrences of coal and lignite horizons into 'Indicated' and 'Inferred' resources.
- The Promising areas identified by regional exploration are taken up for detailed exploration in the second stage.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the continuation of the Central Sector Scheme of “Exploration of Coal and Lignite scheme.
- The estimated expenditure of the Scheme is Rs. 2980 crore from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Coal in India		ENLITE IAS
<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the continuation of a central sector scheme for “Exploration of Coal and Lignite” with an estimated outlay of ₹2,980 crore from 2021-22 to 2025-26 <p>Coal in India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India is the second largest producer and consumer of coal after China. • Jharkhand is the largest coal-producing state in India. • The top coal-producing states includes Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra. • Coal accounts for approximately 55% of the country's energy needs compared to other energy sources. 	 <p>Types of Coal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthracite: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthracite is the best quality of coal which carries 80 to 95 per cent carbon content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is found in small quantity in Jammu and Kashmir. • Bituminous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bituminous carries 60 to 80 per cent of carbon content and a low level of moisture content. • It is found in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. • Lignite <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lignite is often brown in colour. It carries 40 to 55 per cent carbon content. • It is found in Rajasthan, Lakhimpur (Assam), and Tamil Nadu. • Peat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peat has less than 40 per cent carbon content.

6. Manual Scavengers Rehabilitation Scheme

In News

Only 66% districts in country free of manual scavenging: Social Justice Ministry report.

About the Scheme

- The Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) was introduced in 2007.
- The objective to rehabilitate the remaining manual scavengers and their dependents in alternative occupations by 2009.
- In 2013 Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act came into effect.
- SRMS was revised in synchronization with the provision of the Act.
- The scheme was subsequently revised in November 2013 and in 2020-2021.

Report of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

- The recent achievements report of Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has said that only 508 districts out of the total 766 districts in the country have declared themselves manual-scavenging free.
- The Social Justice Ministry has maintained in the last two years that there are no manual scavenging deaths taking place across the country.
- The surveys conducted in 2013 and 2018 had identified all existing manual scavengers (about 58,000) and concluded manual scavenging no longer existed in the country.

7. Sagar Parikrama

In News

Sagar Parikrama Phase VII starts from Madakkara, Kerala.

About Sagar Parikrama

- Sagar Parikrama is an initiative taken by Government of India for the *welfare of fishing community and coastal development*.
- It aims to resolve the issues of the fishers, other stakeholders and facilitate their economic upliftment.
- It is *implemented through various fisheries' schemes and programs such as Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Kisan Credit Card for Fisheries (KCC)*.
- It is a program reflecting the far-reaching policy and strategy of the Government leading to the direct interaction with fishers and fish farmers and other stakeholders.
- The program is being organized through a pre-decided sea route covering coastal states/UTs.

8. SAGAR SAMRIDDHI

In News

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launches 'SAGAR SAMRIDDHI' to bring transparency & efficiency.

- **Ministry: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)**

About SAGAR SAMRIDDHI

- SAGAR SAMRIDDHI is the *online dredging monitoring system*.
- It will help to **accelerate 'Waste to Wealth' initiative**.
- The system has been developed by National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC).
- NTCPWC is the technological arm of MoPSW.
- The new technology will replace the old system of Draft & Loading Monitor (DLM) system.

About NTCPWC

- The NTCPWC was *established under the Sagarmala Programme of MoPSW*.
- It was established at IIT Madras with the total investment of ₹ 77 Crores.
- The aim of the centre :
 - Enable research & development for the marine sector,
 - Enabling solutions towards achieving the ultimate goal of building a robust marine industry in the country.
- It has world class capabilities for undertaking the 2D & 3D investigations of research and consultancy nature for the Port, Coastal, and Waterways sector.

SAGAR SAMRIDDHI

Why in news?

- Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launches 'SAGAR SAMRIDDHI'

SAGAR SAMRIDDHI

- Ministry - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)
- SAGAR SAMRIDDHI is the online dredging monitoring system.
- It will help to accelerate 'Waste to Wealth' initiative.
- Developed by National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC).
- The new technology will replace the old system of Draft & Loading Monitor (DLM) system.
- It will bring in marked improvement.
- The system will bring in synergy among multiple input reports like daily dredging report, the pre and post dredging survey data and real time dredging report.



- It will monitor Daily and monthly progress Visualisation, Dredger performance and downtime monitoring, easy location track data
- Presently Cochin Port and Mumbai Port, have adopted the SAGAR SAMRIDDHI system.

9. Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

In News

58,000 projects shelved due to delays by State governments.

About PMJVK

- The Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**.
- The Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) has been restructured and renamed as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram in 2018.
- Under this Scheme community infrastructure and basic amenities are being created in the identified areas.
- It seeks to support states/UTs to provide better socio economic infrastructure facilities to the **minority communities**.
- The Infrastructure developments are in the field of education, health & skill development.
- It will lead to lessening of the gap between the national average and the minority communities with regard to backwardness parameters.
- The revised PMJVK has been approved by the Government for continuation over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle i.e. FY 2021-22 to 2025-26.

10. India Infrastructure Project Development Funding Scheme (IIPDF)

In News

Infrastructure Finance Secretariat (IFS), DEA launches the revamped website of PPPININDIA and online portals for India Infrastructure Project Development Funding Scheme (IIPDF).

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Finance

About IIPDF

- The Budget Speech for 2007-08 announced setting up of a Revolving Fund to quicken the process of project preparation.
- Accordingly the corpus fund titled “**India Infrastructure Project Development Fund**” (IIPDF) has been created in *Department of Economic Affairs*.
- It is a *central sector scheme*.
- It is formed *basically to fund PPP project*.
- The corpus of the IIPDF shall comprise of initial budgetary outlay of Rs. 100 crores by the Ministry of Finance.
- As IIPDF matures, funding from the multilateral and bilateral agencies could become available.

About the Purpose of IIPDF

- The IIPDF will increase the quality and quantity of ‘bankable projects’.
- IIPDF is a mechanism through which Sponsoring Authority will be able to source funding to cover a portion of the PPP transaction costs.
- The IIPDF is not a source of grant funding for the Sponsoring Authorities.
- The Sponsoring Authority would be liable to refund the amount of assistance received.
- IIPDF funding will require co-funding by the Sponsoring Authority upto 25% of the total project cost.

ENVIRONMENT/GEOGRAPHY

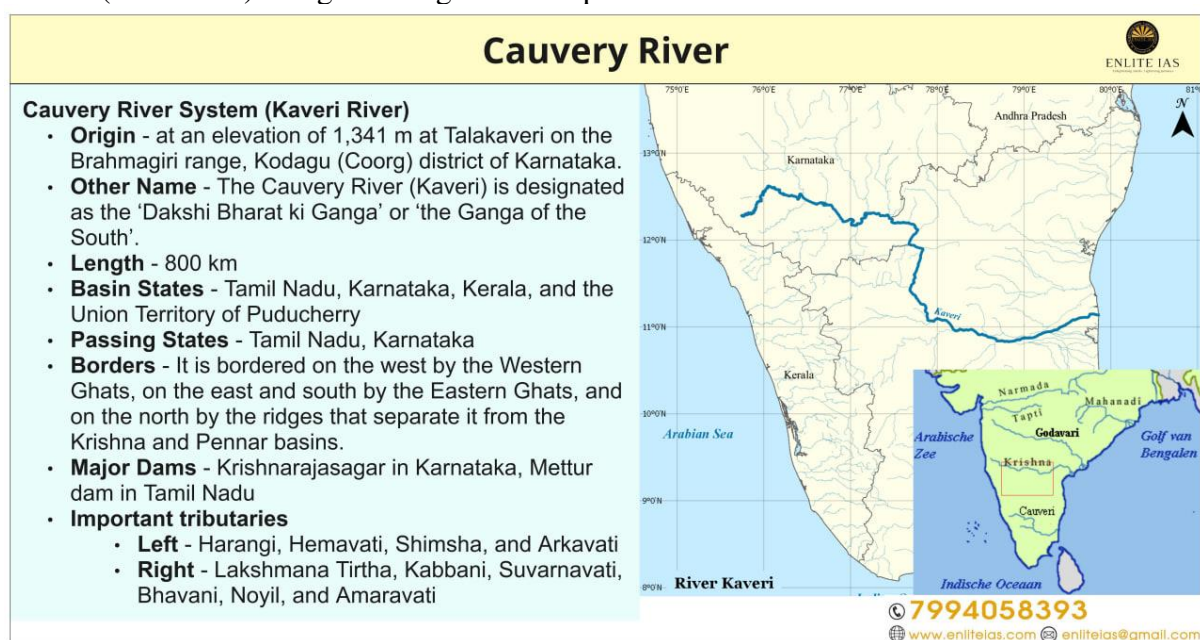
1. Mekedatu drinking water project

In News

T.N will make no compromise on Mekedatu dam

About Mekedatu drinking water project

- The *Mekedatu multipurpose (drinking and power)* project involves building a balancing reservoir near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district of Karnataka.
- It is **proposed to construct across Cauvery River**.
- The project is aimed at ensuring **drinking water to Bengaluru** and neighbouring areas (4.75 TMC) and generating 400 MW power.



2. Polavaram Project

In News

TS urges Polavaram authority to maintain free flow to prevent submergence of its areas.

About Polavaram Project

- The Polavaram Project is an under construction **multi-purpose irrigation project**.
- It is on the **Godavari River in the Eluru District and East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh**.
- The project has been **accorded National project status by the Central Government of India**.
- The reservoir covers the famous **Papikonda National Park, Polavaram hydroelectric project (HEP) and National Waterway 4** (under construction) are on side of the river.

Polavaram Project



Why in news?

- TS urges Polavaram authority to maintain free flow to prevent submergence of its areas.

Polavaram Project

- It is a multi-purpose irrigation project.
- Location - Andhra Pradesh
- River - Godavari River
- The project has been accorded National project status by the Union Government of India.
- Objectives
 - Development of Irrigation, Hydropower and drinking water facilities in East Godavari, Vishakhapatnam, West Godavari and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh.
 - The project envisages the generation of 960 MW of hydropower, drinking water supply to a population of 28.50 lacks in 611 villages
 - The ultimate irrigation potential of the project is 4.368 lakh ha.
 - The project implements the Godavari-Krishna link under the Interlinking of rivers project.



- It envisages the transfer of 80TMC of surplus Godavari water to river Krishna which will be shared between Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

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3. E-Cooking Transition

In News

On 50th anniversary of World Environment Day, Government holds Conference on Consumer-Centric Approaches for E-Cooking Transition.

About E-cooking

- ***E-cooking is the use of Electricity as the source of fuel for cooking.***
- E-cooking is a key ***pathway to Mission LiFE an India-led global mass movement to nudge individual and community*** action to protect and preserve the environment.
- E-cooking has many dimensions for families in urban and rural areas.
- Since 24/7 Electricity is available in many household in Indian E-cooking Transition will be easy.
- Need to come up with Affordable E-Cooking Business Models.
- Advantages of E-cooking Transition:

4. Meri LiFE app

In News

PM lauds more than 2 crore participations on Meri LiFE app.

About the app

- ***MeriLiFE empowers individuals to lead a sustainable lifestyle*** by making pro-planet choices in their daily lives.
- ***The app is inspired by the concept of LiFE.***
- The Meri LiFE mobile application aims to enable a greater community of young people to emerge as Pro-Planet-Persons, changemakers and solution providers for environmental problems.

- Meri LiFE is a marketplace where young people can explore their interests, find Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability focused opportunities.
- It activate young people as change makers in their communities, to lend their creativity, grit, and power to have social and environmental impact.

Mission LiFE

- **LiFE was introduced at the COP 26.**
- It is a public movement to mobilize individuals to become 'Pro-Planet People'.
- It emphasizes mindful and deliberate utilization instead of mindless and wasteful consumption.
- Mission LiFE is an India-led global mass movement to nudge individual and community action to protect and preserve the environment.

"Meri LiFE" App



ENLITE IAS

Why in news?

- PM lauds more than 2 crore participations on Meri LiFE app.

"Meri LiFE" App

- The app is inspired by the concept of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), which was envisioned by the Prime Minister at COP 26.
- Aim - To promote mindful utilisation instead of wasteful consumption.
- The application will foster a nationwide movement for LiFE, demonstrating the power of citizens in saving the environment.
- Through this app, the impacts of simple actions in daily life can be understood, which can have a larger climate impact.
- Meri LiFE is a marketplace where young people can explore their interests, find Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability focused opportunities that match their interests, and sign up to act on issues that matter the most to them.



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5. Kaziranga National Park

In News

Kaziranga mahouts caught for consuming rare turtles.

About Kaziranga National Park

- It has been declared as **National Park in 1974.**
- Kaziranga National Park lies partly in Golaghat District and partly in Nagaon District of Assam.
- It covers an area of 430 Sq kms along the **river Brahmaputra on the North and the Karbi Anglong hills on the South.**

- The **National Highway 37** passes through the park area.
- Kaziranga National Park is a **UNESCO world heritage site since 1985**.
- It is famous for the **Great Indian one horned rhinoceros**.
- The landscape of Kaziranga is of sheer forest, tall elephant grass, rugged reeds, marshes & shallow pools.
- In 2005 Kaziranga celebrated its centennial after its establishment as a reserve forest in 1905.
- The park is the breeding ground of elephants, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer.
- Kaziranga was declared as **Tiger Reserve in 2006**, since then the tiger population has also increased in Kaziranga.
- The park is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for the conservation.
- Kaziranga has *four types of vegetation - alluvial inundated grasslands, alluvial savanna woodlands, tropical moist mixed deciduous forests, and tropical semi-evergreen forests.*

<h2>Kaziranga National Park</h2>	
<p>Kaziranga National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location - Assam • Protection Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiger Reserve • UNESCO World Heritage Site • Vegetation - It is a mix of eastern wet alluvial grasslands, semi evergreen forests and tropical moist deciduous forests. • Fauna - One Horned Rhino , Leopard, Fishing Cat , Royal Bengal tiger , Barking deer, Hog deer, western hoolock gibbon. 	 
<p>ENLITE IAS Empowering Aspirants, Shaping Leaders</p> <p>7994058393 www.enliteias.com enliteias@gmail.com</p>	

6. Kilauea

In News

Kilauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes, begins erupting after three-month pause.

About Kilauea Volcano

- Kilauea is an **active shield volcano in the Hawaiian Islands**.
- It is one of the most active volcanoes in the world and is Located along the southeastern shore of the Big Island of Hawaii.
- It is between 210,000 and 280,000 years old and emerged above sea level about 100,000 years ago.

- Topographically *Kīlauea appears as a bulge on the southeastern flank of Mauna Loa.*

7. Cyclone and monsoon

In News

How does a cyclone affect the monsoon's onset?

About Cyclone impact on Monsoon

- The *monsoon affected by*
 - The *three tropical oceans - Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific Ocean*
 - The *'atmospheric bridge' from the Arctic*
 - The *oceanic tunnel as well as the atmospheric bridge from the Southern Antarctic Ocean.*
- The *cyclone formations in the pre-monsoon cyclone season, closer to the monsoon onset, are due to the influence of a warmer Arctic Ocean on winds over the Arabian Sea.*
- The cyclones in the North Indian Ocean have had both positive and negative impacts on the onset of the monsoon.
- The *location of the cyclone is critical for the transition of the monsoon.*
- The circulation of winds around the cyclones is in the *anticlockwise direction.*
- If a cyclone lies north in the Bay of Bengal, the back-winds blowing from the southwest to the northeast can pull the monsoon trough forward, and assist in the monsoon's onset.

Tropical Cyclone Biparjoy

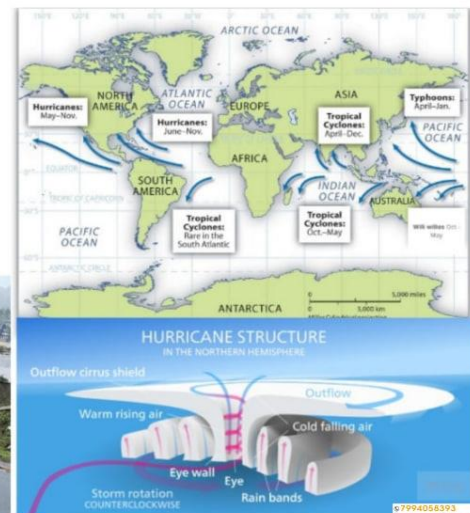


Why in news?

- The Cyclone Biparjoy Turns Into "Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm in Arabian Sea.
- 'Biparjoy' was suggested by Bangladesh and the word means 'disaster' or 'calamity' in Bengali.

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.



8. Amazon Rainforest

In News

Children lost for 40 days in Colombian Amazon found.

About Amazon

- Amazon Rainforest, large tropical rainforest occupying the *drainage basin of the Amazon River* and its tributaries in northern South America.
- It's called a rainforest because of its rainy conditions. It is the world's largest rainforest.
- It covers an area of 2,300,000 square miles (6,000,000 square km).
- It has existed for 50 million years.
- It *comprising about 40 percent of Brazil's total area* and also in parts of *Peru, Colombia and six other nations*.
- *Brazil holds approximately 60 percent of the Amazon basin* within its borders.
- It is *bounded by the Guiana Highlands to the north, the Andes Mountains to the west, the Brazilian central plateau to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east*.
- It is the world's richest and most-varied biological reservoir.
- It containing several million species of insects, plants, birds, and other forms of life.

ECONOMY

1. Offer for Sale (OFS)

In News

Centre to sell up to 3% stake in Coal India via OFS route.

About OFS

- **Offer for sale (OFS)** is a simpler method of *share sale through the exchange platform for listed companies*.
- The mechanism was **first introduced** by India's securities market regulator Sebi, in **2012**.
- It was introduced to make **easier for promoters** of publicly-traded companies to **cut their holdings** and comply with the minimum public shareholding norms.
- The method was largely adopted by listed companies, both state-run and private, to adhere to the Sebi order.
- The **government** is using this route to **divest its shareholding** in public sector enterprises.
- The OFS mechanism is **used only when existing shares are put on the block**.
- **Only promoters or shareholders holding more than 10 per cent** of the share capital in a company can come up with such an issue.
- The mechanism is **available to 200 top companies in terms of market capitalisation**.
- In an OFS, **a minimum of 25 per cent** of the shares offered, are reserved for **mutual funds (MFs) and insurance companies**.
- No single bidder other than MFs and Insurance companies is allocated more than 25 per cent of the size of the offering.
- A **minimum of 10 per cent** of the offer size is reserved for **retail investors**.
- The OFS window is open only for a single day.
- It is mandatory for the company to inform the stock exchanges two banking days prior to the OFS about its intention.
- In OFS, the entire retail bid amount is backed by 100 per cent margins in the form of cash and cash equivalent.

2. Bima Vahak

In News

IRDAI eyes insurance push in rural areas with Bima Vahak.

About Bima Vahak

- Bima Vahak will be the crucial **last mile connect for insurers in the form of a field force**.
- It comprises of **corporate Bima Vahak as well individual Bima Vahaks**.
- Corporate Bima Vahak means any legal person registered in accordance with the respective laws of India and engaged by an Insurer under these Guidelines.
- Individual Bima Vahak means any Individual either appointed by an Insurer or appointed by a Corporate Bima Vahak.
- It aimed at **improving accessibility and availability of insurance** in every nook and corner of the country.

- It focus on onboarding women who can gain the trust of locals for the distribution and servicing of insurance products.

New Guidelines Issued by IRDAI

- **Scope of activities of Bima Vahak**
 - ✓ *Collection of proposal information, KYC documents* and submissions to coordination and support in policy and claims-related servicing
- The guidelines recommend the implementation of a Board-approved policy by companies regarding Bima Vahaks.
- The insurer will remain responsible for ensuring KYC and AML compliance with respect to the policies sourced through the Bima Vahaks.
- A Bima Vahak will be permitted to sell and service the Bima Vistaar product approved by the Authority.
- They *can work with only one life insurer, one general insurer and one health insurer.*
- The Bima Vahak scheme will be *closely aligned with the Lead Insurers that IRDAI had mooted in every State and Union Territory.*
- The initiative holds immense promise and will be a powerful force to enhance insurance inclusion and awareness.

IRDAI and Bima Vahak



Why in news?

- IRDAI eyes insurance push in rural areas with Bima Vahak.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

- It is an autonomous and statutory body established under the IRDA Act 1999.
- It is the apex body that supervises and regulates the insurance sector in India.
- Objective - To protect the interests of policyholders, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry in India.
- Nodal Ministry- Ministry of Finance
- Head Office - Hyderabad.
- Composition - IRDAI is a 10-member body- a Chairman, five full-time members, and four part-time members appointed by the Government of India.



Bima Vahak

- Bima Vahak will be the crucial last-mile connect for insurers in the form of a field force.
- It comprises of corporate Bima Vahak as well individual Bima Vahaks.
- Corporate Bima Vahak means any legal person registered in accordance with the respective laws of India and engaged by an Insurer under these Guidelines.
- Individual Bima Vahak means any Individual either appointed by an Insurer or appointed by a Corporate Bima Vahak.
- It aimed at improving accessibility and availability of insurance in every nook and corner of the country.
- It focus on onboarding women who can gain the trust of locals for the distribution and servicing of insurance products.



3. Power Exchange

In News

Government asks regulator CERC to begin process for coupling power exchanges.

About Power Exchanges

- An Exchange is a platform on which buyers and sellers come together to transact. Similarly, a Power Exchange is a ***platform on which power is transacted i.e bought and sold.***
- It will allow traders to determine the right market price and the best consumer or seller for trade.
- It is constituted to increase competition and transparency in such market.
- Power Exchanges reduce the counterparty credit risk.
- ***The Indian Electricity Act 2003 had mad power trading a separate and distinct activity in India.***
- The power exchanges in India are approved and ***regulated by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).***
- At present ***India has three power exchanges***
 - ✓ ***Indian Electricity Exchange (IEX)***
 - ✓ ***Power Exchange of India (PXIL)***
 - ✓ ***Hindustan Power Exchange (HPX)***
- The exchange ***offers products*** to enable transactions in electricity in the following two segments:
 - ✓ ***Day-Ahead Market (DAM)*** allowing transactions in electricity for a day in advance
 - ✓ ***Term-Ahead Market (TAM)*** which further comprises of Day-Ahead Contingency, Intra-Day, Daily, Weekly with contracts ranging from the same day to up to 11 days in advance.
- It assists in accelerating deployment of renewable energy by ***enabling transactions in Renewable Energy Certificates (REC).***
- It proposes to facilitate transactions in Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts) in the near future.
- The buyers and sellers at each exchange do trading of electricity and discover spot price separately at these exchanges.

About Coupling of Power Exchange

- ***Coupling*** is a ***mechanism*** which ***seeks to ensure uniformity in price discovery of energy at trading platforms.***
- The power ministry has asked Central Electricity Regulatory Authority (CERC) to initiate the process of coupling multiple power exchanges.
- It will give a fillip to the service levels in the power market, and ensure better transparency and uniform prices discovery across exchanges.
- It is expected to bring down the power tariff in the country significantly.

4. Compromise Settlements

In News

RBI permits banks to undertake compromise settlement of wilful defaults, fraud accounts.

About RBI framework on Compromise Settlement & Technical Write-off

- RBI released the Framework for Compromise Settlements and Technical Write-offs.
- The RBI has issued various instructions to Regulated Entities (REs) regarding compromise settlements in respect of stressed accounts.
- The objective is to *maximise the possible recovery from a distressed borrower at minimum expense.*
- The Framework has been released *on the backdrop of Prudential Framework for Resolution of Stressed Assets (PFRSA).*
- The PFRSA was issued on 2019 for the recovery of NPAs.
- The new Framework attempts to achieve more than what PFRSA could achieve.
- *The Framework neither replaces the PFRSA, nor does it have to be read along with the PFRSA.*
- The framework is applicable to:
 - ✓ *Commercial Banks (including Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks)*
 - ✓ *Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks/State Co-operative Banks/ Central Co-operative Banks*
 - ✓ *All-India Financial Institutions*
 - ✓ *Non-Banking Financial Companies (including Housing Finance Companies).*

About Compromise Settlement

- A compromise *settlement with the borrowers is for early recovery of dues and also saves cost to the Bank* in terms of legal expenses and other costs.
- The *RBI has defined* compromise settlement as *any negotiated arrangement with the borrower to fully settle the claims of the Regulated Entities (RE) against the borrower in cash.*
- It entail some sacrifice of the amount due from the borrower on the part of the REs.
- It is quite similar to one-time settlements, which is one of the most common forms of restructuring.

5. Open Market Sale Scheme

In News

Government imposes stock limits on wheat to prevent hoarding.

About OMSS

- Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) *refers to selling of foodgrains by Government / Government agencies at predetermined prices in the open market* from time to time.
- The Government agent *Food Corporation of India (FCI) releases wheat and rice at predetermined prices* in the open market from time to time.
- It is to enhance the supply of wheat and rice especially during the lean season to moderate the open market prices.

- The *benefit of open sale* in terms of assured supply at reasonable price to the RFMs & traders *should be passed on to the consumers*.
- FCI is undertaking sale of wheat and Raw Rice Grade 'A' to bulk consumers/private traders through e-auction.

Salient features of the Scheme

- *The State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations are also allowed to participate in the e-auction.*
- The States are allowed to participate as a single unit.
- OMSS(D) comprises of 3 schemes:
 - ✓ Sale of wheat to bulk consumers/private traders through e-auction.
 - ✓ Sale of wheat to bulk consumers/private traders through e-auction by dedicated movement.
 - ✓ Sale of Raw Rice Grade 'A' to bulk consumers/private traders through e-auction.

Recent Developments

- *The Centre has discontinued the sale of rice and wheat from the central pool under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to State governments.*
- *The sale of rice under the OMSS will be continued for Northeastern as well as hilly States and those facing law and order situations, and natural calamities.*
- FCI will liquidate rice under the OMSS to private parties from the central pool stock in order to moderate the market prices.

HISTORY/CULTURE

1. Tiananmen Square

In News

Scores detained in Hong Kong on Tiananmen crackdown anniversary.

About Tiananmen Square

- It is a *city square in the city center of Beijing, China*, named after the eponymous Tiananmen ("*Gate of Heavenly Peace*").
- The square contains the Monument to the People's Heroes, the Great Hall of the People, the National Museum of China, and the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong.
- It has *great cultural significance* as it was the site of several important events in *Chinese history*.
- The *square is known for the 1989 protests and massacre* that ended with a military crackdown, which is also known as the *Tiananmen Square Massacre or the June Fourth Massacre*.

About 1989 Tiananmen Square protest and Massacre

- The Tiananmen Square protests were *student-led demonstrations held in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, during 1989*.
- The popular national movement inspired by the Beijing protests is sometimes called the *'89 Democracy Movement'*.
- The protests started on 15 April and were forcibly suppressed on 4 June when the government sent the People's Liberation Army.

2. Neolithic-era

In News

Neolithic-era celt found in Tamil Nadu village.

About Neolithic Era

- The term Neolithic Period refers to the *last stage of the Stone Age*.
- It is also called *New Stone Age*, final stage of cultural evolution or technological development among prehistoric humans.
- The *Neolithic followed the Paleolithic Period, or age of chipped-stone tools, and preceded the Bronze Age, or early period of metal tools*.
- The Neolithic period is *significant for its megalithic architecture, the spread of agricultural practices, and the use of polished stone tools*.
- The Neolithic groups increased their *awareness of territoriality*.

Indian Neolithic Era

- The Neolithic Age *started in India around 7,000 B.C.*
- It was the third and last part of the Stone Age.
- The time span of the Neolithic Age in India was around *7,000 B.C. to 1,000 B.C.*
- The Neolithic Age was preceded by Mesolithic Age (9,000 B.C. to 4,000 B.C.) and succeeded by Chalcolithic Age.

- The Neolithic-agriculture based regions (in Indian), can be *categorized into four groups*:
 - ✓ Indus system and its western borderland
 - ✓ Ganga valley
 - ✓ Western India and the northern Deccan
 - ✓ Southern Deccan
- The major *crops grown were ragi, horse gram, cotton, rice, wheat, and barley*.
- The people of this age *domesticated cattle, sheep, and goats*.
- They *resided in pits near a lakeside and had a hunting and fishing economy*.
- *Pottery first appeared* in this age and included grey ware, black burnished ware, and mat-impressed ware.
- The people *used microlithic blades* in addition to tools made of polished stones as well as bones.
- They used axes, adzes, chisels, and celts.

Recent Proofs of Neolithic Era

- A *celt from the Neolithic age* have been found at *Vizhuppanur near Srivilliputhur in Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu*.
- Recently, another celt, belonging to the neolithic period, was discovered *in Poothinatham village in Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu*.

DEFENCE

1. Combined Maritime Forces

In News

UAE withdraws from *U.S.-led maritime coalition*.

About Combined Maritime Forces

- The Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) is a ***multinational maritime partnership***.
- It exists to uphold the International Rules Based Order (IRBO) by countering illicit non-state actors on the high seas.
- It helps to promote security, stability, and prosperity across approximately 3.2 million square miles of international waters.
- It encompasses some of the world's most important shipping lanes.
- Its main focus areas are:
 - ✓ Counter-narcotics, Counter-smuggling, Suppressing piracy
 - ✓ Encouraging regional cooperation
 - ✓ Engaging with regional and other partners to strengthen relevant capabilities in order to improve overall security and stability
 - ✓ Promoting a safe maritime environment free from illicit non-state actors.
- It has five Combined Task Forces.
- CMF has 38 member nations.
- The 38 nations that comprise CMF are not bound by either a fixed political or military mandate.
- CMF is commanded by a U.S. Navy Vice Admiral.

2. Varunastra - Torpedo

In News

Indigenous heavyweight torpedo successfully tested.

About Varunastra – Torpedo

- Varunastra is India's indigenously designed and developed advanced ***heavy weight torpedo (HWT)***.
- Varunastra is a ship-launched ***anti-submarine torpedo***.
- It was developed by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (***DRDO***) for the Indian Navy.

Varunastra Torpedo

Why in news?

- The Navy test fired torpedo called Varunastra, with a live warhead against an undersea target

Varunastra Torpedo

- Varunastra is an indigenously (95%) developed heavyweight torpedo
- Varunastra is a ship-launched, electrically-propelled underwater weapon equipped with one of the most advanced automatic and remote-controlled guidance systems.
- The weapon system uses its own intelligence in tracing the target.
- It can hit stealth submarines underwater.
- The anti-submarine electric torpedo when fired can travel at 40 knots, or 74 kmph.
- The operational range is 40 km and it can carry a warhead weighing 250 kg.
- The weapon has been jointly developed by the Naval Science and Technology Laboratory (NTSL), Visakhapatnam and the Bharat Dynamics Limited -BDL (Hyderabad).



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3. Hypersonic missile

In News

Iran unveils new hypersonic missile that can cover 1,400 km.

About Hypersonic Missile

- A hypersonic weapon is a weapon capable of travelling at hypersonic speed.
- Hypersonic speed is defined as between **5 and 25 times the speed of sound (5 Mach – 25 Mach) or about 1 to 5 miles per second.**

Types of Hypersonic Weapon Systems

- Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW)
- Conventional Prompt Strike (CPS)
- Conventional Prompt Strike (CPS)

Iran's new hypersonic missile

- Iran had created a hypersonic missile capable of travelling at 15 times the speed of sound (15 Mach).
- The new missile is called '**Fattah**' which means Conqueror in Farsi.
- The new missile had a range of up to 1,400 km.

4. Air Defender 23 exercise

In News

NATO to put up biggest air deployment exercise.

About Air Defender 23 Exercise

- Air Defender is the *air force deployment exercise of NATO*.
- The exercise was *initiated by Germany in 2018*.
- The goal is to exercise air operations with allied air forces.
- The exercise Air Defender 23 is the largest deployment exercise of air forces in NATO's history.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) 

Why in news?

- Germany is preparing to host the biggest air deployment exercise in NATO's history, a show of force intended to impress allies and potential adversaries, German and American.
- The exercise is called Air Defender 23.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- NATO is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April, 1949
- Initial aim was to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- Headquarters - Brussels, Belgium
- Objective - NATO's essential and enduring purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of all its members by political and military means and collective defence under Article 5 of treaty.
- Other recent development - Finland becomes the 31st member of NATO bloc.

NATO Member Countries		
Albania (2009)	Greece (1952)	Poland (1999)
Belgium (1949)	Hungary (1999)	Portugal (1949)
Bulgaria (2004)	Iceland (1949)	Romania (2004)
Canada (1949)	Italy (1949)	Slovakia (2004)
Croatia (2009)	Latvia (2004)	Slovenia (2004)
Czech Republic (1999)	Lithuania (2004)	Spain (1982)
Denmark (1949)	Luxembourg (1949)	Turkey (1952)



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5. India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise

In News

Maiden India-France-UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise to be held in the Gulf of Oman.

About the Exercise

- The *first edition of India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise commenced at the Gulf of Oman*.
- It aims to enhance *trilateral cooperation between the three navies*.

India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise



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Why in news?

- The first edition of India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise commenced on 07 Jun 23.

India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise

- Location - Gulf of Oman
- Participation - INS Tarkash and French Ship Surcouf both with integral helicopters, French Rafale aircraft and UAE Navy Maritime Patrol Aircraft are participating in the exercise.
- Aim
 - To enhance trilateral cooperation between the three navies and pave way for adopting measures towards addressing traditional and non-traditional threats in the maritime environment.
 - The exercise will also enhance collaboration in ensuring safety of mercantile trade and freedom of navigation at high seas in the region.



INDIA-FRANCE-UAE
MARITIME PARTNERSHIP EXERCISE 2023



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6. Agni Prime

In News

DRDO successfully flight-tests New Generation Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime'.

About Agni Prime

- Agni Prime is the **new generation ballistic missile developed** by Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**).
- It is a **two-stage canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile** with dual redundant navigation and guidance system.
- It is the latest and sixth variant of the Agni series missiles.
- It was tested for the first time in June 2021.
- It has a range between 1000 to 2000 km.
- It is lighter than all the earlier Agni series of missiles.

Agni Prime

Why in news?

- New Generation Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime' was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island.

Agni Prime

- The missile's strike range is between 1,000 km and 2,000 km.
- Agni-P is a two-stage canisterised solid propellant missile with dual redundant navigation and guidance system.
- It has been termed as a new generation advanced variant of Agni class of missiles with improved parameters, including manoeuvring and accuracy.
- A new generation nuclear-capable ballistic missile.
- It is a canisterised surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
- Significance: Strengthen India's credible deterrence capabilities, improved manoeuvring and accuracy, unlike earlier Agni missiles.



7. Army Air Defence (AAD)

In News

Indian Army's Air Defence widens wings.

About AAD

- It was **known as Air Defence Artillery till 2005**.
- It has **been in existence since 1940**.
- It enjoyed autonomous status from 1994.
- The **corps actively took part in the Second World War** fighting on behalf of the British Empire.
- It is an active corps of the Indian Army and a major combat support arm tasked with air defence of the country from foreign threats.
- The AAD is responsible for the protection of Indian air space from enemy aircraft and missiles, especially below 5,000 feet.

Modernisation of AAD

- A range of new systems, mostly indigenous, are being inducted, with new technologies.

- It brings in a new automation initiative under *Project Akashteer*.
- It will build a comprehensive air defence picture for the monitoring, tracking and shooting of air defence assets.

DESI & VIDESHI MISSILE SHIELDS

1. Akash
Indigenous area defence missile system
RANGE: 25 KM

- IAF inducting 15 squadrons of Akash-1 & two systems for Rs 10,900 crore
- Army has inducted 2 regiments for Rs 14,180cr (Two more Akash-2 regiments from Dec 2018 onwards)

2. S-400 Triumph
Rs 39,000-crore deal with Russia to be inked this year
RANGE: 400 KM

- 1st missile unit in 24 months after contract. All 5 in 54 months
- China inducting S-400 batteries under \$3 billion inked in 2014

4. Barak-8
Joint DRDO-Israeli Aerospace Industries project
RANGE: 70-KM

- IAF to get initial nine medium-range SAM squadrons for Rs 10,076 crore
- Navy to get it for its frontline warships for Rs 2,606 crore (initial cost)
- 14 warships fitted with older Barak-I systems (range 9 km)

3. Spyder
Israeli low-level quick-reaction missile system
RANGE: 15 KM

- IAF inducting 4 Spyder systems
- DRDO developing 30-km range QR-SAM system

5. Ballistic Missile Defence

- Indigenous project to develop 2-tier BMD shield
- Phase-I (interceptor missiles with 4.5 Mach speed) for 2,000-km range enemy missiles
- Phase-2 (interceptor missiles with 6-7 Mach speed) for 5,000-km range missiles
- Will take 2 years for Phase-I to be deployed



8. EXERCISE EKUVERIN

In News

Indo-Maldives Joint Military Exercise “Ekuverin” commenced at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.

About the Exercise

- It is a joint military exercise between the *Indian Army & the Maldives National Defence Force*.
- *Ekuverin meaning ‘Friends’* is a *bilateral annual exercise* conducted alternatively in India and Maldives.
- It is a 14 days long exercise.
- It is the *12th edition of the Exercise* which is being conducted at *Chaubatia, Uttarakhand*.

9. Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs)

In News

China could potentially have as many ICBMs as U.S. or Russia by turn of decade.

About ICBMs

- The intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) is a ballistic missile with a range *greater than 3,500 miles (5,600 km)*.
- The *first ICBMs were deployed by the Soviet Union in 1958*.

- The ICBMs can be - silo-based, road mobile, rail-based and submarine-based.
- ICBMs were primarily designed for nuclear weapons delivery.
- Conventional, chemical, and biological weapons can also be delivered with varying effectiveness.
- ***Russia, the United States, China, North Korea, India, Israel and Iran*** are the only countries currently known to possess land-based ICBMs.
- ***Agni-V is an Indian nuclear capable intercontinental ballistic missile*** developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization [DRDO].
- The missile is believed to have a range of around 5,000 to 5,500 kilometers.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. Neuralink

In News

What were FDA's concerns over Elon Musk's Neuralink chip?

About Neuralink

- Neuralink is making a ***Class III medical device known as a brain-computer interface (BCI).***
- The ***device connects the brain to an external computer via a Bluetooth signal, enabling continuous communication back and forth.***
- The device is a coin-sized unit called a Link.
- It's implanted within a small disk-shaped cutout in the skull using a precision surgical robot.
- The robot splices a thousand tiny threads from the Link to certain neurons in the brain.
- Each thread is about a quarter the diameter of a human hair.

Benefits

- The device could ***enable precise control of prosthetic limbs***, giving amputees natural motor skills.
- It could revolutionise ***treatment for conditions such as Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, and spinal cord injuries.***
- It shows some promise for potential treatment of obesity, autism, depression, schizophrenia and tinnitus.
- Neuralink could ***augment human intelligence*** by creating an on-demand connection with artificial intelligence systems.

2. Electronics Repair Services Outsourcing (ERSO)

In News

MeitY launches pilot project on Electronics Repair Services Outsourcing (ERSO)

About ERSO

- The Government launched the ERSO Pilot initiative to validate certain transformational policy and process changes ***to make India the Repair Capital of the World.***
- It was launched with a vision ***to make India a global electronics powerhouse.***
- India's ERSO industry is likely to fetch India upto \$20 billion in revenue and also generate millions of jobs.

Electronics Repair Services Outsourcing (ERSO) Initiative

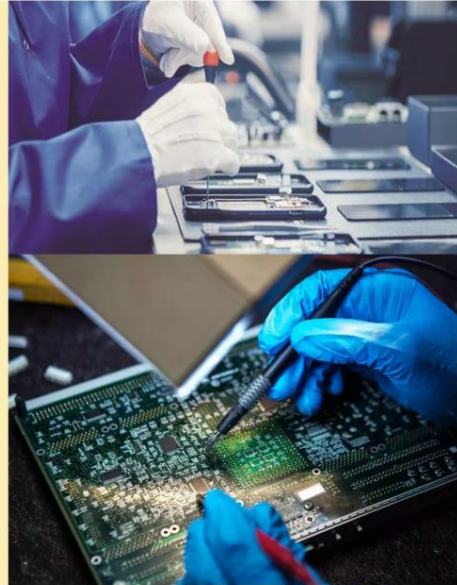


Why in news?

- The Union Ministry of Electronics and IT launched the ERSO Pilot initiative to validate certain transformational policy and process changes to make India the Repair Capital of the World.

Electronics Repair Services Outsourcing (ERSO) Initiative

- Ministry - Ministry of Electronics and IT
- Aim -To promote India as a hub for repairing electronic goods and to assess the feasibility and potential of capturing 20% of the global repair service market within five years.
- The pilot is being held in Bengaluru and will be run for three months.
- India's e-waste policy will be modified to enable repair companies to domestically recycle 5% of imported goods by weight on a trial basis.
- The repaired goods will not be permitted to be sold in the domestic market.
- New provisions will be made to allow their exportation to regions other than their country of origin.



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3. Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)

In News

U.S.-India ties facilitate development of defence platforms.

About iCET

- ***U.S.-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)*** was announced in **2022**.
- It is to elevate and expand the strategic technology partnership and defense industrial cooperation between two countries.
- Both countries are committed to fostering an open, accessible, and secure technology ecosystem.
- It identified the fields of biotechnology, advanced materials, and rare earth processing technology as areas for future cooperation.

4. Fixed-Dose Combination (FDC) Medicines

In News

Government bans 14 combination drugs used to treat common ailments.

What is FDC?

- ***Two or more drugs are combined in a fixed ratio into a single dosage form***, which is termed as fixed dose combinations (FDCs).
- An example of a fixed-dose combination (FDC) is HIV drug Atripla. It is a combination of efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate.

About FDC

- The FDCs are justified when they demonstrate clear benefits like:
 - ✓ Potentiating the therapeutic efficacy
 - ✓ Reducing the incidence of adverse effect of drugs
 - ✓ Having pharmacokinetic advantage
 - ✓ Better compliance by reducing the pill burden
 - ✓ Reducing dose of individual drugs
 - ✓ Decreasing development of resistance
 - ✓ Cheaper than individual drug
- The FDCs formulated without due diligence can pose problems:
 - ✓ Pharmacodynamic mismatch between the two components
 - ✓ Pharmacokinetic mismatch and having peak efficacy at different time.
 - ✓ Chemical noncompatibility
 - ✓ Drug interactions because of the common metabolizing pathways.
 - ✓ Limitations of finer dosing titration of individual ingredients.
- Recently, Fourteen fixed-dose combination (FDC) medicines found to lack therapeutic relevance have been banned by the Central Government.

5. Kavach system

In News

Understanding the Kavach system.

What is Kavach system?

- Kavach is an *automatic train protection (ATP) system indigenously developed by Indian Railways.*
- *It was developed by Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) for India Railway.*

About Kavach system

- It is a state-of-the-art electronic system with *Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4) standards.*
- It is meant to provide *protection by preventing trains to pass the signal at Red (which marks danger) and avoid collision.*
- It *activates the train's braking system automatically if the driver fails* to control the train as per speed restrictions.
- It prevents the collision between two locomotives equipped with functional Kavach systems.
- The system relays SoS messages during emergency situations.
- It has feature for the centralised live monitoring of train movements through the Network Monitor System.
- Kavach is *one of the cheapest, SIL-4 certified technologies where the probability of error is 1 in 10,000 years.*
- The Kavach system has been deployed over 1,465 kms in the SCR limits in 77 locomotives and 135 stations.

6. Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)

In News

ISRO readies plan for Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV).

About NGLV

- The *Next-Generation Launch Vehicle* will be a straightforward, robust machinery ***built for bulk manufacturing.***
- It would make *space transportation way more cost-effective.*
- The NGLV ***will be partially reusable*** and that the boosters should be reusable.
- It will have new generation propulsion will have cryogenic propulsion also in case to improve payload.
- The *NGLV will be a three-stage rocket* powered by ***green fuel combinations, like kerosene and liquid oxygen or methane and liquid oxygen.***
- NGLV ***will be a commercial launcher vehicle, for both governmental and private use.***
- The inaugural launch of NGLV is tentatively set to take place in 2030.

7. Hydrogen from seawater

In News

IIT-M generates hydrogen from seawater using solar energy.

About Hydrogen from Seawater

- A critical components for a highly efficient, cost-effective way to ***electrolyze seawater to generate hydrogen using solar energy was developed.***
- It was developed by Researchers from the Department of Physics at *IIT-Madras.*
- The team has developed an electrolyser using alkaline seawater.
- Green Hydrogen
 - ✓ Green hydrogen is a type of ***hydrogen that is produced through the electrolysis of water using renewable energy sources*** such as solar or wind power.
 - ✓ The ***electrolysis process splits water into hydrogen and oxygen***, and the hydrogen produced can be used as a clean and renewable fuel.

8. Transgenic Crops

In News

Three States rebuff directive to test transgenic cotton.

About Transgenic Crops

- The crops that are ***genetically modified crops or their gene is manipulated*** to perform a specific function are known as ***transgenic crops.***
- In these one or more genes coding for desirable traits have been inserted.
- The ***genes may come from the same or another plant species, or from totally unrelated organisms.***

Status of transgenic crops in India

- ***Cotton is the only transgenic crop that is being commercially cultivated*** in India.

- *In 2010, the GEAC had approved GM brinjal, but this was put on an indefinite moratorium by the government.*
- *GEAC approved the environmental release of Mustard hybrid DMH-11 in 2022.*
- It is only for seed production and testing, it is one step away from full commercial cultivation.

Recent Developments

- The Hyderabad-based Bioseed Research India developed a variety of *Transgenic Cotton contains a gene, cry2Ai*, that makes *cotton resistant to pink bollworm, a major pest.*
- The seed has passed preliminary trials and was recommended by the GEAC to be tested in farmer's fields in Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana.
- Companies interested in testing their seeds need approvals from the States for conducting such tests.
- Only Haryana gave approval, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana have rebuffed the proposal.

9. Cholederm

In News

Drugs Controller approves *first indigenously developed animal-derived tissue engineering scaffold.*

About Cholederm

- Cholederm is an *advanced wound care product derived from animal tissue.*
- It is *derived from the extracellular matrix of de-cellularised gall bladder of pig* and tissue engineered as membrane forms of scaffold.
- It was developed by the researchers at the Division of Experimental Pathology in the *Biomedical Technology wing Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST).*
- It healed different types of skin wounds including burn and diabetic wounds in rats, rabbits or dogs faster than similar products currently available in market.
- It has won the approval of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) as a Class D medical device.

REPORTS/INDICES

1. India Rankings 2023

In news

Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh releases India Rankings 2023 in New Delhi.

Ministry: Ministry of Education

About India Ranking

- India Ranking is the **ranking of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in India based on National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**.
- It was **launched in 2015**.
- It uses five parameters and 18 sub-parameters for ranking of HEIs.
- India ranking is vital for evaluating the quality of educational programs offered by higher education institutions in colleges and universities.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

- The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), **launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Education**.
- This framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country.
- Five broad categories of parameters were identified in the NIRF and their weightages are on scale of 10.
- The parameters are:
 - ✓ Teaching, Learning and Resources
 - ✓ Research and Professional Practices
 - ✓ Graduation Outcomes
 - ✓ Outreach and Inclusivity
 - ✓ Perception

About India Ranking 2023

- It is the eighth consecutive edition of India Rankings of HEIs in India.
- Three distinct additions of 2023 edition of India Rankings are as follows:
 - ✓ Introduction of a new subject namely Agriculture & Allied Sectors.
 - ✓ Integration of “Innovation” ranking previously executed by the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) into the India Rankings.
 - ✓ Expansion of scope of “Architecture” to “Architecture and Planning” to include institutions imparting courses in Urban and Town Planning.

2. NHAI’s First ‘Sustainability Report’

In News

NHAI’s First ‘Sustainability Report’ captures initiatives taken for Environment Sustainability.

Ministry: Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

About NHAI Sustainability Report

- NHAI released its first Sustainability report for Financial Year 2021-22.

- NHAI's Sustainability Report is *not a mandated requirement as per SEBI guidelines.*
- It was taken as a *voluntary initiative to demonstrate its sustainability credentials.*
- It is prepared as per the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) reporting guidelines.
- The report will open new avenues for infrastructure financing known as 'Green Finance'.

3. State Food Safety Index

In News

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya unveils 5th State Food Safety Index on World Food Safety Day.

Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

About State Food Safety Index

- *FSSAI has developed State Food Safety Index* to measure the performance of states on various parameters of Food Safety.
- This index is based on performance of State/ UT on **five significant parameters.**
- The parameters are - ***Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training & Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment.***
- The Index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model that provides an objective framework for evaluating food safety across all States/UTs.

About 5th State Food Safety Index (SFSI)

- In the 5th edition of the Index ***Kerala secured the top ranking followed by Punjab and Tamil Nadu.***
- Among the smaller states, Goa emerged as the leader, followed Manipur and Sikkim.
- Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh secured the first, second, and third ranks respectively among the union territories.

4. Digital News Report, 2023

In News

News consumption falls in India, says study.

About the Report

- The report reveals new insights about digital news consumption.
- The report was ***published by Reuters Institute.***
- The ***report documents how video-based content, distributed via social networks such as TikTok, Instagram and YouTube are becoming more important for news.***

About India in the Report

- In India ***the overall consumption and sharing of news declined.***'

India was ranked 24th among 46 countries.