

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY

WEEK: 3

APRIL
2022

MAINS

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- SC UPHOLDS NEW RESTRICTIONS ON RECEIVING FOREIGN FUNDS
- DISTRIBUTION OF FORTIFIED RICE
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- Ancient megalithic jars connecting Assam with Laos and Indonesia

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- North Indian theatre students' increasing interest in Yakshagana
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- Chhattisgarh's Surguja district's fading traditional tattoo art

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- Odisha's Barbara forest set for ecotourism push

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- Russia out of UNHRC

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- Amit Shah inaugurates Seemadarshan project in Nadabet
- USOF scheme for providing mobile coverage in Arunachal, Assam districts

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- Indian Coast Guard gets new chopper
- Saudi Arabia reports 6 new MERS cases, 4 deaths in last 6 months
- World Parkinson's Day

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- RBI adds a standing deposit facility to 'normalise' liquidity
- Ultra-Mega Solar Power Park to come up in Maharashtra

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- Advantages of aposematism
- Swallow species in India
- Half of Indian states lags national average in first energy, climate index
- Rare butterfly Palmking spotted for the first time in Tamil Nadu

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— Disclaimer —

The current affairs articles are segregated from prelims and mains perspective, such separation is maintained in terms of structure of articles. Mains articles have more focus on analysis and prelims articles have more focus on facts.

However, this doesn't mean that Mains articles don't cover facts and PT articles can't have analysis. You are suggested to read all of them for all stages of examination.

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SECTION: A

(MAINS)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

INDIA US 2+2 (PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE)

CONTEXT:

The fourth '2+2' dialogue between India and the United States took place in Washington DC.

◎ BACKGROUND

- The US is India's oldest and most important 2+2 talk partner.
 - ▶ The first 2+2 dialogue between the two countries was held during the Trump Administration, in New Delhi in September 2018.
- The first India-Japan talks in the 2+2 format were held in November, 2019 in New Delhi.
- The inaugural 2+2 dialogue with Australia was held in September 2021 at New Delhi.
- India held its first 2+2 dialogue with Russia in December 2021.

◎ ANALYSIS

What is 2+2 dialogue?

- The 2+2 dialogue is a format of meeting of the foreign and defence ministers of India and its allies on strategic and security issues.
- A 2+2 ministerial dialogue enables the partners to better understand and appreciate each other's strategic concerns and sensitivities taking into account political factors on both sides, in order to build a stronger, more integrated strategic relationship in a rapidly changing global environment.
- India has 2+2 dialogues with four key strategic partners:
 - ▶ US
 - ▶ Australia
 - ▶ Japan
 - ▶ Russia
- Besides Russia, the other three countries are also India's partners in the Quad.

India and US:

- The launch of the dialogue was seen as a "reflection of the shared commitment" by India and the US to provide "a positive, forward-looking vision for the India-US strategic partnership and to promote synergy in their diplomatic and security efforts".
- The second and third editions of the 2+2 dialogues were held in Washington DC and New Delhi in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

- The fourth 2+2 meeting between the two countries is very important for both sides.
- It is the first of its kind under the Biden-Modi governments and provides the opportunity to resume discussions at the highest level in this format, after it was disrupted and could not take place in 2021.

Importance of the meeting:

- The resumption of the 2+2 format sends a positive signal for the momentum of bilateral relations and the overall political mood.
- Two of the biggest economies of the world, China and India, in their own ways remain connected with Russia even in the face of an unprecedented attempt by the western countries to isolate Russia.
 - ▶ More importantly, some European countries themselves remain tied with Moscow through their energy and other imports, led by Germany.
 - ▶ Despite differing perceptions on the Ukraine Crisis between the two countries that have emerged, the 2+2 format is now being projected as a health yardstick for relations between the two countries.
- The dialogue's importance lies in the light of the differences that have emerged between the two countries over the Russia-Ukraine war.
 - ▶ The meeting provides both sides the opportunity to iron out these issues at the highest level by laying out their clear positions.
 - ▶ This would reduce the expectations gap that seems to exist between the two countries, particularly on India's relations with Russia

US – India Defence Trajectory

- During the visit of Prime Minister to the U.S. in June 2016, the U.S. recognised India as a "Major Defence Partner"
- **Agreements Signed Recently**
 - ▶ Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Association (LEMOA)
 - ▶ Fuel Exchange Agreement
 - ▶ Technical Agreement (TA) on information sharing on White (merchant) Shipping

- ▶ The Information Exchange Annexe (IEA) Aircraft Carrier Technologies
- **Defence Acquisitions**
 - ▶ Aggregate worth of defence acquisition from U.S. Defence has crossed over US\$ 13 billion.
 - ▶ India and the United States have launched a Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) aimed at simplifying technology transfer policies and exploring possibilities of co-development and co-production to invest the defence relationship with strategic value.
- The two sides are also increasingly engaged in multi-lateral exercises such as the MALABAR, RED FLAG and RIMPAC, covering the broad expanse of the Indo-Pacific.
- The US has recently renamed its Pacific Command as the **US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM)**, an acknowledgement of the seamless connectivity that binds the Pacific and Indian Oceans and India's growing importance.
- The first-ever 2+2 dialogue was held in 2018 the backdrop of burgeoning joint exercises such as Cope-India (Air Force), Yudh Abhyas (Army) and Vajra Prahar (Special Forces).
- The **Indian Navy and the US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT)** are set to deepen their maritime cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean.

LS SPEAKER: 'ONE NATION, ONE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM' BY 2023

CONTEXT:

In a recent development, the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla conveyed that work for 'One Nation One Legislative Platform' will be completed by 2023.

◎ BACKGROUND

- The idea was first proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 82nd All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC).

◎ ANALYSIS

What is 'One Nation One Legislative Platform' about?

- One Nation One Legislative Platform idea is a portal that will connect all the **democratic units of the country** and give a much-needed technological boost to the parliamentary system.
- It will make available the proceedings of both Houses of Parliament, state assemblies and legislative councils in the online mode.
- All information related to the working of all legislatures, landmark legislations, all important debates, and best practices will be easily accessible to common public.

What are the issues with legislative functioning?

- There has been increase in cases of legislative disruption, disorder, and indiscipline with frequent adjournments. It not only hinders representative democracy and erodes people faith in their representative but also is a huge wastage of tax-payers money.
- Bills are passed without much debate and scrutiny. Many bills were passed in the same session in which they were introduced. It results in hasty legislation and reduces the accountability of executive to the legislature.
- Less and less number of bills are been sent to committees for detailed scrutiny. It leads to inability of the Opposition to hold the government accountable for its action.
- There has been a trend of declining seating of legislative especially Parliament.
 - ▶ In 2020, Parliament operated for 33 days only.
 - ▶ For the past 10 years, the Rajya Sabha has functioned for less than 25% of its scheduled time.

- Increase in number of legislatures with criminal records wherein law breakers become law makers.
- There has been a high degree of absenteeism. It showcases representative abstaining from their duties towards their electors.

How this technology intervention can help?

- One stop platform to access all information related to legislative working.
- It will help public to hold their representatives accountable and in turn legislators will be much more sensitive towards the need and demand of their electors.
- Increase public scrutiny will ensure qualitative and constructive debates and thus a vibrant democracy.
- Uniformity in rules and procedures of the legislatures will reduce complexity and help in ease of functioning.
- It will bring greater synergy and coordination between the Legislature and the executive not only in a State, but also across the States.
- Transforming governance by strengthening Right to Information Thus, ensuring high transparency in legislative functioning and making people well informed & enlighten citizens.
- In line with the vision of Digital India and One Nation, One Standard.

Is 'One Nation One Legislative Platform' against diversity and pluralism in India?

- India with its 135 crore people is unlike any other nation in the world. With so much diversity in geography, culture, language, issues, etc., it is difficult to implement one nation theory.
- The uniformity that it proposes may be seen as diluting federal character of the country and attacking its rich diversity.

◎ WAY FORWARD

- The platform aims at reforming the issues plaguing the legislative functioning. It will ensure cooperative federalism, good governance, participative democracy, and enlightened citizenry.

SC UPHOLDS NEW RESTRICTIONS ON RECEIVING FOREIGN FUNDS

CONTEXT:

The Supreme Court upheld amendments introducing restrictions in the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) while holding that no one has a fundamental or absolute right to receive foreign contributions.

◎ BACKGROUND

- A petition was filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020 or FCRA Act.
- The FCRA amendment lays down certain conditions for NGOs such as:
- Mandatory production of the Aadhaar card for registration under the FCRA,
- NGOs and recipients to open a new FCRA account at a specified branch of the State Bank of India in New Delhi as a "one-point entry" for foreign donations,
- Limit of usable foreign contribution for administrative expenses from 50% to 20% and
- Prevents the transfer of foreign funding to any other person.

◎ ANALYSIS

What is the FCRA?

Foreign contribution

A donation, delivery or transfer or any article, currency or foreign security by any person who has received it from any foreign source, either directly or through one or more persons refers to foreign contribution.

- The FCRA was enacted during the Emergency in 1976 in an atmosphere of apprehension that foreign powers were interfering in India's affairs by pumping in funds through independent organisations.
- These concerns had been expressed in Parliament as early as in 1969.
- The law sought to regulate foreign donations to individuals and associations so that they functioned "in a manner consistent with the values of a sovereign democratic republic".
- An amended FCRA was enacted under the UPA government in 2010 to "consolidate the law" on utilisation of foreign funds, and "to prohibit" their use for "any activities detrimental to national interest".

- The law was amended again by the current government in 2020, giving the government tighter control and scrutiny over the receipt and utilisation of foreign funds by NGOs.
- Broadly, the FCRA requires every person or NGO wishing to receive foreign donations to be registered under the Act, to open a bank account for the receipt of the foreign funds in State Bank of India, Delhi, and to utilise those funds only for the purpose for which they have been received and as stipulated in the Act.
- They are also required to file annual returns, and they must not transfer the funds to another NGO.
- The Act prohibits receipt of foreign funds by candidates for elections, journalists or newspaper and media broadcast companies, judges and government servants, members of legislature and political parties or their office-bearers, and organisations of a political nature.

What is the process of granting of FCRA registration?

- **Online application:** NGOs that want to receive foreign funds must apply online in a prescribed format with the required documentation.
 - ▶ FCRA registrations are granted to individuals or associations that have definite cultural, economic, educational, religious, and social programmes.
- **Inquiry through IB:** Following the application, the MHA makes inquiries through the Intelligence Bureau (IB) into the antecedents of the applicant, and accordingly processes the application.
- Under the FCRA, the applicant (should not):
 - ▶ should not be fictitious or benami
 - ▶ should not have been prosecuted or convicted for indulging in activities aimed at conversion through inducement or force, either directly or indirectly, from one religious faith to another
 - ▶ should not have been prosecuted for or convicted of creating communal tension or disharmony
 - ▶ should not have been found guilty of diversion or mis-utilisation of funds

- ▶ should not be engaged or likely to be engaged in the propagation of sedition
- **Approval or rejection:** The MHA is required to approve or reject the application within 90 days.
- ▶ In case of failure to process the application in the given time, the MHA is expected to inform the NGO of the reasons for the same.

Supreme Court's Ruling:

The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020 or FCRA Act on following grounds:

- No one has a fundamental or absolute right to receive foreign contributions.
- Amendments only provide a strict regulatory framework to moderate the inflow of foreign funds into the country.

- Free and uncontrolled inflow of foreign funds has the potential to impact the socio-economic structure and polity of the country.
- Permitting the inflow of foreign funds is a matter of policy of the State-backed by law. Hence, it is open for a state to have a regime that may completely prohibit receipt of foreign donations, as there are no absolute rights to receive foreign donations.
- Inconvenience to a party is not a ground to challenge the constitutionality of a provision that mandates the opening of FCRA accounts in the designated bank.

However, the court read down one of the provisions of the 2020 FCRA Amendment Act, which mandated the production of Aadhaar card for registration. The court allowed the office-bearers of NGOs to use their Indian passports as an identification documents.

DISTRIBUTION OF FORTIFIED RICE

CONTEXT:

Recently cabinet has approved for distribution of fortified rice. The total cost of fortification which estimates around 2,700 cr. per year.

◎ BACKGROUND

- Prime Minister has announced distribution of fortified rice through various government schemes.
- In Global Hunger Index 2021, India stands at 101st position among 116 countries
- The GHI score for India is 27.5 which is at 'serious' level in the scale of GHI.
- India has shown a declining trend in score of Global Hunger Index over the last decade.

◎ ANALYSIS:

How India earlier focused on nutritious food security?

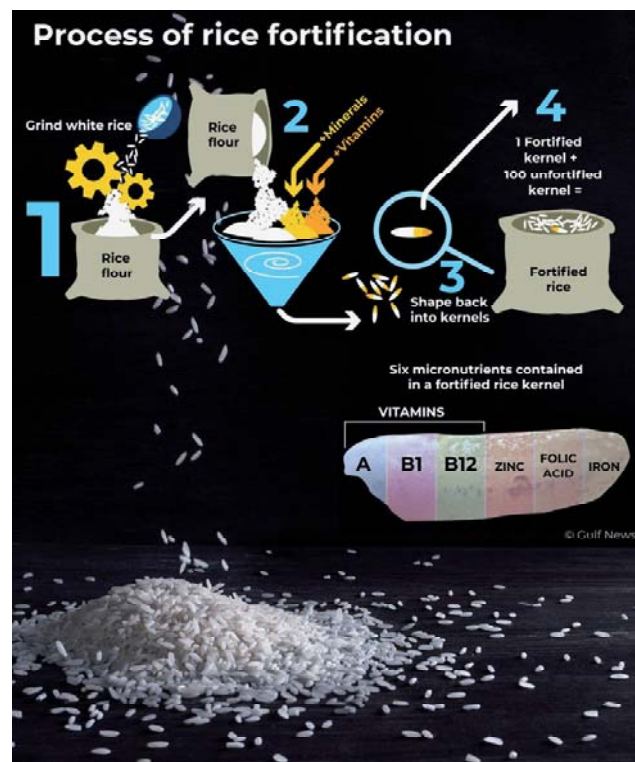
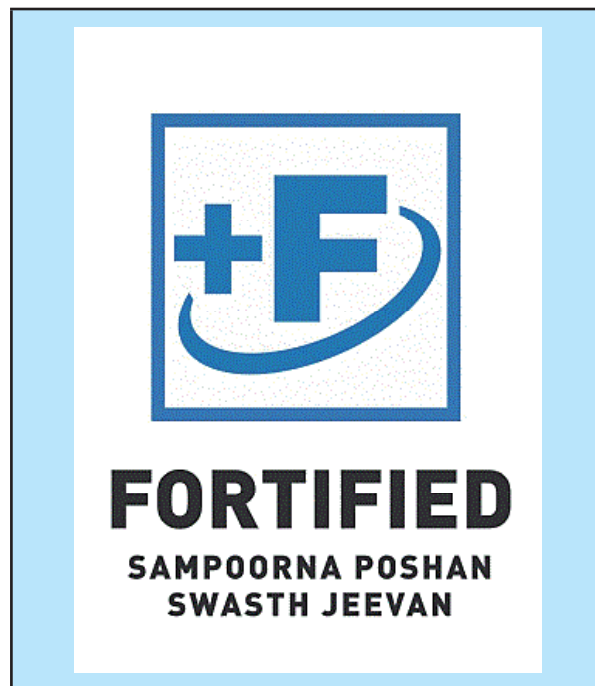
- Green Revolution has significantly benefitted India's food production and ensured food security for all. This has helped to overcome the past challenges of severe famines.
- Unfortunately, green revolution got restricted to the wheat and rice and could not diversify the impact to other crops.
- Food security could not focus on the nutritious food security.

What is Rice Fortification?

- **Food Security and Safety Authority of India (FSSAI)** describes fortification as "deliberately increasing the micro nutrient content in the food so as to improve nutritional quality of the food and to provide public health benefit with minimal risk to health".
- Micronutrients include **iron, folic acid and vitamin B12**.

Identification mark

- Fortified rice are packed in jute bags with the **logo ('+F')** and the line "**Fortified with Iron, Folic Acid, and Vitamin B12**".



Important technologies

- Various technologies are available to add micronutrients to regular rice, such as **coating, dusting, and 'extrusion'**.
- The 'Extrusion' involves the production of **fortified rice kernels (FRKs)** from a mixture using an 'extruder' machine.
 - It is considered to be the best technology for India.
 - The fortified rice kernels are blended with regular rice to produce fortified rice.
 - Under the Ministry's guidelines, 10 g of FRK must be blended with 1 kg of regular rice.

What is the need of fortification?

- India has very high levels of malnutrition among women and children.
- According to the **Food Ministry**, every second woman in the country is **anaemic** and every third child is stunted.
- Fortification of food is considered to be one of the most suitable methods to combat malnutrition.
- Rice is one of India's staple foods, consumed by about two-thirds of the population. Per capita rice consumption in India is 6.8 kg per month.
- Therefore, fortifying rice with micronutrients is an option to supplement the diet of the poor.

Standards for fortification (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution)

- Under the Ministry's guidelines, 10 g of FRK must be blended with 1 kg of regular rice.
- According to FSSAI norms, 1 kg of fortified rice will contain the following:
 - iron (28 mg-42.5 mg)
 - folic acid (75-125 microgram)
 - vitamin B-12 (0.75-1.25 microgram)
- Rice may also be fortified with zinc (10 mg-15 mg), vitamin A (500-750 microgram RE), vitamin B-1 (1 mg-1.5 mg), vitamin B-2 (1.25 mg-1.75 mg), vitamin B-3 (12.5 mg-20 mg) and vitamin B-6 (1.5 mg-2.5 mg) per kg.

How the scheme will be implemented?

- The decision to supply fortified rice throughout the country using the targeted public distribution system in a phased manner by 2024 aims to overcome malnutrition.

- The distribution of fortified rice will be implemented in three phases
 - **Phase 1:** Through Integrated Child Development Schemes (ICDS)/ mid-day meal schemes.
 - **Phase 2:** Through Public Distribution System (PDS)
 - **Phase 3:** Rest of the district will be covered before 2024.

What are main benefits?

- **Improve Nutritional quality of the food:** The improved nutritional quality will help to reduce the condition of malnutrition among children and women.
- **Demographic dividend:** Focus on children development will ensure better quality of demography which will result into better development of the nation.
- **POSHAN Abhiyan 2.0:** The fortified rice will help to boost the POSHAN Abhiyaan 2.0 to secure nutritional food for all.
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat:** India's long term objective of "Aatmanirbharta" (self-dependency) needs a highly productive and healthy demography which can be achieved by the fortification.

What are the major challenges?

- **Fortification not permissible limit:** The fortification should not exceed the permissible limit of the fortification to reduce the health concern.
- **Public Awareness:** Lack of public awareness cannot boost the demand for fortified rice that will not incentivize the farmers or companies to opt for fortification

What can be done?

- **CAUTION!** There is need for extreme caution in implementing food fortification to address micronutrient deficiencies in India.
- **Close check:** Attention must even be paid to the consequences of excess intake when such schemes are offered along with food supplements.
- **Diversification of Fortification:** Fortification should not be constrained only for rice but should expand the scope for other food grains.

© CONCLUSION:

- Fortification will enhance the quality of the food which will enable a new and healthy way towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Three level distribution program has the potential to narrow down the gap left by the green revolution.

HOPS AS A ROUTE TO UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

CONTEXT

The lingering COVID-19 crisis is a good time to revive an issue— Universal health care (UHC). Meanwhile, UHC has become a well-accepted objective of public policy around the world.

And 'Healthcare as an optional public service' can ensure the legal right to receive free, quality care in a public institution.

◎ ABOUT

- India's most comprehensive 'Health Report Card' reflects the overall change in the disease pattern in the country.
- In 1990, 61% of the total disease burden in India was attributed to **communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases**.
- This figure has dropped to 33% in 2016. At the same time, the contribution of **non-communicable diseases** (heart disease, cancers, respiratory diseases, neurological disorders) has risen to 55% from 30% in 1990.
- Many Indian states are bigger than most countries in the world. It is necessary to plan health interventions based on the specific disease burden situation of each state.
- The disease burden due to **unsafe water and sanitation** has also reduced significantly in India, but this burden is still **40 times higher per person in India than in China**.
- The contribution of **air pollution to disease** burden has remained high in India between 1990 and 2016, with levels of exposure among the highest in the world.
- During COVID, India and world all together has found the importance of the Universal health care coverage programme in every Country to reduce the burden of several pandemic and future consequences.

◎ BACKGROUND

- The status of health and its essentiality calls upon to focus on universal health coverage.
- Universal health coverage (UHC) is about **ensuring that people have access to the health care they need without suffering financial hardship**.
- UHC is also an essential part of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**: **SDG 3** includes a target to "achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access

to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all".

- SDG 1**, with the goal to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, is also in peril without UHC, as hundreds of millions of people are **impoverished by health expenses every year**.

◎ UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE AND HEALTH FINANCING

- UHC means that all people and communities can use the **promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health** services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to **financial hardship**.

Objectives of Universal health coverage

- Equity in access to health services** - everyone who needs services should get them, not only those who can pay for them.
- The quality of health services** should be good enough to improve the health of those receiving services.
- People should be **protected against financial-risk**, ensuring that the cost of using services does not put people at risk of financial harm.

◎ ANALYSIS

- Universal health coverage: Challenges
- The total expenditure on health care in India, including public and private expenditure is broadly comparable to other developing countries at similar levels of per capita income.
- The total expenditure on health care (both public and private together) is 3.7 per cent of the GDP.
- According to the World Health Statistics 2013, public expenditure on health very low constitutes 28.2 per cent of total health expenditure.

- According to the Government of India's 12th Five Year Plan, public health expenditure in India was only 1.04 per cent of GDP in 2011–12 as compared to the global average of 5.4 per cent.

Current Operating norms:

- The Union Government's Ministry of Finance disburses funds to the Ministry of Health and the States.
- The public sector also funds a number of insurance schemes.
- Currently, Union-funded insurance schemes cover an estimated population of 181 million through the Employee State Insurance Scheme (ESIS) – (60 million); Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) – (3 million) and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) – (118 million).

Other related schemes in India for health:

- Ayushman Bharat yojana (AYUSHMAAN)**- providing 5 lakh rupees per person for every family in a year.
- Janshree Bima yojana.
- Pradhan mantri Suraksha Bima yojana.

Structural ambiguity on UHC:

- What services are to be universally provided to begin with?
- What level of financial protection is considered acceptable?
- Should UHC commence by offering the same set of services to the entire population and progressively expand the service package to all as more resources accrue?
- Should UHC first prioritize certain services to the poor and vulnerable sections, to ensure both access and affordability, while leaving the rest of the population for coverage at a later stage?
- There is an option to provide a basic package of services to all, with full financial protection, along with an additional set of publicly funded services to the poor and vulnerable sections.

The Operational foresight:

- To meet the standard set by the WHO and the SDGs, UHC has to include all persons in a population, even if the service package is modest to begin with.
- In terms of financial protection, the Out Of Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) on health should not exceed 15-20 per cent.

- This requires a high level of public financing.
- Even countries which follow an insurance model have a high level of public funding to support several health services.
- Mandated contributory insurance model will not work in India which has over 90 per cent of the workforce in the informal sector.

How does India measure up presently and can it achieve the 2030 target?

- OOPE is still around 63 per cent, despite several government health insurance and benefit schemes.
- Impoverishment due to unaffordable healthcare expenditure affects 7 per cent of our population.
- Healthcare induced financial distress is a leading cause of suicide among farmers.
- Access to health services varies widely among states and between rural and urban populations.
- Qualified healthcare providers are in short supply nationally and those available are maldistributed, with marked density differences across regions.

© WAY FORWARD

- Indigenous technologies and management of health services**- Individual states are adopting technology to support health-insurance schemes. For instance, Remedinet Technology (India's first completely electronic cashless health insurance claims processing network) has been signed on as the technology partner for the **Karnataka Government's** recently announced **cashless health insurance schemes**.
- Universal coverage and related law implementation bodies**- Only formulating universal coverage scheme is not sufficient, but associated law implementing bodies should also be made and strengthened by providing tools of administration.
- Judicial empowerment for health**- judiciary should consider all people equal for health coverage and judgements for minorities and vulnerable sections must be focused.
- Health for poor**- universal health coverage is particularly for the poor people, as it can provide help to those who are not financially independent.

POLL BODY FOR COOPERATIVES IN INDIA

CONTEXT

Union minister for cooperatives had mentioned to conduct elections for the cooperative societies to be conducted by the Election commission of India.

- In lieu of this a 2-day National conference has been conducted on National Cooperation Policy.

What are cooperatives?

According to ILO, a cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.

Constitutional provisions for cooperatives:-

- It established the right to establish cooperative societies as a fundamental right (Article 19).
- It featured a new Directive Principle on State Policy on the Promotion of Cooperative Societies (Article 43-B2).
- It created a new Part IX-B to the Constitution called "Co-operative Societies" (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT)

- Cooperatives formed an important **feature of Five-Year Plans** after the country gained independence. Cooperatives, together with the Panchayat and schools, were considered one of the three foundations of democracy by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
- **National Policy of Cooperatives: In 1958**, the National Development Council (NDC) suggested a national cooperative policy, as well as staff training and the formation of Cooperative Marketing Societies. In 2002, the Indian government announced a National Policy on Cooperatives.
- **The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** was established in 1962 as a statutory corporation under the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act.
- Co-operative societies now have constitutional status and protection thanks to the **97th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011**.

◎ BACKGROUND

History of cooperative movement

- **Pre-independence India-**
 - The Famine Commission of 1901 strongly advocated that agriculturists be given loans to boost agriculture to prevent famine. The **Co-operative Society Act was passed in 1904**.
 - Co-operation became a **provincial subject** with the **Montague-Chelmsford Act of 1919**, which boosted the movement's momentum.
 - **First co-operative land mortgage banks** were established in **Punjab**, followed by land mortgage banks in Madras (1925) and Bombay (1926).
 - The **Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee (1931)** pointed out the obvious flaws, particularly about unnecessary delays and credit shortages. Meanwhile, the **Madras Co-operative Societies Act of 1932** and the **Madras Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks Act of 1934 went into effect**.
- **Post-independence India**

Features of Cooperatives in India

- The following provisions concerning cooperative societies are found in **Part IX-B** of the **constitution**;
- The state legislature may enact measures for the incorporation, regulation, and winding-up of co-operative organizations based on the principles of voluntary formation, democratic member control, member economic involvement, and independent operation.
- **Members of the Board of Directors and their terms of office:** The board will be made up of the number of directors determined by the state legislature. However, a co-operative society's maximum number of directors cannot exceed twenty-one.
- **Every co-operative society with members from such a category of persons shall have one seat reserved for the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes** and two seats reserved for women on the board of directors, as determined by the state legislature.
- The board's elected members and office bearers will serve for five years from the date of their election.

- **Election of Board Members:** A board election must be held **before the expiration of the board's term to ensure that the newly elected members take office immediately** after the term of the outgoing board members has expired.
- The production of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections to a co-operative society shall be under the supervision, guidance, and control of such a body as the state legislature may provide.
- **Accounts of Co-operative Societies:** The state legislature may make provisions for co-operative societies to keep accounts and have them **audited at least once a year** and every co-operative society must have its finances audited (**within six months of the financial year's end**) by an auditor or auditing firm appointed by the co-operative society's general body.
- **Returns:** Every co-operative society must file returns to the body designated by the State Government within six months after the end of each financial year.
- **Offences and Penalties:** The **state legislature** has the authority to enact laws for co-operative society **offences and penalties for the acts** such as willfully submitting a false return or providing false information.
- **Application to Multi-state Co-operative Societies:** The provisions of the chapter shall apply to multi-state co-operative societies with the modification that any reference to the "**State Legislature,**" "**State Act,**" or "**State Government**" shall be understood as a reference to "**Parliament,**" "**Central Act,**" or "**Central Government,**" respectively.
- **Union Territory:** The rules of this section **apply to Union territories**. However, the **President** may indicate in the notification that the provisions of this paragraph do not apply to any Union territory or part thereof.

Ministry of cooperation

- The Central Government recently established a distinct '**Ministry of Co-operation**' to realize the aim of '**Sahakar se Samridhi**' (Prosperity via Cooperation) and to revitalize the cooperative movement.
- The new ministry's goal is to establish a **legal, administrative, and regulatory framework** that will make it easier for cooperatives to do business and aid the formation of "**multi-state cooperative societies.**"
- The focus is on transitioning cooperatives from **small to large businesses**, which is aided and sustained by allowing businesses to overcome entry and growth constraints.

Need of elections in cooperatives

- **To ensure transparency-** cooperatives need elections conducted in free and fair manner to ensure transparency in the system.
- It has been noted that most of the cooperatives have members nominated and political biased representation can be seen.
- **Adequate representatives from the region-** each community in the region living should get representation in any organisation for equal rights and everybody should be heard.
- **Popular representation-** the elections conducted by the election commission of India by participation of every individual in the region will help to get their popular elected representative amongst themselves for better working of cooperatives.
- **Rural issues to be heard-** the person elected should have local knowledge of the region and culture with agricultural needs of that region. Most of the states like Maharashtra, odhisa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh are major states which are benefitting from the cooperatives in rural areas.
- **Financial transparency-** the funds allocated from banks and to individual representatives for distribution will be in the right hands as he/she will be responsible to the people.

Issues faced by cooperatives in India

- **Government Interference-** The administration has taken a patronizing stance toward the cooperative movement from the start. Co-operative institutions were handled as if they were an integral component of the government's administrative structure.
 - As a result, government intervention became an important part of how these organizations functioned and thus, the movement's independence and self-reliance existed only on paper and files. It was not given the proper importance that it deserves in any plan and has not become a full-fledged people movement.
- **Mismanagement and Manipulation-** The co-operative movement's central idea is that it **elevates farmers to the level of shareholders and provides them with agricultural, educational, and medical services**. Farmers, sometimes, find it difficult to manage the institutions with large shareholder strength.
- **Lack of Awareness-** People are **unaware of the movement's goals**, the contributions it can make to society's reconstruction, and the norms and regulations that govern co-operative institutions. Regrettably, **no concerted attempts** have been undertaken in this direction. People regard these institutions as a means of gaining government benefits and concessions.

- **Restricted Coverage**-The co-operative movement has also been hampered by two major operational constraints.
 - One is that these cultures have been quite modest in size.
 - The other is that the majority of these societies have only a few members and operate in only one or two locations.
 - As a result, their resources are limited, making it difficult for them to develop their capabilities and broaden the scope of their operations.
- **Functional Weakness**-Since its start, the co-operative movement has struggled with a lack of skilled workers. Two key issues have contributed to the shortage of trained employees.
 - **First and foremost**, there had been a dearth of institutions dedicated to **training workers**.
 - **Second**, due to the **inadequate performance of cooperative institutions**, efficient individuals were not drawn to or driven by them.
- **Flaws in operation**-Co-operative societies, too, have several flaws in their operation. They have been unable to progress along healthy lines due to this deficiency. As a result, there are several pitfalls.
- **The limiting issues include poor infrastructure, poor administration, overdependence on government, dormant membership, non-conduct of elections, a lack of solid human**

resources, policy, and a lack of professionalism, among others.

- Co-operatives in India are also unable to develop effective communication and public relations strategies that promote the concept of collaboration among the general population.

Recent developments

- In 2013, the **Gujarat High Court** ruled that the amendment was likely to be struck down since it was passed without the assent of one-half of the state legislatures, as required under Article 368(2) of the Constitution.
- **According to Article 368(2)**, ratification of one-half of state legislatures is required for an amendment that makes changes to an entry in the state list.
- The **exclusive legislative power granted to states** in issues covered by the Second List of the Seventh Schedule is a key constitutional concept enshrined in the Constitution's basic framework.

◎ CONCLUSION

- Cooperatives play a vital role in encouraging collectivism and sustaining the country's social capital basis. Cooperatives are the most effective means of preserving the spirit of collectivism and democracy.

CENTRE ASKS STATE TO CARRY OUT AUDIT OF ROPEWAYS

CONTEXT

After the Jharkhand incident of ropeway accident Ministry of Home Affairs has directed the states to prepare Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs).

◎ BACKGROUND

- Recent Jharkhand incident has highlighted the urgent need to have detailed SOPs for ropeway service.
- Ministry of Home Affairs has sent advisory to the Chief Secretaries of the states to prepare for detailed SOPs for ropeway services.

◎ ANALYSIS

Legislation available till now:

- Aerial Ropeways Act, 2002 had been passed the government to development various ropeways in the country.
- Apart from central legislation various states have their own legislation regarding ropeway services and maintenance.

What are the recent developments done by the government?

- States like Uttarakhand has signed Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways to build up ropeway links.
- In the Budget 2022, Ministry of Finance has announced to develop 8 new ropeway services.
- PARVATMALA- An efficient and safe alternate transport network:** Under the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways this scheme will be implemented in a PPP model, for various Himalayan states and North-East states.

What are the majors driving factors driving ropeway infrastructure?

- Economical mode of transportation
- Safer and Alternate mode of transportation in difficult hilly terrain:** Ropeways are built in a straight line over the hilly terrain which can reduce the cost of land acquisition. And provide an alternate and faster mode of transportation.
- Faster mode of transportation:** Ropeway services can provide a faster mode of transportation as compared to roadways

- Environment friendly:** Low dust emissions. Material can be designed to rule out any soiling of environment.
- Last mile connectivity

What are benefits from ropeway services?

- Ideal for difficult and sensitive terrain.
- Tourism sector:** It can promote tourism sector in the hilly and North Eastern states.
- A new set of economy can be generated by the development of ropeway services.
- Transportation flexibility:** Ropeways have the capacity to carry various types of materials
- Ability to handle large slopes: It has the capacity to handle higher gradient as compared to **roadways**
- Low footprint:** it can be built and operated on the areas where there is higher land use is in intense competition.
- Security and Surveillance:** It can provide a faster means of transport to the armed forces in difficult terrain to handle the extremist activity and maintain peace and security at various places.
- Better border management:** even it has the capacity to manage border areas and manage security set up for external stand-offs.

What are the major challenges lie ahead?

- Policy bottlenecks
- Quality check procedure
- Safety guidelines
- Public awareness

What are steps that need to be taken?

- Decentralized policy measures
- Proper Standard Operating Procedures and safety measures
- Terrain specific policy measures

◎ CONCLUSION

- Ropeways have the potential to serve a diversified sector for India. This can provide a safe cushion to the ongoing and upcoming economical, developmental and security challenges in various areas.

NATIONAL MONETISATION PIPELINE

CONTEXT

Recently, the scheme has completed a transaction of 9 lakh crore in 2021-22, surpassing the programme's first phase targets.

◎ ABOUT

- The government unveiled a **four-year National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** worth an estimated **Rs 6 lakh crore**.
- It aims to unlock value in Brownfield projects by engaging the **private sector, transferring to them revenue rights and not ownership in the projects, and using the funds so generated** for infrastructure creation across the country.
- The NMP has been announced to provide a clear framework for monetisation and give potential investors a ready **list of assets to generate investment interest**.
- The government has stressed that these are Brownfield assets, which have been "de-risked" from execution risks, and therefore should encourage private investment.
- Structuring the monetisation transactions, providing a balance risk profile of assets, and effective execution of the NMP will be key challenges.

What is monetisation?

- In a monetisation transaction, the government is basically transferring revenue rights to private parties for a specified transaction period in return for upfront money, a revenue share, and commitment of investments in the assets.
- Real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs), for instance, are the key structures used to monetise assets in the roads and power sectors.
- These are also listed on stock exchanges, providing investors liquidity through secondary markets as well.
- While these are a structured financing vehicle, other monetisation models on PPP (Public Private Partnership) basis include: Operate Maintain Transfer (OMT), Toll Operate Transfer (TOT), and Operations, Maintenance & Development (OMD).
- OMT and TOT have been used in highways sector while OMD is being deployed in case of airports.

What is government's plan?

- Roads, railways and power sector assets will comprise over 66% of the total estimated value of the assets to be monetised, with the remaining upcoming sectors including telecom, mining, aviation, ports, natural gas and petroleum product pipelines, warehouses and stadiums
- In terms of annual phasing by value, 15% of assets with an indicative value of Rs 0.88 lakh crore are envisaged for rollout in the current financial year.
- The NMP will run co-terminus with the National Infrastructure Pipeline of Rs 100 lakh crore announced in December 2019.
- The estimated amount to be raised through monetisation is around 14% of the proposed outlay for the Centre of Rs 43 lakh crore under NIP.

To unlock the value

- Eight core industrial sectors that support infrastructure such as **coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement, and electricity** have a total weight of nearly 40% in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- According to **NITI Aayog**, the strategic objective of the **asset monetisation programme** is to unlock the value of investments in **public sector assets** by tapping private sector capital and efficiencies.
- The NMP policy advocates unlocking idle capital from **non-strategic/underperforming** government owned assets and **reinvesting the funds**, thus received, into new infrastructure projects and augmentation of assets such as green-field infrastructure creation.
- This reportedly first-of-its-kind initiative claims that it will boost the economy, generate better **employment opportunities, and drive the competitiveness of the Indian economy**.
- Notwithstanding the merit of this decision by the government of the day, it becomes imperative for policy makers to introspect the decline of profit-making government assets in the backdrop of the Government contemplating reinvesting the funds received to create fresh assets, post the NMP exercise.

- It is quite likely that the nation may find itself in a vicious cycle of creating new assets and then monetising the same when they become liabilities for the Government at a later stage.
- Going by the **annual report (2020-2021)** of the Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India, there are 256 operationally-run central public sector undertakings (CPSUs), employing about one million people; they posted a net profit of ₹93,294 crore (FY 2019-20). Out of these, 96 have been conferred the Ratna status (72, 14, and 10 are Miniratnas, Navaratnas, and Maharatna companies, respectively).
- As India needs to invest about \$1.5 trillion on infrastructure development in order to aspire to become \$5 trillion economy by the year 2024-25, according to the Economic Survey 2019-20, public enterprises should be in focus.

Reason for PSU's decline

- The primary reason for the failure of public sector enterprises is no secret.
- Cost overruns, inter alia, is one of the major reasons.
- In some cases, project completion time is exceeded, leading to elevated project cost so much so that either the project itself becomes unviable at the time of its launching or delays its break-even point.
- Besides, optimum input-output ratio is seldom observed in a majority of government infrastructural projects leading to their overcapitalisation.
- A reluctance to implement labour reforms, a lack of inter-ministerial/departmental coordination, poor decision-making, ineffective governance and excessive government control are other reasons for the failure of public infrastructural assets.
- Recently, the **"Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti National Master Plan"** for multi-modal connectivity was launched by the Prime Minister with an aim **'to synchronise the operations of different departments of 16 Ministries including railways and roadways for seamless planning and coordinated execution of infrastructure projects in a timely manner'**.
- It is essentially a digital platform for information sharing among different Ministries and departments at the Union and State levels.
- It also entails analytical decision-making tools to disseminate project-related information and prioritise key infrastructure projects.
- Besides, it fosters a periodical review and monitoring of the progress of cross-sectorial infrastructure projects through the **GIS platform** in order to intervene if there is a need.

What are the challenges?

- Among the key challenges that may affect the NMP roadmap are: **lack of identifiable revenues streams in various assets, level of capacity utilisation in gas and petroleum pipeline networks, dispute resolution mechanism, regulated tariffs in power sector assets, and low interest among investors in national highways below four lanes.**
- While the government has tried to address these challenges in the NMP framework, execution of the plan remains key to its success.
- Structuring of monetisation transactions** is being seen as key.
- The slow pace of privatisation** in government companies including Air India and BPCL, and less-than-encouraging bids in the recently launched PPP initiative in trains, indicate that attracting private investors interest is not that easy.
- "Monetisation potential of toll road assets, though being a market-tested asset class with established monetisation models, is limited by the percentage of stretches having four-lane and above configuration. The total length of national highway (NH) stretches with four-lane and above is estimated to be about 23% of the total NH network," as per the NMP framework. The government has tried to address this with a plan to monetise assets that are four-lane and above.

Essential steps taken

- As enunciated in the **Economic Survey 2020-21**, an important step for the Government to take to strengthen public sector businesses would be to completely revamp their corporate governance structure in order to enhance operational autonomy augmented with strong governance practices including listing on stock exchange for greater transparency and accountability.
- The Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways** achieved an overall monetisation value of about Rs 23,000 crore in FY22, while the **Ministry of Power** closed the fiscal with an overall monetisation achievement of about Rs 9,500 crore.
- The Department of Public Enterprises** has reportedly initiated revamping of the performance monitoring system of central public sector enterprises to make them more transparent, objective and forward looking, based on sectoral indices/benchmarks.
- The Economic Survey also highlights the Government's initiatives as part of the Atmanirbhar Abhiyaan** (campaign for self-reliance) in order to boost domestic production

in the steel sector, viz. inclusion of "speciality steel", recommending four different types of steel for incentives under the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme; selling steel to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), affiliated to Engineering Export Promotion Council of India at export parity price under the duty drawback scheme of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT); measures to provide preference to domestically produced iron and steel in government procurement, where aggregate estimate of iron and steel products exceeds ₹25 crore; protecting industry from unfair trade through appropriate remedial measures including imposition of anti-dumping duty and countervailing duty on the products on which unfair trade practices were adopted by the other countries.

◎ CONCLUSION

- To sum up, the NMP is an ambitious "retail" sale or lease of revenue yielding public capital projects with the potential threats of allegations of corruption and cronyism derailing the process to revive investment demand and to halt the economic decline.

- The main instruments proposed for implementing the NMP are public-private partnerships and a stock market-based investment trust (InvIT). Both have serious shortcomings, as experience demonstrates.
- The NMP document seems silent on how to overcome past mistakes.
- Hence, the NMP appears like a fire sale which may not help realise the best social value for public assets to kick-start investment demand.
- If reviving investment demand quickly is the real goal, debt monetisation seems a better option than asset monetisation.
- It is a "wholesale" business with lower operating and transaction costs, and at a currently negative interest rate.
- With excess liquidity in the financial markets, and low aggregate demand, the inflationary threat seems minimal.
- Such targeted borrowing, if quickly funnelled into infrastructure investment projects, could crowd-in (or bring in) private investment igniting a virtuous cycle of investment-led economic revival.

TOURIST CIRCUIT BY CHHATTISGARH TO BOOST RURAL TOURISM

CONTEXT

Chhattisgarh government is set to inaugurate the first phase of Ram Gaman tourism circuit project at Shivrinarayan.

This project will help the rural economy of the state to flourish and bring benefits to the State.

◎ BACKGROUND

- Chhattisgarh has its own identity in the whole world as the **maternal grandmother home** of Lord Shri Ram.
- In this tourism circuit, Lord Shri Ram will be seen step by step from Korea district to Sukma and the stories of importance related to him will be seen and heard.
- Rama is said to have been born to **Kaushalya** and **Dasharatha** in Ayodhya, the ruler of the Kingdom of **Kosala**.
- His siblings included Lakshmana, Bharata, and Shatrughna. He married **Sita**. Though born in a royal family, their life is described in the Hindu texts as one challenged by unexpected changes such as an exile into impoverished and difficult circumstances.
- Kosala region is now madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and odisha region.
- Chhattisgarh and its forests is the place where most of the time of lord Rama had spent during the exile.

◎ ABOUT THE PROJECT

- The First phase of Ram Van Gaman tourism circuit project in Chhattisgarh is to develop the places related to the **exile period of Lord Shri Ram** as a **world-class tourist destination**.
- On this occasion, the renovation and beautification work of **Mata Kaushalya temple** complex at Chandkhuri will be done and unveiled a **51 feet high statue of Lord Shri Ram** through light.
- It is noteworthy that 'Ram Van Gaman' tourism circuit of about **2260 km** is being developed from **Harchowka** in Sitamarhi of Korea district to **Ramaram** in Sukma.

How rural tourism will help nation's economy?

- Generating Income and Employment:** Tourism in India has emerged as an instrument of income, employment generation, poverty alleviation and sustainable human development.

- Source of Foreign Exchange Earnings:** Tourism is an important source of foreign exchange earnings in India. This has favourable impact on the balance of payment of the country.
- Preservation of National Heritage and Environment:** Tourism helps preserve several places which are of historical importance by declaring them as heritage sites. For instance, the Taj Mahal, the Qutab Minar, Ajanta and Ellora temples, etc, would have been decayed and destroyed had it not been for the efforts taken by Tourism Department to preserve them.
- Developing Infrastructure:** Tourism tends to encourage the development of multiple-use infrastructure that benefits the host community, including various means of transports, health care facilities and the hotels and high-end restaurants that cater to foreign visitors.
- Promoting Peace and Stability:** Tourism industry can also help promote peace and stability in developing country like India by providing jobs, generating income, diversifying the economy, protecting the environment, and promoting cross-cultural awareness.

Why Heritage Tourism is significant for India?

- Heritage tourism is defined as **"travel undertaken to explore and experience places, activities, and artefacts that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present"**. It is oriented toward cultural heritage of the tourist location.
- It involves visiting **historical or industrial sites, religious travel or pilgrimages**.
- India is well known for its rich heritage and ancient culture.
- The country's rich heritage is amply reflected in the various temples, majestic forts, pleasure gardens, religious monuments, museums, art galleries and urban and rural sites which are citadels of civilization.
- All these structures form the products of heritage tourism.

What are the others related schemes?

- SWADESH Darshan Scheme
- PRASHAD Scheme
- Buddhist Enclave
- Dekho Apna Desh initiative

What are the challenges in rural tourism Industry of India?

- Rural Tourism industry in India is growing and it has vast potential for generating employment and earning large amount of foreign exchange besides giving a fillip to the country's overall economic and social development.
- **Lack of Proper Infrastructure:** Infrastructure needs for the travel and tourism industry range from physical infrastructure such as ports of entry to modes of transport to urban infrastructure such as access roads, electricity, water supply, sewerage and telecommunication.
- **Access and Connectivity:** The infrastructure facilities like air, rail, road connectivity, and hospitality services are still needs to be improved to connect various cities across the country.
- **Amenities:** Amenities available at various tourist locations and en route need to be improved. These include basic amenities such as drinking water, well maintained and clean waiting rooms and toilets, first aid and wayside such as lounge, cafeteria, and parking facilities, among others.
- **Human Resource:** To sustain growth in the tourism industry trained manpower is required at various levels such as managerial, supervisory, skilled or semi-skilled. At mid and senior management levels, the industry faces talent crunch and at the front-line staff level, although human resources are adequate, a boom in other service industries such as banking, retail, airline and BPO have resulted in

shortage of manpower at this level for the travel and tourism industry.

- **Marketing and Promotion:** India needs to change its traditional marketing approach to a more competitive and modern approach. There is a need to develop a unique market position and the brand positioning will be the essence of the country's tourism products to the potential customer.
- **Security:** Security has been a major problem for our growth in tourism for a number of years. Terrorist attacks or political unrest in different parts of the country have adversely affected sentiments of foreign tourists. However, the government needs to take a proactive approach in addressing these issues and in averting the potential impact on the industry.

◎ CONCLUSION

- Tourism has become the world's largest industry, generating wealth and employment, opening the minds of both visitors and the visited to different ways of life. In worldwide this industry currently employs more than 200 million people. Moreover tourism is one of the best instruments of economic development in all the way.
- Rural Tourism sector plays a vital role in the way of helping poor countries to provide employment opportunities in an increasing rate. It is one of the important foreign exchange earning industries has manifested great potential of growth under liberalized Indian economy.
- India's tourism industry is experiencing a strong period of growth, driven by the burgeoning Indian middle class, growth in high spending foreign tourists, and coordinated government campaigns to promote 'Incredible India'.

CONCESSIONAL CORPORATE TAX RATE REGIME

CONTEXT

Under the new regime introduced, a tax rate of 15 per cent was announced under Section 115BAB for newly incorporated domestic companies, which make fresh investment by March 31, 2023, for manufacturing, production, research or distribution of such articles or things manufactured.

This was extended by one year in the Budget of 2022-23 till March 31, 2024.

◎ BACKGROUND

- The corporate tax is levied on both the **public and private** companies registered under the **Companies Act of 2013**.
- The rate at which the tax is imposed as per the provisions of the **Income Tax Act, 1961** is known as the '**Corporate Tax Rate**'.
- **The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019** caused a reduction in the base corporate tax rate, that is, **from 30 percent to 22 per cent** for the existing businesses which led to revenue inference of INR 1.45 Lakh Crores.
- While, in case of **new manufacturing firms** that have been established post 1st October, 2019 and prior to **31st March, 2023**, the base corporate tax was reduced from 25 per cent to 15 per cent.
- This strategic action could possibly enhance the comparative adversaries of India's corporation tax rates with other Asian nations.
- The new corporate tax rates in India is much lower than USA (27%), Japan (30.62%), Brazil (34%), and Germany (30%) and for the new firms the tax rate is similar as of Singapore (17%).

Key points of the regime

- **Paving Way for Taxes:** It paves way for levies on Multinational Companies (MNCs) in countries where they operate, instead of just where they are headquartered.
- **Countries' Right to Tax:** countries where big firms operate would get the right to tax at least 20% of profits exceeding a 10% margin which would apply to the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.
- **Efforts by OECD:** The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has also been coordinating tax negotiations among 140 countries for years on rules for taxing cross-border digital services and curbing tax base erosion, including a global corporate minimum tax.

What is corporate income tax?

In India, the Corporate Income tax rate refers to **the highest effective rate for Corporate Income for domestic companies**. Its amount is based on the net income companies obtain while exercising their business activity, normally during one business year. **Revenues from the Corporate Tax Rate are an important source of income for the government of India.**

- **A country's corporate tax may apply to:**
 - corporations incorporated in the country,
 - corporations doing business in the country on income from that country,
 - foreign corporations who have a permanent establishment in the country, or
 - Corporations deemed to be resident for tax purposes in the country.

What is Global Minimum Corporate Tax Rate (GMCTR)?

- **Corporation tax:** It is a direct tax imposed on the net income or profit that enterprises make from their businesses.
- The G7 Finance Ministers have called for a global minimum corporation tax rate of at least 15%.
- **Need of a Global regime:**
 - **Bringing Equality:** In the Indian context, the GMCTR will bring equality to those people may be operating in India but not located in India and therefore not paying any taxes.
 - **Attract Investments:** India is likely to benefit from the global minimum 15% corporate tax rate pact as the effective domestic tax rate (other than in Special Economic Zones) is above the threshold.
 - In all probability the concessional Indian tax regime would still work, and India would continue to attract investments.
 - **India at Advantage:** Due to India's tax rates too, it will be in an advantageous position because Indian tax rates have come at a position

where India can afford to give concessions to big companies and yet not fall down at the international tax rates.

- ▶ **Challenge:** Although the 15% GMCTR will not affect the current investments in India, setting up more SEZs or giving incentives to companies to invest in India will be a challenge.

Issues involved regarding corporate tax regime

- **Bringing Global Consensus:** Bringing all the major nations on the same page, especially since the pact impinges on the right of the sovereign to decide a nation's tax policy.
 - ▶ A global minimum rate would essentially take away a tool that countries use to push policies that suit them.
- **Issues to Smaller Countries:** Countries like Ireland, which has a tax rate of 12.5%, has come out against the global minimum tax, arguing that it would be disruptive to its economic model.
- **Issues to Developing Countries:** IMF and World Bank data suggest that developing countries with less ability to offer mega stimulus packages may experience a longer economic hangover than developed nations.
 - ▶ Considering the countries like Bangladesh which do not have too many advantages to offer besides a Special Economic Zone, this decision of G7 countries might not be very conducive.
- **Tackling Tax Evasion:** A lower tax rate is a tool the countries can use to alternatively push economic activity. Also, a global minimum tax rate will do little to tackle tax evasion.
- **Rigidity in Rules:** Once an international commitment has been made for 15%, it will be very difficult for the national governments to say who stays on 15% and who doesn't. It will introduce rigidity in the rules which might not be as favourable for countries' economies.

Benefits of corporate tax in India

- **For existing companies-** Under the new tax slab, corporations with annual turnover up to Rs 400 crore and not seeking any incentives or exemptions need to pay 22 per cent tax along with applicable cess and surcharge.
 - ▶ This takes the effective corporate tax rate to 25.17%. However, with the introduction of the new guidelines, companies don't have to pay any minimum alternate tax or MAT.
 - ▶ **Benefits-** make existing firms able to negotiate with new firms in the market.

- **For new firms-** The government, in order to attract fresh investment in manufacturing and provide a boost to its flagship 'Make-in-India' initiative which allows any new domestic company incorporated on or after 1st October 2019 making fresh investment in manufacturing, an option to pay income-tax at the rate of 15%.
 - ▶ This benefit is available to firms which do not avail any exemption/incentive and commences their production on or before 31st March, 2024.
 - ▶ The effective tax rate for these companies shall be 17.01% inclusive of surcharge & cess and such companies shall not be required to pay Minimum Alternate Tax.
 - ▶ **Benefits-** It will attract fresh investments in India with several exemptions from taxes in the market. It will increase competitiveness of the market.
- **For foreign companies-** Corporate tax rates for foreign companies depend on the agreement of India with the country where the company is based. The rate can be divided into two sections:
 - ▶ **If the income is shown as any royalty or fee for technical services received by a foreign company from an Indian concern or Indian government** as per any agreement made before April 1, 1976 which is approved by the central government, the company has to pay a tax rate of 50%.
 - ▶ **Another 40% tax will be imposed on the company if it has other sources of income.** Adding to it, a surcharge of 2% is levied if the income is between Rs 1 crore to Rs 10 crore. In case it exceeds Rs 10 crore then the applicable surcharge is 5%.
 - ▶ **Benefits-** foreign companies will get extra concessions as compared to other nations, and hence India will get more FDIs and **Foreign currency for revenue generation.**

◎ CONCLUSION

- The concessional corporate tax regime is a **forward step towards the tax profiling and invasion** in India. Since after COVID now **stringent and strategic** policies for every economic move is concerned and scrutinized. Hence, India is now going in lines with the US for **relaxing its tax regimes to increase Investment and achieve GDP growth targets.**

THE CARE ECONOMY VIA UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

CONTEXT

With the recent study by ILO, the care giving economy can be a way for boosting post COVID economy of a country.

Care giving economy will not only help in economic growth but it will also address several social issues like gender inequality and care for children and elderly in the society.

What is care economy?

- Care giving work is broadly defined as looking after the **physical, psychological, emotional and developmental needs** of one or more other people.
- The care economy is growing as the demand for **childcare and care for the elderly** is increasing in all regions. It will thus create a great number of jobs in the coming years.

◎ BACKGROUND

- The '**care givers and economy**' was first highlighted by the **National sample survey of India** by the report of Family and health survey.
- After which, during **COVID times** this need got pace in our country. The number of care giving and people who need care is much significant and economy should take benefit from providing adequate financial assistance to them.
- **Universal basic income**- To deal with the **economic inequality, unemployment and poverty** created by the Covid-19 pandemic, many advocated **Universal Basic Income (UBI)** programme to be a solution.

Need for care economy

- Unemployment rate in India reached a 45-year high of 6.1% in 2017-18, as per the recent NSS estimates.
 - ▶ Careeconomywillhelp to reduce unemployment by giving care jobs in the sectors such as **nurses, home care takers, child caring person** and elderly cares.
- **Gender equality in labour force**-The IMF has also highlighted the widening **gender gap in labour force participation** rates in India.
 - ▶ We must explore reasons why the female labour force participation in India is one of the lowest in the world.
 - ▶ The lack of a comprehensive care economy policy is the single-most significant reason for the falling rate of female labour force participation. If we want to reap the demographic dividend before it vanishes, designing a comprehensive care economy policy in India should be the strategy.

- **To achieve silver economy**- the silver economy is the term for caregiving to the elders and old age persons in the country.
 - ▶ **Silver economy**- The silver economy includes all those economic activities, products and services designed to meet the needs of people over 50.
 - ▶ This concept, derived from the so-called **silver market that emerged in Japan**, — the country with the highest percentage of people over 65 — during the 1970s to refer to the senior market, brings together sectors as diverse as health, banking, automotive, energy, housing, telecommunications, leisure and tourism, among others.
- **Child care**- children are the future of our country and hence providing care to them should be the basic criteria for any government to achieve a prosperous economy.
 - ▶ Child care services came to picture after female or mothers started participating in formal and informal jobs for helping the family income.
 - ▶ Child care must also be included in jobs so that caring should not be a gender specific role in the society and paid maternity and paternity leave is one such example for this.

Does it will benefit the Indian economy?

- **Providing decent work for all**- care economy is not only for growth in economy, it includes providing decent work status to every individual in the society.
 - ▶ Half of the population in our country is occupied by Females, and rest for children and elders. Such policy which gives adequate working for their services in the society will benefit Indian economy to **generate revenue and increase labour force participation**.

- **Extending social security for women and elderly-** social security benefits such as **pension schemes** will be extended to the women and elderly via such policy for care givers. It will also enable them to access **paid family leave**.
- **Gender role balancing-** gender biased formal sector can be targeted by such policy and more female participation with equal wages can be seen.
- **Reduce burden for Informal work-** care services if get formalised, then informal works with high risks associated such as work in factories, industries and far locations for women and children will be reduced.
- **Health benefits-** Women and child health policies fail to provide proper financial assistance to them and this care giving policy can be an umbrella scheme for health benefits to the vulnerable section of the society.

Some of the similar initiatives

- **Sage INDIA Project-** elderly care above 50 years of age.
- **Compassionate care leave-** In Canada, Introduced to take care of one's ailing relative, up to six months in discrete or in continuum.
- **'The Swedish Theory of Love'**-encapsulates the public policy revolution in Sweden, when policymakers decided '**autonomous individual**' (not the 'household') as the unit of analysis of a public policy.

Challenges associated

- **Lack of a comprehensive policy-** The lack of comprehensive policy or law for care givers is the major challenge for implementation of such a scheme in India.
 - ▶ An integrated policy is the need of the hour for not only care givers but for care takers.
- **Poor infrastructure-** care giving infrastructure in India has not focused much, as it is considered a personal expense for an individual.
 - ▶ **Out-of-the-pocket expenditure** is increasing, which was also been highlighted in the budget 2021-22 for family and health in India.
- **Introduction of incentives for private firms-** Un-inclusion of private sector under the care giving services and policy can reduce its benefits for people under government jobs or formal sectors.
- **Lack of funds-** finance and data is the first priority for any scheme to be started. Care related data is not collected in India in any formal sense.
 - ▶ Subjectivity of term 'Care' in India can be a hurdle for these services.

◎ CONCLUSION

- Care giving economy is a major step for India as a developing country to achieve post COVID recovery. But it needs proper data collection and research for beneficiaries so that the benefit of the proposed term 'care economy' will not reduce to just 'Basic financial assistance'.

NEW WHO REPORT HIGHLIGHTS COLLABORATIVE ACTION TO REDUCE ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

CONTEXT

WHO has recently released a report which provides for a strategic framework to advance a One Health response to AMR at the global, regional and country levels.

It is a joint effort by the:

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

Goal of strategic framework:

- The goal of the strategic framework is to preserve antimicrobial efficacy and ensure sustainable and equitable access to antimicrobials for responsible and prudent use in human, animal and plant health, contributing to achieving the **UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Objectives of the framework are:

- Optimize the production and use of antimicrobials along the whole life cycle — from research and development to disposal.
- To decrease the incidence of infection in humans, animals and plants to reduce the development and spread of AMR.
- The overall impact to which the four organisations aim to contribute through their collaboration is for countries to have the capacity to design and sustainably implement evidence-informed One Health responses to AMR.

The report defined three outcomes countries should have in place:

- **Policy and law support effective country-owned One Health AMR responses:**
 - Recognise AMR as a priority in the broader development agenda, acknowledging the need for capacity building to strengthen AMR-specific legislation, policy coherence and sector-specific research.
- **Systems and structures, including institutional capacities, are in place to support effective implementation of country-owned One Health AMR responses:**
 - National Action Plans on AMR and guidelines to be regularly updated including monitoring

and surveillance of AMR and antimicrobial use (AMU).

- Access to good quality antimicrobials strengthened for all sectors.
- Increased, sustained resourcing is in place for country-owned One Health AMR responses:
- Priority actions from national action plans on AMR mainstreamed into national plans and budgets

Intermediate outcomes

- The report also focuses on two intermediate outcomes that it considers interim steps, necessary for the achievement of the longer-term outcomes described above.
 - The first intermediate outcome relates to the support provided at country level
 - The second is focused on the tripartite (WHO, OIE and FAO) and UNEP action at global and regional levels in support of countries' efforts.

What is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)?

- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.
- Antimicrobial-resistant organisms are found in people, animals, food, plants and the environment (in water, soil and air).
- They can spread from person to person or between people and animals, including from food of animal origin.
- **Multiple drug resistance (MDR)** is antimicrobial resistance (AMR) shown by a species of microorganism to at least one antimicrobial drug in three or more antimicrobial categories.

Main drivers of antimicrobial resistance

- The main drivers of antimicrobial resistance include the
 - misuse and overuse of antimicrobials
 - lack of access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for both humans and animals

- poor infection and disease prevention and control in health-care facilities and farms
- poor access to quality, affordable medicines, vaccines and diagnostics
- lack of awareness and knowledge
- lack of enforcement of legislation

Major factors causing AMR in India are:

- ◉ Inappropriate consumption of broad-spectrum (last resort) antibiotics is high because of changing

prescription practice in the healthcare system due to the non-availability of a narrow spectrum of antibiotics.

- ◉ Inappropriate antibiotic use among the general public like Self-medication to avoid the financial burden.
- ◉ Large proportion of sewage is disposed of untreated into receiving water bodies, leading to gross contamination of rivers with antibiotic residues, antibiotic-resistant organisms.

SECTION: B

(PRELIMS)

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ANCIENT MEGALITHIC JARS CONNECTING ASSAM WITH LAOS AND INDONESIA

© CONTEXT:

Discovery of megalithic stone jars have been found in Assam's Dima Hasao district having similar resemble to those found in Laos and Indonesia has brought to focus likely cultural relationship between India's Northeast and Southeast Asia, dating back to the second millennium BC.

About the Megalithic Stone Jars in Assam

- Megalithic Stone Jars were **first sighted** by British civil servants **James Philip Mills** and **John Henry Hutton** in Assam in **1929**. They recorded its presence in six sites in Assam's Dima Hasao district.
- Further follow up was only undertaken in 2014 leading to discovery of two more sites in 2016 and six more in 2020.
- As many as 546 stone jars were found in Nuchubunglo making it the largest stone jar site in the world.



Significance of Megalithic Stone Jars Discoveries

- **Link between India's Northeast and Southeast Asia:** Discovery of the similar jars indicates that once upon a time a group of people having similar kinds of cultural practices occupied the same geography between Laos, Indonesia and Northeast India.
- **Link to Mortuary Practices:** In Laos, human skeletal remains are found inside and buried around the jars indicating the stone jars were used for mortuary practices.
- No solid functions of the jars have been found in Indonesia, although some scholars suggest a similar mortuary role.
- Similarly, the study refers to the practices of ancestral bone repositories of tribes like **Mikir, Sakchips, Hangkals, Kuki, Khasi and Synteng** and evidence of cremated bone fragments placed in one of the jars. It suggests that the jars found in Assam were also associated with mortuary rituals.

About Megalithic Burials in India

- Megaliths are spread across the Indian subcontinent, though the bulk of them are found in peninsular India, concentrated in the states of Maharashtra (mainly in Vidarbha), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Megaliths were constructed either as burial sites or commemorative (non-sepulchral) memorials.
- The urns were usually made of terracotta.
- The Commemorative megaliths include memorial sites such as menhirs.

NORTH INDIAN THEATRE STUDENTS' INCREASING INTEREST IN YAKSHAGANA

◎ **CONTEXT:** Today's young artists are quite fascinated with the traditional theatre form of Yakshagana.

About Yakshagana:

- Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form that combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form.
- Yakshagana literally means the song (gana) of the yaksha (nature spirits).
- It developed in Udupi, in the state of Karnataka. It is popular in the Karnataka districts of Dakshina Kannada, Kasaragod, Udupi, Uttara Kannada and Shimoga.
- This folk art is believed to have originated somewhere in between the 10th and 16th century.
- It is performed with percussion instruments like chenda, maddalam, jagatta or chengila (cymbals) and chakratala or elathalam (small cymbals).
- **Theme:** Yakshagana is strongly influenced by the Vaishnava Bhakti movement. Its stories are mainly drawn from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata and other Hindu epics.
- **The Dress:** Costumes used in Yakshagana are very unique and elaborate. Large size head gear, coloured faces, elaborate costumes all over the body and musical beads on the legs (Gejje). Performers need great physique to perform with heavy costume for several hours and also strong voice and acting/dancing skills.
- **Key Features:**
 - A typical Yakshagana performance consists of background music played by a group of musicians (known as the himmela); and a dance and dialog group (known as the mummela), who together enact poetic epics on stage.
 - Yakshagana is traditionally presented from dusk to dawn.
- **Types:**
 - The **tenkutittu style:** It is prevalent in Dakshina Kannada. Tenkutittu is noted for its incredible dance steps; its high flying dance moves; and its extravagant rakshasas (demons).
 - The **Badagutittu style:** It is prevalent in Uttara Kannada District and places more emphasis on facial expressions, matugarike (dialogues), and dances appropriate for the character depicted in the episode.



CHHATTISGARH GOVERNMENT INAUGURATES SHIVRINARAYAN TEMPLE

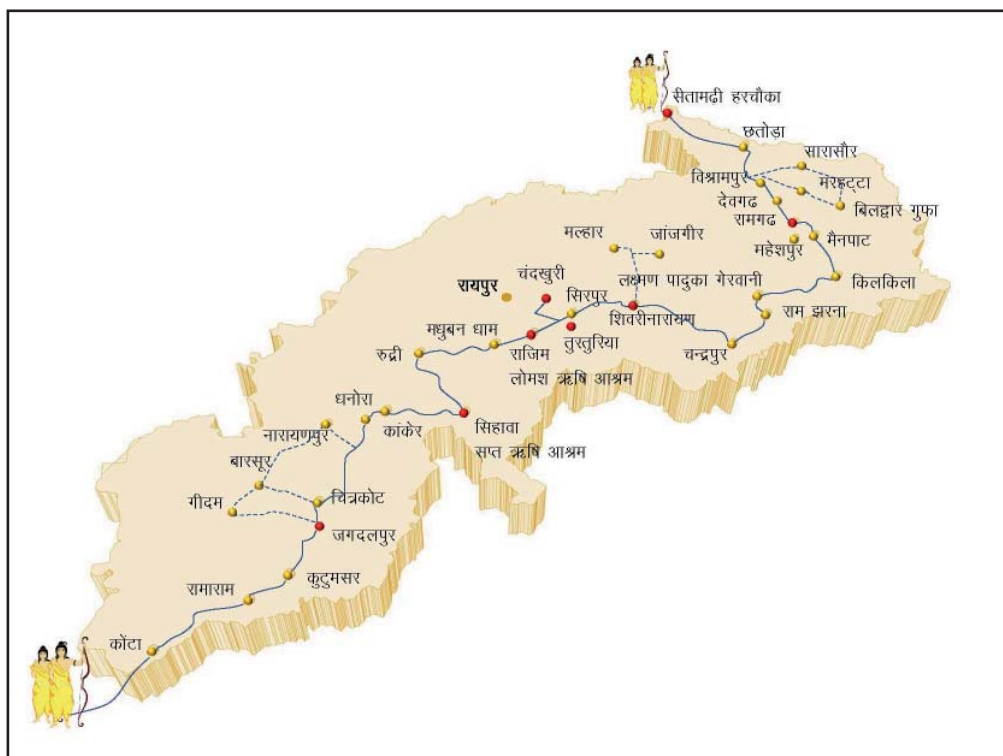
◎ **CONTEXT:** The Chhattisgarh government recently organized a grand inaugural event to mark the completion of the renovation and beautification work of the Shivrinarayan temple under the ambitious 'Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit'.

About Shivrinarayan temple:

- The Laxminarayan Temple was built by the kings of **Hayhay Vansh** during the age of 11th century on the bank of Mahanadi at Shivarinarayan Nagar.
- Shvirinarayan temple is situated in the Champa Janjgir district of Chhatisgarh.
- It is one of the most sacred places according to Hindu mythology and is situated at the meeting point of rivers **Mahanadi, Jonk and Shivnath**.
- According Hindu mythology from the age of **Ramayana shabri aasharma** is situated here.
- The temple of Shivarinarayan is a great piece work **Vaishnav Shaili** by the **Vaishnav community**.
- It is believed that Lord Rama spent most of the time during his 14-year exile in **Dandakaranya region of Chhattisgarh**.
- The description of this place can be found in relation to every Yug. This place is known as:
 - Baikunthpur of Satyug
 - Rampur of Tretayug
 - Vishnupur of Dwaparyug
 - Shivrinarayan of Kalyug

Shri Jagannathji connection

- This place is also famously known as **Jagannath Puri of Chhatisgrah** due to the presence of the Shivrinarayan temple.
- It is believed that in ancient times, an idol of Shri Jagannathji was established in this place which was later moved to **Jagannath Puri**.



About Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit

- The State government is developing the tourism circuit at a cost of Rs. 137.45 crore.

- Nine sites are being developed to attract tourists to the circuit,
- The circuit shall cover the route believed to be taken by Lord Ram during his 14-year exile.
- The nine sites are **Sitamarhi-Harchaika (Koriya), Ramgarh (Ambikapur), Shivrinarayan (Janjgir-Champa), Turturiya (Baloda Bazaar), Chandkhuri, Rajim (Gariaband), Sihawa-Saptarishi Ashram (Dhamtari), Jagdalpur (Bastar) and Ramaram (Sukma).**

Being the birthplace of **Mata Kaushalya**, Chhattisgarh holds a special significance in the life of Lord Rama. Chandkhuri in Raipur is the maternal home of Shri Ram, who is worshipped as a nephew in Chhattisgarh.

CHHATTISGARH'S SURGUJA DISTRICT'S FADING TRADITIONAL TATTOO ART

◎ **CONTEXT:** Godana artists work under Chhattisgarh's Hastshilp Vikas Board and the state handloom federation of artisans.

About Godana work:

- Tattooing is an age-old tradition of India in general and tribal societies in particular. In Northern and Central India, tattooing is popularly known as 'Godna.'
- The practice of tattooing is widely prevalent across Chhattisgarh. It is a form of body art practiced mostly by women on women, mainly amongst adivasi and 'lower' caste communities from this region.
- The word used for this practice is godna, which refers to the piercing of the body with needles.
- The tattoos serve varying functions- seen as markers of social identity; they are equally a form of bodily adornment that outlives death.
- Sometimes they signify rites of passage- the sita rasoi motif is tattooed on women as they prepare to enter a life of domesticity.
- Women in Jamgala, in Lakhanpur district of Surguja, like Safiano Bai, Ramkeli and Budh Kunwar, have revived traditional Godi godna, by mixing natural pigments procured from the forest with acrylic paint to stabilize these on fabrics.
 - Ladies of Jamgala now make table cloths, napkins, kurtas, saris, wall hangings and even bed sheets.
- Modernisation has influenced the Godna art and artists to a great extent.
 - Tattooing has shifted from body to paper, cloth and canvas.
 - Female tattooists have played an important role in the dissemination of Godna painting in India and abroad through exhibitions and workshops.



ODISHA'S BARBARA FOREST SET FOR ECOTOURISM PUSH

- ◎ **CONTEXT:** The government has decided to open Barbara Forest in Odisha for public to boost eco-tourism.

Ecotourism

- According to **The International Ecotourism Society (TIES)**, ecotourism can be defined as "responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education".

About Barbara forest

- The Barbara forest is located near Chilika Lake in coastal Odisha touching three districts Khordha, Nayagarh and Ganjam.
 - It is about 5 kms away from **Banapur**, an ancient **Buddhist heritage site**.
- It is dubbed as Asia's largest teak and sal forest.
- It is the only forest in India guarded by the jawans of **Central Reserve Police Force (for protecting forest resources)**.
- The thick forests of Barbara are inhabited by giant squirrels, making it a major contender to become a sanctuary for giant squirrels.
- One can find other species like sambar, deer, mouse deer and bison in the forest.

The name story

- It is named after a British woman, Barbara who had been killed by a tiger in the late 19th century while she was with her husband on a hunting expedition.

RUSSIA OUT OF UNHRC

- ◎ **CONTEXT:** The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) voted on a draft resolution to suspend Russia from the United Nations Human Rights Council as part of the global response to the alleged war crimes in Bucha, a town outside Kyiv, where more than 300 bodies of civilians have been found after the withdrawal of the Russian forces.

Human Rights Council

- The Human Rights Council is an **inter-governmental body within the United Nations system**.
- It is responsible **for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights** around the world.
- It also addresses and makes recommendations on situations of human rights violations, and can discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations.
- The **Human Rights Council replaced the former UN Commission on Human Rights**.
 - It was **created by the UNGA on March 15, 2006**, and the body met in its first session in June, 2006.

- In 2007, the Council adopted an “**institution-building package**” to set up its procedures and mechanisms.
- Among these were the mechanism of **Universal Periodic Review** to assess the human rights situations in all UN Member States, the Advisory Committee that serves as the Council’s think tank providing it with expertise and advice on thematic human rights issues, and the Complaint Procedure, which allows individuals and organisations to bring human rights violations to the Council’s attention.
- The Council meets at the UN Office in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

Membership of the Council

- The Council is made up of 47 UN Member States who are elected by **majority vote through a direct and secret ballot at the UNGA**.
- The UNGA takes into account the candidate States’ **contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights**, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments in this regard.
- The membership of the Council is based on **equitable geographical distribution**.
 - African and Asia-Pacific states have 13 seats each,
 - Latin American and Caribbean states have 8 seats
 - Western European and other states 7 seats
 - Eastern European states 6 seats
- The **members serve for three years** and are **not eligible for immediate re-election** after **serving two consecutive terms**.
- With membership on the Council **comes a responsibility to uphold high human rights standards**.
 - This is a criteria insisted on by States themselves when they adopted resolution 60/251 in March 2006 to create the Human Rights Council.

Leadership of the Council

- The Council has a **five-person Bureau**, consisting of a president and four vice-presidents, each representing one of the five regional groups.
- The **Human Rights Council President** of the 16th Cycle (2022) is **Federico Villegas**, who is the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva.
 - He was elected president of the Human Rights Council for 2022 in December 2021.

Meetings of the Council

- The Human Rights Council holds **no fewer than three regular sessions a year**, for a total of at least 10 weeks.
- If a third of the Member states requests, the Council can decide at any time to hold a **special session to address human rights violations and emergencies**.
- Under the presidency of Nazhat S Khan of Fiji, the **Council held a record five special sessions in 2021** — on Myanmar, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, Afghanistan, Sudan, and Ethiopia.

SVANIDHI SE SAMRIDDHI

◎ CONTEXT:

Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launched ‘SVANidhi se Samriddhi’ program in additional 126 cities across 14 States and Union Territories yesterday.

About 'SVANidhi se Samriddhi':

- **'SVANidhi se Samriddhi' is an additional program of PMSVANidhi.**
- It was **launched in January 2021** in 125 cities.
- In **Phase 1**, approximately **35 Lakh Street vendors** and their families were covered.
- 22.5 lakh scheme sanctions have been extended to them including
 - 16 lakh insurance benefits under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana and
 - 2.7 Lakh pension benefits under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, amongst other such benefits.
- Considering the success of Phase I, MoHUA launched the **program expansion to additional 126 cities** with an aim to **cover 28 Lakh Street vendors** and their families, with a total target of 20 Lakh scheme sanctions for FY 2022-23.
- The remaining cities would be gradually added to the program.

About PM SVANidhi:

- PM SVANidhi is a **special micro-credit facility plan** to provide affordable loan of up to Rs. 10,000 to more than 50 lakh street vendors, who had their businesses operational on or before 24 March.
- PM SVANidhi, a **Central Sector Scheme** since 1st June 2020.
- It was **announced aims to enable street vendors to resume their livelihoods**, which have been hit hard due to the national lockdown.
- **Small Industries Development Bank** of India is the **technical partner** for implementation of this scheme and will manage the credit guarantee to the lending institutions through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises.
- Under the scheme, vendors can **avail working capital loan of up to Rs10,000**, which is repayable in monthly instalments within one year.
- On timely/early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy of 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on six-month basis.
- There will be **no penalty on early repayment of loan**.
- The scheme aims to **not only extend loans to street vendors, but also aims for their holistic development and economic upliftment**.

Two-fold achievements:

- One, a central database of Street vendors and their families is created on various socio-economic indicators.
- Second, a first of its kind inter-ministerial convergence platform is established between various Central Ministries to extend safety net of welfare schemes to street vendor households.

AMIT SHAH INAUGURATES SEEMADARSHAN PROJECT IN NADABET

◎ CONTEXT:

Union Home and Cooperative Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated 'Seema Darshan Project' at Nadabet located on the Indo-Pak border in Banaskantha District of Gujarat.

About 'Seemadarshan' tourism project:

- This **multipurpose tourism project** was completed under the direct guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
 - 'Seema darshan Project' was initiated with the **aim to provide an opportunity to the people so that they can visualize the life and work of the BSF personnel on our border.**
- 
- BSF is constantly protecting our borders in very adverse weather conditions.
 - Under the 'Seema Darshan Project', all kinds of tourist facilities and other special attractions have been developed at a **cost of 1 crore 25 lakhs.**
 - The project has several attractions, including the '**Beating Retreat**' ceremony, on the lines of the exercise held on the **Wagah-Attari border in Punjab.**
 - The border tourism will **help boost border security**, increase **people's respect towards the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel** and help **connect people with the security force.**
 - A **museum** housing the history of BSF has also been built.
 - There is a simulation of water crafts and fast attack crafts being used by BSF.
 - The all-terrain vehicle being used by us will also be displayed.
 - There is a firing simulator that will provide visitors with a virtual wartime experience.
 - Visitors will, also be allowed to see the border fence.

USOF SCHEME FOR PROVIDING MOBILE COVERAGE IN ARUNACHAL, ASSAM DISTRICTS

◎ CONTEXT:

In December 2020, the Union Cabinet had approved Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) Scheme for providing mobile coverage in Arunachal Pradesh and two hill districts of Assam, including Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao, under the Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP), which is expected to be completed by December 2022.

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF):

- USOF ensures that there is **universal non-discriminatory access to quality ICT** (Information and Communications Technology) services at economically efficient prices to people in rural and remote areas.
- It was created under the **Ministry of Communications in 2002.**
- It is a **non-lapsable fund**, i.e., the unspent amount under a targeted financial year does not lapse and is accrued for next years' spending.
- All credits to this fund require parliamentary approval and it has statutory support under **Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003.**
- **Objective**
 - **Economic:** Network extension & stimulate uptake of the ICT services

- **Social:** Mainstreaming the underserved & un-served areas/groups by bridging the Access Gap
- **Political:** to enable citizens exercise their political rights in an informed way and
- **Constitutional:** Equitable distribution of the fruits of the telecom/digital revolution and fair allocation of national resource (pooled USO levy) via targeted subsidies
- **Beneficiaries:** People in rural and remote areas of the country where ICT services are not available due to commercial non-viability on account of various combinations of reasons such as:
 - Sparse population
 - Remoteness of areas
 - Absence of supporting infrastructure (power, road etc.)
 - Low income of inhabitants
 - Insurgency
 - Difficult terrain

About the Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan:

- It envisages providing mobile coverage to 2374 uncovered villages (1683 in Arunachal Pradesh and 691 in two districts of Assam).
- The two districts of Assam are **KarbiAnglong** and **Dima Hasao**.
- It will be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund and is targeted to be completed by December, 2022.
- The work related to provision of 4G mobile services in identified uncovered villages will be awarded through open competitive bidding process as per extant USOF procedures.
- **Significance:**
 - It will enhance digital connectivity in the remote and difficult uncovered areas of Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam.
 - It will prove beneficial for facilitating learning, dissemination of information and knowledge, skill upgradation and development, disaster management, e-governance initiatives, establishment of enterprises and e-commerce facilities etc in the region.
 - It will play a vital role in adequate support to educational institutes for knowledge sharing and availability of job opportunities and fulfilling the vision of Digital India.
 - It will also promote domestic manufacturing and fulfill the objectives of AtmaNirbhar Bharat.

INDIAN COAST GUARD GETS NEW CHOPPER

- ◎ **CONTEXT:** Two Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mark-III made by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) were inducted into the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) or ALH-DHRUV:

- Advanced Light Helicopter or ALH-DHRUV is an indigenously developed utility aircraft by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) with a twin-engine.
- It has a multi-role, multi-mission dimension to it.
- Even though its development was started in 1984, and was initially designed with Germany's assistance **Messerschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm (MBB)**, the helicopter was first flown in 1992 but entered service after certification in 2002.

- According to HAL, the aircraft is “type –Certified” for military operations by the Centre for Military Airworthiness Certification and civil operations by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.
- The major variants of Dhruv are classified as **Dhruv Mk-I, Mk-II, Mk-III & Mk-IV**.
- The Mk 3 variant of the chopper is a maritime version that can be used for reconnaissance, long-range search and rescue, during both day and night.
- The two choppers, based at Kochi, are aimed at boosting coastal security along the coast of Kerala, Karnataka and around Lakshadweep, on India’s West Coast.

Role of ALH-DHRUV:

- Commuter role
- VIP travel
- Casualty evacuation
- Underslung load
- Rapid deployment of forces
- Logistic support
- Search and rescue
- Training purpose

Features:

- The ALH Mk 3 features an array of systems that were previously seen on heavier, multi-role helicopters. This variant is fitted with modern surveillance radar and electro-optical equipment.
- It is also fitted with a heavy machine gun and a removable intensive care unit, which would be useful in airlifting and providing relief to critically ill patients.
- With a host of advanced avionics, this chopper is an all-weather aircraft.

SAUDI ARABIA REPORTS 6 NEW MERS CASES, 4 DEATHS IN LAST 6 MONTHS

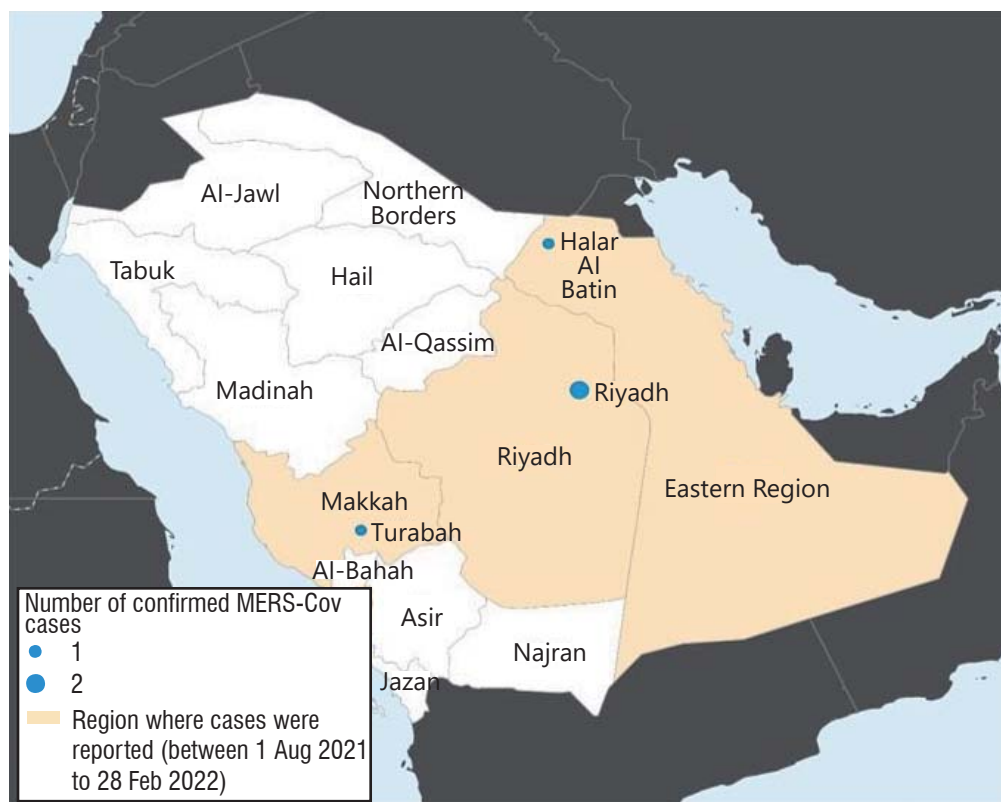
◎ CONTEXT:

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Saudi Arabia reported six fresh cases of the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) from August through February 2022.

About Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS):

- Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) is a **viral respiratory infection** that is caused by a coronavirus called **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)**.
- Infection with MERS-CoV can cause severe disease resulting in **high mortality**.
- Approximately **35%** of patients with MERS have died, but this may be an overestimate of the true mortality rate, as mild cases of MERS-CoV may be missed by existing surveillance systems and until more is known about the disease, the case fatality rates are counted only amongst the laboratory-confirmed cases.
- Humans are infected with MERS-CoV from direct or indirect contact with **dromedary camels** that are the natural host and **zoonotic source** of the MERS-CoV infection.
- MERS-CoV has demonstrated the ability to **transmit between humans**.

- MERS-CoV belongs to the same family of viruses that causes COVID-19.
- **Symptoms:** The symptoms of the disease are fever, cough, shortness of breath, pneumonia gastrointestinal symptoms (including diarrhea).



WORLD PARKINSON'S DAY

◎ CONTEXT:

World Parkinson's Day is observed every year on April 11 to spread awareness about the neurodegenerative disease.

About World Parkinson's Day:

- The day marks the anniversary of **James Parkinson** who wrote the article - **An Essay on the Shaking Palsy in 1817**, recognizing the disease for the first time.
- **Theme:** This year, the **theme** for the day is '**integrated health care**' – considered vital for all those living with Parkinson's disease.
 - The theme aims to stress the importance of a multidisciplinary approach involving mental health support, nutritional support, exercise, and language for the holistic well-being of those affected by this disease.

Parkinson's disease:

- The **neurodegenerative movement disorder Parkinson's disease** occurs when the **dopamine-producing cells** in a part of the brain called substantia nigra **start to deteriorate**.
- Parkinson's disease, a **progressive nervous system disorder**, **primarily affects movement due to the loss of specific brain cells**.
- It mainly affects people over 60, although younger people are also at risk.

- **Symptoms:** The symptoms of the disease are tremor in limbs, stiffness, problems in coordinating movements, posture problems, and sleep problems.
- Some patients may also report behavioural changes like: Depression, Fatigue, Memory difficulties, and Sleep problems.
- Parkinson's disease **has no cure** but it can be **managed by making some dietary changes**.
- **Fish oils, fava beans, antioxidant-rich meals, and foods strong in vitamins B1, C, and D are some of the foods that can help.**

RBI SETS NORMS FOR DIGITAL BANKING UNITS

◎ CONTEXT:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently laid down norms to allow commercial banks to open digital banking units (DBU) while mandating minimum products and services that must be offered in these units.

About Digital Banking Units (DBU):

- A digital banking unit (DBU) is a **specialised business unit** of a bank that houses certain **minimum digital banking products and services**.
- A bank can offer **specialised digital products** at any time **all year** from these units and also provide existing financial services products.
- The aim DBU is to **enable customers to have cost effective and convenient access** and enhanced digital experience of such products and services in "an efficient, paperless, secured and connected environment with most services being available in self-service mode at any time, all year round."

The Union Budget of 2022-23 had announced the **setting up of 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs)** in 75 districts to commemorate the 75 years of independence of our country.

RBI Guidelines:

- To start with, all scheduled commercial banks with past digital banking experience are allowed to open such units except for regional rural banks, local area banks and payments bank, **without prior approval of the RBI in tier-1 to tier-6 cities**.
- Each DBU **should be housed distinctly**, with separate entry and exit provisions.
 - They will be **separate from an existing banking outlet** with formats and designs most appropriate for digital banking users.
- Each DBU must **offer certain minimum digital banking products and services**.
 - Such products should be on both liabilities and assets side of the balance sheet of the digital banking segment.
- The DBUs are expected to **migrate to more structured and custom-made products**, from standard offerings by use of its hybrid and high quality interactive capabilities

Benefits of Digital Banking Units (DBUs):

- Digi banking units will help banks that are now looking to reduce their physical footprint with fewer brick and mortar branches, with a 'light' banking approach.
- DBUs will be **cheaper to establish than a new branch**, will also require less staff, and can be high-yield units for the parent bank.
- They can provide a **better customer experience**, aided by technology. These units will also encourage more financial literacy and a favorable outlook toward digital banking.

RBI ADDS A STANDING DEPOSIT FACILITY TO 'NORMALISE' LIQUIDITY

◎ CONTEXT:

While retaining the reverse repo rate at 3.35 per cent, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently introduced the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF).

Standing Deposit Facility (SDF):

- This concept was first recommended by the **Urjit Patel committee report** in 2014.
- Standing deposit facility is a **remunerated facility that will not require the provision of collateral for liquidity absorption**.
- Banks, at different points in time, may be short of funds or flush with money. When they need money for the short-term, they borrow from the bankers' bank—RBI.
 - **Repo rate** — that RBI sets at every monetary policy — is the rate at which banks borrow funds, for which they pledge government securities.
 - What happens when banks have excess funds? They lend it to the RBI at the **reverse repo rate** that is lower than the repo rate. Here too, government securities act as collateral.
- Standing Deposit Facility will **allow the RBI to absorb surplus funds from banks without collateral**.
- Banks too continue to earn interest (though possibly lower than the existing reverse repo rate).
- In effect, it will empower the RBI to suck out as much liquidity as needed.
- The SDF rate will be **25 bps below the policy rate (Repo rate)**, and it will be applicable to overnight deposits at this stage.
 - It would, however, retain the flexibility to absorb liquidity of longer tenors as and when the need arises, with appropriate pricing.
 - The RBI's plan is to restore the size of the liquidity surplus in the system to a level consistent with the prevailing stance of monetary policy.

Role of SDF

- The main purpose of **SDF is to reduce the excess liquidity of Rs 8.5 lakh crore in the system, and control inflation**.
- In 2018, the amended **Section 17 of the RBI Act empowered the Reserve Bank to introduce the SDF** – an additional tool for absorbing liquidity without any collateral.
- By **removing the binding collateral constraint on the RBI, the SDF strengthens the operating framework of monetary policy**.
- The SDF is also a **financial stability tool** in addition to its role in **liquidity management**.
- The SDF will **replace the fixed rate reverse repo (FRRR)** as the floor of the liquidity adjustment facility corridor. Both the standing facilities — the **MSF (marginal standing facility)** and the **SDF will be available on all days of the week**, throughout the year.

Question of liquidity

- The "extraordinary" liquidity measures undertaken in the wake of the pandemic, combined with the liquidity injected through various other operations of the RBI, have left a liquidity overhang of the order of Rs 8.5 lakh crore in the system.
- This has pushed up the retail inflation level in the system.

- The RBI will engage in a gradual and calibrated withdrawal of this liquidity over a multi-year time frame in a non-disruptive manner beginning this year.

ULTRA-MEGA SOLAR POWER PARK TO COME UP IN MAHARASHTRA

◎ CONTEXT:

Maharashtra government recently approved a joint venture between state-run MahaGenco and India's largest power generator NTPC which will set up an ultra-mega solar power park with a total generation capacity of 2,500 MW.

About

■ What is Solar Park?

- A solar park is a large chunk of land developed with all necessary infrastructure and clearances for setting up of solar projects.
- The capacity of solar parks is generally 500 MW and above.
- However, smaller parks (up to 20 MW) are also considered in states or Union Territories (UTs), where contiguous land may be difficult to acquire in view of difficult terrain and where there is acute shortage of non-agricultural land.

Solar power is a major prong of India's commitment to address global warming according to the terms of the **Paris Agreement**, as well as **achieving net zero**, or **no net carbon emissions**, by 2070.

Key-highlights of the Joint Venture:

- The Rs 1,727-crore project proposal, kick started in 2020.
- **Capital investment:** National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (or its subsidiary) and Maharashtra State Power Generation Company (Mahagenco) will have a capital investment of 50:50, respectively, for the development of Ultramega Renewable Solar Park.
- The parks are proposed to be developed under **engineering, procurement and commissioning (EPC)** contracts in 3 stages on lands owned by the **MAHAGENCO**, and others belonging to the state, centre or privately owned properties for the mega-venture.
- **Nodal agency:** The **state energy department** has been appointed as a nodal agency for project development.
- The JV has been bestowed with the responsibility of adhering to the **state's renewable energy policy** during the implementation of the proposed solar park.
- A lumpsum fee from the project holder in the solar energy parks, operation and maintenance fees, etc shall be charged.
- For non-conventional energy sources, 17,360 MW capacity generation projects shall be developed by March 21, 2025, which would include 12,930 MW of solar power projects.
- These projects would create 7,500 jobs during construction and 5,000 during operations, boost local economies, help provide clean and cheap energy to the consumers, reduce greenhouse effects and carbon footprints while providing affordable alternatives to conventional but expensive fossil fuels.

About National Thermal Power Corporation Limited:

- **NTPC Ltd. is a central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** under the **Ministry of Power**.
- It is **India's largest energy conglomerate** with roots planted way back in 1975 to accelerate power development in India.
- **Aim:** To provide reliable power and related solutions in an economical, efficient and environment-friendly manner, driven by innovation and agility.
- It became a **Maharatna company** in May 2010.
- It is located in New Delhi.

Progress made so far

- India currently ranks **fifth** after **China, U.S., Japan and Germany** in terms of installed solar power capacity.
- As of December 2021, the cumulative solar installed capacity of India is **55GW**, which is roughly half the renewable energy (RE) capacity (excluding large hydro power) and 14% of the overall power generation capacity of India.
- Within the 55GW, grid-connected utility-scale projects contribute 77% and the rest comes from grid-connected rooftop and off-grid projects.



- **Capacity approved:** based on the proposals received from the states, 52 solar parks with a cumulative capacity of 37.92 GW has been approved to 14 states up to November 2021.
- These solar parks are at different stages of development.
- The top four operational solar parks in India, as of November 2021, include:
 - Bhadla Solar Park in Rajasthan
 - Pavagada Solar Park in Karnataka
 - Kurnool Solar Park in Andhra Pradesh
 - Rewa Solar Park in Madhya Pradesh

World's Largest Announced Solar Park (Dholera, Gujarat)

- Around 80km from Ahmedabad, Gujarat aims to establish **India's largest 5,000 MW solar park** at Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR), and part of the centre's flagship Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor.

Floating Solar Park

- **NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPC REL)**, a 100 per cent subsidiary of NTPC, has received the go-ahead from the ministry to set up 4,750 MW renewable energy park at **Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat**.
- This will be **India's largest solar park** to be built by the largest power producer of the country.

ADVANTAGES OF APOSEMATISM

◎ **CONTEXT:**

Few animals and reptiles (such as frogs, snakes and butterflies), brightly coloured for self defence, uses smart tactic such as aposematism, to save themselves from prey.

What is Aposematism?

- The word aposematic is derived from the Greek ('apo' standing for 'away', and 'sematic' standing for 'sign').
- Sometimes, animals pursue the very opposite tactic to avoid being eaten by predators.
 - Instead of merging into the background, they actually **aggressively advertise themselves through colouration or shape that they are not worth eating**.
 - The **brightly coloured animal could be toxic, taste bad, smell foul or have spines or just be too aggressive**.
 - Perceiving that there is no profit in eating them the prey leaves them alone.
 - This tactic is called aposematism and the animal which pursues this is aposematic.
- The most common **colours are red, yellow, black and white**.

Examples:

- The **ladybird** and the **tiger moth** are bitter to eat.
- The poison **dart frog** has poisonous glands which can cause pain and the skunk has a foul-smelling odour.
- The **hornet moth** which looks like the yellowjacket wasp. The predator is fooled into thinking that the moth will sting it and so it leaves the moth alone.













SWALLOW SPECIES IN INDIA

◎ **CONTEXT:**

The two Swallow species in India- the barn swallow and the red-rumped swallow are both important resident species of Chennai. However, one (barn swallow) can be noticed easily but the other one (red-rumped swallow) remains in the shadow.

Swallows in India:

- In India, there are 15 species of swallows and martins, many of which look similar.
- **Red-rumped Swallow, Barn Swallow, Streak-throated Swallow and Wire-tailed Swallow** are perhaps the most common of these and are distributed in most of the country.
- Among these, **Red-rumped, Wire-tailed and Streak-throated Swallow** are largely resident but **Barn Swallow** is a winter visitor to most of the country and breeds **only in the Himalayas** within the region.

	Red-rumped Swallow	Streak-throated Swallow	Barn Swallow	Wire-tailed Swallow
Crown				
Throat				
Rump				

Red-rumped Swallow

- Brightly-colored swallow with a deeply forked tail, pale orangish rump, black squared-off undertail coverts, and an incomplete orange collar.
- **Varies significantly across range:** European and African birds have clean whitish or orangish underparts, while Asian birds are extensively streaked below; compare carefully with other "Cecropis" species where range overlaps occur.



Barn swallow

- The barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) is the most widespread species of swallow in the world.
- In fact, it appears to have the largest natural distribution of any of the world's passerine, ranging over 251 million square kilometres globally.
- It is a distinctive passerine bird with blue upperparts and a long, deeply forked tail.



- It is found in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas.
- In Anglophone Europe it is just called the swallow; in northern Europe it is the only common species called a "swallow" rather than a "martin".

HALF OF INDIAN STATES LAGS NATIONAL AVERAGE IN FIRST ENERGY, CLIMATE INDEX

◎ CONTEXT:

The NITI Aayog released India's first State Energy and Climate Index (SECI, Round 1) for performance in various dimensions of energy-efficiency and climate-resilience.

Key Finding:

- The overall **national score is 40.6**, which the central government think tank didn't find encouraging.
- More than half the states scored higher than the average, according to the index. This implies that the remaining couldn't even manage that.
- Three **UTs (Union territories) and two states have scored above 50**.
 - They are Chandigarh, Delhi, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
 - Gujarat and Goa are the best-performing state.
- **Chandigarh topped the index with a score of 55.7**.
 - Lakshadweep had the lowest score at 26.9.
- The Index categorised the states and UTs into **three segments**:
 - the top one-third are considered as front-runners
 - the middle one-third as achievers and
 - the last one-third as aspirants
- Among the larger states, Gujarat, Kerala, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra were categorised as **front-runners**.
- States like Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar were "**achievers**". The Rest were "aspirant".
- Among the larger states, **Gujarat** has scored the highest of **50.1**, followed by Kerala and Punjab with a score of 49.1 and 48.6 respectively.
- The lowest score of **31.7 was achieved by Chhattisgarh** and it can be observed from the parameters score that the state has not performed well in terms of clean energy initiatives, energy efficiency, environmental sustainability, and new initiatives.

The Index has based the overall performance on six parameters:

- Performance of DISCOMs (power distribution companies)
- Access, affordability and reliability of energy
- Clean energy initiatives
- Energy efficiency
- Environmental sustainability
- New Initiatives

RARE BUTTERFLY PALMKING SPOTTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TAMIL NADU

◎ **CONTEXT:** The rare butterfly Palmking has been spotted for the first time in Tamil Nadu.

About Butterfly Palmking:

- The unique woody species was **earlier seen only in Kerala**.
- It is the **first recorded instance** of the rare species **in Tamil Nadu**.
- Palmking was first recorded in South India by British scientist **H.S.Ferguson in 1891**.
 - More than a Century later, it was rediscovered in **2007 in Thenmala by C. Susanth**.

Distribution:

- This butterfly is widely distributed across parts of **India, Myanmar, Indo China, Peninsular Malaysia and Thailand**.
- It occurs in the Indonesian archipelago and the Philippines.
- In India, Palmking sightings were recorded in the forests of Arippa, Shendurney, Periyar Tiger Reserve in the south of Western Ghats.
- The butterfly is characterised by its brown colour and dark bands and is described as reclusive, mostly resting in the shade.
- It is not easy to spot a Palmking because its wood colour makes for easy camouflage and it rarely spreads its wings.
- Palmking belongs to the Nymphalidae subfamily and feeds on palm, coconut and calamus varieties of plants.



SECTION: C

(QUICK FACTS)

GOA-TAMNAR POWER LINE PROJECT: SC ACCEPTS PANEL RECOMMENDATION AGAINST CUTTING FOREST AREA

◎ **CONTEXT:**

The Supreme Court has accepted the Central Empowered Committee's (CEC) recommendation to utilise the existing 220 KV powerline alignment in Goa instead of cutting down fresh forest cover, to lay a new 400 KV line as part of the Goa-Tamnar transmission project.

Goa-Tamnar power line project

- The power transmission project envisaged laying a 400 KV transmission line from Sangod in Goa to the Karnataka border to help meet Goa's peak electricity demand of 1192 MW by 2022.
- The Goa-Tamnar Transmission Project is part of National Grid Development and was proposed to be implemented through the Special Purpose Vehicle Goa-Tamnar Transmission Project Private Limited, New Delhi.
- The project involved the laying of additional 400 KV feed to Goa.

TOP 100
ALL INDIA RANKING
CSE 2020

8 9 12 13 14 16 17 19 20
24 26 28 30 31 36 38 41 45 50
51 52 55 56 58 59 67 68 70 71 73
74 76 78 83 84 85 86 89 93 98 100

SUCCESS IS A PRACTICE WE DO!

TOP 100
ALL INDIA RANKING
CSE 2019

3 6 10 11 16 17 21 22 28
30 33 38 39 42 44 46 53 54 59 66 69
70 72 77 78 80 82 84 86 87 94 97 98

TOP 100
ALL INDIA RANKING
CSE 2018

2 3 5 7 27 36 37 40 44 49
51 52 56 58 62 74 81 89 92 94 98 100

TOP 100
ALL INDIA RANKING
CSE 2017

3 10 19 31 33 35 40 41 44 45 48
54 57 63 64 68 71 75 77 80 83 93 97 100