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May 16 - 31



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INDEX

POLITY

1. Jallikattu
2. Immunity of President of India
3. Bill to link birth and death register with electoral rolls
4. District Judiciary
5. National Policy for Rare Diseases
6. Census

ENVIRONMENT/GEOGRAPHY

1. Herbicide-Tolerant (HT) Crops
2. Endosulfan
3. Kiru hydro-electric power project
4. Parachute gecko
5. Wild Gaur
6. People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)
7. Polar Cyclone
8. Farakka Barrage

SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

1. Sanchar Saathi Portal
2. National Productivity Council
3. Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme
4. STARS Project
5. Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)
6. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)
7. Vigyan Prasar
8. National e-Vidhan Application
9. Fortified Rice Scheme
10. REWARD Program

INTERNATIONAL

ORGANISATIONS/INITIATIVES

1. European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
2. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk
3. Operation Karuna
4. Energy Quadrilemma
5. World Health Assembly
6. ISO COPOLCO
7. Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

ECONOMY

1. Carbon Border Tax (CBT)
2. Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)
3. Asset Management Companies (AMCs)
4. Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)
5. Open Network for Digital Commerce
6. Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)
7. Participatory Notes (P-notes)
8. National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust

HISTORY/ART & CULTURE

1. Kohinoor
2. Kuki Tribe
3. Thirukkural
4. Sengol
5. New Parliament House

6. Muhammad Iqbal

7. Purana Qila

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Preterm births

2. Na-ion batteries

3. AIRAWAT

4. India SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG)

5. Model Cosmic Dust Particles

6. Laser Interferometric Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)

7. Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs)

DEFENCE

1. Mission DefSpace

2. Vaghsheer

3. INS Mormugao

4. INS Sindhuratna

5. INSV Tarini

6. Al Mohed Al Hindi 23

7. Hawk aircraft

INDEX/REPORTS

1. Global Report on Internal Displacement

POLITY

1. Jallikattu

In News

Supreme Court upholds laws allowing Jallikattu, Kambala

About Jallikattu

- **Jallikattu** is a bull-taming sport played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festival.
- It is also known as '*Eruthazhuvuthal*'.
- It is a traditional event in which a bull is released into a crowd of people.

Timeline of legal battle on Jallikattu

- In 2006 the Madurai bench of Madras High Court refused to allow Jallikattu.
- In 2007 a division bench set aside the 2006 rule and asked State to introduce a regulatory mechanism.
- In 2009 the government passed the Tamil Nadu Regulation of Jallikattu Act.
- In 2011 PETA challenged the 2009 Act in Supreme Court.
- Ministry of Environment and Forest banned the use of Bulls as performance animals.
- In 2014 SC banned Jallikattu.
- In 2017 Tamil Nadu passed the Jallikattu bill thereby allowing to conduct Jallikattu.
- The new law was challenged by AWBI and PETA in the Supreme Court.
- Supreme Court referred all petitions to Constitution Bench.
- *In 2023 SC uphold the Tamil Nadu law that allow Jallikattu.*

2. Immunity of President of India

In News

President's name in a contract is no immunity against the application of law to test its conditions.

About the Immunity of President

- The term immunity has been defined as an exemption from legal proceedings or liability.
- **Article 361** of the Indian Constitution grants immunity or protection to the President and the governors of the country.
- The Article 361 states that:
 - The President or the Governor is *not answerable to any court* for the exercise of the powers and duties of his office.
 - **No criminal proceedings** shall be conducted against the President or the Governor during his term of office.
 - **No arrest or imprisonment** shall be made against the President or Governor *during his term of office*.

- **Civil proceedings** in which relief is claimed against the President or the Governor shall be instituted during his term of office in any court in respect of any act done or purporting to be done by him in his personal capacity.
- Article 361 is an exception to Article 14 (Right to Equality) of the Indian Constitution.

3. Bill to link birth and death register with electoral rolls

In News

Bill to link death and birth register with electoral rolls in next session of Parliament.

About the Bill

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) proposes to amend the Registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969.
- **Registration of births and deaths** is important for updating citizens' register, electoral rolls and list of people who avail beneficiary schemes.
- It is to maintain the database at the national level that will be available with the **Registrar General of India (RGI)**.
- It will help to update the Population Register, the Electoral Register, and the Aadhar, ration card, passport and driving licence databases.
- With the new system when a person turns 18, the Election Commission will intimate him and make his voter card.
- In case of a death, the Census registrar will send a notice to the family that they have received information about the person's death and the family has 15 days to object.
- The *geofencing* of blocks to be covered under the Sample Registration System (SRS) will be done so that the enumerator cannot fudge the data.

Sample Registration System (SRS)

- SRS is a large-scale demographic survey conducted every year by the RGI office.
- It is done to estimate the birth rate, death rate, as well as other fertility and mortality indicators.

4. District Judiciary

In News

Independence of district judiciary is part of the **basic structure of the Constitution**.

About District Judiciary

- The district courts of India are the courts of the state governments for every district.
- It is the principal court of *original civil jurisdiction* besides the high court of the state.
- It derives its jurisdiction in civil matters primarily from the Code of Civil Procedure.
- It is also a *court of sessions* when it exercises its jurisdiction on criminal matters under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

- It is presided over by a *district judge appointed by the state governor on the advice of chief justice of the high court.*

Recent Development

- The Supreme Court has said that the independence of district judiciary is part of the basic structure of the Constitution.
- Judicial independence from the executive and the legislature requires the judiciary to have a say in matters of finances.
- To secure the impartiality of the District Judiciary it is important to ensure their financial security and economic independence.

5. National Policy for Rare Diseases

In News

Delhi High Court steps in for patients of rare diseases, sets up panel to implement Centre's policy.

About the policy

- *National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD)*, 2021 was launched by the government for the treatment of rare disease patients.
- It has provisions *for promotion of research and development for diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases.*
- It promoted local development and manufacture of drugs and creation of conducive environment for indigenous manufacturing of *drugs for rare diseases at affordable prices.*
- The salient features of NPRD are as under:
 - The rare diseases have been identified and categorized into 3 groups namely Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3.
 - It has *provision for financial support of up to Rs. 50 lakhs* to the patients suffering from any category of Rare Diseases.
 - Provision for treatment in any of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) mentioned in NPRD.
 - The patient may approach the nearest Centre of Excellence to receive financial assistance for treatment of rare disease.

Recent Updates of the Programme

- The Delhi High Court has set up a five-member panel to implement the policy.
- Hundreds of patients are registered with the 'Digital Portal for Crowdfunding and Voluntary donations for Patients of Rare Diseases'.
- The government is unable to fully finance their treatment due to high costs, resource constraints, and competing health priorities.
- Under the current framework, the Centres for Excellence are not centrally coordinated.

National Policy of Rare Diseases (NPRD) 2021



Why in news?

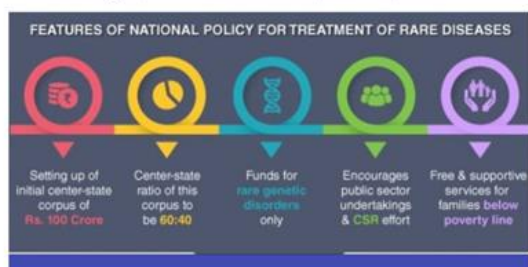
- The Delhi High Court has taken a proactive step to address the challenges faced by patients with rare diseases by establishing a five-member panel to implement the Centre's rare diseases policy effectively.
- The National Rare Diseases Committee, aims to ensure that patients enrolled with the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, receive timely treatment and benefit from the policy.
- The committee consists of experts from relevant fields, including medical professionals, policymakers, and representatives from healthcare institutions.

National Policy of Rare Diseases (NPRD) 2021

- Ministry - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Aim:
 - To increase focus on indigenous research and local production of medicines.
 - To lower the cost of treatment of rare diseases.
 - To screen and detect rare diseases early at early stages, which will in turn help in their prevention.

Key Provisions in the Policy

- The rare diseases have been identified and categorized into 3 groups namely Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3.
 - Group 1: Disorders amenable to one-time curative treatment.
 - Group-2: Diseases requiring long term/lifelong treatment having relatively lower cost of treatment and benefit has been documented in literature and annual or more frequent surveillance is required.
 - Group 3: Diseases for which definitive treatment is available but challenges are to make optimal patient selection for benefit, very high cost and lifelong therapy.
- Provision for financial support of up to Rs. 50 lakhs to the patients suffering from any category of the Rare Diseases and for treatment in any of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) mentioned in NPRD-2021, outside the Umbrella Scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi.
- In order to receive financial assistance for treatment of rare disease, the patient of the nearby area may approach the nearest Centre of Excellence to get him assessed and avail the benefits.
- Eight (08) Centres of Excellence (CoEs) have been identified for diagnosis, prevention and treatment of rare diseases.
- Five Nidan Kendras have been set up for genetic testing and counselling services.



Do You Know

Rare Diseases - Lifelong disease or disorder condition with a prevalence of 1 or less, per 1000 population is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a rare disease. Some examples of rare diseases include hemangiomas, Hirschsprung disease, Gaucher disease etc.

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6. Census

In News

Only six religion options make it to next Census form

About New Census form

- Census 2021, which was to be **conducted in two phases, has been postponed indefinitely due to Covid-19.**
- It will be the **first digital Census**, where respondents will have the option to fill in the questionnaire from the comforts of their own homes.
- **The 31 questions for the first phase — Houselisting and Housing Schedule —** were notified in 2020.
- **28 questions** have been finalised for the second phase — **the Population Enumeration — but are yet to be notified.**
- **The new census will only count Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain as distinct religion options.**
- Nature-worshipping Adivasis in different states have been campaigning to include their **Sarna faith** as a separate religion.
- The new census form will have the mode of travel to place of work and travel time in hours and minutes, and whether they use metro rail.

ENVIRONMENT

1. Herbicide-Tolerant (HT) Crops

In News

Government 'misleading' SC on herbicide-tolerant nature of GM mustard.

What are Herbicide tolerant crops?

- Herbicide tolerant crops are designed to tolerate specific broad-spectrum herbicides, which kill the surrounding weeds, but *leave the cultivated crop intact*.

About HT crops

- Herbicides are useful *for weed control and have minimal direct impact on animal life*, and are not persistent.
- They are highly effective and among the safest of agrochemicals to use.
- They are equally effective against crops.
- HT crops are developed to have a degree of tolerance to these herbicides.
- Advantages of Herbicide Tolerant Crops
 - *Excellent weed control* and hence higher crop yields
 - *Flexibility* – possible to control weeds later in the plant's growth
 - Reduced numbers of sprays in a season
 - Reduced fuel use (because of less spraying)
 - Reduced soil compaction (because of less need to go on the land to spray)
 - *Use of low toxicity compounds* which do not remain active in the soil.
- Disadvantages of HT crops
 - They negatively impact the environment.
 - They contribute to the development of herbicide-resistant weeds.

Issue with HT crop

- The Government of India argue that GM mustard is not a HT crop.
- The Supreme court-appointed TEC had recommended for a ban on HT crops in India.
- Coalition of GM-free India alleged the government is ignoring the clear recommendation by the TEC.

2. Endosulfan

In News

SC transfers Endosulfan case to Kerala HC for monitoring government's medical and palliative measures for victims.

About Endosulfan

- Endosulfan is an off-patent *organochlorine insecticide and acaricide* that is being phased out globally.
- It became a highly controversial agrichemical due to its *acute toxicity, potential for bioaccumulation, and role as an endocrine disruptor*.
- It has been used in agriculture around the world to control insect pests.

Features of Endosulfan

- It is a cream- to brown-colored solid that may appear in the form of crystals or flakes.
- It has a smell like turpentine, but does not burn.
- It **does not occur naturally** in the environment.
- It appears as a brown or colorless crystalline solid with a pungent odor.
- It is denser than water and nearly insoluble in water.

Ban on Endosulfan

- A global ban on the manufacture and use of endosulfan was negotiated under the **Stockholm Convention in 2011**.
- The ban took effect in 2012, with certain uses exempted for five additional years.
- More than 80 countries had already banned it or announced phase-outs by the time the Stockholm Convention ban was agreed upon.
- In 2011, the Supreme Court ordered a ban on the production and sale of endosulfan in India.

3. Kiru hydro-electric power project

In News

CBI searches multiple locations in graft case related to Kiru hydro-electric power project.

About Kiru hydro-electric power project

- **Kiru Hydro Electric Project** is proposed on **River Chenab**, located in Kishtwar district of the Jammu & Kashmir.
- The project is envisaged as a **Run of River Scheme**.
- The project will include the construction of a concrete gravity dam on the Chenab River.

Chenab River



Chenab River

- The Chenab originates from near the Bara Lacha Pass in the Lahul-Spiti part of the Zaskar Range.
- Chenab river is formed by the confluence of the Chandra and Bhaga rivers at Tandi located in the upper Himalayas in the Lahul and Spiti District of Himachal Pradesh
- In its upper reaches, it is also known as the Chandrabhaga
- It flows through the Jammu region of J&K into the plains of Punjab in Pakistan
- The waters of the Chenab are allocated to Pakistan under the terms of the Indus Water Treaty
- The river is crossed in J&K by the world's highest railways bridge name Chenab Bridge.



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4. Parachute gecko

In News

Mizoram records new parachute gecko.

About Parachute Gecko

- *Ptychozoon* was a genus of arboreal geckos known commonly as *flying geckos*, *gliding geckos*, or *parachute geckos*.
- It is endemic to Southeast Asia.
- The genus *Gekko* contains morphologically diverse lizards.
- It is represented by 86 species distributed across South and Southeast Asia.
- The Parachute geckos are *nocturnal*, *arboreal geckos* with a lifestyle that revolves around crypsis and paragliding from one tree to another.
- The parachute gecko has been reported to be distributed across parts of Mizoram, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia.

About Newly Discovered Species

- *Gekko mizoramensis* a new species of parachute gecko have been recorded in Mizoram by a team of biologists.
- The genus comprises members of the subgenus *Ptychozoon* with adaptations such as elaborate skin flaps to facilitate gliding.

5. Wild Gaur

In News

Three killed in wild gaur attacks in Kottayam, Kollam.

About Wild Gaur

- Wild gaur is one of several species of wild cattle and it belongs to the family Bovidae.
- The gaur is also known as the *Indian bison*.
- It is heavy-bodied and typically blue-eyed and has curving horns.
- It has been listed as **Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List** since 1986.

Indian Bison or Gaur		ENLITE IAS
<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three killed in wild gaur attacks in Kottayam, Kollam. <p>Indian Bison or Gaur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location - Native to South and Southeast Asia • It is the tallest species of wild cattle found in India and largest extant bovine. • It is heavy-bodied and typically blue-eyed and has curving horns. 		<p>Threats Face by Guars</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 01 Food Scarcity 02 Poaching 03 Habitat Loss 04 Human-Animal
<p>Conservation Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN Red List - Vulnerable • Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 - Schedule I 		<p>7994058393 www.enliteias.com enliteias@gmail.com</p>

6. People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)

In News

National Campaign for Updation and Verification of People's Biodiversity Register Launched in Goa.

About PBR

- As per the **Biological Diversity Act 2002**, **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC)** are to be created.
- BMCs are for *promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity by local bodies* across the country.
- **BMCs have been constituted by the local bodies** in the States and Union Territories.
- They are entrusted with preparation of the **People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)**, in consultation with local communities.
- The National Biodiversity Authority and the State Biodiversity Boards shall provide guidance and technical support for preparing People's Biodiversity Registers.
- The People's Biodiversity Register serves as a comprehensive record of various aspects of biodiversity.
- The aspects includes:
 - *The conservation of habitats*
 - *Preservation of land races*
 - *Folk varieties and cultivars*
 - *Domesticated stocks and breeds of animals*
 - *Micro-organisms*
 - *The accumulation of knowledge related to the area's biological diversity*
- It provides the information on Local Biodiversity Hotspots, Sacred Groves, and Other biologically significant areas, locally endemic and endangered Species.
- It focus on *Life scape diversity of People, their knowledge and expectation, special features such as rituals ecological history* of the area.

7. Polar Cyclone

In News

Scientists identify polar cyclone swirling on mysterious Uranus.

About Polar Cyclone

- **Polar cyclones** (also known as **Arctic Cyclones**) are large areas of low pressure.
- The altitude of this cyclone extends from the middle of the troposphere into the stratosphere
- Polar cyclones are usually 1,000 to 2,000 kilometers wide in which the *air is moving in a spiral counterclockwise fashion in the northern hemisphere.*
- *The reason for the rotation is the same as tropical cyclones, the Coriolis effect.*
- Cold air is contained within the polar cyclone by the polar-front jet stream.
- Polar-front jet stream is an eastward-moving belt of strong stratospheric winds that separates warm tropical air from cold polar air in the midlatitudes.
- They also exist in places such as Greenland, the Eurasian Arctic area, and northern Canada.

- Polar cyclones can form in any time of the year, although summer polar cyclones are usually weaker than the ones that form in the winter.

About Polar Cyclone on Uranus

- The new observations from a telescope located in New Mexico provided a fuller understanding of *Uranus atmosphere*.
- It detected of a polar cyclone whose center measures a quarter of Earth’s diameter, swirling near its north pole.
- The new findings give a picture of a planet more dynamic than previously known.

Uranus

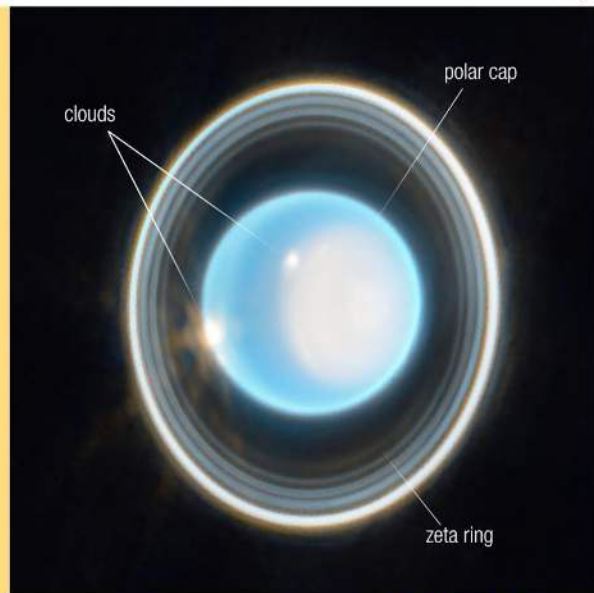


Why in news?

- Scientists identify polar cyclone swirling on mysterious Uranus.

Uranus

- Uranus is an ice giant due to the chemical makeup of its interior which is made up of water, methane, and ammonia.
- Uranus rotates in clockwise direction.
- The planet takes 84 earth years to orbit the Sun.
- Uranus has 13 rings, with 11 visible in the image.
- The planet also has 27 known moons.
- Uranus has a unique polar cap that appears during summer and vanishes in the fall.
- In 1986, NASA's Voyager 2 made the first - and so far, the only - visit to Uranus.



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8. Farakka Barrage

In News

Joint survey on river erosion to be undertaken at Farraka Barrage

About Farakka Barrage

- Farakka Barrage is a barrage across the *Ganga River* located in Murshidabad district in the Indian state of West Bengal.
- Farakka barrage started in 1962, was completed in 1970. It became operationalized in 1975.
- The Feeder Canal (Farakka) from the barrage to the *Bhagirathi-Hooghly River* is about 42 km (26 mi) long.
- The Barrage serves water to the Farakka Super Thermal Power Station.
- The purpose of the barrage is to divert 1,800 cubic metres per second of water from the Ganges to the *Hooghly River*.
- It is for flushing out sediment deposition from Kolkata harbour without the need of regular mechanical dredging.

River Erosion

- West Bengal Government and the FBPA had decided to take a holistic approach to combating river erosion.
- A joint survey of the land (char) in the opposite side of Malda across the Ganges and at Jalangi the exit point of the river Ganges into Bangladesh is to be conducted.

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SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

1. Sanchar Saathi Portal

In News

Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw launches Sanchar Saathi portal.

About the Portal

- *Department of Telecom* has developed a citizen centric portal named ***Sanchar Saathi*** to protect users.
- Safety and security of the users is the vision of Digital India.
- Portal has been developed to ***prevent various frauds such as identity theft, forged KYC, banking frauds.***
- ***Applications of the Portal:***
 - Check the connections registered on their names
 - Report fraudulent or unrequired connections
 - Block the mobile phones which are stolen/lost
 - Check IMEI genuineness before buying a mobile phone
- The portal has following modules:
 - Centralized Equipment Identity Register (CEIR)
 - Know Your Mobile
 - Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection (TAF COP)
 - ASTR (Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification)

2. National Productivity Council

In News

Under The Flagship Scheme PMMSY seven major Field Studies are being carried out by National Productivity Council.

About NPC

- ***National Productivity Council of India (NPC), established in the year 1958.***
- It is an autonomous organization under Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- NPC is a constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), an Inter-Governmental Body of which the Government of India is a founding member.

Objectives

- To promote innovation - led productivity in a sustained manner in all spheres of national economy.
- To propagate productivity consciousness and culture amongst Govt., Business and Society.
- To demonstrate value addition through generation and application of advanced productivity tools and techniques for multiplier effect.

Activities

- To Stimulate and Promote Productivity Consciousness

- To provide consultancy services to increase productivity
- To undertake research in productivity areas and maintain database of productivity
- To undertake preparation & Implementation of projects/schemes of *Public & private Sector*
- Promotion of IT enabled services and e-Governance

3. Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme

In News


Cabinet Approves revision in Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for RABI Season, 2022-23.

About Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme


- The *Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme* provides subsidies *for all non-urea-based fertilizers*.
- The nutrient based subsidy scheme has been implemented by the *Department of Fertilizers* since 2010.
- The scheme was established to promote fertilisation in a balanced manner to boost agricultural output and improve farm returns.
- It will enable smooth availability of all P&K fertilizers to the farmers at the subsidized / affordable prices of fertilizers.
- The volatility in the international prices of fertilizers and raw materials has been primarily absorbed by the Government.
- The subsidy on P&K fertilizers is being governed by NBS Scheme
- Government is making available fertilizers, namely Urea and 25 grades for P&K fertilizers to farmers at subsidized prices.
- The *subsidy would be released to fertilizer companies as per approved rates* so that they can make fertilizers available to farmers at an affordable price.

Recent Developments

- Recently cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for revision in Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for various nutrients.
- The Nutrients are Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potash (K) and Sulphur (S) for Rabi Season 2022-23.



Liquid Nano Urea




IFFCO NANO UREA LIQUID

Introducing World's First Nano Urea for Farmers

- Reduces Input Cost
- Increases Farmers' Income
- Environment-friendly
- Enhances Crop Productivity
- Improves Nutritional Value
- Cheaper than Conventional Urea

Liquid Nano Urea

- It is urea in the form of a nanoparticle in liquid form that provide nitrogen to plants as an **alternative to the conventional urea**.
- It is developed to replace conventional urea and it can curtail the requirement of the same by at least 50%.
- **Developed at** - Nano Biotechnology Research Centre, Kalol, Gujrat aim to achieving Atmanirbhar Bharat and Atmanirbhar Krishi.



Fertiliser subsidy (₹ trillion)	
2019-20	0.81
2020-21	1.38
2021-22	1.6
2022-23(E)	2

Average landed cost of import (\$ tonne) y-o-y change		
	April 2021	April 2022
Urea	380	930
DAP	555	924
MOP	273	596

Source: Fertilizer ministry budget estimate

4. STARS Project

In News

Ministry of Education and World Bank organise a workshop on School-to-Work Transition under the STARS Program.

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Education

About STARS

- **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS)** Project was approved by the Cabinet in 2020.
- It is a *centrally sponsored scheme*.
- *The* Project became effective in 2021 for a period of five years.
- Total project cost of Rs 5718 crore with the financial support of **World Bank** amounting to US \$ 500.
- A National Assessment Centre, **PARAKH** is set up as an independent and autonomous institution under the Project.
- It is being implemented in six identified States viz. *Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala*.
- It is carved out of **Samagra Shiksha**, with a focus on those elements of the scheme that will most directly support school education enhancement.
- One of the key components of STARS program is strengthening of Vocational Education and School-to-Work Transition.
- Ministry of Education and World Bank organised a workshop on School-to-Work Transition under the STARS Program.

5. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

In News

Centre to geo-tag drains long Ganges to prevent discharge of solid waste into river

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Jal Shakti

About NMCG

- NMCG was registered as a society in 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
- It acted as implementation arm of *National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)* which was constituted under the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986**.
- NGRBA has been dissolved in 2016, consequent to constitution of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga.
- It has five tier structure at national, state and district level:
- **National Ganga Council** under *chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India*.
- Empowered Task Force (ETF) on river Ganga under chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti.
 - National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG).
 - State Ganga Committees
 - District Ganga Committees in every specified district abutting river Ganga and its tributaries in the states.

- NMCG has a two tier management structure and comprises of Governing Council and Executive Committee.

About Geo-tagging of drains

- Solid waste was being dumped at many locations along the banks of the Ganga, which is being flown into the river water.
- All drains carrying discharge from villages located on the banks of the Ganga River will be geo-tagged.
- It is to *prevent solid waste flowing into the river*.
- The information on the geo-tagged drains will then be shared with the urban local bodies, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the rural Swachh Bharat Mission.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)



Why in news?

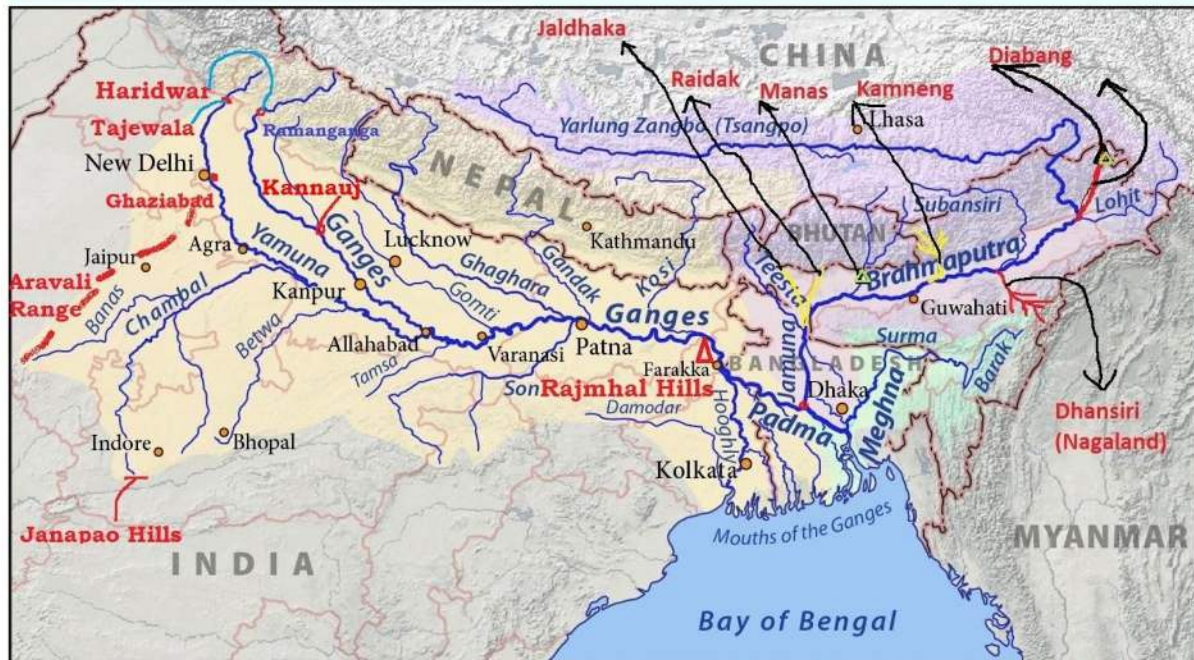
- Centre to geo-tag drains along Ganges to prevent discharge of solid waste into river as part of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

- Ministry - Ministry of Jal Shakti
- It is being implemented by the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga also known as the National Ganga Council.
- This mission was established on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 as a registered society.

Objective

- The mission incorporates rehabilitating and boosting the existing STPs (Sewage Treatment Plants) and instant short-term steps to curb pollution at exit points on the riverfront in order to check the inflow of sewage.
- To maintain the continuity of the water flow without changing the natural season variations.
- To restore and maintain the surface flow and groundwater.
- To regenerate and maintain the natural vegetation of the area.
- To conserve and regenerate the aquatic biodiversity as well as the riparian biodiversity of the river Ganga basin.
- To allow participation of the public in the process of protection, rejuvenation and management of the river.



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6. Vigyan Prasar

In News

Chief of Vigyan Prasar, Centre's science popularisation arm, fired.

About Vigyan Prasar

- Vigyan Prasar (VP) is an autonomous organization under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.
- The principal objective of VP is to serve India's science popularization agenda.
- It is achieved through several strategically important two – way stakeholder specific approaches. They are:
 - To communicate about principles and practice of science and technology
 - Implications for development and quality of life.
- Science popularization serves as a robust knowledge led tool to fulfill three mutually reinforcing public policy objectives:
 - The first is to create and foster a well-informed citizenry.
 - The second is about building capacities to communicate.
- It work closely with institutions / missions on health, agriculture, energy, water, sanitation, fundamentals of science and technology including STEM and STEAM, IT applications etc.
- The three most important guiding principles for VP are:
 - Topical relevance and assistance to deliver appropriate information in a timely manner.
 - Inclusiveness that creates space for all to communicate and engage within the framework of science and technology.
 - Reality checks that establish relevant need and impacts cascades.

7. Fortified Rice Scheme

In News

Congress questions the rolling out fortified rice under National Food Security Act despite caution by experts.

About Fortified Rice Scheme

- Government of India started the *Centrally Sponsored Scheme* on "*Fortification of Rice & its Distribution under Public Distribution System*".
- It is to **address anaemia and micro-nutrient deficiency** in the country.
- **Objectives the Scheme:**
 - Distribution of Fortified Rice through Public Distribution System.
 - Coverage of NFSA, beneficiaries under PDS with Fortified Rice in the selected Districts.
 - Facilitate cross learning and sharing of best practices among States/UTs and DoF&PD.
 - To evaluate the provision, coverage and Utilization of Fortified Rice by the target population.
 - Fortification of rice is found to be a cost-effective and complementary strategy to increase vitamin and mineral content in diets.
 - It is a step towards nutritional security and helps in fighting anaemia and malnutrition in the country.

About Rice fortification process

- Fortification is the process of adding *Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK), containing FSSAI prescribed micronutrients to normal Rice in the ratio of 1:100.*
- *Fortified rice is nearly identical to traditional rice* in aroma, taste, and texture.
- The process is done in the rice mills at the time of milling of rice.

Issues with Fortification

- There are adverse effect of iron-fortified rice on the health of children.
- There is an increase in serum levels linked to diabetes in children who were given iron-fortified rice.
- ICMR - India's premier medical research body - has serious doubts about the effectiveness of fortified rice.
- There are multiple warnings by experts, government officials, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Niti Aayog.

8. REWARD Program

In news

Secretary, DoLR reviewed REWARD Program with World Bank Team

About REWARD

- REWARD is *Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development program.*
- It is a **World Bank assisted** Watershed development program which is being implemented from 2021 to 2026.
- Objectives:
 - To *strengthen capacities of National and State institutions* to adopt improved watershed management for increasing farmers resilience
 - To support value chains in selected watersheds of participating States.
- The scope of the program covers management, monitoring, communication and knowledge sharing functions.
- The program will be contiguous in scope to the WDC-PMKSY 2.0.
- It support implementation of key science-based activities and demonstrations which aims at synergising broader perspective of WDC-PMKSY 2.0.
- The program is being implemented to introduce modern watershed practices in the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development and in the States of Karnataka and Odisha.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/INITIATIVES

1. European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

In News

India and EFTA take further steps towards a new Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

About EFTA

- ***The European Free Trade Association (EFTA)*** is the intergovernmental organisation of ***Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.***
- It was set up in 1960 by its then seven Member States for the promotion of free trade and economic integration between its members.
- The Headquarters of EFTA is at ***Geneva.***
- It deals with the management and negotiation of free trade agreements with non-EU countries and provides support to the EFTA Council.
- The Council usually meets eight times a year at the ambassadorial level and twice a year at the Ministerial level.
- The main tasks of the Association are:
 - *Maintaining and developing the EFTA Convention*, which regulates economic relations between the four EFTA States.
 - Managing the Agreement on the *European Economic Area (EEA Agreement)*.
 - Developing EFTA's worldwide network of free trade agreements.

Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)

- A trade and Economic Partnership Agreement is a type of economic partnership agreement between two parties.
- It offer flexibility in terms of negotiating terms and conditions, as the parties involved can tailor the agreement to their specific needs and interests.

2. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

In News

India-Japan side event during the midterm review of **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.**

About the Framework

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda.
- It is commonly known as ***Sendai Framework and is for a period of 2015-2030.***
- It provides Member States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster.
- It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the ***2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR).***
- It is the successor instrument to the ***Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015***
- It works hand in hand with the other 2030 Agenda agreements.

- The other 2030 agreements are:
 - *The Paris Agreement on Climate Change*
 - *The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development*
 - *The New Urban Agenda*
 - *The Sustainable Development Goals.*
- It recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk.
- The responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.
- Its functions includes:
 - Understanding disaster risk
 - Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
 - Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
 - Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response

3. Operation Karuna

In News

India launches 'Operation Karuna' to assist cyclone-hit Myanmar.

About Operation Karuna

- *Operation Karuna* is the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) provided by India to assist *Myanmar*.
- Myanmar was recently devastated by Cyclone Mocha.
- The fourth ship INS Gharial will bring more HADR materials, including emergency medicines and medical kits.

Operation Karuna



Why in news?

- India launches 'Operation Karuna' to assist cyclone-hit Myanmar.

Operation Karuna

- Operation Karuna is the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) provided by India to assist Myanmar.
- Myanmar was recently devastated by Cyclone Mocha.
- India extended a hand of friendship to the people of Myanmar affected by Cyclone.
- Three Indian Navy ships carrying relief material reached Yangon in Myanmar.
- The ships are carrying emergency food items, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothes, sanitary and hygiene items.
- More than 40 tonnes of HADR materials brought by INS Shivalik, INS Kamorta and INS Savitri.
- The fourth ship INS Gharial will bring more HADR materials, including emergency medicines and medical kits.



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4. Energy Quadrilemma

In News

Biofuels has a huge role to play in the *Energy Quadrilemma*.

About Energy Quadrilemma

- Energy quadrilemma adds the *social dimension of energy* reality to the delicately managed troika of *secure, equitable and environmentally sustainable energy*.
- The World Energy Council has defined the energy trilemma. The trilemma includes - affordability and access, energy security and environmental sustainability.

About Energy Trilemma

- The energy trilemma is a framework of three objectives that energy policymakers need to balance.
- It is often used as a guide in designing energy policy.
- The World Energy Council publishes an annual *World Energy Trilemma index*.
- The *World Energy Council* is a UN partner organisation acting as a forum for the global energy transition.
- The index assesses how well countries around the world are meeting the energy trilemma.

5. World Health Assembly

In News

PM addresses 76th Session of the *World Health Assembly in Geneva*, Switzerland.

About World Health Assembly

- The *World Health Assembly* is the decision-making body of WHO.
- It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States.
- The main functions of the World Health Assembly are:
 - Determine the policies of the Organization
 - Appoint the Director-General
 - Supervise financial policies
 - Review and approve the proposed programme budget.
- It is the world's highest health policy setting body and is composed of health ministers from member states.
- The *first assembly was held in 1948 with 55 member states*.
- The Assembly is governed by Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly.
- The agenda items are set by the General Committee of the Assembly.

About 76th Assembly

- The theme of this year's Health Assembly is: *WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all*.



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World Health Organization (WHO)



World Health Organization (WHO)

- World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health
- Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland
- Established on - 1948
- Objectives
 - To act as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work
 - To establish and maintain effective collaboration with the United Nations, specialized agencies, governmental health administrations, professional groups and such other organizations as may be deemed appropriate
 - To assist Governments, upon request, in strengthening health services
 - To furnish appropriate technical assistance and, in emergencies, necessary aid upon the request or acceptance of Governments
 - To provide or assist in providing, upon the request of the United Nations, health services and facilities to special groups, such as the peoples of trust territories
 - To establish and maintain such administrative and technical services as may be required, including epidemiological and statistical services
 - To stimulate and advance work to eradicate epidemic, endemic and other diseases
 - To promote, in co-operation with other specialized agencies where necessary, the prevention of accidental injuries



World Health Organization

- To promote, in co-operation with other specialized agencies where necessary, the improvement of nutrition, housing, sanitation, recreation, economic or working conditions and other aspects of environmental hygiene
- To promote co-operation among scientific and professional groups which contribute to the advancement of health
- To propose conventions, agreements and regulations, and make recommendations with respect to international health matters and to perform

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6. ISO COPOLCO

In News

Piyush Goyal to inaugurate the 44th ISO COPOLCO Plenary.

About ISO COPOLCO

- ISO COPOLCO, or the **Committee on Consumer Policy**, is a *committee of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)*.
- It is responsible for promoting consumer interests in the standardization process.
- It ensure that standards are developed with the needs of consumers in mind.
- It decide on the most effective areas of focus for consumer participation in standards.
- It works with the **International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)**, to produce guides related to consumer issues in the development of standards.
- It brings together representatives from ISO member countries to discuss and develop strategies for accelerating the development of standards for the world.

About International Standards Organisation (ISO)

- It is an international body with 168 countries as members.
- It is an independent, non-governmental international organization.
- It develops standards for the world impacting a diverse range of business and social sectors.

- It brings together experts to share knowledge and develop voluntary, consensus-based, market relevant International Standards.

7. Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

In News

U.N.-recognised *Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)* keeps NHRC waiting over ‘political meddling’.

About GANHRI

- The *National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI)* have been recognized at the international level as actors for the promotion and protection of human rights since 1946.
- It brings together and supports national human rights institutions to promote and protect human rights.
- The first International Workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, held in Paris in 1991.
- The workshop led to the drafting of guiding principles – popularly known as the “*Paris Principles*” – that were adopted by the *United Nations General Assembly in 1993*.
- In the second International Workshop of NHRI it was decided to *establish the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)*.
- The aim of GANHRI’s advocacy work is to *positively influence the substantive outcomes of international human rights mechanisms*.
- It helps to bring the voices and experiences of NHRIs into global discussions.
- GANHRI supports its members in their individual advocacy efforts at the Human Rights Council.
- GANHRI also coordinates and delivers statements on behalf of NHRIs worldwide.
- GANHRI engages with Special procedures like:
 - The Special Rapporteur on migrants
 - The right to housing
 - Human rights defenders
 - The right to a safe environment
 - The rights of internally displaced persons.
- Recently GANHRI deferred the accreditation of National Human Rights Commission, India (NHRC-India).
- Reasons cited by GANHRI are objections like political interference in appointments, involving the police in probes into human rights violations, and poor cooperation with civil society.
- It also cited lack of diversity in staff and leadership, and insufficient action to protect marginalised groups.

ECONOMY

1. Carbon Border Tax (CBT)

In News

India, E.U. Discuss E.U. Carbon Border Tax in Brussels.

About CBT

- A carbon border tax is a **tax on carbon emissions** attributed to **imported goods** that have **not been carbon-taxed at source**.
- It aims to address the **issue of carbon leakage**.
- By this the companies move their emissions-intensive operations to countries with less stringent regulations, resulting in a net increase in emissions.
- It works by applying a tax on the carbon content of imported goods, based on the carbon emissions associated with their production.
- The tax aims to ensure that **foreign producers face the same carbon costs as domestic producers**.
- It will create a level playing field for businesses and reducing the incentive for companies to move their operations to countries with lower carbon costs.
- The **European Commission** has proposed a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) as part of its broader climate policy.

2. Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)

In News

SEBI proposes new framework for AIFs to strengthen corporate governance rules.

About AIFs

- Alternative Investment Fund or AIF is a **privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds** from sophisticated investors.
- As per Securities and Exchange Board of India (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012 **Alternative Investment Funds are of three categories:**
 - ✓ **Investment in start-ups, SME's or any other sector which Govt. considers economically and socially viable.**
 - ✓ **Private equity funds or debt funds** for which no specific incentives or concessions are given by the government or any other Regulator.
 - ✓ **Hedge funds** or funds which trade with a view to make short term returns.
- **AIF does not include funds covered under:**
 - ✓ SEBI (**Mutual Funds**) Regulations, 1996,
 - ✓ SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999
 - ✓ Any other regulations of the Board to regulate fund management activities.
- AIF scheme launched under Category I & II shall be close ended.
- The tenure shall be determined at the time of application and it is for minimum three years.

- Category III Alternative Investment Fund may be open ended or close ended.


3. Asset Management Companies (AMCs)

In News

SEBI moots mechanism for AMCs to deter possible market abuse, fraud.

About AMCs

- An asset management company (AMC) is a firm that *invests pooled funds* from clients, putting the capital to work through different investments.
- The company invests the funds in capital assets such as stocks, real estate, bonds etc.
- The asset management companies have professionals called fund managers who manage the investment and the research team selects the right securities.

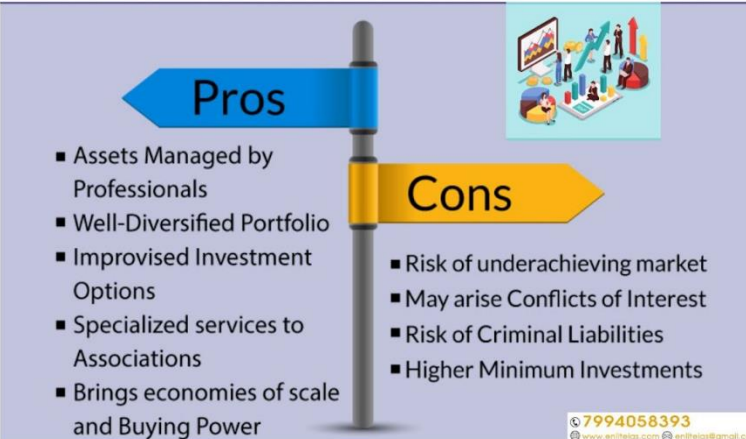
Asset Management Companies (AMCs)


Why in news?

- SEBI moots mechanism for AMCs to deter possible market abuse, fraud.

Asset Management Companies (AMCs)

- It is a firm that invests the funds pooled from individual investors in securities with the objective of optimal return for investors in exchange for a fee.
- AMC maintains the diversity of portfolio by investing in both high-risk and low-risk securities such as stock, debt, real-estate, shares, bonds, pension funds, etc.
- Because they have a larger pool of resources than the individual investor could access on their own, AMCs provide investors with more diversification and investing options.
- AMCs are colloquially referred to as money managers or money management firms.
- Those that offer public mutual funds or ETFs are also known as investment companies or mutual fund companies.
- SEBI is the Indian Capital Market Regulator which governs and controls every AMC in India.



Pros

Cons

- Assets Managed by Professionals
- Well-Diversified Portfolio
- Improved Investment Options
- Specialized services to Associations
- Brings economies of scale and Buying Power

- Risk of underachieving market
- May arise Conflicts of Interest
- Risk of Criminal Liabilities
- Higher Minimum Investments

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4. Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)

In News

Will all overseas spends come under the tax net?

About LRS

- **LRS is part of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999** which lays down the guidelines for outward remittance from India.
- Under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme, *all resident individuals, including minors*, are allowed to *freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year*.
- It is for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.
- The Scheme was introduced in 2004, with a limit of USD 25,000.
- For the resident individual, all the members of the family can remit up to USD 250,000 per individual, per financial year.
- There is *no restriction on the frequency or number of transactions* during a financial year.

- Resident in India are free to buy or sell except for those transactions for which drawal of foreign exchange has been prohibited by Central Government.
- The investor who has remitted funds under LRS can retain and reinvest the income earned from his investments made under the Scheme.

5. Open Network for Digital Commerce

In News

Open Network for Digital Commerce created to democratise the existing ecommerce ecosystem of the country.

About ONDC

- ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) is a *tech-based initiative to transform the way e-commerce* functions in the country.
- It is done by enabling *e-commerce* through an *open protocol based on open-source specifications*.
- It was incorporated as a *Section 8 company in 2021, with the Quality Council of India and Protean eGov Technologies Limited* as Founding Members.
- The initiative will facilitate the rapid adoption of e-commerce and boost and strengthen the growth of startups in India.
- It facilitate scalable and *cost-effective* e-commerce through the open protocol.
- It recognises the unique opportunity to *increase e-retail penetration* from the *existing 4.3% to its maximum potential* in India.
- It will dramatically increase e-commerce penetration in the country by enabling population-scale inclusion of all types and sizes of sellers.
- ONDC has scaled to 36,000 sellers, 45+ Network participants and 8+ categories, with a weekly average of 13,000+ retail orders and 36,000+ mobility rides per day.

ONDC Elevate

- ONDC Elevate commemorated ONDC's one-year completion.
- It foster a collaborative environment by bringing together participants and ecosystem players of the network.
- It provided a *platform for open discussions on accomplishments to date and facilitated brainstorming sessions* to shape the future trajectory of ONDC.

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) Platform		ENLITE IAS www.enliteias.com
<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union government is looking to formally launch the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) this year. <p>Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) Platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ONDC is a freely accessible government-backed platform. Aims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To democratise e-commerce by moving it from a platform-centric model to an open network for buying and selling of goods and services. Promoting open networks developed on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols, independent on any specific platform. It is a not-for-profit organisation that will offer a network to enable local digital commerce stores across industries. 	<p>DEMOCRATISING E-COMMERCE</p>  <p>How does it work</p> <p>Once a retailer lists products or services using ONDC's open protocol, the business can be discovered by consumers on e-commerce platforms that follow the same protocol</p> <p>▶ A consumer searching for the product can see the location of the seller and may opt to buy from the neighbourhood shop that can deliver faster compared to an e-commerce company</p> <hr/> <p>Has it been tested</p> <p>"A mock transaction was successfully completed where Paytm acted as the buyer, Growth Falcons the seller and Goodbox the logistics provider," a DPIIT official said</p>	<p>What is ONDC</p> <p>Developed by DPIIT, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) aims to help merchants and consumers by forming a single network for all businesses from retail goods, food to mobility</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of ONDC, which is expected to be on the lines of Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Implementation - Quality Council of India 		
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6. Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)

In News

ED searches online gaming companies for FEMA violations.

About the Act

- The Central Government of India formulated the FEMA act to encourage external payments and across the border trades in India.
- It was **introduced in the year 1999 to replace an earlier act FERA (Foreign Exchange Regulation Act).**
- The head office of FEMA is situated in New Delhi and known as **Enforcement Directorate.**
- It was formulated to fill all the loopholes and drawback of FERA (Foreign Exchange Regulation Act)
- FEMA was basically introduced to de-regularize and have a **liberal economy in India.**
- The main objective of introduction of FEMA in India was to facilitate external trade and payments.
- **Under the Act, the balance of payment is the record** of dealings between the citizen of different countries in goods, services and assets.
- It is applicable to the whole of India and equally applicable to the agencies and offices located outside India.

7. Participatory Notes (P-notes)

In News

Investments in P-notes hits 4-month high of ₹95,911 crore

About P-notes

- Participatory notes also referred to as P-notes, or PNs, *are financial instruments* required by *investors or hedge funds to invest in Indian securities*.
- *Investor need not register with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)* to invest in P-notes.
- It allows unregistered overseas investors, such as high-net-worth individuals, hedge funds, and other investors buy Indian shares without register with the Indian regulatory body.
- P-notes are among the group of investments considered to be *Offshore Derivative Investments (ODIs)*.
- These investments are typically short-term in nature.

8. National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT)

In News

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 2nd meeting of Apex Monitoring Authority of National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust

About NICDIT

- It is India's most ambitious infrastructure programme aiming to *develop new industrial cities*.
- It includes the development of Smart Cities and converging next generation technologies across infrastructure sectors.
- It aimed at development of futuristic industrial cities in India which can compete with the best manufacturing and investment destinations in the world.

Apex Monitoring Authority of NICDIT

- Apex Monitoring Authority constituted to review the activities of NICDIT.
- Apex Authority was constituted in 2007 and was re-constituted in 2016.
- The *Chairperson* of Apex Monitoring Authority is *Finance Minister*.
- *Other members are Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Minister of Railways, Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Minister of Shipping, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, and Chief Minister(s) of States concerned*

HISTORY/ART & CULTURE

1. Kohinoor

In News

Bring back Kohinoor from the U.K., parliamentary panel notes in its report.

About Kohinoor

- Kohinoor is one of the world's most famous diamonds, known for its size and the controversy concerning its ownership.
- It is the part of the British crown jewels since 1849.

Claims on the origin

- Sources note that the *first references of Koh-i-noor appeared in Sanskrit and possibly even Mesopotamian* texts as early as 3200 BCE.
- Some experts believe that *Sultan 'Ala-ud-Din Khalji took the jewel in 1304 from the raja of Malwa*
- Sources have identified the Koh-i-noor with the diamond given to the son of Babur, by the raja of Gwalior after the battle of Panipat in 1526.
- Other claim is that it came *originally from the Kollur mine of the Krishna River* and was *presented to the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in 1656.*
- Another claim is that it is *part of the loot of Nāder Shah of Iran* when he sacked Delhi in 1739.

2. Kuki Tribe

In News

Kuki groups to press for separation from *Manipur*, equal political status.

About Kuki

- Kuki is a Southeast Asian people living in the *Mizo Hills on the border between India and Myanmar.*
- They are known by different names to different communities - *Lushai, Kukis, Darlongs, Rokhums and Chins.*
- Traditionally the Kuki lived in small settlements in the jungles, each ruled by its own chief.
- They lived an isolated existence in the bamboo forests, which provide them with their building and handicraft materials.
- They grow rice, hunt wild animals and keep dogs, pigs, buffalo, goats, and poultry.
- *In Northeast India, they are present in all states except Arunachal Pradesh.*
- *Around fifty tribes of Kuki peoples in India are recognised as scheduled tribes,* based on the dialect spoken by that particular Kuki community as well as their region of origin.

3. Thirukkural

In News

PM Modi releases Tamil classic 'Thirukkural' in *Tok Pisin language of Papua New Guinea*.

About Thirukkural

- The Tirukkural or shortly the Kural is a classic *Tamil language text consisting of 1,330 short couplets*.
- The word meaning of Thirukkural is *sacred verses*.
- The text is divided into three books with aphoristic teachings on virtue (*aram*), *wealth (porul) and love (inbam)*, respectively.
- It is attributed to the poet *Tiruvalluvar*, who is thought to have lived in India in the *6th century*.
- It is the most celebrated of the *Patiren-kirkkanakku ("Eighteen Ethical Works") in Tamil literature*.
- The Tirukkural has as its foremost moral imperatives the avoidance of killing and the avoidance of falsehood.
- It highlights virtues such as truthfulness, self-restraint, gratitude, hospitality, kindness, goodness of wife, duty, giving.

Tok Pisin language

- It is an *official language of Papua New Guinea* and the most widely used language in the country.
- Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with his Papua New Guinea counterpart James Marape released the Tamil classic 'Thirukkural' in the Tok Pisin language.

Thirukkural

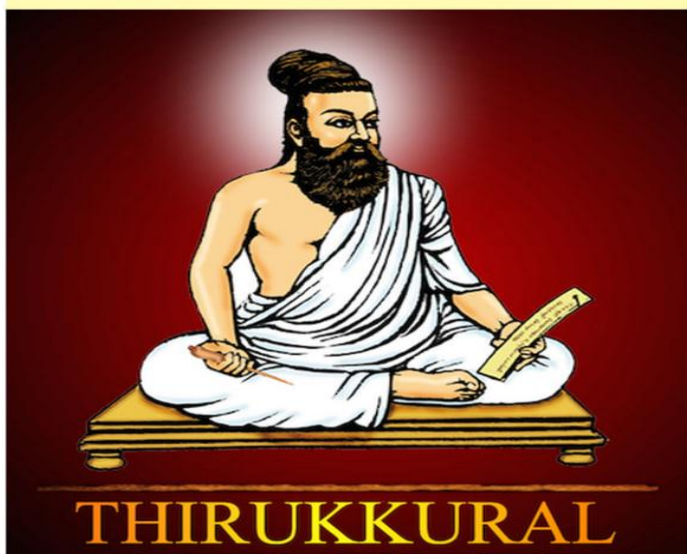


Why in news?

- Indian Prime Minister along with his Papua New Guinea counterpart released the Tamil classic 'Thirukkural' in the Tok Pisin language.

Thirukkural

- Tirukkural also called Kural, is a classic Tamil text written by Thiruvalluvar, believed to have lived sometime between the 2nd century BCE and the 5th century CE.
- It is a collection of 1,330 couplets (kurals) that offer timeless wisdom on various aspects of life, including ethics, governance, love, and spirituality.
- Structure and Themes
 - Thirukkural is divided into three main sections or books: Aram (Virtue), Porul (Wealth), and Inbam (Love).
 - Each section covers a wide range of topics and imparts moral, ethical, and practical guidance to the reader.



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4. Sengol

In News

Inspired by the Cholas, handed over to Nehru: historic 'Sengol' to be installed in new Parliament building.

About Sengol

- According to the tradition of the *Chola dynasty*, a sceptre, called a *sengol in Tamil*, is handed over to the new king of the royal family during their coronation.
- Sengol symbolises a just and fair governance by a king.

- Its converse is *authoritarianism or Kodungol* in Tamil.
- Sengol finds *reference even in Tholkappiyam*, the earliest treatise on Tamil grammar.
- Sengol was one of the 10 constituents of a kingdom.
- The concept of *Sengol* is clearly explained by the *chapter on Sengonmai, or the Right Sceptre, a chapter in Tirukkural*.
- The word Sengol found reference in inscriptions but there is no proof that the kings always held it in their hands.
- *Prime Minister will install the 'Sengol' received in 1947 by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in the new Parliament building*.
- It was received by Independent India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, to symbolically represent the transfer of power from the British and was later kept in a museum in Allahabad.
- It was *crafted by Vummidi Bangaru Chetty*, a famous jeweller in the Madras Presidency.
- The makers of the sengol, *Vummidi Ethirajulu (96) and Vummidi Sudhakar (88)*, are living in Chennai.

5. New Parliament House

In News

India gets new Parliament House

About New Parliament

- The new Parliament building reflects the aspiration of 140 Cr Indians.
- It is being *build alongside the existing building*.
- The building will have a *built-up area of 65000 sq. mt.*
- It is in *triangular shape* and it will ensure optimum space utilisation.
- The new building and the existing building will work together as an ensemble.
- The new building will house larger chambers for legislature.
- The *Lok Sabha will have a seating capacity of 888 seats and Rajya Sabha will have 384 seats*.
- The Lok Sabha is based on *Peacock theme and Rajya Sabha has Lotus theme*.
- The *constitutional hall symbolically and physically put Indian citizens at the heart of democracy*.
- The building will have offices which are secure efficient and equipped with latest communication technology.
- The gallery Shapatya Deergha has murals on protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India and UNESCO.
- The only open space is the central courtyard, which has a banyan tree at its centre.
- The *public entrances lead to three galleries — the Sangeet Gallery, the Sthapthya Gallery and the Shilp Gallery*.

6. Muhammad Iqbal

In News

Delhi University (DU) decides to drop Iqbal from political science syllabus

About Muhammad Iqbal

- Muhammad Iqbal was a poet and philosopher.
- He is known for his *influential efforts toward the establishment of a separate Muslim state*.
- Iqbal was born at Sialkot, India (now in Pakistan)
- He became famous through his *Persian- and Urdu-language poetry*, which was written in the classical style for public recitation.
- His early poetry affirmed Indian nationalism and later he criticize nationalism.
- In a speech delivered at Aligarh in 1910 he indicated the new Pan-Islamic direction of his hopes.

7. Purana Qila

In News

Fresh *excavation reveals pre-Mauryan era signs in Delhi's Purana Qila site*

About Purana Qila

- The Purana Qila is *a timeless monument that stands on the South Eastern part of the present city of New Delhi*.
- The exact time period of foundation of the original structure is unknown.
- It was *re-built under the reign of the second Mughal Emperor Humayun and Sur Emperor Sher Shah Suri* over the ruins of existing structure.
- Purana Qila is *said to be inhabited for the past 2,500 years*.
- The *excavations* at the site show evidence for materials belonging to the *pre-Mauryan era*.
- The fort is said to be built at the site of *Indraprastha*, which according to the Mahabharata, was the capital of the kingdom of the Pandavas.
- A fresh round of excavations at the site has uncovered evidence of the continuous history of the city since the pre-Mauryan era.
- The excavations revealed nine cultural levels, representing different historical periods, including pre-Mauryan, Mauryan, Sunga, Kushana, Gupta, post-Gupta, Rajput, Sultanate, and Mughal.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Preterm births

In News

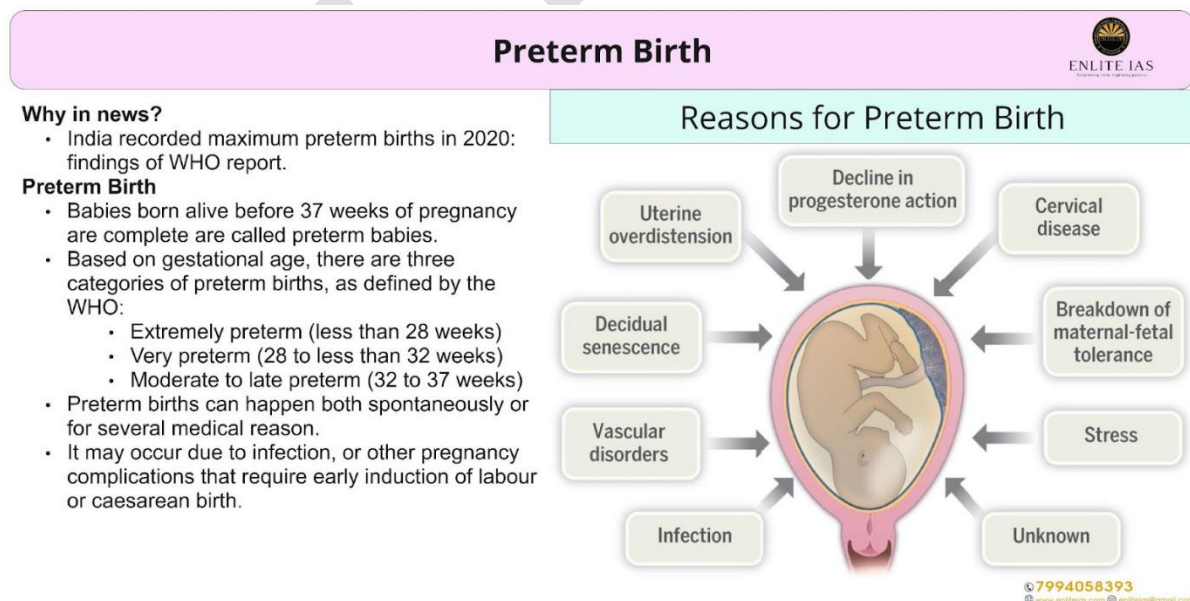
India recorded maximum preterm births in 2020: findings of WHO report.

What is a preterm birth?

- **Babies born alive before 37 weeks of pregnancy are complete are called preterm babies.**
- Based on gestational age, there are three categories of preterm births, as defined by the WHO:
 - ✓ Extremely preterm (less than 28 weeks)
 - ✓ Very preterm (28 to less than 32 weeks)
 - ✓ Moderate to late preterm (32 to 37 weeks)
- Preterm births can happen both spontaneously or for several medical reason.
- It may occur due to infection, or other pregnancy complications that require early induction of labour or caesarean birth.

Born Too Soon: decade of action on preterm birth report

- It is a report **published by WHO**
- The report analyses preterm births across the world and suggests changes to healthcare systems and societies to avoid them.
- In 2020, an estimated 13.4 million babies were born preterm.
- It is the single largest killer of children under five years of age.
- India recorded the highest number of preterm births in 2020.



2. Na-ion batteries

In News

New cathode material can produce high-performance, cost-effective, environment-friendly Na-ion batteries.

About Na-ion Batteries

- The sodium-ion battery (NIB or SIB) is a type of **rechargeable battery** that uses sodium ions (Na⁺) as its charge carriers.
- Its working principle and cell construction in some case are **similar to those of lithium-ion battery (LIB) types, but replace lithium with sodium.**
- **Na-ion cell has cathode and anode active materials** (supported on metallic current collector foils), which facilitate reversible insertion/removal of the charge carrier.
- The cathode material initiates as the Na-reservoir, with the cell performances depending on the structural/electrochemical stability of the electrodes.
- The largest advantage of sodium-ion batteries is the **natural abundance of sodium.**

Importance of Na-ion Batteries

- Development of a **cost-effective, resource-friendly, safe, and sustainable alkali metal-ion battery system** beyond the Li-ion system is essential.
- India has an abundance of Na-sources, which renders the upcoming Na-ion battery system extremely important in the Indian context.

Disadvantages of Na-ion Batteries

- The **air/water-instability** and **structural-cum-electrochemical instability** of Sodium–transition-metal–oxide-based cathode materials for Sodium-ion batteries.
- The water instability mandates the usage of toxic-hazardous-expensive chemicals like N-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) for electrode preparation.

3. AIRAWAT

In News

AI Supercomputer ‘AIRAWAT’ puts India among **top supercomputing league.**

About AIRAWAT

- AIRAWAT is an **AI Supercomputer installed at C-DAC, Pune.**
- It has been **ranked 75th in the world’s top 500 Supercomputers.**
- It puts India on top of AI Supercomputing nations worldwide.
- The system is installed under **National Program on AI by Government of India.**
- The AIRAWAT stands for AI Research Analytics and Knowledge Dissemination Platform.
- It consists of **200 AI Petaflops Mixed Precision peak** compute capacity.
- It is currently **funded by MeitY and implemented by C-DAC, Pune.**

- The **AIRAWAT PoC of 200 AI Petaflops integrated with PARAM Siddhi** – AI of 210 AI Petaflops gives a total peak compute of 410 AI Petaflops Mixed Precision.

AIRAWAT



Why in news?

- India's AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT' has been ranked at No. 75 in the world at the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in Germany.

AIRAWAT

- The supercomputer has been named in the 61st edition of the Top 500 Global Supercomputing List released recently.
- The AI supercomputer 'AIRAWAT' is installed at C-DAC, Pune. The system is installed under National Program on AI by the Government of India.
- AIRAWAT's manufacturer is Netweb Technologies.
- Airawat PSAI, stands as India's largest and fastest AI supercomputing system, with a remarkable speed of 13,170 teraflops.
- It has the potential to revolutionize various sectors, including weather forecasting, drug discovery, climate modelling, and artificial intelligence research.



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4. India SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG)

In News

COVID-19 genomics body INSACOG has not put out weekly bulletin since March 2023.

About INSACOG

- The **INSACOG is a national multi-agency consortium of Genome Sequencing Laboratories (RGLs).**
- It was **Jointly established by MoF&HW, DBT, CSIR and ICMR.**
- **Initially the consortium had 10 laboratories.**
- The scope of laboratories under INSACOG was expanded and **at present there are 58 laboratories** under this Consortium.
- They monitor the genomic variations in SARS-CoV-2.
- INSACOG has the following specific objectives:
 - Ascertain the status of Variants of Interest (VoI) and Variants of Concern (VoC) in the country.
 - It has not published a single bulletin since March 2023.
 - The agency used to publish reports once a week.
 - Bulletins provided information on:
 - ✓ The circulating variants of COVID-19,
 - ✓ States that were seeing a surge in the contagious variant

- ✓ Information on whether SARS-CoV-2 variants linked to major outbreaks internationally had been found in India.

5. Model Cosmic Dust Particles

In News

Indian scientists develop model cosmic dust particles to mimic the unusual polarisation of interstellar comet 2I/Borisov.

About Model Cosmic Dust Particles

- Scientists have created State of the art *visually realistic cosmic dust model to replicate the unusual polarisation properties of the first observed interstellar comet.*
- It was developed by scientists from the *Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bangalore.*
- It was developed using a set of numerical algorithms/software called *REST (Rough Ellipsoid Structure Tools).*
- It can reproduce experimental as well as observational data of light scattered by dust.
- The particles would be useful to determine the physical properties of dust present in different regions of space.

About 2I/Borisov

- It is the *first observed rogue comet and the second observed interstellar interloper after Oumuamua.*
- It was discovered by the *Crimean amateur astronomer and telescope maker Gennadiy Borisov in 2019.*
- It is a class of comets having polarisation higher than that of high polarisation comets.

6. Laser Interferometric Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)

In News

Gravitational wave detector LIGO is back online after 3 years of upgrades

About LIGO

- LIGO stands for "*Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory*".
- It is the *world's largest gravitational wave observatory.*
- It comprises of *two enormous laser interferometers located 3000 kilometers apart.*
- It exploits the physical properties of light and of space itself to detect and understand the origins of gravitational waves (GW).
- LIGO began operating in the early 2000s.
- In 2010, the LIGO team temporarily shut down the facility to perform upgrades to boost sensitivity.
- It detected gravitational waves produced from the merger of two black holes.
- LIGO has completed three observation runs till 2020.

- **LIGO has been jointly observing with an Italian observatory called Virgo.**
- Till 2020 researchers in the LIGO and Virgo collaboration had detected about 90 gravitational waves from the merging of black holes and neutron stars.



New Updates on LIGO

- LIGO – has been sitting dormant since 2020 while it underwent some upgrades.
- The new improvements will significantly boost the sensitivity of LIGO.
- It allow the facility to observe more-distant objects that produce smaller ripples in spacetime.

LIGO-India Project

LIGO-India Project

- What is LIGO? - LIGO is the world's most powerful observatory that exploits the physical properties of light and of space itself to detect and understand the origins of gravitational waves.
- LIGO-India Project envisaged as a collaborative project between a consortium of Indian research institutions and the LIGO Laboratory in the USA, along with its international partners.
- built by the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Science and Technology, with a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Science Foundation, the US

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?	HOW WILL IT HELP?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The proposed LIGO-India detector will increase the sensitivity of the international gravitational-wave network and improve localization of sources ■ It will be funded by the departments of atomic energy and science and technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Astronomers can identify the exact location of the cosmic explosion much quicker and study it right from the first moments in every frequency band of the electromagnetic spectrum
PARAMETERS FOR SITE SELECTION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The nearest railway line and vehicular traffic should be several km away from the central laboratory station ■ The laboratory would be 'L' shaped of 4 x 4km ■ The site should be seismically quiet ■ Total land required was about 300 acres minimum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> with strong restriction of anthropological noise ■ The site should be able to sustain heavy equipment, mining, blasting activity in 30km periphery ■ This site is also required to be away from sea coast by 100-200km

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7. Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs)

In News

Astronomers detect a mysterious signal and its source galaxy with a single telescope.

About FRBs

- FRBs are *incredibly powerful pulses of radio waves*.
- They were *first detected in 2007*.
- They originate from distant galaxies, and the signal typically only lasts a few milliseconds.
- The *origin of FRBs is an ongoing puzzle for astronomers*.
- *Some FRBs are known to repeat, sometimes over a thousand times. Others have only been detected once.*

How to detect FRBs?

- It is *hard to pinpoint where exactly fast radio bursts come from*.
- Getting an accurate position is hard for many radio telescopes.
- **CSIRO's ASKAP radio telescope** can detect FRBs and pinpoint them to their host galaxies.
- It is made up of an array of 36 dishes separated by up to six kilometres.

DEFENCE/MILITARY EXERCISES

1. Mission DefSpace

In News

iDEX-DIO signs 250th contract, first under Mission DefSpace.

About Mission DefSpace

- It was *launched by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) and Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)*.
- It aims to nurture the Indian Private Space industry through challenges addressing every stage of a space mission.
- It was launched with **75 Defence Space Challenges** relevant to the end users.
- The challenges, classified into five buckets - Launch System, Satellite System, Communication & Payload System, Ground System and Software System.
- It aimed at developing technologies addressing every stage of a space mission - from mission planning to satellite data analytics.
- *The first iDEX contract of Mission DefSpace is Micropropulsion system for cubesats.*
- It is being *led by the Defence Space Agency*.
- Cubesats are a class of smallsats, which are modular; low-cost; easy to manufacture, integrate, and launch.

About iDEX

- The iDEX framework was launched in 2018.
- Its objective is to provide the *platform of co-creation & co-development in the defence sector*.
- It aims to engage *start-ups* to contribute to the defence sector and develop defence and aerospace setup in the country.
- iDEX is being *implemented by DIO, established under the Department of Defence Production, MoD*.

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)



Why in news?

- Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) recently reached a milestone with the signing of the 250th contract, the first one under the Mission DefSpace.

Mission DefSpace

- It was launched by the Prime Minister during DefExpo in October 2022.
- The goal of Mission DefSpace is to make India Atmanirbhar in defence technologies in the space domain.
- It will encourage technology development in space for defence applications by startups and young entrepreneurs through 75 Defence Space Challenges launched across various Department for Defence Production (DDP) initiatives through iDEX, 'Make 1', and 'Make 2'.

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)

- Ministry - Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence
- Launched - 2018.
- Objective
 - It is an ecosystem to foster innovation & technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging innovators & entrepreneurs to deliver technologically advanced solutions for modernizing the Indian Military.
 - It provides funding/grants to Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia to carry out research and development.
 - The iDEX-Prime aims to support projects requiring support beyond Rs 1.5 crore up to Rs 10 crore, to help ever-growing start-ups in the defence sector.
 - iDEX portal was launched to provide wider publicity and better visibility of iDEX activities and enable more efficient running of future challenges through better information management.
- Funding:
 - iDEX is funded and managed by "Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)".



2. Vaghsheer

In News


First Sea Sortie of sixth Scorpene Submarine Vaghsheer conducted.

About Vaghsheer

- Vaghsheer is the sixth submarine of the *first batch of six Kalvari-class submarines* for the Indian Navy.
- It is the *sixth submarine of Project 75*.
- It is a *diesel-electric attack submarine* based on the *Scorpène class*.

- It was designed by French naval defence and energy group.
- It is capable of enemy radar evasion, area surveillance, intelligence gathering.
- The submarine was launched in Apr 22 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).

INS Vaghsheer




Why in news?

- First Sea Sortie of sixth Scorpene Submarine Vaghsheer conducted.




INS Vaghsheer

- Vaghsheer is the sixth submarine of the first batch of six Kalvari-class submarines for the Indian Navy.
- It is the sixth submarine of Project 75.
- It is a diesel-electric attack submarine based on the Scorpène class.
- It was designed by French naval defence and energy group.
- It is capable of enemy radar evasion, area surveillance, intelligence gathering.
- Its major features are advanced acoustic silencing techniques, low radiated noise levels, hydro-dynamically optimised shape.
- The submarine was launched in Apr 22 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- Vaghsheer is scheduled for Delivery to the Indian Navy in 2024 after completion of the trial.



Names of Ships under Project 75

Name of Ship	Origin of Name
INS Kalvari	Tiger Shark
INS Khanderi	Maratha Emperor Chatrapathi Shivaji Maharaj's island fort of Khanderi.
INS Karani	Karanja island of Maharashtra
INS Vela	Name of an Indian fish from the stingray species
INS Vagir	Name of an from the sandfish species
INS Vaghsheer	Name of an from the sandfish species

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3. INS Mormugao

In News

- Indian Navy warship INS Mormugao engages sea-skimming supersonic target.

About INS Mormugao

- INS Mormugao is **Indian Navy's latest indigenous guided missile destroyer.**
- It is named after the historic port city of Goa on the West coast.
- Mormugao undertook her first sea sortie in 2021.
- The ship measures 163 m in length, and 17 m in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes.
- It is one of the **most potent warships that have been constructed in India.**

- The ship is propelled by four powerful Gas Turbines, in a Combined Gas and Gas (COGAG) configuration.
- It is capable of achieving speeds in excess of 30 knots.
- The ship has Anti-Submarine Warfare capabilities.
- It has Rocket Launchers, Torpedo Launchers and ASW helicopters.
- It is ***equipped to fight under nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) warfare conditions.***

Sea-skimming supersonic target

- Sea skimming is a ***technique*** many anti-ship missiles and some fighter or strike aircraft ***use to avoid radar, infrared detection, and to lower probability of being shot down.***
- Sea-skimming anti-ship missiles try to fly as low as is practically achievable, which is almost always below 50 meters (150 ft), and is often down towards 2 meters (6 ft).
- The Indian Navy successfully carried out an engagement of a sea-skimming supersonic target using INS Mormugao.
- It showcases the Navy's future-proof combat readiness and commitment towards ***Aatmanirbhar Bharat.***

INS Mormugao



Why in news?

- Indian Navy warship INS Mormugao engages sea-skimming supersonic target.

INS Mormugao

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

Project - 15B

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

Other Classes of Destroyers in Indian Navy

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



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4. INS Sindhuratna

In News

Kilo-class submarine INS Sindhuratna reaches India after major refit in Russia.

About INS Sindhuratna

- INS Sindhuratna is a *Sindhughosh class diesel-electric submarine* of the Indian Navy.
- Sindhughosh-class submarines are Kilo-class Russian submarines in active service with the Indian Navy.
- The Sindhughosh submarines, designated 877EKM, were designed as part of Project 877.

INS Sindhuratna

Why in news?

- The Navy's INS Sindhuratna which underwent a major upgrade in Russia reached Mumbai after sailing for 97 days and almost 10,000 miles.

INS Sindhuratna

- INS Sindhuratna had gone for an upgrade in Severodvinsk, Russia after a major accident in February 2014.
- INS Sindhuratna is a Russian Type 877EKM diesel-electric submarine also popularly called a NATO-defined Kilo-class sub.
- Eight of the Navy's diesel-electric submarines are Kilo class or Sindhughosh class from Russia (and the former USSR), sourced between 1984 and 2000 and INS Sindhuratna is among the oldest Kilo-class submarines in the fleet.
- It was commissioned into the Indian Navy in December 1988.



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5. INSV Tarini

In News

INSV Tarini returns to Goa after 188-day voyage.

About INSV Tarini

- *INSV Tarini is the second sailboat of the Indian Navy.*
- It is a cruising sloop **built at the Aquarius Shipyard in Divar, Goa.**
- It was commissioned to Indian Navy service in 2017.
- Its hull is built of wood-core and fibreglass sandwich.
- It started its long transoceanic intercontinental expedition that commenced at Goa in Nov 2022.
- The 188-day voyage of INSV Tarini's historic voyage was from Goa to Rio de Janeiro via Cape Town and back.
- It was scheduled to complete at the same venue on May 2023.

6. Al Mohed Al Hindi 23

In News

India-Saudi Arabia bilateral Maritime Exercise Al Mohed Al Hindi 23

About the Exercise

- Al Mohed Al Hindi is a bilateral exercise between **Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF)**.
- Al Mohed Al Hindi 23 is the **second edition** of the Exercise.
- It was **held at Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia**.

Al Mohed Al Hindi 23



Why in news?

- Exercise Al Mohed Al Hindi 23 held.

Al Mohed Al Hindi 23

- Al Mohed Al Hindi is a bilateral exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF).
- Al Mohed Al Hindi 23 is the second edition of the Exercise.
- It was held at Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia.
- INS Tarkash, INS Subhadra and Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft (MPA) participated in the exercise from the Indian side.
- The RSNF was represented by HMS Badr and Abdul Aziz, MH 60R helo and UAV.
- The three-day exercise at sea witnessed a wide spectrum of maritime operations.
- The exercise culminated with debrief at sea followed by traditional steam past.
- It showcased high degree of professionalism, interoperability and exchanges of best practices between the two navies.
- The bilateral exercise met all its objectives and both sides intend to graduate to more advanced level of exercises in the next edition.



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7. Hawk aircraft

In News

Hawk aircraft deal, CBI books Rolls Royce and others on graft charge.


About Hawk

- The Hawk is a **British single-engine, jet-powered advanced trainer aircraft**.
- It was **manufactured by BAE Systems plc (BAE) a British multinational arms, security, and aerospace company based in London**.
- The Hawk was produced until 2020 in the UK and also produced under licence in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- In 2008, the Hawk Mk. 132 formally entered service with the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Recent Developments


- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case for alleged corruption during 2003-2012 in the procurement of Hawk aircraft.
- The case was registered against the BAE Systems, Rolls Royce Plc, two alleged middlemen, Sudhir Choudhrie and Bhanu Choudhrie, and unknown Indian public servants.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)


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INTEGRITY IMPARTIALITY INDUSTRY

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- It is the premier investigative agency of India.
- The agency was established in 1963 by the Indian government as a result of the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee.
- CBI is not a statutory body.
- It derives its power to investigate from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act 1946.
- Control
 - It operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
 - However, for investigation of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, the CBI vests superintendence to the Central Vigilance Commission.
- Functions
 - Initially, it was set up to investigate corruption in government departments and public sector undertakings.
 - However, over the years, its jurisdiction has expanded to cover a wide range of cases, including economic offences, cyber crimes, organized crimes, and special crimes.



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INDEX/REPORTS

1. Global Report on Internal Displacement

In News

- Natural disasters caused 2.5 million internal displacements in India in 2022.
- *Published by: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)*

About the Report

- IDMC's *Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID)* is the world's leading source of data and analysis on *internal displacement*.
- It is a report *published annually*.
- The 2023 edition includes a special focus on the complex relationships between disasters, conflict and violence, food security and internal displacement.

Finding in the Report

- The number of people living in internal displacement reached a record high of 71.1 million people across 110 countries and territories.
- 62.5 million as a result of conflict and violence, and 8.7 million as a result of disasters.
- Rapidly escalating conflict and violence in countries such as Ukraine and DRC and significant disasters such as flooding in Pakistan forced millions of people to flee in 2022.
- Storms triggered around 1.1 million internal displacements across South Asia in 2022.
- The study said the risk would increase significantly under the warming climate and variability in the El Nino-Southern Oscillation.

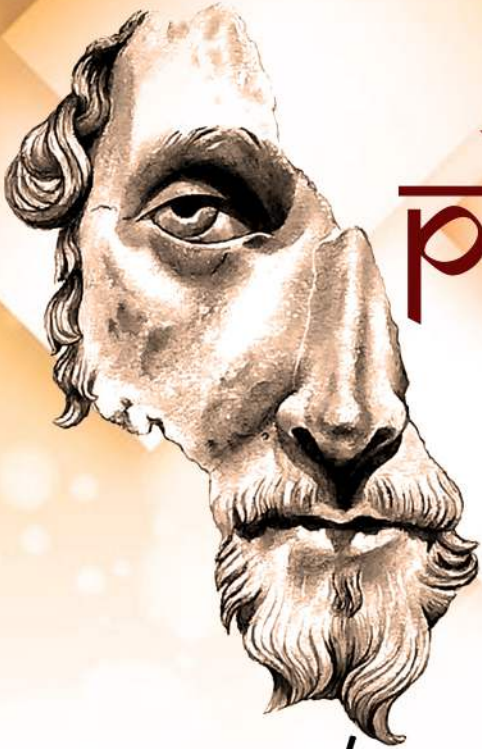
Findings on India

- *Heavy floods and cyclones, triggered around 2.5 million internal displacements in India in 2022.*
- Most movements occurred during the southwest monsoon between June and September.
- In 2022 India started to experience flooding even before the official onset of the monsoon season.
- Torrential rain that hit India in May also caused rivers to overflow.
- The frequency of extreme weather events such as floods and heat waves is projected to rise manifolds in India due to climate change.



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