





Monthly Compendium (MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS)

of Current Affairs by SUCC≣SS MANTRA (GTB Nagar)







MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

JULY 2022



MISCELLANEOUS

#GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT BY WEF

- Recently, the World Economic Forum (WEF) ranked India at 135 out of 146 countries in its Global Gender Gap (GGG) Index for 2022.
- India's overall score has improved from 0.625 (in 2021) to 0.629, which is its seventh-highest score in the last 16 years.
- In 2021, India was ranked 140 out of 156 countries.
- The **gender gap** is the ence between women and men as reflected in social, political, intellectual, cultural, or economic attainments or attitudes.

What is the Global Gender Gap Index?

- It **benchmarks countries** on their progress towards gender parity in four Key dimensions with Sub
- Economic Participation and Opportunity
- Educational Attainment
- Health and Survival
- Political Empowerment
- On each of the four sub-indices as well as on the overall index the GGG index provides scores between 0 and 1, where 1 shows full gender parity and 0 is complete imparity.
- It is the longest-standing index, which tracks progress towards closing these gaps over time since its inception in 2006.

What is World Economic Forum?

- About: The World Economic Forum is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.
- It was established in 1971 as a not-forprofit foundation and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Major Reports:
- Energy Transition Index.
- Global Competitiveness Report.
- Global IT Report
- WEF along with INSEAD and Cornell University publishes this report.
- Global Gender Gap Report
- Global Risk Report
- Global Travel and Tourism Report

What has India Fared on Four Key Dimensions?

- Political Empowerment (Percentage of Women in Parliament and in Ministerial Positions):
- India ranks the highest (48th out of 146).
- Notwithstanding its rank, its **score is quite low at 0.267.**
- Some of the best ranking countries in this category score much better.
- For instance, Iceland is ranked 1 with a score of 0.874 and Bangladesh is ranked 9 with a score of 0.546.
- Economic Participation and Opportunity (Percentage of women in labour force, Wage Equality for similar work, Earned income):
- India ranks a lowly 143 out of the 146 countries in contention even though its score has improved over 2021 from 0.326 to 0.350.
- In 2021, India was pegged at **151 out of the 156 countries.**
- India's score is **much lower than the global average**, and only Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan are behind India on this metric.
- Educational Attainment (Literacy Rate and the Enrolment rates in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary education):
- India ranks 107th out of 146, and its score have marginally worsened since last year.
- In 2021, India was ranked 114 out of 156.
- Health and Survival (Sex ratio at birth and Healthy Life Expectancy):
- India is ranked the last (146) among all the countries.
- Its score hasn't changed from 2021 when it was ranked 155th out of 156 countries.

What are the Indian Initiatives to reduce Gender Gap in Social, Economic and Political Life?

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao:** It ensures the protection, survival and education of the girl child.
- Mahila Shakti Kendra: Aims to empower rural women with opportunities for skill development and employment.
- **Mahila Police Volunteers**: It envisages engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers in States/UTs who act as a link between police and community and facilitates women in distress.
- **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh:** It is an apex micro-finance organization that provides micro-credit at concessional terms to poor women for various livelihood and income generating activities.
- **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna:** Under this scheme girls have been economically empowered by opening their bank accounts.
- **Female Entrepreneurship:** To promote female entrepreneurship, the Government has initiated Programmes like Stand-Up India and Mahila e-Haat (online marketing platform to support women entrepreneurs/SHGs/NGOs), Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESSDP).
- Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya: They have been opened in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs).
- **Political Reservation:** Government has reserved 33% of the seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions for women.
- Capacity Building of Elected Women Representatives: It is conducted with a view to empowering women to participate effectively in the governance processes.

What are Global Findings?

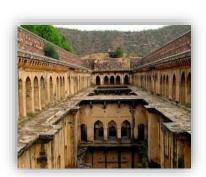
- Ranking: Iceland has retained its position as the world's most gender-equal country, among 146 nations on the index.
- Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden are the **top five countries** on the list respectively.
- **Afghanistan is the worst-performing** country in the report.
- Scenario: Overall GGG is closed by 68.1%. At the current rate of progress, it will take 132 years to reach full parity.
- Although no country achieved full gender parity, the top 3 economies closed at least 80% of their gender gaps,
- Iceland (90.8%)
- Finland (86%),
- Norway (84.5%)
- South Asia will take **the longest to reach gender parity**, which is estimated to be likely in 197 years.

#MONUMENTS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

• A report by the **National Monuments Authority (NMA)** called for the Mangarh hilltop in Rajasthan to be **designated as a national monument in honor of 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters.**

What is National Monuments Authority (NMA)?

- It was established under the **Ministry of Culture** in accordance with the requirements of the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains AMASR (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010.**
- The NMA has been delegated specific tasks for the conservation and preservation of monuments and sites, including control of the banned and restricted areas surrounding centrally designated monuments.
- One of the NMA's roles is to **evaluate granting permits** to applicants for construction-related activities in restricted and regulated areas.



What are Monuments of National Importance?

- National ancient Monuments are defined under the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- The Act defines Ancient Monument as any structure or monument or any cave, rock sculpture, an inscription that is of historical or archaeological interest.
- The Central Government is authorised to maintain, protect and promote the monuments.
- What is the Background of the Mangarh Hillock?
- The hillock, situated at the **Gujarat-Rajasthan border**, is a site of a tribal uprising where a massacre of over 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters took place in 1913.
- The place is also known as the **Adivasi Jallianwala**, and there has been a demand to build a memorial.
- On 17th November, 1913, **British forces opened fire on tribals gathered at the site** who were holding a meeting in protest, led by a leader from the community **Govind Guru**, killing over 1,500.

What is Bhil Tribe

- **Bhils** are commonly referred to as **Rajasthan's bowmen**.
- They are India's most widely dispersed tribal communities.
- They are **South Asia's largest tribe**.
- They are broadly classified into two types:
- Central or pure bhills
- Eastern or Rajput Bhils.
- The central Bhils can be found in the mountain regions of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan in India, and also can be found in Tripura's northwestern regions.
- They are considered as **Schedule Tribe** in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tripura.

#YOUTH IN INDIA REPORT

- Recently, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released 'Youth in India 2022' Report, which shows that the population share of the youth is starting to decline whereas the share of the elderly is expected to increase during 2021-2036.
- A sustained drop in fertility has led to an increased concentration of the population at working ages (between 25 and 64 years) and this shift in the age distribution provides a time-bound opportunity for accelerated economic growth known as the "Demographic Dividend".

What are the Findings of the Report?

- Decline in Youth Population: The youth population is expected to increase initially but will start to decline in the latter half of 2011-2036 periods.
- The total youth population increased from **222.7 million in 1991 to 333.4 million in 2011** and is projected to reach **371.4 million by 2021 and, thereafter, decrease to 345.5 million by 2036.**
- Proportion of Youth and Elderly Population: Proportion of youth to the total population had increased from 26.6% in 1991 to 27.9% in 2016 and then projected to start a downward trend and to reach 22.7 % by year 2036.
- Scenario in the States:
- States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh are projected to see a higher elderly population than the youth by 2036.
- Bihar and Uttar Pradesh experienced a rise in proportion of youth population to total population till 2021 and then it is expected to start declining.
- These **two states, along with Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan**, are projected to have over half (52%) of the country's youth.

#DEFENCE MINISTRY LAUNCHED Y-3023 DUNAGIRI

 Recently, the Defence Minister of India launched Y- 3023 Dunagiri, a Project 17A frigate built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata.

What do we know about Y-3023?

- 'Dunagiri' is the fourth ship of Project 17A Frigates.
- It is named after a mountain range in the state of Uttarakhand.
- 'Dunagiri' is the reincarnation of the erstwhile 'Dunagiri', the Leander Class ASW Frigate, which in her 33 years of service had witnessed various challenging operations and multinational exercises.

What do we know about Project 17A Frigates?

- **About:** Project 17A frigates are **follow-on of the P17 Frigates (Shivalik Class)** with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.
- There will be **seven frigates built under P-17 A for the Indian Navy** which will be equipped with advanced stealth capability, four at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL), Mumbai and three at Garden Reach Ship Builders Limited (GRSE), Kolkata.

Weapon Systems onboard:

- The main weapon and sensor suite of P-17A ships indicated are **BrahMos SSM, LRSAM (Forward & Aft configuration)** with **MF STAR radar, indigenous Sonar, and Triple tube Heavy Torpedo launcher**.
- The first three ships under Project 17A were:
 - > INS Nilgiri



- INS Himgiri
- > INS Udaygiri

#UNESCO CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

- India has been elected to the **Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention** for the Safeguarding of the **Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)** for the 2022-2026 cycle.
- India has served as a **member of the ICH Committee twice** from 2006 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2018.
- Earlier, **Durga Puja** in Kolkata was inscribed on the **UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity.**

What is Intangible Cultural Heritage?

- Intangible cultural heritage is the **practices**, **expressions**, **knowledge and skills that communities**, **groups and sometimes individuals recognise** as part of their cultural heritage.
- Also called **living cultural heritage**, it is usually **expressed in one of the following forms**:
- Oral Traditions
- Performing Arts
- Social Practices
- Rituals and Festive events
- Knowledge and Practices concerning nature and the universe
- Traditional Craftsmanship

What is UNESCO's Convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Heritage?

- The Convention of the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2003** and entered into force in 2006.
- It comprises **24 members and is elected in the General Assembly of the Convention** according to the principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation.
- Members of the Committee are elected for a term of four years.

#INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COOPERATIVES

- Recently, 100th International Day of Cooperatives was observed.
- India celebrated the day under the theme "Building a Self-Reliant India and a Better World through Co-operatives".

What is International Day of Cooperatives?

- Historical Perspective: The International Day of Cooperatives was declared by the United Nations General Assembly on 16th December 1992, on the first Saturday of July.
- The purpose of this festival is to **promote cooperatives globally and foster an environment that will foster** their expansion and profitability.
- The occasion highlights the cooperative movement's contributions to tackling the major issues addressed by the **United Nations as well as to enhancing and expanding the alliances between the cooperative movements internationally** and other actors.
- **Theme for 2022:** Cooperatives Build a Better World.

What are Co-operatives?

• **Co-operatives** are people-centered enterprises owned, controlled and run by and for their members to realize their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations.



- Cooperatives bring people together in a democratic and equal way. Whether the members are the
 customers, employees, users or residents, cooperatives are democratically managed by the 'one
 member, one vote' rule.
- Members share equal voting rights regardless of the amount of capital they put into the enterprise.

Indian Perspectives:

- India has the **greatest cooperative movement** in the entire globe. Cooperatives, which currently **account for over 8.5 lakh villages in India**, are essential institutions for **fostering socioeconomic development for inclusive growth in both rural and urban areas**.
- Some of the well-known success stories of the cooperative movement in India include,
- AMUL(Anand Milk Union Limited),
- IFFCO(Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited),
- KRIBHCO(Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited),
- NAFED(National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd).

#STATE RANKING INDEX FOR NFSA

 Recently, the first edition of the State Ranking Index for National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 was released.

What is the Index all about?

- The index seeks to document the status and progress of the implementation of NFSA across the country and various reform initiatives after consultation with the states.
- It highlights the reforms undertaken by the States and Union Territories and creates a cross-learning environment and scale-up reform measures by all the States and Union Territories. The current index is largely focused on NFSA distribution and will include future buyouts, PMKGAY (Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana) distributions.

Basis of the Assessment:

 The index for ranking of States and UTs is built on three key pillars, which cover end-to-end implementation of NFSA through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

These pillars are-

- NFSA- coverage, targeting and provisions of the Act
- Delivery platforms and
- Nutrition initiatives

What is NFSA?

- **Notified on:** 10th September, 2013.
- Objective: To provide for food and nutritional security_in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- **Coverage:** 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).**
- Overall, NFSA caters to 67% of the total population.
- **Eligibility:** Priority Households to be covered under TPDS, according to guidelines by the State government.
- Households covered under existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana.
- **Provisions: 5 Kgs of foodgrains per person** per month at Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains.
- The existing AAY household will continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month.
- **Meal and maternity benefit** of not less than Rs. 6,000 to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after the child birth.
- Meals for children upto 14 years of age.
- **Food security allowance** to beneficiaries in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals.
- Setting up of grievance redressal mechanisms at the district and state level.

In what ways did the states perform?

- **General Category States: Odisha is ranked first followed** by Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh in second and third position.
- Special Category States: Tripura ranks top among the special category states (the North-eastern States, Himalayan States, and Island States).
- Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim are in second and third place, respectively.
- Worst Performers: Punjab, Haryana and Delhi are among the states at the bottom five.

Why Odisha Ranking Matter?

- Odisha has followed the adoption of the NFSA in the state in 2015 with robust end-to-end computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) operations.
- A 3.25 crore digitized beneficiaries database has been hosted in the public domain and is dynamically updated at 378 ration card management system (RCMS) centers, one in each of 314 blocks and 64 urban local bodies (ULBs).
- Furthermore, the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department's 152 food storage facilities have been totally automated, with real-time electronic recording of 1.87 lakh MT foodgrains sent to 12,133 fair pricing stores across the State.
- From July 2021, the **One Nation, One Ration Card (ONORC)** programme was introduced across the state.
- After its implementation, PDS beneficiaries can now choose any fair pricing retailer of their choice and convenience to get their monthly benefits.
- Every month, approximately **1.10 lakh families receive rations through the intra-state facility** and 533 families through the inter-state programme.

#NATIONAL FISH FARMERS DAY OBSERVED ON 10TH JULY

• National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying celebrated the 22nd National Fish Farmers Day (10th July 2022) to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout the country.

What are the Key Points?

- National Fish Farmers Day is celebrated in the memory of scientists Dr K. H. Alikunhi and Dr H. L. Chaudhury.
- Both of them successfully demonstrated Hypophysation (technology of induced breeding) in Indian Major Carps (common name for several species of fish) on 10th July 1957.

What are the Related Initiatives?

- **Blue Revolution:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Blue Revolution" Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries was launched in 2016.
- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana:
- It strives to create direct employment to 15 lakh fishers, fish farmers, etc. and about thrice this number as indirect employment opportunities.
- It also aims to double the incomes of fishers, fish farmers and fish workers by 2024.
- **Fisheries & Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund:** FIDF is created to attract private investment in creation and management of fisheries infrastructure facilities.
- **Marine Products Export Development Authority**: MPEDA is a nodal coordinating, state-owned agency engaged in fishery production and allied activities.
- It was established in 1972 under the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act (MPEDA), 1972.
- **Seaweed Park:** Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu would be the center of production for quality seaweed-based products, developed on a hub and spoke model.

• **Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge:** The challenge has been launched with an objective to provide a platform to start-ups within the country to showcase their innovative solutions within the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector.

#NITI AAYOG INDIA INNOVATION INDEX

- Recently, India Innovation Index Report 2021 was released by NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog in which Karnataka retained its top position in the major States category.
- This is the third edition of the Report, which **highlights the scope** of innovation analysis in the country by drawing on the framework of the Global Innovation Index.
- The number of indicators has increased from 36 (in the India Innovation Index 2020) to 66 (in the India Innovation Index 2021).



What is the India Innovation Index?

- **About:** It is a comprehensive tool for the evaluation and development of the country's innovation ecosystem.
- It ranks the states and the union territories on their innovation performance to build healthy competition amongst them.
- **Institutions Involved: NITI Aayog** with the Institute for Competitiveness.

What are the Highlights of the Report?

- **Categories:** The Innovation Index is divided into three categories—major states, Union Territories, and hill and North East states.
- Major States: Top States: Karnataka topped with a score of 18.05 followed by Telangana and Haryana.
- Karnataka's success is attributed to its peak performance in attracting FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) and a large number of **venture capital deals**.
- **Bottom States:** Bihar, Odisha and Chhattisgarh scored the lowest on the index, which **put them at the bottom in the "major States" category.**
- **Chhattisgarh** ranked last **with 10.97 points.**
- Hill and North-East States: Manipur is leading the category followed by Uttarakhand and Meghalaya.
- Nagaland ranked **last (10**th).
- **Union territories/Small States:** Chandigarh is the top performer with a Score 27.88 followed by **Delhi** and **Andaman and Nicobar.**
- Ladakh Ranked last (9th).

#WORLD HEPATITIS DAY OBSERVED ON 28TH JULY

World Hepatitis Day is observed each year on 28th July to enhance awareness of viral hepatitis.

The theme for the year 2022 is "Bringing hepatitis care closer to you".

It aims to highlight the **need to bring hepatitis care closer to primary health care facilities**, and so communities, to ensure better access to treatment and care.

What do we need to know about Hepatitis?

Hepatitis: The word hepatitis refers to any **inflammation of the liver** — the **irritation** or **swelling** of the liver cells from any cause. It can be **acute** (inflammation of the liver that presents with sickness — jaundice, fever, vomiting) or **chronic** (inflammation of the liver that lasts more than six months, but essentially showing no symptoms).

Causes:

- Usually caused by a **group of viruses known as the "hepatotropic"** (liver directed) viruses, including A, B, C, D and E.
- Other viruses may also cause it, such as the varicella virus that causes chicken pox.
- **SARS-CoV-2**, the virus causing Covid-19 **may injure the liver** too.
- Other causes include **drugs and alcohol abuse**, **fat buildup in the liver** (fatty liver hepatitis) or an **autoimmune process** in which a person's body makes **antibodies that attack the liver** (autoimmune hepatitis).
- Hepatitis is the **only communicable disease where mortality is showing an increasing** trend.
- Global Target for Hepatitis: The Global Target is to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.

Note:

Hepatitis B is included under India's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) which provides free of cost vaccination against eleven (excluding Hepatitis B) vaccine-preventable diseases i.e. Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Pneumonia and Meningitis due to Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib), Measles, Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Rotavirus diarrhoea.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Thailand became the first four countries in the World Health Organization's Southeast Asia region to have successfully controlled Hepatitis B.

Recently, an automated coronavirus testing device named 'COBAS 6800'_was launched which can also **detect** viral Hepatitis B & C, among others.

It can be noted that only for four diseases viz. HIV-AIDS (1st December), TB (24th March), Malaria (25th April), and Hepatitis, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially endorses disease-specific global awareness days.

#WHAT IS MONKEYPOX VIRUS

Recently, the **WHO** (World Health Organisation) has Declared Global Health Emergency and sounded the highest alarm on the **Monkeypox Virus**.

More than 16,000 cases of the virus - that was once largely confined to Africa - have been reported so far this year 2022.

What does declaring an Emergency for Global Health Mean?

Declaring a global emergency means the **monkeypox outbreak is an "extraordinary event"** that could spill over into more countries and requires a coordinated global response.

Elements helped consider Health Emergency:

- The virus has spread to "non-endemic countries". This virus has spread rapidly to many countries that have not seen it before.
- Three criteria for declaring a public health emergency of international concern have been met as per WHO.
- The three criteria for such a declaration are that it is an "Extraordinary Event," that it "Constitutes a Public Health Risk" to other States through the international spread of disease and that it "potentially requires a coordinated international response."
- The number within a month has **grown five-fold**.
- Scientific principles, evidence and other relevant information, are currently insufficient, leaving many unknowns. The risk to human health, international spread, and the potential for interference with international traffic.

What is Monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease with symptoms similar to smallpox, although with less clinical severity. The infection was first discovered in 1958 following two outbreaks of a pox-like disease in colonies of monkeys kept for research — which led to the name 'monkeypox'.

Transmission: Primary infection is through direct contact with the blood, bodily fluids, or cutaneous or mucosal lesions of an infected animal. Eating inadequately cooked meat of infected animals is also a risk factor.

Human-to-human transmission can result from close contact with infected respiratory tract secretions, skin lesions of an infected person or objects recently contaminated by patient fluids or lesion materials.

There is **no specific treatment or vaccine** available for Monkeypox infection.

Previously Declared Emergency:

WHO previously declared emergencies for public health crises such as the **Covid-19 pandemic**, **the 2014 West African Ebola outbreak**, **the Zika virus in Latin America in 2016** and the ongoing effort to eradicate **Polio**. The emergency declaration mostly **serves as a plea to draw more global resources and attention to an outbreak**.

#LEFT WING EXTREMISM IN INDIA

• Recently, during question hour in **Lok Sabha**, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** provided data related to left extremism in India.

What are the Key Data Facts?

- The incidents of Naxal violence in the country have dropped by 77 % between 2009 and 2021, and deaths of security force personnel due to Maoist violence have more than doubled in Chhattisgarh in the past three years.
- Similarly, the resultant deaths (civilians + security forces) have reduced by 85 % from an all-time high of 1,005 in 2010 to 147 in 2021.
- In states, **Chhattisgarh tops the countrywide figure for deaths of security personnel,** as it accounted for 90% of all security personnel deaths in the country, followed by Jharkhand which recorded 5 personnel deaths.
- There has been a decrease in the geographical spread of violence as only 46 districts reported LWE-related violence in 2021, compared to 96 districts in 2010.
- Due to this, there has been a reduction in the number of districts covered under the **Security Related Expenditure (SRE)** Scheme from 126 to 90 in 2018 and further to 70 in 2021.
- Similarly, the number of districts generating almost 90% of LWE violence, classified as the most LWE-affected districts, decreased from 35 in 2018 to 30 in 2021.

What is Left-wing Extremism?

- **About: LWE_**organizations are the groups that try to **bring change through violent revolution**. They are against democratic institutions and use violence to subvert the democratic processes at the ground level.
- These groups prevent the developmental processes in the least developed regions of the country & try to misguide the people by keeping them ignorant of current happenings.

What are the Government Initiatives to control LWE?

- SAMADHAN doctrine is the one-stop solution for the LWE problem. It encompasses the entire strategy of
 government from short-term policy to long-term policy formulated at different levels. SAMADHAN stands
 for-
- **S** Smart Leadership
- Aggressive Strategy
- **M** Motivation and Training
- Actionable Intelligence
- **D** Dashboard Based KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and KRAs (Key Result Areas)
- **H** Harnessing Technology
- Action plan for each Theatre
- **N** No access to Financing
- Funds are provided under **Modernization of Police Force (MPF)**, **Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme and Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS)** for modernization and training of State Police.
- **Several development initiatives have been implemented** for construction of roads, installation of mobile towers, skill development, improving network of banks and post offices, health and education facilities.
- Funds for development are also provided to most LWE affected districts under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) scheme.
- **Greyhounds:** It was raised in 1989 as an elite anti-naxal force.
- **Operation Green Hunt:** It was started in 2009-10 and massive deployment of security forces was done in the naxal-affected areas.

#GREEN PROTECTION TO ARAVALLI RANGES

- Recently, the **Supreme Court of India** extended **Green Protection** to forest land in **Aravalli ranges**.
- The court's ruling will mean around **30,000 hectares across the Aravallis and Shivaliks** in Haryana will be considered forest land.

What is the Supreme Court Ruling?

- The Supreme Court held that all land covered by the special orders issued under Section 4 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) in Haryana will be treated as forests and be entitled to protection under the 1980 Forest Conservation Act.
- Such land covered under Section 4 can see no commercial activity or non-forest use without the consent of the central government.
- It also stated that **land covered by the special orders issued under Section 4 of PLPA** have all the trappings of forest lands within the meaning of **Section 2 of the Forest Act.**
- The court directed the state government to clear any non-forest activity from such land in three months and report compliance.
- The bench considered a September 2018 judgment which held all land under PLPA could be treated as forest.
- The recent verdict clarified that the **previous judgment failed to closely examine the scheme of Section**4 of PLPA and its legal effect in relation to Section 2 of the Forest Act.

What are Section 4 of PLPA & Section 2 of Forest Act?

- **Section 4 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA):** Special orders under Section 4 of PLPA are the **restrictive provisions issued by the state government** to prevent deforestation of a specified area that could lead to soil erosion.
- When the state government is satisfied that deforestation of a forest area forming part of a larger area is **likely to lead to erosion of soil**, the power under Section 4 can be exercised.
- Therefore, the specific land which a special order under Section 4 of PLPA has been issued will have all the trappings of a forest governed by the Forest Act.
- While the land notified under the special orders of Section 4 of PLPA shall be forest lands, **not all land under PLPA will ipso facto become forest lands** within the meaning of the Forest Act.
- Section 2 of the Forest Act:
- Section 2 of the Forest Act imposes **prohibitions on the de-reservation of forests or use of forest land for non-forest purposes without prior approval of the central government.**
- Once a land is covered under Section 2 of the Forest Act, whether the special orders under Section 4 continue to be in force or not, it shall continue to remain forest land.

What do we need to know about Aravalli Range?

- **Location:** They stretch for a distance of about 720 km from Himmatnagar in Gujarat to Delhi, spanning Haryana and Rajasthan.
- **Formation:** The Aravallis date back to millions of years when a **pre-Indian subcontinent collided with the mainland Eurasian Plate. Carbon dating** has shown that copper and other metals mined in the ranges date back to at least the 5th century BC.
- Characteristics: The Aravallis of Northwestern India, one of the oldest fold mountains of the world, now form residual mountains with an elevation of 300m to 900m.
- **Guru Shikhar Peak on Mount Abu** is the highest peak in the Aravalli Range (1,722 m).
- It has been **formed primarily of folded crust,** when two convergent plates move towards each other by the process called orogenic movement.



#SAKURAJIMA VOLCANO OF JAPAN

Recently, the Sakurajima Volcano erupted on Japan's major western island of Kyushu.

In 2021, the **Fukutoku-Okanoba Submarine Volcano_**exploded in the **Pacific Ocean**, off Japan.

What is Sakurajima Volcano?

- Sakurajima is one of Japan's most active volcanoes and eruptions of varying levels take place on a regular basis.
- It is an active stratovolcano.
- The largest historical eruptions of Sakurajima took place during 1471-76 and in 1914.
- Its eruption has been recorded since the 8th Century.
- Due to its frequent deposition of ash on Kagoshima, and due to its explosive potential, it is considered **as one of the very dangerous volcanoes.**

What is a Volcano?

- A volcano is **an opening on the surface of a planet or moon that allows material warmer** than its surroundings to escape from its interior.
- When this material escapes, it causes an eruption. An eruption can be explosive, sending material high into the sky. Or it can be calmer, with gentle flows of material.
- On Earth, the erupted material can be liquid rock ("lava" when it's on the surface, "magma" when it's underground), ash, cinders, and/or gas.

Reasons for Magma Rise:

- Magma can rise when pieces of **Earth's crust called tectonic plates slowly move away from each other.** The magma rises to fill in the space. When this happens, underwater volcanoes can form.
- Magma also rises when these **tectonic plates** move toward each other. When this happens, part of Earth's crust can be forced deep into its interior. The high heat and pressure cause the crust to melt and rise as magma.
- The final way that magma rises is over **hot spots**.
- Hot spots are the hot areas inside of Earth. These areas heat up magma. The magma becomes less dense. When it is less dense it rises. Each of the reasons for rising magma are a bit different, but each can form volcanoes.

#NEW RAMSAR SITES

India has added five more **Ramsar sites**, or wetlands of international importance, bringing the number of such sites to 54.

What are these New Ramsar Sites?

- **Karikili Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu):** The sanctuary is spread over a five-kilometre-wide belt and is home to cormorants, egrets, grey heron, open-billed stork, darter, spoonbill, white lbnis, night herons, grebes, grey pelican among others.
- Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest (Tamil Nadu): One of the last remaining natural wetlands, the marsh drains in an area of 250 square kilometres encompassing 65 wetlands. The Pallikaranai Marsh is one of the few natural coastal aquatic habitats that qualify as a wetland in India.



- **Pichavaram Mangrove (Tamil Nadu):** One of the last **mangrove forests** in the country. It has an island of a vast expanse of water covered with mangrove forests.
- Sakhya Sagar (Madhya Pradesh): Created from the Manier River in 1918, Sakhya Sagar is located near Madhav National Park.
- Pala Wetland in Mizoram (Mizoram): It is home to a wide range of animals, birds, and reptiles. Its geographical location falls under the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot and is therefore rich in animal and plant species. The lake is a major component of the Palak Wildlife Sanctuary and it supports the major biodiversity of the sanctuary.

What is Ramsar Recognition?

- A Ramsar site is a **wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention,** which is also known as the **'Convention on Wetlands'** an intergovernmental environmental treaty established by UNESCO in 1971, and named after the **city of Ramsar in Iran**, where the convention was signed that year.
- Ramsar recognition is **the identification of wetlands around the world,** which are of international importance, especially **if they provide habitat to waterfowl (about 180 species of birds).**
- There is international interest and cooperation in the conservation of such wetlands and a judicious use of their resources.
- **Sundarbans** in West Bengal is the largest Ramsar site in India.
- India's Ramsar wetlands are spread over 11,000 sq km around 10% of the total wetland area in the country across 18 States.
- No other South Asian country has as many sites though this has much to do with India's geographical breadth and tropical diversity.

What are the Wetlands?

- Wetlands are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently.
- They include mangroves, marshes, rivers, lakes, deltas, floodplains and flooded forests, rice-fields, coral reefs, marine areas no deeper than 6 metres at low tide, as well as human-made wetlands such as waste-water treatment ponds and reservoirs. Though they cover only around 6% of the Earth's land surface, 40% of all plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands.
- **Cultural and Tourism Importance:** Wetlands also have a deep connection with Indian culture and traditions.
- **Loktak Lake in Manipur** is revered as "Ima" (Mother) by locals, whereas Sikkim's Khecheopalri Lake is popular as the "wish fulfilling lake".
- The north Indian festival of Chhath is one of the most unique expressions of the association of people, culture, water and wetlands.
- The Dal Lake in Kashmir, **Khajjiar Lake in Himachal Pradesh**, **Nainital Lake in Uttarakhand and Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu are popular tourism destinations**.

#INDIA'S HIGHEST EVER DEFENCE EXPORTS

India's defence exports for 2021-22 were estimated at Rs 13,000 crore, the highest ever.

The U.S. was a major buyer, as also nations in Southeast Asia, West Asia and Africa.

What are the Key Highlights?

- The **private sector accounted for 70%** of the exports, while public sector firms accounted for the rest.
- Earlier, the private sector used to account for 90% but now the share of defence public sector units had gone up.
- While India's defence imports from the U.S. have gone up significantly in recent years, **Indian companies** have been increasingly becoming part of the supply chains of U.S. defence companies.
- What steps have been taken recently to boost defence exports?
- In January 2022, India signed a **USD 374.96-million deal with the Philippines**, its single biggest **defence export order**, for the supply of three batteries of shore-based anti-ship variant of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**.
- India has **imposed a phased import ban on 310 different weapons** and systems during the last two years, which helped boost export.
- These weapons and platforms will be indigenised in phases over the next five to six years.
- The **increased partnership with the private sector** has led to a substantial rise in defence exports.

What are the Initiatives Related to Defence?

- **Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP 2020):** The **DPEPP 2020** is envisaged as an overarching guiding document to provide a focused, structured and significant thrust to defence production capabilities of the country for self-reliance and exports.
- Multi-Pronged Steps towards Self Reliant Defense Sector: There have been progressive changes with
 one focus to empower the private industry. The DPP 2016 came out with a new category called Indian
 IDDM (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured). If any Indian company opted for Indian
 IDDM, it was given preference over all other categories.
- **Strategic Partnership:** A strategic partnership model allows indian companies to collaborate with **foreign OEMs** and get transfer of technology, get the capability to build, manufacture india and sustain those projects in india. The first of the RFP for the **conventional submarines** in functioning.
- **Positive Indigenization:** For the first time the government is putting a ban on itself to import any item, the Government wants to empower the **indigenous industry**.



#INDIA-JAPAN MARITIME EXERCISE

Recently, a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) was conducted between Japan Maritime Self Defense Force and Indian Navy in the Andaman Sea.

Other Maritime Exercises between India & Japan:

- Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX)
- **Malabar Exercise** (India US Japan Australia)

What do we need to know about the Exercise?

The exercises were aimed at enhancing interoperability and streamlining seamanship and communication procedures.

This exercise is part of the ongoing efforts between the two navies towards ensuring safe and secure international shipping and trade in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The two countries have been carrying out regular exercises in IOR towards reinforcing maritime association.

Participants:

- **INS Sukanya**, an offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Navy.
- The Sukanya class patrol vessels are large, offshore patrol craft.
- Three lead ships were built by **Korea Tacoma**, **now part of Hanjin Group**.
- Vessels of the Sukanya class are **named after notable women from Indian epics**.
- The Sukanya class have **large hulls**, although they are **lightly armed** since they are utilized primarily for offshore patrol of India's **exclusive economic zone**.
- **JS Samidare**, a Murasame class destroyer of Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force.
- JS Samidare (DD-106) is the sixth ship of the Murasame-class destroyer of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).

What are India's other Maritime Exercises?

- Thailand: India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)
- United Kingdom: Konkan Shakti
- Indonesia: Samudra Shakti
- Singapore: Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)
- Qatar: Zair-Al-Bahr

#METAVERSE STANDARDS FORUM

• Recently, various brands gathered for the founding of the **Metaverse Standards Forum for the development of interoperability standards** to drive the growth of the metaverse.

What is Metaverse?

- The metaverse is not a new idea, science fiction writer Neal Stephenson coined the term in 1992, and the **concept is commonplace among video game companies.**
- Metaverse is the **next version of the Internet** focused on social connection.
- It can be defined as a simulated digital environment that uses **Augmented Reality (AR)**, **Virtual Reality (VR)**, and **blockchain**, along with concepts from social media, to create spaces for rich user interaction mimicking the real world.
- It can be imagined as a 3D virtual world, with ever-evolving aspects which are collectively shared by its

- inhabitants a virtual world with real-time events and an online infrastructure.
- In theory, it encapsulates everything that's happening into the real world and will bring real-time events and updates going forward. The user exists in a virtual world without borders.

What is the Metaverse Standards Forum?

• The concept of the metaverse has yet to be fully established, but interest in virtual and augmented realities fast-tracks the growth of various metaverse projects. In light of the growing anticipation for the metaverse, Metaverse Standards Forum was established "to foster the development of open standards for the metaverse". "Open Standards" are standards made available to the general public and are developed (or approved) and maintained via a collaborative and consensus driven process. "Open Standards" facilitate interoperability and data exchange among different products or services and are intended for widespread adoption. The internet is interoperable through the power of HTML, the metaverse also requires a similar interface for users to navigate between virtual worlds freely.

Objectives:

- It aims to **analyze the interoperability necessary** for running the metaverse.
- Interoperability is the **driving force for the growth and adoption of the open metaverse**.
- It will focus on pragmatic, action-based projects such as implementation prototyping, hackathons, plugfests, and open-source tooling to accelerate the testing and adoption of metaverse standards.
- It will also develop **consistent language and deployment guidelines to expand the online universe.**

#CERVAVAC - HPV VACCINE

- Cervavac, a vaccine developed by the **Serum Institute of India (SII)**, has recently acquired market authorization from the **Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI)**.
- it is India's first **Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus Vaccination (qHPV)** designed to protect women from cervical cancer.

What is Cervical Cancer?

- **Cervical cancer** is a prevalent sexually transmitted infection. It's a type of cancer that occurs in the cells of the cervix, the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina.
- It is mostly caused by long-term infection with particular forms of HPV.
- It is the second most prevalent cancer form and the second leading cause of cancer death in women of reproductive age (15-44).
- Indian Perspective:
- According to the **World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer**, India accounts for roughly **one-fifth of the global burden**, with 1.23 lakh cases and around 67,000 fatalities every year.

#STATUE OF PEACE - SWAMI RAMANUJACHARYA

• Recently, in Srinagar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled Swami Ramanujacharya's **Statue of Peace**.

Who was Ramanujacharya?

- Ramanujacharya was Born in 1017 in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.
- Ramanujacharya is revered as a **Vedic philosopher and social reformer.**
- He travelled across India, advocating **equality and social justice.**
- **He Brought the** treasure of Vedic literature **to the doorsteps of the common man.**
- **Advocated the** philosophy of Visistadvaitha, qualified monism.
- Dispelled the Mayavada concept, the world is illusionary. Became the preceptor of the <u>Bhakti</u> movement and the source for all other Bhakti Schools of thought.
- **He was an** inspiration for mystic poets like Kabir, Meerabai, Annamacharya, Bhakta Ramdas, Thyagaraja, and many others.
- **Initiated the** concept that Nature and her resources like Water, Air, Soil, Trees, etc., are sacred and should be protected from pollution.

Why it's Called Statue of Peace?

- The installation of this peace statue will bring the **blessings and message of Ramanujacharya to Kashmiris of all religions and will take Kashmir further on the path of peace and progress.**
- It would further enhance the development of the people of Kashmir without any discrimination.

#SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILD SPECIES: IPBES REPORT

- A report released by the **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** has stated that Sustainable use of wild species can meet needs of billions.
- Delegates from 140 countries came together to discuss and **reach an outcome on the sustainable use of wildlife.**
- The assessment shortlisted five categories of practices used for wild species Fishing, Gathering, Logging, Terrestrial animal harvesting which includes hunting and non-extractive practices such as observing.
- The report is the first of its kind and has been **conceived after a period of four years.**

What is IBPES?

It is an independent intergovernmental body, established by member States in 2012.

It **strengthens the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services** for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

What are the Findings?

- **Dependence on Wild Species:** About **70% of the world's poor population** is directly dependent on wild species. 20% source their food from wild plants, algae and fungi. **Wild-Species-Important Source of Income.** The use of wild species is an **important source of income** for millions of people worldwide. Wild tree species **account for two thirds of global industrial roundwood,** trade in wild plants, algae and fungi is a billion-dollar industry, -and even non-extractive uses of wild species are big business.
- **Local Variations:** About 34% of marine wild fish stocks are overfished and 66% are fished within biologically sustainable levels.

• But within this global picture, there are significant local and contextual variations.

#WHAT IS JAGRITI MASCOT?

• Recently, a mascot named Jagriti has been launched by **the Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA)** to empower consumers and further generating awareness of their rights.

How will Jagriti work?

It would be **projected as an empowered consumer** who is spreading awareness about consumer rights & addressing solutions to the problems faced by the consumers.

It would help to generate consumer awareness about the various government initiatives like:

- Provisions of **Consumer Protection Act 2019**
- Hallmarking
- National Consumer Helpline toll free number 1915
- Provisions of weights & measures Act
- Decisions of the Central Consumer Protection Authority
- Testimonials by consumers on grievance redressal

#INS SINDHUDHVAJ

- Recently, the Indian Navy decommissioned its Kilo class Submarine, INS Sindhudhvaj from its service at Vishakapatnam after 35 years of service.
- With its decommissioned Navy has left with only 15 conventional submarines in service.

What are the Key Highlights about INS Sindhudhvaj?

- It was commissioned into the Indian Navy in June 1987.
- It was one of the 10 Kilo-class submarines, India acquired from Russia between 1986 and 2000. It had many firsts to her credit including operationalization of the indigenized sonar USHUS, Indigenised Satellite Communication systems Rukmani and MSS, Inertial Navigation System, and Indigenised Torpedo Fire Control System.
- It also successfully undertook mating and personnel transfer with **Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel**.
- It was the **only submarine awarded the CNS Rolling trophy for Innovation** by the Prime Minister.

What is the Present scenario?

- With its decommissioning Navy's sub-surface fleet now includes seven Russian Kilo-class submarines, four German HDW submarines, four French Scorpene submarines, and the indigenous nuclear ballistic missile submarine INS Arihant.
- Further, the last two of the Scorpene class submarines are in various stages of trials and outfitting.
- There are efforts being implemented like the construction of six advanced submarines under **Project-75I** but it has been delayed.
- Project-75I envisages the indigenous construction of submarines equipped with the state-of-theart Air Independent Propulsion system at an estimated cost of Rs. 43,000 crores.

#WHAT IS FREEBIES CULTURE?

- Recently, the **SC** asked the central government whether distributing irrational freebies during election campaigns is financially viable.
- It also referred to use the expertise of the **Finance Commission** in curbing the irrational poll freebies.
- According to **Election Commission of India**, whether such policies are financially viable or its adverse effect on the economic health of the State is a question that has to be considered and decided by the voters of the State.



What are Freebies?

- Political parties promise to offer free electricity/water supply, monthly allowance to unemployed, daily wage workers, and women as well as gadgets like laptops, smartphones, etc. in order to secure the vote of the people.
- The states have become habituated to giving freebies, be it in the form of loan waivers or free electricity, cycles, laptops, TV sets, and so on.
- Certain kinds of expenditure that are done under populist pressures or with elections in mind may be questionable.
- But given that in the last 30 years there has been **rising inequality**, some kind of **relief to the population in the form of subsidies may not be unjustified** but actually necessary for the economy to continue on its growth path.

#REPLACEMENT LEVEL FERTILITY

- Recently, the **Government of India** reported that India has achieved **replacement level fertility**, with as many as **31 States/Union Territories** reaching a **Total Fertility Rate of 2.1** or less. Between 2012 and 2020, India added more than 1.5 crore additional users for **modern contraceptives** thereby increasing their use substantially.
- Government also unveiled the India Family Planning 2030 vision document.

What do we know about Replacement Level Fertility?

- Total Fertility Rate of about 2.1 children per woman is called Replacement-level fertility.
- TFR lower than 2.1 children per woman indicates that a generation is not producing enough children to replace itself, eventually leading to an outright reduction in population.
- Total fertility rate (TFR) in simple terms refers to the total number of children born or likely to be born to a woman in her lifetime if she were subject to the prevailing rate of age-specific fertility in the population.
- India's total fertility rate (TFR) has declined from 2.2 in 2015-16 to 2.0 in 2019-21, indicating the significant progress of population control measures, revealed the report of the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5).

How did India achieve the Replacement Level Fertility?

- **Women Empowerment:** The latest data also show significant progress on several indicators related to **fertility, family planning, age at marriage and women's empowerment** all of which have contributed to the decrease in TFR.
- Contraceptives: Between 2012 and 2020, India added more than 1.5 crore additional users for modern contraceptives thereby increasing their use substantially.
- Reversible Spacing: Introduction of new reversible spacing (gaps between children) methods, wage compensation systems to undergo sterilisation, and the promotion of small family norms also worked

well over the years.

Government's Initiatives:

- Mission Parivar Vikas: The Government has launched Mission Parivar Vikas in 2017 for substantially increasing access to contraceptives and family planning services in 146 high fertility districts with TFR of 3 and above in seven high focus states.
- National Family Planning Indemnity Scheme (NFPIS): This scheme was launched in the year 2005, under this scheme clients are insured in the eventualities of death, complication and failure following sterilization.
- Compensation scheme for Sterilization Acceptors: Under the scheme, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides compensation for loss of wages to the beneficiary and also to the service provider (& team) for conducting sterilizations from the year 2014.

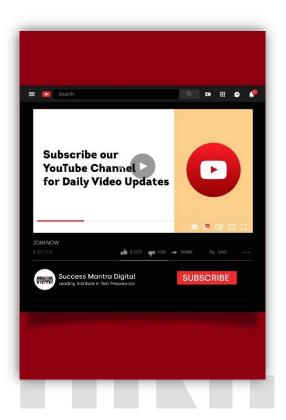


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