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#PAR-TAPI-NARMADA RIVER LINKING PROJECT

Recently, some tribals have intensified their protest against the Par-Tapi-Narmada river linking project after it was mentioned in the budget speech (2022-23) of the finance minister.

- These projects had been sanctioned in 2010, when a tripartite agreement was signed between the Union government, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- The Finance Minister in her Budget Speech said that five river linking projects will be taken up after consensus among states.
- The projects are Damanganga-Pinjal, Par-Tapi-Narmada, Godavari-Krishna, Krishna-Pennar and Pennar-Cauveri.
- The Ken-Betwa is the first project under the government's National Perspective Plan for river inter-linking.
- The National River Linking Project (NRLP) formally known as the National Perspective Plan, envisages the transfer of water from water 'surplus' basins where there is flooding, to water 'deficit' basins where there is drought/scarcity, through inter-basin water transfer projects.



What is the Par-Tapi-Narmada River Linking Project?

- Par Tapi Narmada Link proposes to transfer water from the water surplus regions of Western Ghats to the water deficit regions of Saurashtra and Kutch (Gujarat).
- The link project includes seven reservoirs proposed in north Maharashtra and south Gujarat.
- The water from the seven proposed reservoirs would be taken through a 395 km long canal to take over a part of the command of the on-going Sardar Sarovar Project (on Narmada), while irrigating small enroute areas.
- The seven dams proposed in the scheme are Jheri, Mohankavchali, Paikhed, Chasmandva, Chikkar, Dabdar and Kelwan.
- This would save Sardar Sarovar water which will be used to extend irrigation in Saurashtra and Kutch region.
- The link mainly envisages construction of seven dams, three diversion weirs, two tunnels, 395 km long canal, 6 power houses and a number of cross-drainage works.
- Besides providing irrigation benefits to the enroute command and Narmada command, the link will generate hydropower of the order of 93.00 Mkw through the power houses installed at four dam sites.
- The reservoirs will also provide flood relief to the people residing in downstream areas.

What do we know about Narmada River?

- Narmada is the largest west flowing river of the peninsular region flowing through a rift valley between the Vindhya Range on the north and the Satpura Range on the south.
- It rises from Maikala range near Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh.
- It drains a large area in Madhya Pradesh besides some areas in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

- The river near **Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)** forms the Dhuandhar Falls.
- There are several islands in the estuary of the Narmada of which Aliabet is the largest.
- **Major Tributaries:** Hiran, Orsang, the Barna and the Kolar.
- The major Hydro Power Projects in the basin are Indira Sagar, Sardar Sarovar etc.

What do we know about the Tapi River?

- Another important westward flowing river **originates from the Betul district of Madhya Pradesh in the Satpura ranges.**
- It flows in a rift valley parallel to the Narmada but is much shorter in length.
- Its **basin covers parts of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.**
- What do we know about the Par River?
- Par River is **a river in Gujarat with its source near wadpada village in Nashik Maharashtra.**
- It flows **into the Arabian Sea.**

Ken Betwa Link Project (KBLP):

- The **Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)** is the River interlinking project that **aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken river in MP to Betwa in UP to irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region.**
- The region spread across the districts of two states mainly Jhansi, Banda, Lalitpur and Mahoba districts of UP and Tikamgarh, Panna and Chhatarpur districts of MP.
- The project involves building a 77-metre tall and a 2-km wide **Dhaudhan dam and a 230-km canal.**
- Ken-Betwa is **one of the 30 river interlinking projects** conceived across the country.
- The project has been **delayed due to political and environmental issues.**

Advantage of Interlining of Rivers:

- **Reducing Drought:** River linking will be a solution to recurring droughts in Bundelkhand region.
- **Farmers' Benefit:** It will curb the rate of farmers suicide and will ensure them stable livelihood by providing sustainable means of irrigation and reducing excessive dependence on groundwater.
- **Electricity Production:** It will not only **accelerate the water conservation** by construction of a multipurpose dam but will also **produce 103 MW of hydropower** and will **supply drinking water to 62 lakh people.**
- **Rejuvenate Biodiversity:** Few are of the view that the introduction of dams inside the water scarce regions of **panna tiger reserve (MP)**, will rejuvenate the forests of the reserve that in turn will pave the way for Rich Biodiversity in the region.

#NATIONAL DIGITAL TOURISM MISSION

- The draft report for setting up of **National Digital Tourism Mission** is published for feedback from the public. The tourism ministry has invited final comments on the draft report.
- The draft report highlighted that the tourism sector is highly fragmented and there are many challenges in subsectors of tourism such as transport, accommodation, restaurants, etc.
- However, **there are many opportunities in these sectors.**
- The draft report noted that the tourism sector is unable to reap the combinatorial benefits of information exchange because most of the tourism systems developed by the government and the private sector are currently functioning in silos.
- The current data systems don't interact with each other **using a common language, thereby hindering data analytics and the subsequent policy-making.**
- Thus, there is a need for seamless and standardized data exchange among various stakeholders of the tourism sector.



About the National Digital Tourism Mission

- The **National Digital Tourism Mission** aims to bridge the current information gap among various stakeholders of the tourism sector with the help of a digital highway.
- The objective is to harness the full potential of digitization in the tourism sector by enabling the exchange of information and services.

Implementing Agency:

- The projects identified under this scheme shall be implemented through the identified agencies by the respective State/ Union Territory Government.

Objective:

- **Rejuvenation and spiritual augmentation of important national/ global pilgrimage and heritage sites.**
- **Follow community-based development and create awareness among the local communities.**
- **Integrated tourism development of heritage city, local arts, culture, handicrafts, cuisine, etc., to generate livelihood.**
- **Strengthen the mechanism for bridging the infrastructural gaps.**

#GOVT. PREPARED DRAFT NATIONAL TOURISM POLICY

Recently, the Government has prepared the **Draft National Tourism Policy** focusing on **Green, and digital tourism** and has been sent to the industry partners, state governments, other allied ministries for feedback, before it is sent for approval.

- Earlier, the Ministry of Tourism has formulated **three draft strategies** with roadmaps for promoting Medical and Wellness Tourism, for development of Rural Tourism and for promotion of MICE Industry in India.



What are the Key Points of the Draft Policy?

- Industry Status to Sector:** To promote investment in the tourism sector, the document mentions granting of industry status to the sector, along with formally **granting infrastructure status to hotels**.
- Five Key Areas:** Five key areas would be given significant focus in the next 10 years — **green tourism, digital tourism, destination management, skilling the hospitality sector and supporting tourism-related to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- Relief Measures and Taxation Breaks:** The industry, which has been the worst sufferer over the last two years of the **pandemic**, had sent multiple representations to the government representatives for relief measures as well as taxation breaks.

Related Initiatives:

- Swadesh Darshan, a **Central Sector Scheme**, was **launched in 2014 -15** for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country.
- This scheme is envisioned to synergise with other schemes like **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India** etc.
- Under the scheme, the **Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA)** to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development of circuits.
- One of the objectives of the scheme is to **develop theme-based tourist circuits** on the principles of **high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability** in an integrated manner.
- Tourism Circuits:** Under the scheme, **fifteen thematic circuits have been identified**- Buddhist Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Krishna Circuit, North East Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Sufi Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Wildlife Circuit.

PRASHAD Scheme:

- Launch:** The 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)' was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15 with the objective of holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations.

- The **name of the scheme was changed** from PRASAD to “National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)” in October 2017.
- **Implementing Agency:** The projects identified under this scheme shall be implemented through the identified agencies by the respective State/ Union Territory Government.
- **Iconic Tourist Sites:** Buddhist Sites at **Bodhgaya, Ajanta & Ellora** have been identified to be developed as **Iconic Tourist Sites** (aimed at enhancing India’s soft power).
- **Buddhist Conclave:** Buddhist Conclave is organised every alternate year with the objective of promoting India as a Buddhist Destination and major markets around the globe.
- **Dekho Apna Desh’ Initiative:** It was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in 2020 to encourage the citizens to travel widely within the country thus enabling the development of Domestic Tourism tourist facilities and infrastructure.

#WHAT IS NEW HEALTH LAW BILL?

- The **process of finalizing the New Health Law Bill** has been started by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as well as the other concerned Government Departments.
- The **New Health Law Draft Bill by the Government of India** will have various provisions, including the establishment of a four-tier health administration system with well-defined powers to the setting up a public health cadre as well as defining a lockdown.
- Once the draft of the New Health Law Bill is ready, it will be placed in the public domain for consultation before being sent to the Union Cabinet.
- The **National Public Health Bill** is expected to be introduced in the Monsoon Session of the Parliament.



What is the New National Public Health Law?

- The proposed National Public Health Act by the Union Government has been in the works since 2017, and once the law is enacted, it will replace the 125-years old Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897.
- The new National Public Health Act will also cover the public health emergencies that are caused by natural disasters, bioterrorism, chemical or nuclear attacks, or terrorism.

What is 4-tier Health Administration Architecture System?

- The **New Health Law Draft Bill proposes a 4-tier Health Administration** Architecture System. Under it, there will be multisectoral national, state, district, and block-level public health authorities who will have well-defined powers and the functions to deal with public health emergencies.

National Public Health Law: Background

- The Health Ministry of India in 2017 had released the draft of the **Public Health (Prevention, Control, and Management of Epidemics, Bio-terrorism, and Disasters) Act, 2017.**

- Later in September 2020, the then **Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan** announced in the Indian Parliament that a government will formulate a new National Public Health Law.

#LAUNCH OF SUJALAM 2.0 CAMPAIGN

- On 23rd March 2022, the **Sujalam 2.0 campaign** was launched by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the Union Minister of Jal Shakti.
- This campaign has been launched for greywater management. The launch event was held virtually by the Ministry of **JalShakti's Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)**.



Overview:

- **9 Ministries signed a joint advisory to look into how greywater management** can be planned based on the convergence model along with those who are associated directly in the implementation of this programme.
- M/o Rural Development, M/o Jal Shakti, M/o Youth Affairs and Sports, M/o Women & Child Development, M/o Health and Family Welfare, M/o Tribal Affairs, M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change, M/o Education, and M/o Panchayati Raj are the nine ministries that signed the joined advisory.

The theme for this campaign

- **'Groundwater: making the invisible visible'** is the theme for this campaign.

The objective of this campaign

- The Sujlam 2.0 campaign was launched with the objective of managing greywater through the participation of the people. Under this campaign, there are plans to **mobilize communities such as schools, panchayats, and anganwadis to help in greywater management**.
- **Funds for greywater management** will be provided from the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin Phase II or through grants under the 15th Finance Commission as well as the MGNREGS or through the convergence between all of them.

#WORLD WATER DAY: 22ND MARCH

World Water Day is celebrated on **22nd March Every Year** to highlight the importance of water.

- On the Occasion of the **World Water Day UN (United Nations)** University's Canadian-based Institute for Water Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) has published an assessment report, showing the **levels of water security in Africa overall are unacceptably low**.
- The World Water Day 2022 theme sets the focus for the **annual World Water Development Report**.

What is World Water Day?

- **Aim:** The Day aims to **support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030**.
- **Theme:** Groundwater: making the invisible visible.

- The theme was decided by **UN-water** at its **30th meeting in Rome**. It was proposed by the **International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)**.

History:

- The idea for this international day goes back to 1992, the year in which the **UN Conference on Environment and Development** in Rio de Janeiro took place.
- That same year, the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted a **resolution** by which 22nd March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed **starting in 1993**.
- Later on, other celebrations and events were added. For instance, the **International Year of Cooperation in the Water Sphere 2013** and the current **International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028**.

Other Important Days :

- **22 March: World Water Day**
- **22 April: Earth Day**
- **22 May: World Biodiversity Day**

What does the UN World Water Development Report 2022 say?

- **Groundwater, which accounts for 99% of all liquid freshwater**, has the potential to provide societies with tremendous social, economic and environmental benefits and opportunities.
- The groundwater already provides **almost half of the total water used for domestic purposes including drinking water**. The water resource has though been mismanaged, undervalued and abused.
- The report describes **groundwater to be central to the fight against poverty** and achieving food and water security and even the creation of jobs and socio-economic development.
- The **Asia-Pacific region is the largest groundwater abstractor in the world**, containing seven out of the ten countries that extract most groundwater (Bangladesh, China, **India**, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey).
- These countries alone **account for roughly 60% of the world's total groundwater withdrawal**.
- The **present dependence on groundwater will only increase due to increasing water demand** by all sectors and increasing disruption in rainfall patterns.
- The report states that it all starts with **making the invisible visible** and the action would require strong and concerted efforts to manage and use it sustainably.

About:

- The awards are organised by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The Jal Shakti Ministry had launched the first '**National Water Award**' in **2018**.
- They **facilitate a good opportunity for the start-ups** as well as the leading organisations to engage with the senior policymakers on adopting the best water resources management practises in India.
- They focus **on the good work and efforts made by individuals and organisations across the country**, and the government's vision for the path to '**Jal Samridh Bharat**'.

Objectives:

- To **motivate individuals/organisations who are doing commendable work** in the field of water resources conservation and management.
- To **create awareness among the people about the importance of water** and encourage them to adopt the best water usage practises.

Jal Shakti Mantralaya

- The government has created a new Ministry called '**Jal Shakti**' after merging **Ministries of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation** along with **Drinking Water and Sanitation**.
- 'Jal Shakti' ministry will encompass issues ranging from providing **clean drinking water**, international and inter-states **water disputes**, to the **NamamiGange** project aimed at cleaning Ganga and its tributaries, and sub-tributaries.
- The ministry will roll out the government's ambitious **plan ('Nal se Jal' scheme** under jaljivan plan) to provide **pipd water connection** to every household in India by **2024**.

#BORDER PACT SIGNED BETWEEN ASSAM & MEGHALAYA

- A border agreement was signed between Assam and Meghalaya on 29th March 2022. With this newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Meghalaya will be gaining 18.33 square kilometers and Assam will be gaining 18.46 sq km out of the total of 36.79 sq km. in **6 out of 12 areas of differences that were resolved between the two states**.
- This MoU was signed between HimantaBiswaSarma, the Chief Minister of Assam, and Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma.
- Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister was also present during this signing.



- The **boundary dispute** has been going on between both states for a long period of time and over the years 50 meetings have been conducted to resolve this issue.

About the MoU

- The MoU will be considered to be a full and final agreement in respect of the six areas of difference.
- The areas mentioned are approximate in nature based on a **table-top exercise conducted using spatial technologies**.
- It will be more accurately determined during the Survey of India's detailed survey for the demarcation and delineation of the boundary that will be conducted in the presence of representatives from both the state's respective governments.
- **Purpose of the MoU:** This MoU has been signed to settle the case of the inter-state boundary between Meghalaya and Assam with respect to 6 of the 12 areas of difference.

Assam and Meghalaya border dispute

- Assam and Meghalaya share an **885-km-long border**. As of now, there are **12 points of dispute along their borders**.
- The Assam-Meghalaya border dispute are the areas of Upper Tarabari, Gazang reserve forest, Hahim, Langpih, Borduar, Boklapara, Nongwah, Matamur, Khanapara-Pilangkata, Deshdemoreah Block I and Block II, Khanduli and Retacherra.
- Meghalaya was carved out of Assam under the **Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971**, a law that it challenged, leading to disputes.

Major Point of Contention:

- A major point of contention between Assam and Meghalaya is the **district of Langpih in West Garo Hills** bordering the Kamrup district of Assam.
- Langpih was part of the Kamrup district during the British colonial period but post-Independence, it became part of the **Garo Hills** and Meghalaya.
- Assam considers it to be part of the **Mikir Hills in Assam**.
- Meghalaya has questioned Blocks I and II of the Mikir Hills -now KarbiAnglong region - being part of Assam. Meghalaya says these were parts of erstwhile United Khasi and Jaintia Hills districts.

Efforts to Resolve Disputes:

- Both Assam and Meghalaya have constituted **border dispute settlement committees**.
- It has been decided to set up **two regional committees to resolve the border disputes** in a phased manner and five aspects will be considered while resolving the border dispute.
- They are **historical facts, ethnicity, administrative convenience, mood and sentiments** of the people concerned and the contiguity of the land.
- Six sites are in consideration in the first phase. These are Tarabari, Gijang, Hahim, Baklapara, Khanapara-Pilangkata and Ratacherra.
- These disputed areas are part of **Cachar, Kamrup Metro and Kamrup Rural** on Assam's side and **West Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi district and East Jaintia Hills** on Meghalaya's side.

Assam and Border Issues:

- The states of the **Northeast** were largely carved out of **Assam**, which has border disputes with several states.
- Assam's border disputes with **Arunachal Pradesh** and **Nagaland** are pending in the **Supreme Court**.
- Assam's **border disputes** with **Mizoram** are currently in the **phase of resolution** through negotiations.
- **Other Border Disputes between Different States:**
 - **Belagavi Border Dispute** (between Karnataka and Maharashtra)
 - **Odisha's Border Disputes**

#SIKKIM LAUNCHED 'BAHINI SCHEME'

The Sikkim government is **set to announce a scheme (Bahini)** to **install vending machines to provide free sanitary pads**.

- This is the **first time that a state government** has taken a decision to cover all girls studying in **Classes 9-12**.

What is the Purpose of the Scheme?

- It aims at providing **"100% access to free and safe sanitary pads to secondary and senior secondary school going girls"**.
- It is also aimed to **curb dropout of girls from schools** and raise awareness about menstrual hygiene.
- The scheme is based on an **experiment the state government initiated in 2018**, in collaboration with **Sulabh International**, where vending machines were installed in some schools.
- Sulabh International is an **India-based social service organization** that works to **promote human rights, environmental sanitation, non-conventional sources** of energy, waste management and social reforms through education.



Menstrual Hygiene Scheme

- The major objectives of the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme is:
 - To increase awareness among adolescent girls on Menstrual Hygiene
 - To increase access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins to adolescent girls in rural areas.
 - To ensure safe disposal of Sanitary Napkins in an environmentally friendly manner

Rashtriya Kishor SwasthyaKaryakram

- The major objectives objective of RKSK is:
 - Improve Sexual and Reproductive Health
 - Enhance Mental Health
 - Prevent Injuries and violence
 - Prevent substance misuse

National Family Health Survey (NFHS):

- The **NFHS** is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India.
- **Conducted By:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has designated the **International Institute for Population Sciences(IIPS) Mumbai**, as the **nodal agency** for providing coordination and technical guidance for the survey.
- IIPS collaborates with a number of Field Organizations (FO) for survey implementation.
- **Goals:** Each successive round of the NFHS has had two specific goals:
 - To provide essential data on health and family welfare needed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other agencies for policy and programme purposes.
 - To provide information on important emerging health and family welfare issues.
- **Funding:** The funding for different rounds of NFHS has been provided by **USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF, UNFPA, and MoHFW (Government of India).**

#MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES LAUNCHED 'DOM'

Recently, the Ministry of Earth Sciences has launched the **Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)**.

- DOM is a **mission mode project** to support the **Blue Economy Initiatives** of the Government of India.
- Earlier, the Ministry of Earth Sciences had also rolled out the draft **Blue Economy Policy**.
- **Blue Economy** is the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and **ocean ecosystem health**.



What are the Major Components of DOM?

- **Development of Manned Submersible Vehicle:** A manned submersible will be developed to carry three people to a depth of 6,000 metres in the ocean with a suite of scientific sensors and tools.
- NIOT & ISRO is jointly developing a **Manned Submersible Vehicle**.
- **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)**, an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- **Leveraging Ocean Resources:** Oceans, which cover **70% of the globe**, remain a key part of our life. About 95% of the **Deep Ocean remains unexplored**.
- Three sides of India are surrounded by the oceans and around **30% of the country's population lives in coastal areas**, the ocean is a major economic factor supporting fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, livelihoods and blue trade.
- Considering the importance of the oceans on sustainability, the UN has declared the decade, 2021-2030 as the **Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**.

What are other Blue Economy Initiatives

- **India-Norway Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development:** It was inaugurated jointly by both the countries in 2020 to **develop and follow up joint initiatives between the two countries**.
- **Sagarmala Project:** The Sagarmala project is the strategic initiative for **port-led development** through the extensive use of IT-enabled services for the modernization of ports.
- **O-SMART:** India has an umbrella scheme by the name of **O-SMART** which aims at regulated use of oceans, marine resources for sustainable development.
- **Integrated Coastal Zone Management:** It focuses on the conservation of coastal and marine resources, improving livelihood opportunities for coastal communities etc.
- **National Fisheries Policy:** India has a **National Fisheries policy** for promoting the '**Blue Growth Initiative**' which focuses on sustainable utilisation of fisheries wealth from marine and other aquatic resources.

37TH FOUNDATION DAY OF NCRB

Recently the **37th Foundation Day of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** was celebrated (11th March 1986).

What is the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)?

- NCRB, headquartered in New Delhi, was set-up in 1986 under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- It was set up based **on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981)** and the **MHA's Task Force (1985)**.



Functions:

- The Bureau has been entrusted to maintain **National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO)** and share it with the **States/UTs on regular basis**.
- NCRB has also been **designated as the Central Nodal Agency** to manage technical and operational functions of the '**Online Cyber-Crime Reporting Portal**' through which any citizen can lodge a complaint or upload a video clip as an evidence of crime related to child pornography, rape/gang rape.
- The responsibility of implementation of the **Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)** has also been given to the NCRB.
- ICJS is a **national platform for enabling** integration of the main IT system used for delivery of Criminal Justice in the country.
- It seeks to integrate the **five pillars of the system** viz Police (through **Crime and Criminal Tracking and Network Systems**), e-Forensics for Forensic Labs, **e-Courts** for Courts, e-Prosecution for Public Prosecutors and **e-Prisons** for Prisons.
- The Government of India has set a target of the second phase of ICJS (Inter-operable Criminal Justice System) by 2026 with an expenditure of about Rs. 3,500 crore.
- **Major Publications:**

- Crimes in India
- Accidental Deaths and Suicides
- Prison Statistics
- Reports on Missing Women and children in India

#BBIN MOTOR VEHICLES AGREEMENT

Recently, India, Bangladesh and Nepal finalised an enabling memorandum of understanding (MoU) for implementing the long-gestating **Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA)**.

What is the BBIN connectivity Project?

- **Background:** The project was conceived after the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** failed to agree on a regional motor vehicles agreement at a **summit in Nepal in 2014**, mainly because of opposition from Pakistan.
- **Origin:** The **BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic** between the 4 countries was signed during a transport ministers' meeting in **Thimpu on 15th June 2015**.
- **Objective:** Operationalising the MVA by concluding the **Passenger and the Cargo Protocol** will help realise the full potential of trade and **people to people connectivity** between the BBIN countries by **fostering greater sub-regional cooperation**.
- **Bhutan's Reluctance:** The BBIN project suffered a setback in **2017 when Bhutan temporarily** opted out of it after being unable to get parliamentary approval for the MVA.
- The **3 other countries** decided at the time to press ahead with the agreement.
- **Foreign Funding:** The **Asian Development Bank** has supported the project as part of its **South Asian Subregional Economic Cooperation programme**, and has been requested to prioritise about 30 road projects worth billions of dollars.
- The **World Bank**, which has estimated that the implementation of the MVA will potentially see an **increase in traffic-regional trade within South Asia by nearly 60%**, has also announced its interest in supporting infrastructure.
- **Persisting Issues:** There are still some agreements holding up the **final protocols, including issues like insurance and bank guarantees, and the size and frequency of freight carriers into each country**, which they hope to finalise this year before operationalizing bus and truck movements between them.



What are the concerns of Bhutan?

- The objections of Bhutan pertain to **sustainability and environmental concerns**.
- In 2020, Prime Minister LotayTshering held that given Bhutan's "**current infrastructure**" and **top priority to remaining a "carbon-negative" country**, it would not be possible to consider joining the MVA.
- Thus, the Bhutanese parliament decided not to endorse the plan.

RELATED: What are the Similar Connectivity Initiatives?

- **Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Corridor**
- The **2800 km BCIM corridor** proposes to link Kunming in China's Yunnan province with Kolkata, passing through nodes such as **Mandalay in Myanmar** and **Dhaka in Bangladesh** before heading to Kolkata.
- **China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC)**
- The **1,700-km corridor** provides China another node to access the Indian Ocean.
- The CMEC will run from **Yunnan Province of China to Mandalay in Central Myanmar**.
- From there it will head towards Yangon, before terminating at the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on the Bay of Bengal.
- **The CMEC will reduce Beijing's trade and energy reliance on the Malacca straits** — the narrow passage that links the Indian Ocean with the Pacific.
- China is worried that US Naval domination over the Malacca straits can threaten one of China's major economic lifeline.
- **Nepal-China Trans-Himalayan Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network**
- The **Nepal-China Trans-Himalayan connectivity network** starting from Chengdu, from where it is **linked to Tibet by the Sichuan-Tibet Highway and Railway**.
- China has visualized that that **railway can eventually be connected with the Indian railway network**, linking China and India across the Himalayas.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

- The CPEC is a bilateral project between Pakistan and China, intended to promote connectivity across Pakistan with a network of highways, railways, and pipelines accompanied by energy, industrial, and other infrastructure development projects.
- **CPEC links the Western part of China to the Gwadar Port in Balochistan**, Pakistan running some 3000 km from **Xinjiang to Balochistan via Khunjerab Pass** in the Northern Parts of Pakistan.

Look East Policy

- In order to recover from the loss of the strategic partner -USSR (end of the Cold war 1991), India sought to build up a relationship with the USA and allies of the USA in Southeast Asia.
- In this pursuit, former Prime minister of India P V Narasimha Rao launched Look East policy in 1992, to give a strategic push to India's engagement with South-East Asia region.

How Act East is different from Look East policy?

- Look East policy focused on the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries + Economic Integration**.
- India became a dialogue partner of ASEAN in 1996 and summit level partner in 2002.
- In 2012 the relationship got up-graded into a **Strategic Partnership in 2012**.
- The time when India launched Look East Policy in 1992, India's trade with ASEAN was \$2 billion. After signing the Free Trade Agreement in 2010 with ASEAN, the trade has grown to \$72 billion (2017-18).
- India is also an active participant in several regional forums like the **East Asia Summit (EAS)**, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) etc.
- Act East Policy focused on **ASEAN countries + Economic Integration + East Asian countries + Security cooperation**.
- Prime minister of India highlighted **4C's of Act East Policy**.
- Culture
- Commerce
- Connectivity
- Capacity building
- **Security** is an important dimension of **India's Act East Policy**.

#INDIA 1ST WOMEN OWNED INDUSTRIAL PARKS

- Commemorating the **International Women's Day 2022** on 8th March 2022, India's first 100 percent women-owned industrial park was opened in Hyderabad, Telangana. Telangana Industries Minister KT Rama Rao inaugurated this park.
- With 25 women-owned and operated Green Projects, this industrial park has begun its operations.
- The FLO Industrial Park is named after the **FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO)**, which is promoting it in association with the Telangana government.
- The **FLO Industrial Park**, covers 50 acres and cost Rs 250 crore to build.
- An expansion of 100 acres of the FLO women industrial park has also been promised by the Industries Minister subject to the park's focus on various novel products.
- It is the nation's flagship as well as the first-of-its-kind project.
- **FLO chapter members and national members are also welcome to participate.**
- The park has also established amenities, such as creches and playschools, to provide a home-like atmosphere for women while keeping in mind the needs of working women entrepreneurs.
- In Phase II, the FLO wants to establish similar multi-industry women industrial parks **across the country, as well as a centre of excellence for skill development.**



About FICCI Ladies Organization

- The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI)** women wing is named FICCI Ladies Organization. FICCI is the top body of commerce and industry in India.
- In 1983 FLO was established. Its members include corporate executives, professionals, and entrepreneurs.

- **FLO, with its head office located in New Delhi**, is an all India organization and has 18 chapters across the nation including New Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, Jaipur, Indore, Coimbatore, Pune, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Uttarakhand, and Northeast.

#HARYANA: SUSHMA SWARAJ AWARD

- **Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar of Haryana** while presenting the state budget has announced a '**Sushma Swaraj Award**' for women for their significant achievements or contribution in different walks of life in the international and national spheres.
- The **Sushma Swaraj Award will carry award money of Rs 5 lakh along with a commendation.**



About Sushma Swaraj

- **Sushma Swaraj** was a lawyer of the Supreme Court as well as an Indian politician. She was a senior member of the **Bharatiya Janata Party**, served as India's Minister of External Affairs during the first Narendra Modi government (2014–2019).
- After Indira Gandhi, she was the second woman to occupy this position. **She was elected seven times as a Member of Parliament and three times as a Member of Legislative Assembly.**
- In 1977, at the age of 25, she became the youngest cabinet minister in the state of Haryana. She also served as Delhi's 5th Chief Minister for a brief period in 1998, and also became the city's first female Chief Minister. The US daily Wall Street Journal called her India's "best-loved politician".

Other important announcements in the budget

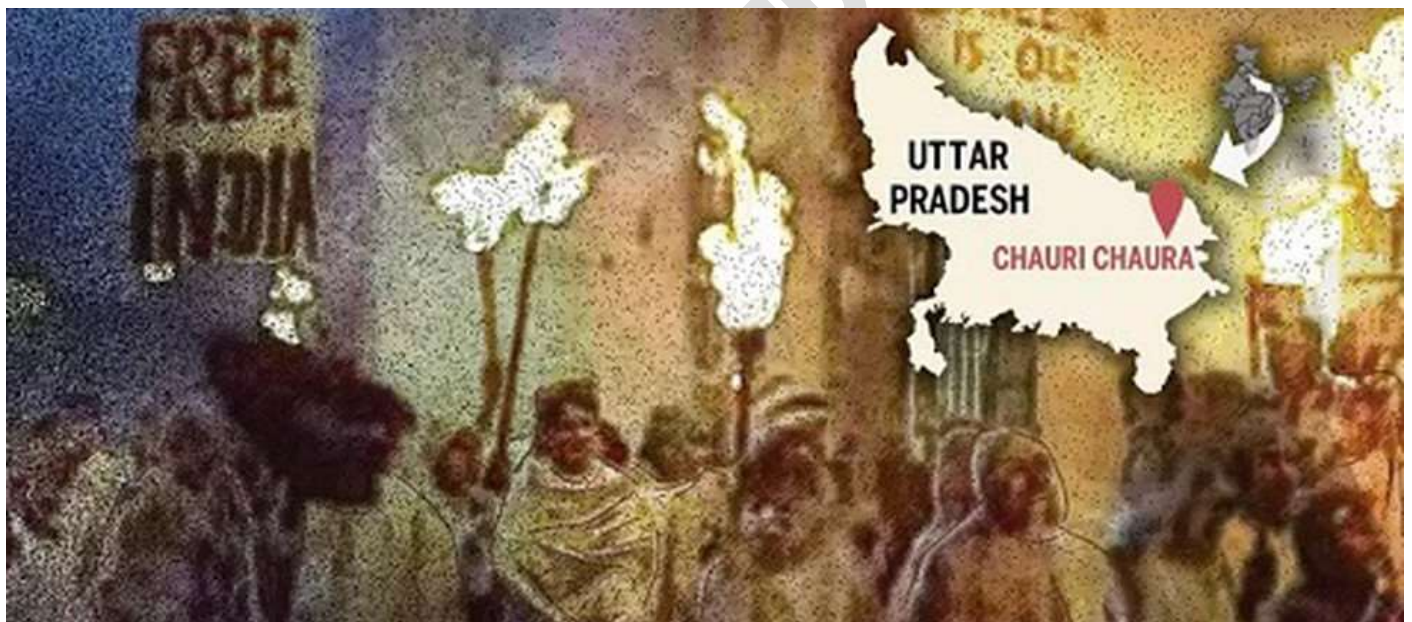
- A populist budget of Rs 177,256 crore for 2022-23, was proposed which is an increase of 15.6 percent over this fiscal of Rs 153,384 crore. 34.4 percent (Rs 61,057.36 crore) of the budget has been allocated to capital expenditures, while 65.6 percent (Rs 16,198.63 crore) **has been allocated to revenue expenditures.**
- Tablets for all students in class 10 to 12, a scheme to help women entrepreneurs with soft loans, **and the establishment of three dedicated funds to accelerate growth in different sectors have all been announced.**
- A research and innovation fund **to promote scientific activity**, a climate and sustainable development fund to **achieve green development objectives** along with scholarships in educational institutions and universities, and a venture capital fund to encourage entrepreneurship, were also announced in the budget.

#100 YEARS OF CHAURI CHAURA INCIDENT

- On 4 February 2021, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated 'Chauri Chaura' Centenary Celebrations at Chauri Chaura, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh and released a postal stamp dedicated to the event via video conferencing.

Chauri Chaura Incident

- On 2 February 1922, Non-cooperation Movement was led by a retired Army soldier Bhagwan Ahir against high food prices and liquor sale. The protestors were beaten by the local police and several leaders were imprisoned at the Chauri Chaura police station.
- In response to this incident, around 2,000 to 2,500 protesters assembled at Chauri Chaura, Gorakhpur district of the United Province, British India (present-day Uttar Pradesh, India) and began marching towards the market on 4 February 1922.
- They picketed a liquor shop following which their leader was beaten and imprisoned.
- A group of protestors gathered in front of the local police station, demanding the release of their leader while another group continued marching towards the market and raised anti-government slogans. In an attempt to disperse the protestors, the police fired shots in the air which worsened the situation as protestors began throwing stones at the police.



- To control the situation, the sub-inspector in charge ordered the police to open fire on the advancing crowd-- killing three and injuring others. In the ensuing chaos, the heavily outnumbered police get back to the police station while the angry mob advanced and set the police station ablaze, killing all of its occupants. The incident resulted in the death of 22 policemen.
- In view of this incident, Martial law was imposed by the British administration in and around the Chauri Chaura area. Raids were also conducted and hundreds of people were arrested in response to the killing of policemen.
- On 12 February 1922, reacting upon the incident, Mahatma Gandhi halted the non-cooperation movement at the national level.

- In connection with the incident, **Mahatma Gandhi was also arrested and sentenced to six years of imprisonment.** However, he was **later released on grounds of ill health in February 1924.**

Background of the Surat Split

- **The years from 1885-1905** was known as the period of the moderates because they dominated the Indian National Congress. The Moderates used **petition, prayers, meetings, leaflets, pamphlets, memorandum and delegations to present their demands to the British government.**
- Their only notable achievements were expansion of the legislative council by the Indian Councils Act of 1892. This created dissatisfaction among the people. The 1907 INC meeting was to be held in Nagpur. The Extremists wanted leaders were not released till that date. Some of the new extremists came into being with the same policy of prior extremists. The Moderates **supported Rash Bihari Ghosh. Gopal Krishna Gokhale** moved the meeting place from Nagpur to Surat fearing that in **Nagpur, Bal Gangadhar Tilak** would win. The partition of Bengal drove the rise of extremism in INC.
- An INC meeting was shifted from Nagpur to Surat. Since Surat was in the **home province of Bal Gangadhar Tilak**, he could not preside over the meeting. But what outraged the extremists was that he was not even given permission to speak. This led to a violent altercation between the two factions and the meeting being cancelled.
- The Moderates and the Extremists patched up their differences for a year, but in 1907 the two groups permanently split.

Important Points regarding the Surat Split

- **The dream of a 'Surat Split' was already conceived by Curzon when he made the statement 'Congress was tottering to its fall and one of the biggest ambitions in my life is to give it a peaceful demise'.**
- The Surat split was a big jolt to the Indian National Congress. In fact, the difference between the moderates and the extremists presented an opportunity to the British.
- The moderates were quite reluctant to pass the motion on the demand for Swaraj. **The Arya-samajist notion of Swaraj and Swadeshi**, was the hallmark of the programme of the extremists.
- In the initial days, there were many Congress leaders who opposed the notion of Swaraj, the demand for Swaraj, and extremist politics, but in the beginning of the 20th Century, some of the veteran Congress leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji, and G.K. Gokhale, had the word, 'Swaraj' in their minds.

For Example,

- **In 1905 (Banaras Session of the INC):** Gokhale was the President and for the first time he had a discussion over 'Swaraj'.
- **In 1906**, Dadabhai Naoroji (who was the President of the INC session at Calcutta), and in his Presidential address, used the word Swaraj. Thus, the word, 'Swaraj' wasn't untouchable to them, but they were reluctant to pass the resolution over 'Swaraj'.
- **In 1907, Surat Session:** The two main objectives placed by the extremists were that:
 - Demand for the resolution of Swaraj
 - Lala Lajpat Rai to be made the President of the INC
- **These two demands were not acceptable to the moderates.** Thus, instead of Lala Lajpat Rai (November 17 1928), the moderates supported the idea of Rash Behari Ghosh as the President. This was the first time that there was to be an election in the INC for Presidentship. In between the election, the extremists were expelled from the INC, and the moderates had complete command over the affairs of the INC. Rash Behari Ghosh became the President of the Surat session.

- **The Surat split was a victory of the British policy of Divide and Rule**, and after a long time, the British believed that they were in control of the affairs of the moderates over the INC.
- In 1909: Separate electorates were granted to the Muslim community during a time when the Congress was at its lowest ebb. The most critical and vocal elements were not a part of the INC. Thus the British had taken absolute advantage over the INC.
- **Satyagraha Movements in India:** Mahatma Gandhi believed that the dharma of non-violence could unite all Indians.
- In **1916** he travelled to **Champaran in Bihar** to inspire the peasants to struggle against the **oppressive plantation system**.
- In **1917**, he organised a satyagraha to **support the peasants of the Kheda district of Gujarat**. Affected by crop failure and a plague epidemic, the peasants of Kheda could not pay the revenue, and were demanding that revenue collection be relaxed.
- In **1918**, he went to **Ahmedabad** to organise a satyagraha movement amongst **cotton mill workers**.
- In **1919**, he decided to launch a **nationwide satyagraha against the proposed Rowlatt Act (1919)**.
- The Act gave the government enormous powers to repress political activities, and allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for two years.
- On **13th April, 1919** the infamous **Jallianwalla Bagh incident** took place. Seeing violence spread, Mahatma Gandhi **called off the movement (18th April, 1919)**.

Khilafat (Caliphate) Issue

- **Turkey's Alliance against British:** The Muslims all over the world, including India, regarded the sultan of Turkey as their spiritual leader, Khalifa (Caliph).
- During the First World War, Turkey had allied with Germany and Austria against the British.
- **Discontented Indian Muslims:** The Indian Muslims supported the government during the First World War with an understanding that the sacred places of Ottoman Empire would be in the hands of Khalifa.
- However, after the War, the **Ottoman Empire was divided, Turkey was dismembered and the Khalifa was removed from power**.
- This angered the Muslims who took it as an insult to the Khalifa. The Ali brothers, **Shoukat Ali and Mohammad Ali** started the Khilafat Movement against the British government.
- This movement took place between 1919 and 1924.
- **Khilafat Committee:** In early 1919, the **All India Khilafat Committee** was formed under the leadership of the **Ali brothers, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Ajmal Khan and Hasrat Mohani**, to force the British Government to change its attitude to Turkey.
- Thus, the grounds for a country-wide agitation was prepared.
- An **All India Khilafat Conference** was held in Delhi in November 1919 and the call was made to boycott the British goods.
- **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22):** At the **Calcutta session of the Congress in September 1920**, he convinced other leaders of the need to start a non-cooperation movement in **support of Khilafat as well as for swaraj**.
- At the **Congress session at Nagpur in December 1920**, the Non-Cooperation programme was adopted.
- In Feb **1922**, Mahatma Gandhi decided to **withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement** after the **Chauri-Chaura incident**.

- **The Salt March and the Civil Disobedience Movement:** For several years after the Non-cooperation Movement ended, Mahatma Gandhi focused on his social reform work.
- In **1930**, Gandhiji declared that he would lead a march to **break the salt law**.
- According to this law, the state had a monopoly on the manufacture and sale of salt.
- The march was over 240 miles, from Gandhi's ashram in Sabarmati to the Gujarati coastal town of Dandi, where they broke the government law by gathering natural salt found on the seashore, and boiling sea water to produce salt.
- This **marked the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement**.
- In 1931, Gandhi accepted a truce (**the Gandhi-Irwin Pact**), called off civil disobedience, and agreed to attend the **Second Round Table Conference** in London as the sole representative of the Indian National Congress.
- After returning from London, Mahatma Gandhi **relaunched the Civil Disobedience Movement**. For over a year, the movement continued, but **by 1934 it lost its momentum**.

Government of India Act 1935

- The Constitution of 1950 was a by-product of the legacy started by the Government of India Act 1935. This was the longest act passed by the British government with 321 sections and 10 schedules. This act had drawn its content from four sources – Report of the Simon Commission, discussions and deliberations at the Third Round Table Conference, the White Paper of 1933 and the reports of the Joint select committees.
- This act abolished the system of provincial dyarchy and suggested the establishment of dyarchy at the centre and a 'Federation of India' consisting of the provinces of British India and most of the princely states.
- Most importantly, the act established the office of the Governor; all the executive powers and authority of the centre was vested in the Governor.
- Some features of the Government of India Act 1935 were:
 - **Federal Legislature:** The act suggested that the legislature will have two houses, i.e., the Council of States and a Federal Assembly. **The Council of States** was the upper house which was a permanent body with a tenure of three years and composed of 260 members of which 156 were representatives of British India and 101 of the Princely Indian states.
 - **The Federal Assembly** was the lower house with a tenure expanding up to five years and its composition included 250 representatives of British India and 125 members from Princely states.
 - **Provincial Autonomy:** This act enabled the Provincial Governments to be responsible only to Provincial Legislatures and helped them break free from external control and intrusion.
- It was with the establishment of this act that the powers between the centre and provinces were divided in terms of **three lists** – Federal list (59 items for the Centre), Provincial list (54 items for Provinces) and Concurrent list (36 items for both). The Residuary powers were handed over to the Viceroy.

Quit India Movement:

- With the outbreak of **World War II (1939-45)**, the nationalist struggle in India entered its last crucial phase.
- The failure of the mission of **Sir Stafford Cripps**, a British cabinet minister who went to India in March 1942 with an offer that Gandhi found unacceptable, the British equivocation on the transfer of power to Indian hands, and the encouragement given by high British officials to conservative and communal forces promoting discord between Muslims and Hindus impelled Gandhi to demand in the summer of **1942** an immediate British withdrawal from India—what became **known as the Quit India Movement**.

The screenshot displays the YouTube channel page for 'Success Mantra Digital'. The channel's banner image shows a group of people standing in front of a backdrop that reads 'ACADEMIA - 2018'. Below the banner, the channel name 'Success Mantra Digital - Leading Institute in Test Preparation' is prominently displayed, along with a 'SUBSCRIBED' button and a notification bell icon. The navigation tabs include HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, COMMUNITY, CHANNELS, and ABOUT. The 'VIDEOS' tab is selected, showing a grid of video uploads. The first row of videos includes 'AILET 2021 Paper Analysis | Success Mantra Coaching' (49:46), 'NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis (English Section) ...' (40:00), 'Why You Should Join The Legal Profession |...' (1:11:35), and 'NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis | Success Mantra...' (16:10). The second row shows 'NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis' (49:46), 'IMPORTANCE OF VOCABULARY' (49:46), 'POLITY मंथन 1500+' (49:46), and 'LEGAL मंथन 1000+ Questions' (49:46).

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