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Kasturirangan Committee report on Western Ghats

Recently, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai informed the Central Government about the state's opposition to the 'Kasturirangan Committee report on Western Ghats'.

- The Chief Minister of Karnataka says that the declaration of the Western Ghats as an 'ecologically sensitive area' will adversely affect the livelihood of the people living in this region.
- However, experts termed the state's protest as disastrous for the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats.

Report of 'Gadgil Committee':

The 'Gadgil Committee' has defined the boundaries of the Western Ghats for 'ecological management purposes'.

- This committee has recommended to declare the entire area as an 'Ecologically Sensitive Area' (ESA).
- Within this zone, smaller areas should be marked as 'Ecologically Sensitive Zone I, II or III (ESZ I, ESZ II or ESZ III)', depending on their current status and the nature of the threat.
- The 'Gadgil Committee' proposed dividing the region into approximately 2,200 grids, of which 75 per cent should be placed within ESZ I or ESZ II or already existing protected areas, such as wildlife sanctuaries or natural parks Was.
- The committee has also proposed to set up a 'Western Ghats Ecology Authority' to regulate the activities in this area.

Reasons for the formation of Kasturirangan Committee:

The 'Gadgil Committee' submitted its report in August 2011, and none of the six states adjoining the Western Ghats agreed with the recommendations of the 'Gadgil Committee'.

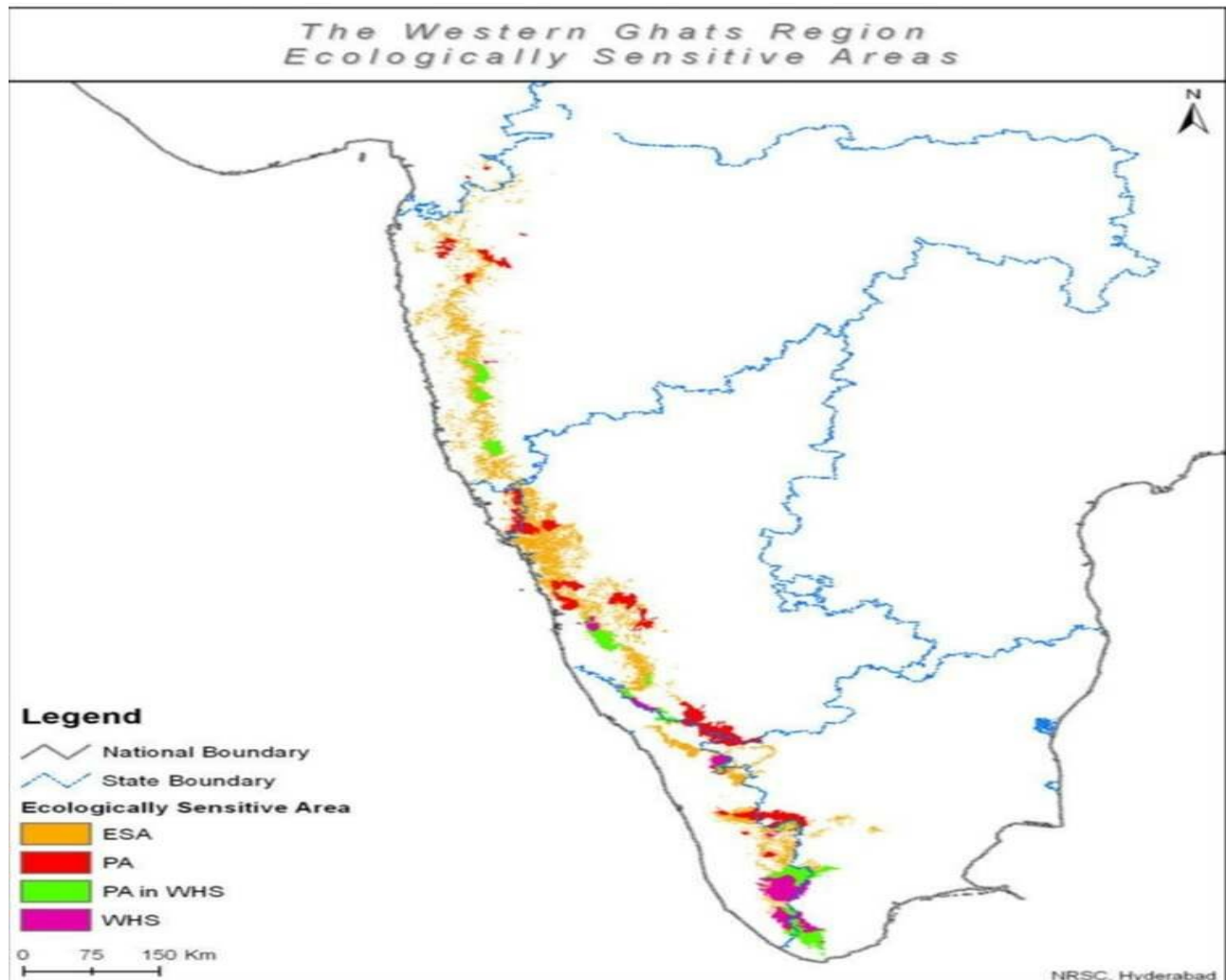
- In August 2012, the then Environment Minister under the chairmanship of 'Kasturirangan' to "examine" the Gadgil Committee report in a "holistic and multi-disciplinary manner" in light of the responses received from states, central ministries and other concerned units. A high-level working group was formed at the ghat.

- The Kasturirangan report has suggested bringing only 37% of the Western Ghats area under Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) areas, which is much lower than the 'Gadgil Report' suggested to bring 64% of the area under ESA. Is.

Kasturirangan Committee Recommendations:

- Prohibition on mining, quarrying and sand mining in the Western Ghats region.
- No new thermal power projects, but hydro projects may be permitted with restrictions.
- Ban on new polluting industries.
- Allowing building and construction projects up to 20,000 square meters, but banning 'township' projects has been recommended.
- Change in forest-land use may be allowed with additional safeguards.

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Significance of Western Ghats:

- The Western Ghats are a vast region spread over six states. It is home to many endangered plants and animals. Also, this area is included in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list.
- It is one of the eight "hottest hot-spots" of biological diversity in the world.
- According to UNESCO, the Western Ghats are older than the Himalayas. They affect the weather pattern of the Indian monsoon by blocking the 'rain-laden

monsoon winds' coming from the south-west towards the end of summer.

world inequality report

Recently, 'World Inequality Report 2022' has been released.

Important facts about World Inequality Report (WIR):

- This report has been released by 'World Inequality Lab', a research center of 'Paris School of Economics'.

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- The 'World Inequality Report' studies different types of financial data to know about the distribution of income and wealth in a country (and the world).

Significance of this report- need for study on inequalities:

The information in this report is very important, because in most democracies, wealthy individuals can and do convert their economic power into political power. And so, the higher the inequality in a country, the more likely it is that the economically well-off minorities can determine the fate of the country's majority.

The availability of accurate data about inequality levels can help build public opinion in favor of policy measures capable of reducing inequality.

Key findings of the World Inequality Report, 2022:

- The gap between the rich and the poor in terms of participation in national income is large, and the gap is widening rapidly as a result of government policies favoring the wealthy elite. The richest 10 percent of the global population accounts for 52% of global income, while the poorest 50% of the population receives only 5% of it.
- Global wealth inequality is worse than income inequality. The poorest 50% of the population holds only 2% of the global wealth, while the richest 10% of the population holds 76% of the total wealth.
- Inequality between countries is decreasing, while inequality within countries is increasing. The gap between the median income of the richest 10% of countries and the average income of the poorest 50% of countries has decreased from 50 times to less than 40 times. Within countries, the gap between the median income of the top 10% of individuals and the bottom 50% of individuals has nearly doubled (5 times to 15 times).

- Countries are getting richer, but governments are getting poorer: the share of privately owned assets in national wealth is increasing, while the share of public assets (buildings, universities, roads, hospitals, etc.) is decreasing.

Inequality between continents:

According to the report, Europe is the continent with the least inequality, and the top 10% of the population accounts for 36% of the income. The highest inequality is seen in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), where the top 10% of the population accounts for 58 percent of the income.

Income Inequality in India:

- India is one of the most unequal countries in the world, and the top 1% of the population accounts for 7% of the national income.
- The top 10 percent of Indians account for 57% of the national income, while the bottom 50% account for only 13% of the population.
- The average national income of the bottom 50% of the population is ₹53,610, while the income of the top 10% of the population is 20 times higher, i.e. ₹11,66,520.

Inequality in India- Before and After 1947:

The present 'income inequality' in India is worse than during the British rule. During the British rule (1858–1947), the top 10% of the population in India accounted for about 50% (less than the current 57%) of the national income.

- In the decades after India gained independence, socialist economic policies reduced income inequality, increasing the share of the top 10% of the population to 35-40%.
- According to the report, since the 1980s, "the world has seen the greatest increase in income and

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wealth inequality due to regulation and liberalization policies.”

Overall conclusion of the report:

The report highlights the fact that inequality and poverty are not inevitable or certain, but are primarily the result of policy decisions.

- The report traces the causes of increasing inequalities around the world, following liberalization programs implemented in various countries since the 1980s – unlike the previous three decades.

- In the World Inequality Report, 2022, policy measures include the imposition of wealth tax on the super-rich and, a strong redistribution regime, which, if not reverse the current trend of increasing inequality, may at least prevent it. Yes, it is recommended to prepare.

PepsiCo Patent Disputes

Recently, the 'Plant Variety' given to PepsiCo India Holding (PIH) on potato variety (FL-2027) on various grounds by 'Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV&FRA)' The 'Plant Variety Protection (PVP)' certificate has been revoked.

This included the following grounds:

- The registration certificate was granted on the basis of wrong information provided by the applicant.
- The certificate was given to a person who was not eligible for protection.
- Issuance of registration certificate was not in public interest.

Related case:

In the year 2019, PepsiCo sued some Indian farmers in Gujarat for cultivating the FC5 potato variety. This variety of potato has less moisture content for making snacks like 'chips'.

- The same year the New York-based company withdrew all lawsuits, saying it wanted to settle the issue amicably.

- Later, a farmer's rights activist 'Kavita Kuruganti' in the 'Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights' authority / 'PPVFR Authority' to revoke the 'Intellectual Protection' granted to PepsiCo's FC5 potato variety The petition was filed and stated that as per Indian law, patents are not allowed on varieties of 'seed'.

Please note that section 39 of the 'Protection of Plant Species and Farmers' Rights' (PPV&FR) Act, 2001 specifically states that no farmer shall be allowed to grow and sell any kind of crop or even seed permitted, as long as they do not undertake to sell branded seeds of the registered species.

'Protection of Plant Species and Farmers Rights' (PPV&FR) Act, 2001:

The 'Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001 (Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001), enacted by the Government of India in the year 2001 by adopting the 'sui generis system' it was done.

- This act is in line with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), 1978.

- The Act recognizes the contribution of both commercial plant breeders and farmers in plant breeding activities, as well as the 'trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights' (intellectual property rights) while supporting the specific socio-economic interests of all stakeholders. Provision has

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been made to implement Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

Objectives of the PPV&FR Act, 2001:

- To establish an effective system for protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the development of new plant varieties.
- To recognize and protect the rights of farmers in terms of making available plant genetic resources for the development of new varieties of plants and the contribution made by farmers in their conservation and improvement at any time.
- To protect the rights of plant breeders, to accelerate agricultural development in the country; To encourage investment in research and development, both in the public and private sectors, for the development of new plant varieties.
- Facilitating the development of seed industry in the country so as to ensure availability of high quality seeds and planting material to the farmers.

Rights under the Act:

Plant-species Breeders' Rights (BREEDERS' RIGHTS): Plant-species breeders shall have exclusive rights to breed, sell, market, distribute and import-export protected plant species. If their rights are violated, then they can take refuge in the law for this. Breeding Species Breeders may also appoint their own agents and licensees.

RESEARCHERS' RIGHTS: Under the Act, the researcher may use or use any registered variety for conducting research. Researchers may use a species as the 'origin source of the species' for the purpose of developing a new species, but repeated use of that species will require prior permission from the 'registered breeder'.

Farmers' Rights:

1. A farmer developing a new species is entitled to be registered and protected as a breeder of that species 'variety' in the same manner as the breed producing companies;
2. The new variety produced by the farmer can be registered as an existing variety;
3. Under the PPV&FR Act, 2001, a farmer can save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange, or be sold in the manner in which he was entitled before the commencement of this law; Provided that the farmer shall not sell any branded seed species protected under the Act;
4. Farmers will be entitled to appropriate respect and rewards for the conservation of plant genetic resources and wild types of cash crops grown in the fields;
5. As per section 39(2) of the Act, if the new plant species introduced by the farmer is not fruitful properly, then he can get compensation for it;
6. Powers of Councils: District and Regional Councils administer the areas under their jurisdiction. They can make laws on certain specified matters like land, forest, canal water, transferred agriculture, village administration, inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs, but all such laws require the consent of the governor.
7. Gram Sabhas: District and regional councils under their regional courts can constitute village councils or courts to hear cases and cases among tribes. They listen to his appeal. The jurisdiction of the High Court over these cases and matters is specified by the Governor.

UN observer status for 'Solar Alliance'

Recently, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) has been granted 'Observer Status' by the United

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Nations General Assembly. India has called it a historic decision.

Importance of Supervisor Status:

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) accorded observer status to the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in the United Nations General Assembly to establish regular and well-defined cooperation between the Solar Alliance and the United Nations. Which will help in energy growth and development at the global level.

About International Solar Alliance (ISA):

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was envisioned as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through 'solar energy solutions'.

- It was launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30 November 2015 during the COP-21 organized in the French capital Paris.

- ISA is a coalition of more than 122 countries.

- ISA is an alliance of solar resource rich countries, located wholly or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn, to meet their energy needs by using solar energy.

- In the Paris Declaration, ISA has been declared as a coalition dedicated to the promotion of solar energy among its member countries.

- The International Solar Alliance facilitates large-scale deployment of existing solar technologies, and promotes collaborative solar R&D and capacity building.

Secretariat:

- Foundation stone of 'International Solar Alliance' headquarters was laid jointly by India and France in 'Gurugram'.

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- The Interim Secretariat of ISA was inaugurated by him in the 'National Institute of Solar Energy Complex' located in Gurugram, Haryana.

purpose:

- The key objectives of the 'International Solar Alliance' include deploying over 1,000GW of solar generation capacity globally and mobilizing more than US\$1000 billion investment in solar energy by 2030.

- Under ISA, it is envisaged to enable complete ecosystem for technology, availability and development of economic resources, and development of storage technology, large-scale manufacturing and innovation.

Signatory:

- A total of 80 countries have signed and ratified the 'International Solar Alliance' framework agreement, and 101 countries have only signed the agreement.

Need:

More ambitious solar energy programs can be launched with low-cost technology.

Solar energy is a major source of cheap and reliable energy. Successful implementation of the project can play an important role in achieving Universal Energy Access Goal (SDG 7).

Six major programs of 'International Solar Alliance' can prove to be a 'game changer' for environmental protection.

1. Solar applications for agricultural use,
2. Largely Affordable Finance,
3. Mini Grid,
4. Solar Rooftops
5. 'Solar e-mobility' and storage

Konyak Naga

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The Konyak Union (KU), the apex body of the Konyak Nagas tribe living in the 'Mon' district of Nagaland, has called for new rules to continue its "non-cooperation" with the armed forces on Konyak soil. has announced. The decision was taken recently, after 14 civilians were killed in a security encounter in Oting village.

About Konyak Naga Community:

- The Konyak Nagas are the largest community among all the Naga tribes.
- They live in the Mon district of Nagaland - which is also known as 'The Land of the Anghs'.
- Anghs/Wangs are their traditional chiefs whom they respect very much.
- The people of this tribe, after beheading an enemy, make tattoos on their faces.
- Work like gun making, iron melting, brass work, and gunpowder making them different from other communities. These people also specialize in making 'Junglau' (Machetes) and wooden sculptures.
- Festivals: Aoleng, the biggest festival of the Konyak community, celebrated in the first week of April (1-6) to welcome spring and invoke the blessings of the Almighty (Kahwang) on the land before planting the seeds It's a festival.
- 'Lao Ong Mo', a traditional harvest festival celebrated in the months of August/September, is another of their festivals.

'Durga Puja' included in UNESCO's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' list
'Durga Puja in Kolkata' has been included in the representative list of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity' by the 'Inter-Governmental Committee for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage'.

So far in all, 14 'Intangible Cultural Heritage Elements' of India have been included in the representative list of UNESCO.

Implication:

Inclusion in UNESCO's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' list, the all-inclusive of 'Durga Puja', along with local communities celebrating Durga Puja, all traditional craftsmen, designers, artists, and those organizing large-scale cultural events Tourists and visitors participating in the festival will be encouraged.

About 'Durga Puja':

'Durga Puja' is a five-day festival, which begins on the fifth night of the nine-day Navratri festival and ends on the tenth day i.e. Dashami. In this period, people collectively worship and invoke the Shaktiform goddess Durga, considered the feminine energy of the universe.

Although this festival has its origin in 'West Bengal', but this festival is also celebrated in India and many other parts of the world.

Many see it as more of a 'feeling' than a festival.

'Durga Puja' is a perfect amalgamation of religion and culture.

About 'Intangible Cultural Heritage':

According to UNESCO, 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' includes traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festivals and celebrations, nature and the universe. related practices or knowledge and traditional craftsmanship skills are included.

The 'Intangible Cultural Heritage List' has been constituted by UNESCO with the objective of ensuring better protection of important 'intangible cultural heritage/heritages' in the world and to spread awareness about their importance.



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This list was created in the year 2008, following the coming into force of the 'Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Convention, 2003 (2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage).

As of 2010, two lists have been compiled under this program:

The long, representative list of humanity's intangible cultural heritage includes cultural "practices and

expressions, [which] help to demonstrate the diversity of this heritage and to raise awareness of its importance."

The short list of 'intangible cultural heritages' in need of immediate protection, includes those cultural elements which the communities and countries concerned consider the need to take immediate measures to preserve/keep alive.

CAREER PLUS

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LIST OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGES IN INDIA

Recognized by UNESCO

- 1 BUDDHIST CHANTING**
The sacred texts chanted by the Buddhist lamas (priests) in the Ladakh region. Each of the Buddhist sects has several forms of chanting.
- 2 KALBELIA**
A folk song and dance form of Rajasthan. 'Khanjari' percussion instrument and the 'Poongi', a woodwind instrument are used during the performance. Kalbelia songs disseminate mythological knowledge through stories. At times, the lyrics are spontaneously composed and improvised during the performance.
- 3 CHHAU DANCE**
A tradition from eastern India that enacts episodes from epics including the Mahabharata and Ramayana, local folklore and abstract themes. It is closely connected to the regional festivals specifically the Chaitra Parva.
- 4 KOODIYATTAM**
A Sanskrit theatrical tradition practised in a province of Kerala, traditionally performed in theatres called as Kuttampalams located in the Hindu temples.
- 5 KUMBH MELA**
The festival of a sacred pitcher where the pilgrims bathe or take a dip in the sacred river.
- 6 MUDIYETT**
A ritual dance drama from the state of Kerala based on a mythological tale of the battle between Darika - the demon and goddess Kali.
- 7 NAWRUZ**
The Persian New year celebrated worldwide. It involves street performances of music and dance, public rituals involving water and fire, traditional sports and the making of handicrafts.
- 8 RAMLILA**
The traditional performance of Ramayana performed across North India during the festival of Dussehra. Most representatives are those performed in Sattna, Vrindavan, Varanasi, and Ramnagar.
- 9 RAMMAN**
A religious festival in honour of the tutelary god, Bhumiya Devta practised in the villages of Saloor-Dungra in the state of Uttarakhand. Each of the caste and occupational groups has distinctive roles in the festival.
- 10 SANKIRTANA**
Includes a set of arts performed to mark religious occasions and various stages in the life of the Vaishnava people of the Manipur plains.
- 11 TRADITIONAL BRASS AND COPPER CRAFT OF UTENSIL MAKING**
The craft of the Thatheras of Jandiara. Guru constitutes the traditional technique of manufacturing brass and copper utensils in Punjab.
- 12 VEDIC CHANTING**
The tradition of Vedic chanting, chanted during sacred rituals and recited daily by the Vedic communities known not only for the rich content of its oral literature but also for the ingenious techniques employed by the Brahmin priests.
- 13 YOGA**
The art of unifying the mind with body and soul for greater spiritual, mental and physical well-being. It consists of a series of poses, meditation, controlled breathing, word chanting etc.

Payments Banks and Small Finance Banks allowed to do 'Government Agency Business'

Recently, Payments Banks and Small Finance Banks have been permitted by the Reserve Bank of India to carry out 'Govt. agency business'.

For this, a condition has been laid that the bank concerned should not be under the 'Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)' framework or moratorium.

Power to recognize 'Agency Bank':

The option to recognize 'Agency Banks' (including Scheduled Private Sector Agency Banks) for a

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particular 'Government Agency Business', rests entirely with the concerned Departments of the Central Government / State Governments.

Implication:

- Following this arrangement, banks are now involved in Request for Proposals, Primary Auction, Fixed Rate and Variable Repo Rate, and Reverse Repo, and 'Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)' issued by the Government and other large corporations. can participate.

- Also, banks will now be eligible to participate in financial inclusion schemes run by the government.

About 'Small Finance Bank':

'Small Finance Banks' (SFBs) are financial institutions providing financial services to underbanked and unbanked areas in the country.

- 'Small Finance Banks' (SFBs) are registered as a 'Public Limited Company' under the 'Companies Act,' 2013.

- These banks, like other commercial banks, can engage in all basic banking activities, such as lending and accepting deposits.

- It was suggested by the 'Nachiket Mor Committee' constituted on Financial Inclusion to establish their 'Small Finance Banks'.

- 'Small Finance Banks' cannot give loans of large amount. In addition, they cannot establish subsidiaries or trade in hi-tech products.

Payments Banks:

Payments banks were set up to promote financial inclusion by providing 'small savings accounts and payment/remittance services to migrant labor workforce, low income households, small enterprises, other unorganized sector entities and other users'.

- Payment banks can accept deposits only up to a certain limit. At present, the maximum limit for accepting deposits is Rs 200,000 per person, but it can be increased in future.

- These banks may not provide loans or credit cards. However, such banks can handle both 'Current' and 'Savings' accounts.

- Payment banks may provide ATM and debit cards as well as online and mobile banking facilities.

Increase in the legal age of marriage for women

Recently, the Union Cabinet has decided to increase the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years

The decision is based on the recommendation of a committee constituted under the chairmanship of 'Jaya Jaitley'.

Task force:

Last year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech proposed to set up a committee to determine the 'age of the girl child to attain motherhood' to reduce maternal mortality and improve nutrition levels.

However, when the decision to appoint the task force was announced, its terms of reference— ToR were to examine 'the health and nutritional status of mothers and infants, and the 'relationship between age of marriage and maternal age'. ' was also included.

Important Recommendations:

- The minimum age prescribed for marriage should be raised to 21 years.

- The government should focus on increasing the access of girls to schools and colleges, and transportation of girls from remote areas to educational institutions.

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- The inclusion of skills and vocational training, and sex education in schools has also been recommended.
- These recommendations should be given priority, because unless they are implemented and women are empowered, the marriage-age law will not be as effective as expected.

Arguments in favor of the proposals submitted by the Committee:

According to the committee, that the above recommendations are based more on 'women empowerment and gender equality' than on the logic of 'population control' (India's 'total fertility rate' is already declining). The committee says that for the law to be effectively implemented, access to education and livelihood must be increased simultaneously.

Criticism:

- Women's rights activists have opposed this suggestion, citing a number of evidences to prove that such proceedings are used to 'imprison' young adults who marry without parental consent. can be done.
- Also, this move will 'criminalise' a large number of marriages that take place after the law comes into force, that is, marriages that take place in large numbers will be treated as 'crimes'.

Statutory provisions in this regard:

Currently, as per the law, the minimum age of marriage for men and women is fixed at 21 and 18 years respectively.

The minimum age prescribed for marriage is different from the age of majority. Adulthood is gender neutral.

1. According to the Indian Adulthood Act, 1875, a

person becomes an 'adult' on attaining the age of 18 years.

2. For Hindus, Section 5 (iii) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, sets the minimum age for the bride at 18 years and for the groom at 21 years. Child marriage is not illegal but the marriage can be declared void at the request of a minor (bride or groom) in the marriage.

3. In Islam, marriage after a minor has attained puberty is considered valid under Muslim Personal Law.

4. Under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, 18 and 21 years have been prescribed as the minimum age of consent for marriage for women and men respectively.

The need for reconsideration of this law:

Many arguments have been made in favor of raising the minimum age of marriage for women to reduce the risks of early pregnancy and to bring about 'gender-neutrality'.

- Early pregnancy is associated with increased child mortality and affects the health of the mother.
- Child marriage is prevalent in the country even after the minimum age requirement for marriage and having sex with a minor has been declared a crime.

In addition, according to one study, children born to teenage mothers (10-19 years) were 5 percent more likely to be stunted than those born to young-adult mothers (20-24 years). There is a possibility.

'Meendum Manjappai' scheme

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has launched the campaign 'Meendum Manjappai' with an aim to

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create awareness about the use of cloth bags instead of 'single use plastic' bags.

The Tamil Nadu government has already banned 14 types of plastic materials.

Need:

Enforcement is vital for the bans on plastic materials to be effective.

There is also a need for the government to address critical structural issues, such as regulating the use of plastic alternatives, improving recycling, and policies such as better waste segregation management.

In addition to improving recycling, investing in research and development for other options to tackle this problem should also be a priority.

tolkappiyam

Recently, the Hindi translation of Tolkāppiyam and the Kannada translation of nine books of classical Tamil literature were released by the Minister of State for Education.

o Tamil literature, belonging to the Sangam era, is named after the assembly of poets (sangam).

o Tolkappiyam was composed by Tolkappiyar and is considered the earliest of Tamil literary works.

o Although this work deals with Tamil grammar, it also provides insight into the political and socio-economic conditions of the time.

o Some in the Tamil tradition place this composition in the 'mythical second Sangam' of the millennium BC or earlier.

WTO's dispute settlement system

Recently, a case has been initiated by the European Union against Beijing in the World Trade

Organization (WTO) after China targeted Lithuania because of its stand on Taiwan.

- Lithuania caused a stir in July by allowing Taiwan to open a diplomatic embassy in its Vilnius city.

- This move of Lithuania angered Beijing. China does not recognize Taiwan as a nation and considers the self-governing democratic island a rebel territory of its mainland.

Lithuania:

- It is one of the three Baltic countries located on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea.

- Lithuania shares a terrestrial border with Latvia to the north, Belarus to the east and south, Poland to the south, and the Kaliningrad Oblast of Russia to the southwest.

Dispute Settlement in WTO:

Resolving trade disputes is one of the major activities of the WTO.

- When it appears to the government of a member state that another member country is violating any agreement or commitment of the 'WTO', then a situation of dispute arises between them.

- The dispute settlement system of the 'WTO' is one of the most active 'international dispute systems' in the world. Since 1995, 609 disputes have been brought to the WTO and more than 350 decisions have been delivered by it.

There are two main ways to settle a dispute once a complaint is filed with the WTO:

1. A mutually agreed solution is arrived at by the Parties, especially during the bilateral consultation phase.

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2. After the implementation of the report of the Panel and the Appellate Body, the matter is decided by the Dispute Redressal Body. This decision is binding on the parties concerned.

The 'dispute settlement process' in the WTO consists of three main stages:

1. Consultations between the parties.
2. Decision by the Panel, and if applicable, by the Appellate Body.
3. Implementation of the decision. Under this, measures can be taken against the losing party for failure to implement the decision.

Appellate body of WTO:
The Appellate Body of the WTO, established in the year 1995, is a seven-member standing committee that hears appeals against decisions passed in trade disputes brought by WTO member states.

- Countries involved in disputes relating to breaches of the WTO agreement or prescribed obligations may approach the appellate body if it feels that the report of the panel set up to investigate the matter should be reviewed on points of law.
- However, the Appellate Body does not re-examine the existing evidence but reviews the legal interpretations.
- The appellate body may uphold, modify or reverse the legal findings of the panel hearing the dispute. The decision of the Panel can be appealed by one or both the parties to the dispute.

An illustrated book on India's unsung heroines released

(Comic book 'India's Women Unsung Heroes' released)

Recently, an illustrated book on 'Unsung Heroines of India's Freedom Struggle' was released by the Ministry of Culture as part of 'Azadi Ka Mahotsav'. This book covers the stories of 20 unsung women freedom fighters of India.

The Ministry of Culture in association with 'Amar Chitra Katha' has decided to release illustrated books on 75 unsung heroes of the freedom struggle.

The second edition will be on 25 anonymous tribal freedom fighters which is under process and will take some time. The third and final edition will take on 30 unsung heroes from other regions.

Some of the main heroines included in the book:

Queen Abbakka:

Queen Abbakka Chowta was the first Tuluva queen of Chowta Ullal of Karnataka, who fought and defeated the mighty Portuguese in the 16th century.

She belonged to the Chauta dynasty. Who ruled from Moodbidri, the city of temples. The port city of Ullal was his tributary capital. The rule of the Chauta dynasty was spread over parts of coastal Karnataka (Tulu Nadu) in India. Their capital was Puttige.

Matangini Hazra (Matangiri Hazra):

Matangini Hazra was a brave freedom fighter of Bengal, who sacrificed her life while agitating against the British.

- He participated in the Indian independence movement. In 1930, he participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement and was arrested for breaking the Salt Act.

- On 29 September 1942, he was shot dead by the British Indian Police in front of Tamluk Police Station (erstwhile Midnapore District).

- She was known as 'Gandhi Budhi'.

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Gulab Kaur:

Gulab Kaur was a freedom fighter who sacrificed her life's hopes and aspirations and her dreams of life abroad to fight and organize the Indian people against the British Raj.

- In Manila, the capital of the Philippines, Gulab Kaur joined the Ghadar Party, an organization founded by Indian diaspora with the aim of freeing the Indian subcontinent from British rule.

Queen Velu Nachiyar:

Queen Velu Nachiyar of Sivaganga was the first Indian queen to wage war against the British East India Company.

- She ruled as the queen of the princely state of Sivaganga from 1780-1790.
- She is known as Veeramangai (Brave Woman) by Tamils.
- He fought the East India Company with the support of Hyder Ali's army, feudatories, Marudhu brothers, Dalit generals and Thandavarayana Pillai.

Jhalkari Bai:

Jhalkari Bai was a female warrior and one of the chief advisors of the Rani of Jhansi.

- He played an important role in the Revolt of 1857, the first war of Indian independence.
- During the severe siege of Jhansi, she herself took the guise of Rani Laxmibai and took the front against the British army, giving the queen an opportunity to get out of the fort safely. She attained Veergati while fighting the British.

Ethanol as an alternative fuel

(Ethanol as an alternate fuel)

However, there has been steady progress in increasing the share of ethanol in auto-fuels in the country. The share of ethanol in vehicle-fuel was 5% a year ago, which has increased to 8.1% in the 'Ethanol Supply Year (ESY)' 2020-21 (December-November). If the target of 20% ethanol blending is to be achieved by the year 2025, it will require attention to several issues.

Importance of Ethanol Blending:

- Since the majority of petroleum products are used in the transportation sector, a successful program to use '20% Ethanol Blended Petrol' (E20), could potentially save the country \$4 billion per year.
- Using E20, there is an estimated 6-7% reduction in fuel efficiency of four wheelers originally designed for regular petrol.

background:

- Under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) program by the Government, in line with the 'National Policy on Biofuels-2018 : NBP-2018', the blending of ethanol with major automotive fuels such as petrol will be allowed. is being promoted.
- In this policy, a target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol has been set by the year 2030.

Factors determining the extent of ethanol blending: The paucity of adequate quality feedstock and sporadic availability of ethanol across the country play an important role in determining the extent of ethanol blending, as the supply of feedstock, mainly in sugar producing states, is presently is focused.

Efforts being made by the government in this regard:

1. The government has allowed production of ethanol from sugarcane and food-based raw materials.

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2. The 'out-of-mill' price has been fixed by the government for ethanol manufactured from sugarcane based raw material.
3. Remunerative prices have been fixed for ethanol produced from various feedstocks.
4. Interest subvention schemes have been notified for setting up new distilleries/distilleries based on molasses and grains and for expansion of existing distilleries.

Ethanol

1. Ethanol can be produced from crops with high starch content, such as sugarcane, maize, wheat, etc.
2. In India, ethanol is produced mainly from sugarcane molasses by a fermentation process.
3. Ethanol can be mixed with gasoline to form various formulations.
4. Since the ethanol molecules contain oxygen, which enables the engine to fully combust the fuel, resulting in reduced emissions and environmental pollution.
5. Ethanol is produced from plants that receive energy from the sun, so ethanol is also considered a renewable fuel.

contempt of court (Contempt of Court)

Chief Justice of India N.V. Raman has dismissed a plea seeking initiation of "contempt action" against Haryana government officials for not curbing the "goons" who create an "atmosphere of communal hatred and terror" against the worshipers who offer Friday prayers in Gurugram. agreed to be listed for immediate hearing.

Related case:

The petition, filed in the apex court, has condemned the inaction of the officers of Haryana, terming it as violative of the Supreme Court's decision of the year 2018. The court, in its judgment, had said that the authorities should not be silent spectators in the matter of communal violence and should not tolerate it and use the law against hate crimes.

What is 'contempt'?

Although the basic idea of 'Contempt Law' is to punish those who do not respect the orders of the courts. But in the Indian context, contempt is also used to reduce the dignity of the court and to punish language or expressions that interfere with judicial administration.

Contempt of court can be of two types: civil contempt and criminal contempt.

1. Civil contempt: Civil contempt is defined as the willful breach of any judgment, order, direction, writ or other process of court or promise made in court.
2. Criminal contempt: Under criminal contempt, attempts to defame the court or to interfere with or obstruct a judicial proceeding by publication of any matter (verbal or written words, signs, visual images, or otherwise) is included.

Relevant Provisions:

1. Articles 129 and 215 of the Indian Constitution empower the Supreme Court and the High Court respectively to punish persons guilty of contempt of court.
2. Section 10 of the Contempt Act of 1971 defines the power of the High Court to punish for contempt of courts subordinate to it.
3. The Constitution also incorporates reasonable restrictions on freedom of expression under Article

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19 in the form of contempt of court, including references to public order and defamation.

Five river-linking projects announced in the Union Budget

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech has proposed 'five river linking projects' in India.

Rivers identified for the project:

Godavari-Krishna, Krishna-Pennar and Pennar-Cauvery, Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada (Par-Tapi-Narmada).

Brief description of these rivers:

- Krishna River is the fourth largest river in India. It originates from Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra and flows through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- The Kaveri river originates from 'Kodagu' and flows through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- The Pennar River originates from 'Chikkaballapura' and flows through Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
- Godavari River is the third largest river in India. It originates from Nashik and flows through Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Orissa.

The Damanganga-Pinjal river linking project aims at diverting surplus water from the Damanganga basin to the city to provide domestic water for the city of Mumbai.

Under the 'Par-Tapi-Narmada project', it is proposed to divert excess water from seven reservoirs located in the Western Ghats region of North Maharashtra and South Gujarat to suspected areas of Kutch and Saurashtra.

Advantages of Interlinking:

- Increase in water and food security
- Proper use of water
- Promotion of Agriculture
- Disaster Reduction
- Promotion of Transport

Related Controversies and Concerns:

- Interlinking of rivers is a very costly proposition. This will adversely affect the land, forests, biodiversity, rivers and livelihood of millions of people.
- Interlinking of rivers will lead to destruction of forests, wetlands and local water bodies. Wetlands are a major mechanism for groundwater recharge.
- Such projects cause mass displacement of people. This places a heavy burden on the government to deal with the issue of resettlement of the displaced.
- Interlinking of rivers will reduce the amount of fresh water falling into the sea and will seriously threaten marine life.

Motion of thanks to President's Address

At the beginning of the budget session, the President of India addresses the joint sitting of Parliament. The President's address usually highlights the achievements of the government during the past year and outlines the goals and plans for the future.

After this address, the Motion of thanks to the President's Address is discussed.

Vote of thanks:

After the President's address, a 'Motion of Thanks' is presented by the MPs of the ruling party in each House.

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- During this, political parties discuss the Motion of Thanks and also suggest amendments.
- The action of 'President's Address' and 'Motion of Thanks' is done in accordance with Article 86(1) and 87(1) of the Constitution and Rule 16 to Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

Amendment in 'Motion of Thanks':

After the President has addressed the House, an amendment to the 'Motion of Thanks' on the President's Address can be tabled on the Table of the House.

- An amendment may refer to matters contained in the Address as well as to matters which, in the opinion of the member moving the amendment motion, were not mentioned in the Address.
- An amendment to the 'Motion of Thanks' can be moved by the Speaker in a suitable manner at his discretion.

Limitations:

- Under the 'Motion of Thanks', members cannot discuss matters for which the central government is not directly responsible.
- Further, the President cannot be mentioned during the debate on the President's Address, as the

contents of the Address are not prepared by the President but by the Central Government.

How is the 'Motion of Thanks' passed?

Voting on the 'Motion of Thanks' is done by the Members of Parliament. This motion has to be passed in both the houses.

Failure to pass the 'Thanksgiving Motion' is considered the defeat of the government and may lead to the downfall of the government. This is the reason, that 'Thank you' is considered the same as 'No-confidence motion'.

Permanent Indus Commission

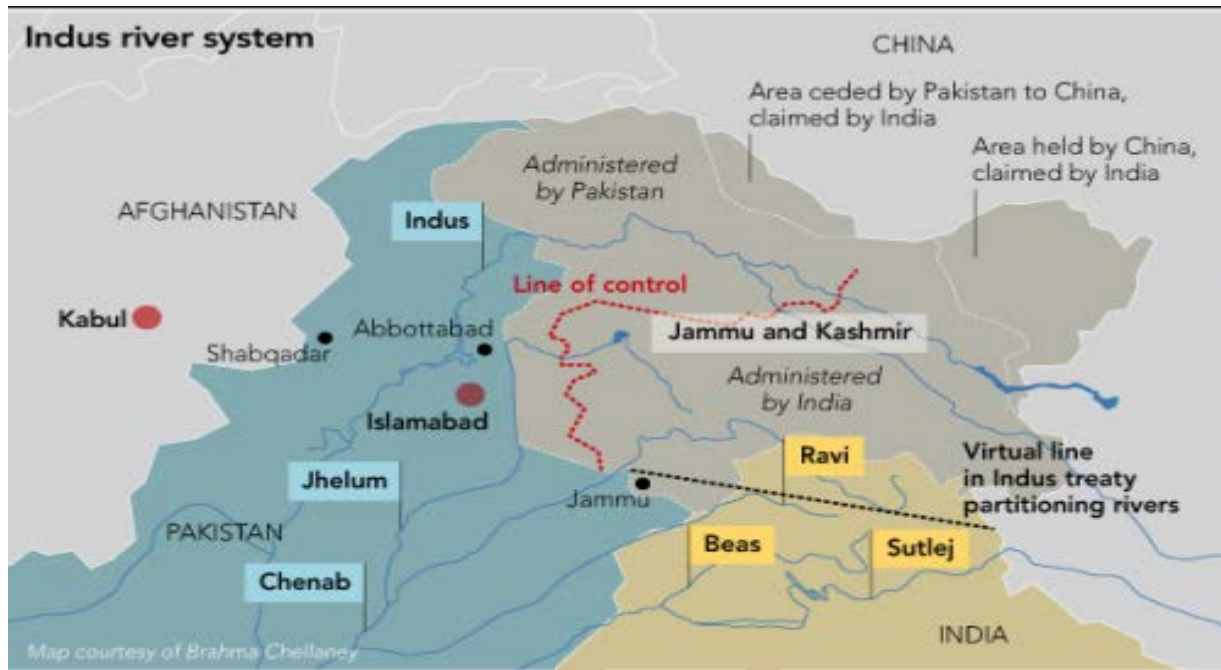
The annual meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission is going to be held between India and Pakistan, but no program has been decided yet.

Under the Indus Water Treaty, the Permanent Indus Commission is mandated to meet at least once every year, and accordingly expires on 31 March.

About Indus Water Treaty:

It is a water-distribution agreement, which was signed by the Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru and the President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan, in 1960, mediated by the World Bank.

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Sharing of Indus river water between India and Pakistan:

According to the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), India was granted complete control over the waters of the three eastern rivers—the Ravi, the Beas and the Sutlej.

The western rivers – Indus, Chenab and Jhelum – are controlled by Pakistan.

- Under the provisions of the 'Indus Water Treaty' signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, the eastern rivers – Sutlej, Beas and Ravi – amounting to approximately 33 million acre-feet (MAF) of water annually to India without restriction. allotted to use.
- About 135 MAF of the western rivers – Indus, Jhelum and Chenab – are used annually, entirely by Pakistan.

Right to hydroelectricity generation:

- Under the Indus Waters Agreement, India has been given the right to generate hydroelectricity through run of the river projects 'subject to specific criteria for design and operation'.
- Under the agreement, Pakistan also has the right to express concern over the design of Indian hydroelectric projects on the western rivers.

Permanent Indus Commission:

- The Permanent Indus Commission, a bilateral commission consisting of officials from India and Pakistan, was formed to implement and manage the goals of the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960.
- As per the 'Indus Water Treaty', regular meetings of this commission should be held in India and Pakistan alternately, at least once a year.

Functions of the Commission:

- To study any water related problems of rivers and report to both the governments.

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- To resolve disputes arising out of water sharing.
- To arrange for technical inspections at project sites and important river banks.
- Once in every five years, to undertake a general visit to inspect the rivers to check the facts.
- To take necessary steps for the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement.

Virtual Digital Assets

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech on February 1 has announced a 30 percent tax on income from 'Virtual Digital Assets'.

Reasoning behind this decision:

In recent years, there has been a phenomenal growth in transactions through digital medium and due to the volume and frequency of these transactions, it has become imperative to provide for a specific 'tax regime'.

What are 'Virtual Digital Assets' and how are they different from 'Digital Currency'?

Simply put, 'virtual digital assets' include cryptocurrencies, decentralized finance (DeFi) and non-fungible tokens (NFTs). Prima facie, it does not include digital gold, central bank digital currency (CBDC) or any other traditional digital asset. Therefore, the above move by the government is aimed at specifically 'taxing' cryptocurrencies.

As per the Finance Bill, a virtual/virtual digital asset means, "the underlying price, by whatever name called, arising by means of cryptographic means or by any other means provided it is represented digitally for exchange." promise or represent, or act as a store of value, and used in any financial transaction or investment including but not limited to investment plans, and which may be transferred, stored or traded electronically any information or

code or number or token (other than Indian currency or any foreign currency)". 'Non-fungible token' and any other token of a similar nature are included in the definition of 'virtual digital asset'.

India's Stand at COP-26

Recently, the government has clarified its position on COP 26 during the ongoing parliamentary session.

According to the government, India's announcement to accelerate 'climate action' has the potential to attract investment and new technologies to support the country's transition to a clean and climate resilient economy.

background:

The Government of India, in the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Glasgow city of United Kingdom recently concerns were expressed.

Five Amrit Elements (Panchamrit):

India has presented the 'Five Nectar Elements' i.e. Panchamrit (Five Nectar Elements – Panchamrit) of its climate action. Which are the following:

1. Access to 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030.
2. Supply 50% of your energy needs from renewable energy by 2030.
3. Reduction in total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now to 2030.
4. By 2030, reduce the carbon intensity of the economy by 45 percent from 2005 levels.
5. Achieve the target of net zero emissions by 2070.

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Mantra of LIFE-Lifestyle:
The mantra of 'LIFE-Lifestyle for Environment' was also shared by India to tackle climate change at COP 26.

- India further said that 'Lifestyle for the Environment' (LIFE) has to be taken forward as a campaign to make 'Environmentally Conscious Lifestyle' a mass movement.
- The message given by India was that the world needs to use it wisely instead of consuming it mindlessly and destructively.

Net Zero:

India has also promised to become a 'net zero'/net zero carbon emitting nation by the year 2070, as well as announced increased targets for renewable energy deployment and carbon emissions reduction.

India's Vision:

- As a part of its holistic approach, India emphasizes the fundamental principles of equity, and 'common but differentiated responsibilities' and related capabilities.
- India also highlighted at COP 26 that all countries should have equal access to the global carbon budget, a limited global resource, to keep temperature rise within the limits set by the Paris Agreement.
- And, all countries should stay within their fair share of using this global carbon budget responsibly.
- Responsibility of developed nations: India called upon developed countries to do climate justice and to rapidly reduce emissions during the current decade to reach 'net zero' before the dates announced by them.

Measures needed to meet the current challenges:

- All platforms should adopt a 'Renewable First Approach'.
- There should be synergy between various institutions and other countries. Example: 'One Sun, One World, One Grid' (OSOWOG), was launched by India at CoP26. This initiative will provide support for interconnection of cross-border energy grids for the adoption of renewable energy under OSOWOG.
- Emission-intensive sectors should be decarbonised. Example: Heavy industries like iron and steel.
- An 'ecosystem based' approach should be adopted in implementing the policies. Example: Fame India Scheme.
- We need more 'carbon sinks' – areas that store carbon – such as forests, oceans and wetlands.
- Local people should be involved in protecting the environment.
- Adequate resources should be mobilized for climate adaptation. Example: The Climate Finance Leadership Initiative launched by India and the United Kingdom in September to mobilize more resources for climate and green energy projects is a positive step in this direction.

50 years of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP@50)

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022.

About United Nations Environment Programme:

- The 'United Nations Environment Program' (UNEP) was established in the year 1972 after the 'Historic Conference of the United Nations on the Human Environment'.

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- UNEP was envisaged to monitor the state of the environment, 'policy making with scientific knowledge' and 'coordinate the response to the world's environmental challenges'.

Major reports: 'Emission Gap Report', 'Global Environment Outlook', 'Frontiers', and 'Invest in Healthy Planet'.

Major Missions: Beat Pollution, UN75, World Environment Day, Wildlife for Life.

Role:

- Since its inception, the 'United Nations Environment Program' (UNEP), to inspire all countries of the world to meet their commitments and to take coordinated action to address most of the world's most important environmental challenges, It continues to work closely with its 193 member states and other stakeholders.

- UNEP has also played a leading role as a docking station for 15 multilateral environmental agreements.

Important achievements and timeline:

- 1972: Maurice Strong was elected as the first head of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

- 1973: The first headquarters were established by UNEP at the Kenyatta International Convention Center on 2 October.

- 1973: The Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, known as 'MARPOL' by global leaders, was signed.

- 1973: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora– CITES by nations. In 1984, CITES became a multilateral environmental agreement administered by the United Nations Environment Programme.

- 1974: 'World Environment Day' started. The first 'World Environment Day' organized by UNEP was celebrated under the theme "Only One Earth" on 5th June all over the world.

- 1974: The 'Regional Seas Program' was established.

- 1976: On 16 February 1976, the 'Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution' was adopted in Barcelona in Barcelona. This convention came into force in the year 1978.

- 1979: The 'Convention on Migratory Species' was adopted by the nations. This convention is also known as the 'Bonn Convention'.

The United Nations Environment Programme, hosts the secretariats of several important multilateral environmental agreements and research bodies, bringing together various nations and the environmental community to address the greatest challenges of our times.

These include the following:

1. Convention on Biological Diversity
2. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
3. Minamata Convention on Mercury
4. Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
5. Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol for the Protection of the Ozone Layer
6. Convention on Migratory Species
7. Carpathian Convention
8. Bamako Convention
9. Tehran Convention

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Uighur

China has selected the final torchbearer for the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games from Xinjiang province, responding to several countries criticizing its "human rights record" in the Xinjiang region.

- However, this action of China is being seen by critics as a publicity stunt.
- 'Xinjiang' is an area that the governments of many countries suspect that China is carrying out genocide against the 'Uighur' (Uighur) and other Muslim minorities in the region.

Related case:

Several countries have called on China to "ensure full respect for the rule of law" for the "Muslim Uighur community" in Xinjiang province.

Credible reports indicate that more than a million people in Xinjiang have been arbitrarily detained and extensive surveillance is being conducted inappropriately targeting Uighurs and members of other minority communities, and Uighur culture and Fundamental freedoms have been restricted.

China's response:

Despite substantial evidence, China denies mistreatment of Uighurs, and insists, only runs

"vocational training" centers designed to combat extremism.

Who are the Uighurs?

The Uighurs are a predominantly Muslim minority Turkish ethnic group whose traces of origin can be traced to 'Central and East Asia'.

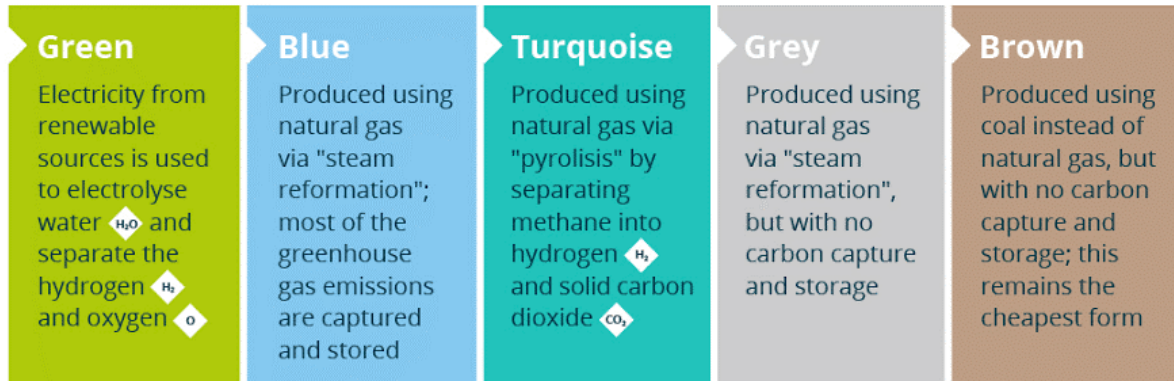
- The Uyghur community speaks a language closely related to the Turkish language, and considers itself culturally and ethnically close to the Central Asian countries.
- China recognizes this community only as a regional minority and refuses to recognize them as an indigenous group of the country.
- Currently, the largest population of the Uyghur ethnic community resides in the Xinjiang region of China.
- A large population of Uighurs is also found in neighboring Central Asian countries such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

For decades, Uighur Muslims have been abused by the Chinese government under false accusations of terrorism and separatism, such as persecution, forced detention, intensive investigation, surveillance and even slavery.

types of hydrogen

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Five shades of hydrogen



coal gasification and liquefaction

In its endeavor to reduce emissions and control dependence on crude oil, the central government will set up four 'coal gasification' plants on a pilot basis to understand the technical and financial viability of such projects.

Importance:

- India is committed to halving coal consumption in power plants and reducing overall carbon footprint by 2030.
- 'Coal gasification' is considered a 'green alternative' to fossil fuel combustion in furnaces.

What is 'Coal Gasification'?

- Coal gasification is the process of converting coal into a synthetic gas, also known as syngas. Syngas is formed by mixing carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂), natural gas (CH₄), and water vapor (H₂O).
- During gasification, coal is heated under high pressure and mixed with oxygen and steam. During this reaction, molecules of oxygen and water oxidize coal and form syngas.

Advantages of gasification:

1. Transportation of gas is much cheaper than transportation of coal.
2. Helps in solving local pollution problems.
3. More efficient than conventional coal combustion because the gases can be effectively used twice: the coal gases are first cleaned of impurities and are used in turbines to generate electricity. The heat emitted from the gas turbine can be used to generate steam in a 'steam turbine-generator'.

Concerns and challenges:

- Coal gasification is one of the more water-intensive forms of energy production.
- Coal gasification raises concerns about water contamination, landfills and safe disposal of waste water, etc.

What is coal liquefaction?

Coal liquefaction is also called Coal to Liquid (CTL) technology. It is an alternative method of producing diesel and gasoline, which is much cheaper in view of the rising crude oil prices.

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- This process involves the gasification of coal, leading to the formation of synthetic gas (a mixture of CO+H₂). Synthetic gas can be used as a fuel by liquefaction at high pressure and high temperature in the presence of cobalt/iron-based catalysts.
- However, liquefied coal emits two times more CO₂ than petroleum fuels. It also emits large amounts of SO₂.

Benefits of liquefaction:

CO₂ emissions from CTL plants can be captured easily and at a lower cost than conventional coal based power plants. This captured CO₂ can be stored in underground storage tanks.

Reclining Lord Vishnu statue

- Recently, a 1,000-year-old sandstone statue of 'Reclining Lord Vishnu' has been renovated by the Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage.
- This statue is located in Bandhavgarh National Park (Madhya Pradesh).
- This is the first conservation and renewal project undertaken by INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) in Madhya Pradesh.
- This statue is popularly known as 'Shesh Shayya'.
- Its sculpture belongs to the Kalachuri period (8th century, feudal lords of the Rashtrakutas in the central part of India).

Centenary of 'Chauri Chaura' incident ('Chauri Chaura' Centenary)

Recently, on the centenary of the Chauri-Chaura incident, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the heroes of our freedom struggle.

What is 'Chauri Chaura' scandal?

- This incident took place in Chauri Chaura of Gorakhpur district of United Provinces (modern Uttar Pradesh) under British India.
- During this incident, a large group of protesters participating in the non-cooperation movement clashed with the police, on which the police started firing indiscriminately.
- In retaliation, the protesters attacked and set a police station on fire, killing all the personnel present in the police station.
- In response, Mahatma Gandhi, who was strongly against violence, suspended the non-cooperation movement at the national level on 12 February 1922.

background:

- The 'Non-cooperation Movement' was started by Gandhiji against the government on 1 August 1920.
- The movement involved the use of indigenous goods and the boycott of foreign goods—particularly machine-made garments, legal, educational and administrative institutions, i.e. "non-cooperation in every way to the misruled ruler".

Reaction of Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders:

Mahatma Gandhi condemned the killing of policemen.

- A 'Chauri Chaura Sahayata Kosh' was set up to show "genuine sympathy" and atonement.
- Gandhi forced the 'Congress Working Committee' to bow down to his will in this matter and on February 12, 1922, the 'Non-Cooperation Movement' was formally suspended.

Jawaharlal Nehru and other leaders who led the non-cooperation movement were surprised that, when the situation of civil resistance in the freedom

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movement was getting stronger, Gandhi had stopped the struggle.

- Leaders like Motilal Nehru and Chittaranjan Das expressed their dismay at Gandhi's decision and founded 'Swaraj Party'.
- Leaders like Motilal Nehru and Chittaranjan Das expressed their dismay at Gandhi's decision and decided to establish 'Swaraj Party'.
- The suspension of the non-cooperation movement resulted in many young Indian nationalists disillusioned with the movement and came to the conclusion that colonial rule in India could not be abolished through non-violence.

Sowa-Rigpa

- It is a traditional system of medicine practiced in the Himalayan region of India.
- It originated in Tibet and is popularly practiced in countries like India, Nepal, Bhutan, Mongolia and Russia.
- Most of the principles and practices of Sowa-Rigpa are similar to "Ayurveda".

Yuthog Yonten Gonpo of Tibet is considered the father of Sowa Rigpa.

The basic principle of Sowa-Rigpa can be understood in terms of the following five points:

1. The body as the center of healing in case of illness
2. Antidote
3. Method of treatment through antidote
4. Sick medicine
5. Materia Medica, Pharmacy and Pharmacology

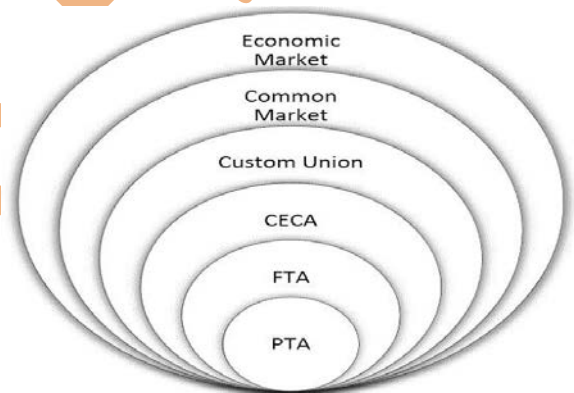
ASEAN Group(ASEAN)

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To ensure greater market access for India's domestic products, 10 countries to initiate review of 'Free-Trade Agreement (FTA)' for 'trade in goods' between India and ASEAN regions. Talks are on with ASEAN.

Free Trade Agreement (FTA):

- A 'free trade agreement' is an agreement between two or more countries to reduce barriers to imports and exports.
- Under a free trade policy, across international borders – goods and services can be bought and sold without hindrance with little or no government fees, quotas, subsidies.
- The concept of free trade is in contrast to trade protectionism or economic isolationism.



About ASEAN:

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ie 'ASEAN' is a regional organization. It was established to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions between the post-colonial countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

- ASEAN Motto: "One Vision, One Identity, One Community" (One Vision, One Identity, One Community)
- ASEAN Secretariat: Jakarta, Indonesia.

Genesis:

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ASEAN was formed in the year 1967 with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by its founding members.

- Founding members of ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- Ten members of ASEAN: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Importance of ASEAN for India:

In the backdrop of China's aggressive approach, including the Ladakh standoff, India has placed ASEAN at the heart of India's Act East policy. India believes that it is necessary to have a cohesive and responsible 'ASEAN' for the security and development of all in this region.

- The role of ASEAN is very important for the success of the 'Sagar' vision of 'Security and Growth for All in the Region- SAGAR'.
- The sector is critical for the diversification and resilience of supply chains for economic recovery after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ASEAN is India's fourth largest trading partner, and trades with it about US\$ 9 billion.

Nuclear Fusion Technology

Recently, scientists in the United Kingdom have claimed to have achieved a new milestone in the production of 'nuclear fusion energy', or imitating the 'energy production process in the Sun'.

New Record:

- A team of scientists at the Joint European Torus (JET) center near Oxford in central England managed to generate 59 megajoules of energy continuously during an 'experiment' in December, a record set in 1997. was more than double.

- One kilogram of fusion fuel contains about 10 million times more energy than one kilogram of coal, oil or gas.

The experiment:

This energy was generated in a 'doughnut-shaped apparatus' called 'Tokamak' and the 'Joint European Torus' centre, the largest functional 'tokamak' of its kind in the world.

- Hydrogen's isotopes, deuterium and tritium, were heated to temperatures 10 times hotter than the temperature of the Sun's center to form the plasma.
- Since the tokamak machine spins rapidly as it spins, fuses isotopes and emits enormous energy in the form of heat, it is placed in a giant tank-like vessel using superconductor electromagnets.

Significance of this achievement:

- Humans have long been trying to generate energy through 'nuclear fusion', as the energy thus generated has a very low carbon content, and is much safer than nuclear power generation. It can technically be more than 100% efficient.
- In addition, the records and scientific data of these important experiments can be of vital importance to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).
- ITER is the larger and more advanced version of the Joint European Torus (JET).

About 'International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor':

- The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) is a fusion research mega-project in the south of France to conduct research and demonstration about the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy.

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- The ITER project is being funded and operated by seven members – the European Union, China, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States.

Functions of ITER:

1. To produce 500 MW of fusion energy.
2. To demonstrate the integrated operation of technologies for fusion power plants.
3. Capturing deuterium-tritium plasma, which has a continuous reaction through internal heating.
4. To test Tritium Breeding.
5. To demonstrate the safety features of the fusion device.

What is Fusion?

Fusion is the energy source of the Sun and other stars. Due to the extreme heat and gravity at the center of these stellar bodies, hydrogen nuclei collide with each other, as a result of which the hydrogen nuclei fuse to form heavier helium molecules, releasing enormous amounts of energy in the process.

Three conditions necessary for a fusion reaction in the laboratory:

1. Very high temperature (over 150,000,000 °C)
2. Proper Plasma Molecule Density (to increase the chance of collisions between molecules)
3. Suitable confinement time (to prevent plasma)

Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication
(Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication – SWIFT)

Amid rising tensions between Washington and Moscow over the Ukraine issue, political

commentators say the United States may, as a last resort, send Russia to the 'Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication' (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial). Telecommunication – SWIFT).

Status after being expelled from SWIFT:

If a country is excluded from the most participating financial facilitation platform ie 'Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication' ie 'SWIFT', it will affect the foreign funding of the country concerned, and that country is completely dependent on domestic investors. Will be done. Currently, as institutional investors are constantly looking for new markets in new areas, exits from SWIFT are particularly troublesome.

What is SWIFT?

SWIFT is a messaging network used by financial institutions to securely send and receive 'information and instructions' through a standardized system. Under SWIFT, each financial organization has a unique code, which is used to send and receive payments.

- SWIFT does not have the facility of fund transfer, rather, 'payment orders' are sent through it. These 'payment orders' are issued between institutions doing business with each other.

- SWIFT is a secure 'financial message' carrier – in other words, it carries messages from one bank to the intended bank recipient.

Its main role is to provide a secure transmission channel so that Bank A knows that its message sent to Bank B has been received by Bank B and not anyone else. Bank B, on the other hand, knows that the specified message has been sent by Bank A itself, and no one has read or changed this message en route. Naturally, before sending the message, the

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banks are required to complete the due diligence process.

Location of SWIFT:

The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) is headquartered in Belgium, and links more than 11,000 banking and securities organizations in over 200 countries and territories.

Administration of SWIFT:

- It is regulated by the G-10 central banks of Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States, Switzerland and Sweden, along with the European Central Bank. Its chief inspector (overseer) is the 'National Bank of Belgium'.
- The 'Swift Oversight Forum' was established in 2012. G-10 participants include the central banks of India, Australia, Russia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, the Republic of Turkey and the People's Republic of China.

SWIFT India:

'Swift India' is a joint venture of top Indian public and private sector banks and 'Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication' (SWIFT). The company was created to provide high quality home financial messaging services to the Indian financial community. In this venture, there is great potential to contribute significantly to the financial community in many areas.

Significance of SWIFT:

- Messages sent by SWIFT customers are authenticated using its exclusive security and identification technology.
- As messages leave the subscriber's ecosystem, 'encryption' is added to them.

- These messages are transmitted via SWIFT to the Operating Centers (OPCs) where they are processed, and during the transmission process – until they reach the receiver securely – all messages are 'in all their privacy and security'. SWIFT live in a protected environment, subject to integrity commitments.

madhvacharya

Sri Madhvacharya was born on Vijaya Dashami at a place called Veligram in the Tuluva region near Udipi in South India, and was named Vasudeva.

- He was the third (the other two being Shankaracharya and Ramanujacharya) of the trinity of philosophers who influenced Indian thought after the age of the Vedas and the Puranas.
- He propounded the philosophy of Dwaita or Dualism.
- Achyutapreksha gave him the title of 'Madhava', and he became more famous by this name.

Literary Works: He wrote various texts, in which detailed explanation of his philosophy of philosophy has been given. 'Tatvaism' is popularly known as 'dual philosophy'. Some of his famous works are Gita Bhashya, Brahma Sutra Bhashya, Anu Bhashya, Karma Niyaas and Vishnu Tattva Niyaas.

About Dvaita Darshan:

- The basic principle of Dvaita philosophy is the refutation of Mayavada of Sri Shankara. Dvaita philosophy emphasizes that the world is not merely an illusion, but a reality.
- The soul is bound to this world through ignorance.
- The way for the soul to be free from this bondage, is to receive the grace of Shri Hari.
- One has to do devotion to reach Shri Hari, apart from this there is no other way.

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- Meditation is required to practice devotion.
- To meditate, it is necessary to clear the mind and attain detachment by studying the holy scriptures.

CAREER PLUS