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1.INDIAN POLITY

1.1 Uniform Civil Code

[News]:

Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code committee sifts through four lakh suggestions, plans more outreach

[Concept]:

Uniform Civil Code:

- UCC is one that would provide for one law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc.
- Article 44 of the Constitution lays down that the state shall endeavor to secure a UCC for the citizens throughout the territory of India.
- Article 44 is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
- DPSP as defined in Article 37, are not justiciable (not enforceable by any court) but the principles laid down therein are fundamental in governance.

1.2 National Commission for Scheduled Tribe

[News]:

Pahari ethnic community added to Scheduled Tribes list of Jammu and Kashmir

• The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has now cleared the way for the inclusion of the 'Pahari ethnic group' on the Scheduled Tribes

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list of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

[Concept]:

NCST:

• NCST was set by amending Article 338 and by inserting a new article 338A in the Constitution through the 89th Constitution Amendment Act, 2003. Hence, it is a constitutional body.

Objective:

• Article 338A inter-alia gives powers to the to NCST oversee the implementation of various safeguards provided to STs under the Constitution or under any other law for time being in force or under any other order to the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards.

Pahari Community:

- The Pahari community, a linguistic group mainly residing in the Pir Panjal valley comprising Rajouri and Poonch districts.
- Paharis are also spread in parts of the Kashmir valley.
- Paharis also comprise both Hindus and Muslims

1.3 Fundamental Duties

[News]:

Operationalize Fundamental Duties: Ravi

• Governor R.N. Ravi on Sunday urged young lawyers to think of ways to operationalize the 11 Fundamental Duties as enshrined in the Constitution.

[Concept]:

Fundamental Duties

- The idea of Fundamental Duties is inspired from the Constitution of Russia.
- These were incorporated in Part IV-A of the Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 on the recommendations of Swaran Singh Committee.
- Originally 10 in number, one more duty was added through the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002.
- All the eleven duties are listed in Article 51-A of the Constitution (the sole Article in Part-IV-A).
- The fundamental duties serve as a reminder to citizens that while enjoying their rights, they have also to be quite conscious of duties they owe to their country, their society and to their fellow-citizens.
- However, like the Directive Principles, the duties are also non-justiciable in nature.

List of Fundamental Duties

- 1. To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- 2. To cherish and follow the noble ideals that inspired the national struggle for freedom;
- 3. To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- 4. To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- 5. To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
- 6. To value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture;
- 7. To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures;

- 8. To develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- 9. To safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- 10. To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement; and
- 11. To provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years (added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002).

1.4 Seventh Schedule

[News]:

Education on Concurrent List has led to many harmful effects, says Trust [Concept]:

- The seventh schedule under Article 246 of the constitution deals with the division of powers between the union and the states.
- It contains three lists- Union List, State List and Concurrent List
- The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 transferred five subjects to Concurrent

List from State List, that is,

- (a)education,
- (b) forests,
- (c)weights and measures,
- (d)protection of wild animals and birds,
- (e) administration of justice; constitution and organization of all courts except the Supreme Court and the high courts.

1.5 National Population Register

[News]:

NPR needs to be updated again to incorporate changes due to birth, death, migration: Centre

[Concept]:

National Population Register (NPR):

- It will be conducted by the Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI) under the Home Ministry.
- Only Assam will not be included, given the recently completed National Register of Citizens (NRC).
- It is a list of "usual residents of the country".
- A "usual resident of the country" is one who has been residing in a local area for at least the last six months, or intends to stay in a particular location for the next six months.
- The NPR is being prepared under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
- It is mandatory for every "usual resident of India" to register in the NPR.

1.6 Governor Pardoning Power

[News]:

- SC orders release of all life convicts in Rajiv case
- Governor bound by the advice of Cabinet in such cases, says Bench, refers to

remission granted to co-convict Perarivalan, who was freed by top court in May by exercising its 'extraordinary powers'

[Concept]:

Terms

Governor Pardoning Power Article 161:

- The Governor of a State shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.
- Pardon: It removes both the sentence and the conviction and completely
- absolves the convict from all sentences, punishments and disqualifications.
- Commutation: It denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form. For example, a death sentence may be commuted to rigorous imprisonment, which in turn may be commuted to a simple imprisonment.
- **Remission:** It implies reducing the period of sentence without changing its character. For example, a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for two years may be remitted to rigorous imprisonment for one year.
- **Respite**: It denotes awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact, such as the physical disability of a convict or the pregnancy of a woman offender.
- Reprieve: It implies a stay of the execution of a sentence (especially that of death) for a temporary period. Its purpose is to enable the convict to have time to seek pardon or commutation.

1.7 Collegium System for the Appointment of Judges

[News]:

Centre's silence on judicial postings condemnable: SC

• The Supreme Court on Friday lambasted the Centre for withholding names recommended or reiterated by the collegium for judicial appointments, even saying that the government is using silence and inaction as "some sort of a device" to force worthy candidates and prominent lawyers to withdraw their consent. [Concept]:

Collegium System for the Appointment of Judges First Judges Case (1981):

- It declared that the "primacy" of the CJI's (Chief Justice of India) recommendation on judicial appointments and transfers can be refused for "cogent reasons."
- The ruling gave the Executive primacy over the Judiciary in judicial appointments for the next 12 years.

Second Judges Case (1993):

- SC introduced the Collegium system, holding that "consultation" really meant "concurrence".
- It added that it was not the CJI's individual opinion, but an institutional opinion formed in consultation with the two senior-most judges in the SC.

Third Judges Case (1998):

• SC on the President's reference (Article 143) expanded the Collegium to a fivemember body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.

Critical about the Collegium System

- Opaqueness and a lack of transparency.
- Scope for nepotism.
- Embroilment in public controversies.

1.8 Right to Religion

[News]:

SC says forced conversions may affect national security, freedom of religion [Concept]:

Article 25 Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.

Article 25 (1) Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion.

1.9 NJAC

[News]:

SC agrees to list plea for Collegium system review

• Petitioners seek revival of National Judicial Appointments Commission that gave government a say in appointment of judges; call Collegium mode a 'synonym for nepotism and favoritism

[Concept]:

- The petition said the 2015 judgment should be rendered void ab initio as it had revived the Collegium system.
- NJAC is a body responsible for the appointment and transfer of judges to the higher judiciary in India.
- A new article, Article 124A, (which provides for the composition of the NJAC) was to be inserted into the Constitution.
- The Bill provided for the procedure to be followed by the NJAC for recommending persons for appointment as Chief Justice of India and other Judges

of the Supreme Court (SC), and Chief Justice and other Judges of High Courts (HC).

- According to the bill the commission will consist of the following members:
 1.Chief Justice of India (Chairperson, ex officio)
- 2.Two other senior judges of the Supreme Court next to the Chief Justice of India

 ex officio
- 3.The Union Minister of Law and Justice, ex-officio 4.Two eminent persons (to be nominated by a committee consisting of the Chief Justice of India, Prime Minister of India and the Leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha or where there is no such Leader of Opposition, then, the Leader of single largest Opposition Party in Lok Sabha), provided that of the two eminent persons, one person would be from the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes or OBC or minority communities or a woman. The eminent persons shall be nominated for a period of three years and shall not be eligible for renomination.

Why the court struck down NJAC act?

• The court has held that the appointment of judges, coupled with primacy of judiciary and the CJI, was part of the basic structure of the Constitution and that the parliament, through NJAC act, violated this basic structure

1.10 Dr. B R Ambedkar contribution towards Constitutional Reforms: [News]:

In just 24 hours, symbol of Dalit icon 'bulldozed' in Uttar Pradesh town The statue of Ambedkar in Sirauli was built with money crowdfunded over eight months; police and Bareilly district administration officials say it was installed illegally on public land

[Concept]:

Dr.B R Ambedkar contribution towards Constitutional Reforms:

- As chairman of the Constitution's drafting committee, he took meticulous measures to build a just society through liberty, equality and fraternity.
- His advocacy for universal adult franchise ensured that women had the right to vote immediately after Independence.
- His advocacy of the Hindu Code Bill was a revolutionary measure towards ameliorating women's plight by conferring on them the right to adopt and inherit.
- The Reserve Bank of India was conceptualized from the Hilton Young Commission's recommendation, which considered Ambedkar's guidelines laid out in The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution.
- His essay titled 'Small Holdings in India and their Remedies' (1918) proposed industrialization as the answer to India's agricultural problem and is still relevant to contemporary debates.

1.11 Election Commission

[News]:

Arun Goel assumes charge as Election Commissioner

[Concept]:

Election Commission

- The Election Commission is a permanent and an independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country.
- Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of

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president of India and the office of vice-president of India shall be vested in the

election commission.

Composition Election commission of India:

• The constitution provides for the following provisions in relation to the

composition of the election commission:

• The election commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and

a such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the president may from

time to time fix.

• The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election

commissioners shall be made by the president.

• When any other election commissioner is so appointed the chief election

commissioner shall act as the chairman of the election commission.

• The president may also appoint after consultation with the election commission

such regional commissioners as he may consider necessary to assist the election

commission.

• The conditions of service and tenure of office of the election commissioners

and the regional commissioners shall be such as the President may by rule.

1.12 Suicide prevention policy

[News]:

Union Health Ministry launches India's first suicide prevention policy

[Concept]:

suicide prevention policy

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• The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Monday announced a National

Suicide Prevention Strategy, the first of its kind in the country, with timebound

action plans and multisectoral collaborations to achieve reduction in suicide

mortality by 10% by 2030.

• The strategy broadly seeks to establish effective surveillance mechanisms for

suicide within the next three years, establish psychiatric outpatient departments

that will provide suicide prevention services through the District Mental Health

Program in all districts within the next five years, and to integrate a mental

wellbeing curriculum in all educational institutions within the next eight years.

• It envisages developing guidelines for responsible media reporting of suicides,

and restricting access to means of suicide.

• The stress is on developing community resilience and societal support for

suicide prevention.

• While the strategy is in line with the WHO's South East Asia Region Strategy

for suicide prevention, it says it will remain true to India's cultural and social

milieu.

1.13 Tribes

[News]:

Gujjars, bakerwals call off stir against st status for paharis

Gujjars

• Gujjar Tribe is found in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

• Traditionally they have been involved in agriculture (most famously, dairy

and livestock farming).

• Linguistically Religiously Diverse group own language, known as Gujari.

Bakerwals

- The Gujjars and Bakarwals are the two unique ethnic nomadic groups that rear flocks of sheep and goat between high and low altitudes of Western Himalayas.
- In summer, these groups migrate to upper reaches of the valley and in winter, they take their flocks to the lower areas of the valley to protect themselves from the harsh cold.
- The habitat of these people is in the hilly terrain of the North-Western Himalayas.

What is the Process of Inclusion in the ST List?

- The process to include tribes in the ST list begins with the recommendation from the respective State governments, which are then sent to the Tribal Affairs Ministry, which reviews and sends them to the Registrar General of India for approval.
- This is followed by the NCST approval before the list is sent to the Cabinet for a final decision.
- 342(1): The President may with respect to any State or Union Territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor, by a public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within tribes or tribal communities as Scheduled Tribe in relation to that State or Union Territory.
- The final decision rests with the President's office issuing a notification specifying the changes under powers vested in it from Articles 342.
- The inclusion of any community in the Scheduled Tribes come into effect only after the President assents to a Bill that amends the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, as is appropriate, after it is passed by both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

2.INDIAN ECONOMY

2.1 Types of Taxation:

[News]:

'Single GST rate, direct tax sans exemption will be ideal'

- 'Progressive' rates work best for direct taxes, not indirect taxes such as GST.
- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime should have ideally had a single tax rate and covered all goods and services for its expected benefits to fully accrue to the economy, PM's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC) chairman Bibek Debroy signalled on Monday.
- He also mooted doing away with the distinction between personal and corporate income tax rates and scrapping exemptions that lead to tax avoidance strategies. [Concept]:

Types of Taxation:



- 1.Progressive
- 2.Regressive
- 3.Proportional
- Corporate Tax: The corporate must pay tax on their Profit
- GST: Indirect tax/ One Nation One Market, One Tax.4 main GST Rate

2.2 Fair and Remunerative Price

[News]:

U.P. farmers upset as govt. unlikely to give out SAP for sugar cane [Concept]:

FRP:

- FRP is fixed under a sugarcane control order, 1966.
- It is the minimum price that sugar mills are supposed to pay to the farmers.
- However, states determine their own State Agreed Price (SAP) which is generally higher than the FRP.

Who determines Sugarcane prices?

- Sugarcane prices are determined by the Centre as well as States.
- The Centre announces Fair and Remunerative Prices which are determined on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and are announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which is chaired by Prime Minister.
- The State Advised Prices (SAP) are announced by key sugarcane producing states which are generally higher than FRP.

2.3 Off Budget borrowings

• The decision to treat off Budget borrowings from 2021-22 onwards serviced from the State budgets as States' borrowings and adjusting them against borrowing limits under Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) 2022-23 against all in and following is years norms • The Government of India has indicated that such a decision is in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

- In fact, there is no recommendation to this effect by the Fifteenth Finance Commission.
- The Finance Commission recommended that governments at all tiers may observe strict discipline by resisting any further additions to the stock of off Budget transactions.
- Such borrowings were not reflected in the Budget of the central government.
- On this view treating off Budget borrowings of State corporations as States'
 borrowings retrospectively is totally unjustified

2.4 GST Council

[News]:

Hold urgent meeting of GST Council, West Bengal's Amit Mitra urges FM [Concept]:

GST Council

- In order to implement GST, the Constitutional (122nd Amendment) Bill (CAB for short) was passed by both houses of parliament in 2016.
- The CAB was passed by more than 15 states and thereafter Hon'ble President gave assent to "The Constitution (One Hundred And First Amendment) Act, 2016".



- Since then the GST council has been notified bringing into existence the Constitutional body to decide issues relating to GST.
- It is a joint forum of the Centre and the states which was set up by the President

as per Article 279A (1) of the amended Constitution.

Members

- The Union Finance Minister (chairperson), the Union Minister of State (Finance) from the Centre.
- Each state can nominate a minister in-charge of finance or taxation or any other minister as a member.

Functions

- The Council, according to Article 279, is meant to "make recommendations to the Union and the states on important issues related to GST, like the goods and services that may be subjected or exempted from GST, model GST Laws".
- It also decides on various rate slabs of GST.

2.5 Money Laundering

[News]:

HC quashes money laundering case against DMK MP [Concept]:

Money Laundering

• Money Laundering refers to the conversion or misrepresentation of money which has been illegally obtained by unlawful sources and methods.



• It is a criminal offence in India and charges in this instance refer to statutory provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002

2.6 PM Gati shakti Scheme

[News]:

FM asks NIIF to guide private capital into infrastructure

• Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has urged the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to expand its operations and explore ways to crowd in private capital for projects under the National Infrastructure Pipeline, PM Gati Shakti and National Infrastructure Corridor.

[Concept]:

PM Gati shakti Scheme

• Aim: To ensure integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure projects in the next four years, with focus on expediting works on the ground, saving costs and creating jobs.



- The Gati Shakti scheme will subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline that was launched in 2019.
- Besides cutting logistics costs, the scheme is also aimed at increasing cargo handling capacity and reducing the turnaround time at ports to boost trade.

- It also aims to have 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors one in Tamil Nadu and other in Uttar Pradesh. Extending 4G connectivity to all villages is another aim. Adding 17,000 kms to the gas pipeline network is being planned.
- It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the government for 2024-25, including expanding the length of the national highway network to 2 lakh kms, creation of more than 200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes.

2.7 PM Kisan

[News]:

PM Kisan

States check, verify data of PM Kisan beneficiaries: Ministry [Concept]:

• Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal instalments, directly into the bank accounts of all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings.



- It was launched in February 2019.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India.
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

2.8 Goods

[News]:

CII bats for lower income tax rates, GST cut for white goods [Concept]:

- People in business sometimes refer to fridges, washing machines, and other large pieces of electrical household equipment as white goods.
- Brown goods are electrical appliances such as televisions and audio equipment.

2.9 MPLADS

[News]:

Stalin reviews implementation of five major government schemes

• The Chief Minister reviewed the implementation of the MPs Local Area Development Scheme, the National Health Mission, the Integrated Child Development Scheme, the National Food Security Act and the Prime Minister's Model Village Scheme, an official press release said. [Concept]:

Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

- It is a Central Sector Scheme which was announced in December 1993.
- To enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. primarily in their Constituencies.



- Each year, MPs receive Rs. 5 crore in two instalments of Rs. 2.5 crore each. Funds under MPLADS are non-lapsable.
- Lok Sabha MPs have to recommend the district authorities projects in their Lok Sabha constituencies, while Rajya Sabha MPs have to spend it in the state that has elected them to the House.
- Nominated Members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country.

National Health Mission

- NHM was launched by the government of India in 2013 subsuming the National Rural Health Mission (Launched in 2005) and the National Urban Health Mission (Launched in 2013).
- The main programmatic components include Health System Strengthening in rural and urban areas for Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A), and Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases.
- The NHM envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.

Integrated Child Development Scheme

• The Umbrella ICDS is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It was launched in 1975.

2.10 Fiscal Consolidation

[News]:

India's fiscal consolidation trend intact, to see strong revenues, says Moody's [Concept]:

What is Fiscal Consolidation?

- Various policies undertaken by the government at national as well as subnational levels to reduce the accumulation of debts and reduce deficits is known as fiscal consolidation.
- Fiscal consolidation can be achieved by increasing revenue and decreasing expenditure.

2.11 Naan Mudhalvan scheme

[News]:

'Include elements of Naan Mudhalvan scheme in syllabi' [Concept]:

Naan Mudhalvan Scheme

- The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu recently launched the 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme.
- The scheme aims to provide skills to the 10-lakh youth across the state.
- The youths will be able to recognize their talents and interests through this scheme.
- A portal to register for the scheme and get related information about the scheme was also launched.



- The career and academic guidance to the students will be granted under the scheme. They will be given proper learnings and training sessions.
- The spoken English lessons will also be granted in order to improve vocab skills among students. The sessions on software coding, robotics will also be taken.
- Naan Mudhalvan provides free employment linked skill development trainings to the Youth in the age group of 18-35 years across the state under the various state and centrally sponsored schemes.

3.INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

3.1 Kuki-Chin Refugees

[News]:

India and Bangladesh establish contact as more KukiChin refugees are expected to enter Mizoram

[Concept]:

Kuki-Chin Refugees

• The Kuki-Chin people share ethnic ties with the Mizos and they fled their homes following armed conflicts between the Bangladesh army and an ethnic insurgent group Kuki-Chin National Army (KNA).

India's stand on refugees

- India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol.
- All foreign undocumented nationals are governed as per the provisions of The Foreigners Act, of 1946, The Registration of Foreigners Act, of 1939, The Passport (Entry into India) Act, of 19,20, and The Citizenship Act, of 1955.

3.2 South China Sea:

[News]:

South China Sea Code of Conduct should align with international law [Concept]:

South China Sea:

- An arm of the western Pacific Ocean that borders the Southeast Asian mainland.
- Bordered by Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.



- It is connected by the Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by the Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea (both marginal seas of the Pacific Ocean).
- Comprise three archipelagoes, namely, the Spratly Islands, Paracel Islands, Pratas Islands and Macclesfield's Bank and Scarborough Shoal.

3.3 UNDP

[News]:

UNDP to help waste segregation workers access govt. schemes [Concept]:

UNDP

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a United Nations' global development network, headquartered in New York City.
- UNDP advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.
- UNDP is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from member nations. The organization operates in 177 countries, where it works with local governments to meet development challenges and develop local capacity.

- UNDP focuses on helping countries build and share solutions in three main areas:
- Sustainable development
- Democratic governance and peace building
- Climate and disaster resilience
- Since 1990, the UNDP has annually published the Human Development Report.

3.4 India-Egypt Relations

[News]:

Egyptian President Sisi to be chief guest at Republic Day celebrations [Concept]:

India-Egypt Relations

- In 1955, Egypt under Gamal Abdel Nasser and India under Jawaharlal Nehru became the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- The two nations became even closer in the 1950s and concluded a historic Friendship Treaty in 1955.



• During the last couple of years, the traditionally strong bilateral relations enjoyed by the two countries have received an impetus with regular exchange of high-level meetings and contacts between the two sides.

3.5 Group of Seven (G7)

[News]:

G7 looking at Russian oil price cap of \$6570/ barrel: EU diplomat [Concept]:

Group of Seven (G7):

- It is an intergovernmental organisation that was formed in 1975.
- The bloc meets annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy.
- The G7 countries are the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US.
- All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20.
- The G7 does not have a formal charter or a secretariat. The presidency, which rotates among member countries each year, is in charge of setting the agenda. Sherpas, ministers and envoys hammer out policy initiatives before the summit.

3.6 Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development [News]:

Europe to be hit hardest in global slowdown, says OECD [Concept]:

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

- The OECD is an intergovernmental economic organisation, founded to stimulate economic progress and world trade.
- Most OECD members are high-income economies with a very high Human Development Index (HDI) and are regarded as developed countries.



- Founded: 1961.
- Headquarters: Paris, France.
- Total Members: 36.
- India is not a member, but a key economic partner.
- Reports and Indices by OECD
- Government at a Glance 2017 report.
- International Migration Outlook.
- OECD Better Life Index.

3.7 Garuda VII

[News]:

Chiefs of Indian, French Air Forces join ongoing Garuda-VII air exercise [Concept]:

Garuda VII



- Garuda VII is the seventh edition of the bilateral air exercise between India and France.
- This joint exercise will provide a platform for both the countries to enhance operational capability and interoperability, while also sharing best practices.
- Participation of the IAF and FASF in this exercise will promote professional interaction, exchange of experiences and enhancement of operational knowledge, besides strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

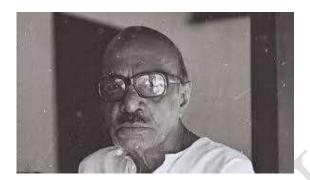
4.INDIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

4.1 Vaikom Muhammad Basheer

[News]:

Literary park to honour Malayalam writer Basheer

[Concept]:



Vaikom Muhammad Basheer (21 January 1908 - 5 July 1994), also known as Beypore Sultan. He was an Indian independence activist and writer of Malayalam literature. He was awarded Padma Shri by the Government of India in 1982.

4.2 Vokkaligas set

[News]:

Vokkaligas set January 23 deadline for raise in quota [Concept]:

Vokkaligas set

- The Vokkaliga caste originates in the Indian state of Karnataka.
- In the former princely state of Mysore, the Vokkaligas were the largest community.
- As a community of warriors and cultivators, they have historically wielded

tremendous demographic, political, and economic dominance in Old Mysore.

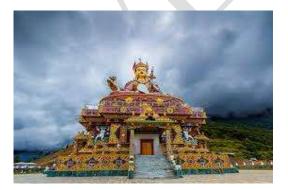
- Chiefs from this agro-martial community dominated different principalities in the present-day Karnataka districts of Bangalore, Chikkaballapura, Kolar, Tumkur, and Ramanagara.
- They supported art, culture, and commerce as leaders, and Kempe Gowda I, the founder of Bangalore, was a member of this community.
- Kempe Gowda was a chieftain under the Vijayanagara kings and ruled over most parts of Karnataka in the 16th century.
- Kempe Gowda was a just and humane ruler and is widely accepted as the founder of Bangalore.

4.3 Nyingma sect

[News]:

Buddhist sect finds 'reincarnation' of famous Rinpoche [Concept]:

Nyingma sect



• The Nyingma sect of Tibetan Buddhism is the oldest amongst the four schools and the second largest after Gelugpa sect.

- Nyingma in Tibetan means "ancient" and has roots going back to the 8th century when the indigenous Bon religion was strongly adhered to by Tibetans.
- The Nyingma sect is also known as the Red Hat sect because its Lamas wear red robes and hats.
- Its teachings are mainly based on those of Padmasambhava, called Guru Rinpoche and Shantarakshita who were brought to Tibet through the rule of the Emperor Trisong Detsen from 742 to 797 CE.

4.4 Lal bahadur Shastri

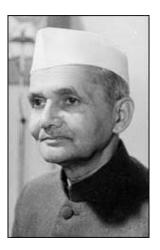
[News]:

Lal Bahadur Shastri ended the humiliation that India suffered since Independence, says Governor R.N. Ravi

[Concept]:

Lal bahadur Shastri

- He was born on 2nd October, 1904 in Mughalsarai Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- Participated in the freedom movement since 1930.
- He joined the Kashi VidyaPeeth in Varanasi, one of the many national institutions set up in defiance of the British rule.



- He was minister in the Union Cabinet from 1951 to 1956 when he resigned taking responsibility for the railway accident and later from 1957-1964.
- He was India's second Prime Minister (1964-66).
- During Shastri's brief Prime Ministership, the country faced two major challenges. While India was still recovering from the economic implications of the war with China (1962), failed monsoons, drought and serious food crisis presented a grave challenge. The country also faced a war with Pakistan in 1965.
- Shastri's famous slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan', symbolised the country's resolve to face both these challenges.
- He was the first person to be posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna (1966).

4.5 Tipu Sultan

[News]:

Play on Tipu staged amid heavy police security in Mysuru [Concept]:

Tipu Sultan

• November 1750, Tipu Sultan was Haidar Ali's son and a great warrior, also known as the Tiger of Mysore.

- He was a well educated man fluent in Arabic, Persian, Kanarese and Urdu.
- Tipu introduced a number of administrative innovations during his rule, including his coinage, a new Mauludi lunisolar calendar, and a new land revenue system which initiated the growth of Mysore silk industry.
- He was also a patron of science and technology and is credited as the 'pioneer of rocket technology' in India.



- He wrote a military manual (Fathul Mujahidin) explaining the operation of rockets.
- Tipu was a great lover of democracy and a great diplomat who gave his support to the French soldiers at Seringapatam in setting up a Jacobin Club in 1797.
- Tipu himself became a member of the Jacobin Club and allowed himself to be called Citizen Tipu.
- He planted the Tree of Liberty at Seringapatam.

5.ENVIRONMENT

5.1 National Disaster Relief Force:

[News]:

NDRF deploys teams in 4 districts after IMD alert

[Concept]:

National Disaster Relief Force:

- After a series of natural calamities including, the Orissa Super Cyclone (1999), Gujarat Earthquake (2001) and Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004), among many others, the concerned authorities took necessary steps towards designing a systematic disaster management plan.
- This led to the enactment of the Disaster Management Act on December 26, 2005. The Disaster Management Act has statutory provisions for the constitution of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for the purpose of specialized response to natural and man-made disasters.
- The practice of "proactive availability" of this Force to the States and that of "prepositioning", in a threatening disaster situations have immensely helped minimise damage, caused due to natural calamities in the country

5.2 National Green tribunal:

[News]:

Uttarakhand defending wrongdoings on tree felling in Corbett: FSI

• The Forest Survey Institute (FSI) has accused the Uttarakhand Forest Department of "defending wrongdoings" by questioning its assessment of illegal tree felling in the Corbett Tiger Reserve for its Pakhro tiger safari project.

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken suo motu cognizance of the matter following The Hindu's article on the FSI report on October 2.
- However, the Uttarakhand Forest department chief has questioned the methodologies and techniques used by the FSI to reach its conclusions.

[Concept]:

National Green tribunal:

- Stablished on 18th October, 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.
- Established for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four places of sitting of the Tribunal.



- The Tribunal is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.
- The NGT deals with civil cases under the seven laws related to the environment, these include:
- 1. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974,
- 2. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977,
- 3. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980,
- 4. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981,

- 5. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986,
- 6. The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and
- 7. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Any violation pertaining to these laws or any decision taken by the Government under these laws can be challenged before the NGT.

 Corbett NP:
- It is located in Nainital district of Uttarakhand. The Project Tiger was launched in 1973 in Corbett National Park (first National Park of India), which is part of Corbett Tiger Reserve.
- The national park was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger.
- It is named after Jim Corbett who played a key role in its establishment.
- The core area forms the Corbett National Park while the buffer contains reserve forests as well as the Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The entire area of the reserve is mountainous and falls in the Shivalik and Outer Himalaya geological provinces.
- Ramganga, Sonanadi, Mandal, Palain and Kosi are the major rivers flowing through the Reserve.

Forest Survey of India

- 1. FSI is a national organisation responsible for the assessment and monitoring of the forest resources of India regularly.
- 2. It functions under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- 3. It is headquartered in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

- 4. It was founded in 1981.
- 5. FSI is one of the major national survey organizations in India.
- 6. The organization's precursor was the 'Pre-investment Survey of Forest Resources' (PISFR), a project started in 1965 with aid from UNDP and FAO. >

5.3 Amur falcons:

[News]:

Going beyond Amur falcons: Nagaland to celebrate avian diversity, undertake census

- Nagaland is undertaking the first avian documentation exercise going beyond the Amur falcons, the migratory raptor that put the State on the world birding map.
- The four-day Tokhü Emong Bird Count (TEBC) from Friday has been timed with the post-harvest Tokhü Emong festival of the Lothas, the Naga community that dominates Wokha district, arguably the most preferred stopover of the Amur falcons while travelling from east Asia to southern Africa.

[Concept]:

Amur falcons:



- Amur falcons, the world's longest travelling raptors start travelling with the onset of winters.
- Their 22,000-kilometre migratory route is one of the longest amongst all avian species.
- They get their name from the Amur River that forms the border between Russia and China.
- Doyang Lake in Nagaland is better known as a stopover for the Amur falcons during their annual migration from their breeding grounds to warmer South Africa. Thus, Nagaland is also known as the "Falcon Capital of the World,".
- The birds are the least concern under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, but the species is protected under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and the Convention on Migratory Species, to which India is a signatory (which means it is mandatory to protect the birds).

5.4 Umiam lake:

[News]:

Member of the Garo tribal community perform wangala dance in the occasion of the rising sun water fest-2022 on the bank of Umiam lake in **Meghalaya**.

[Concept]:

Umiam lake:

• Umiam Lake, also known as Barapani Lake.



• Umiam Lake is a reservoir located in the hills 15 km to the North of Shillong in the state of Meghalaya, India.

The Wangala Festival:

- Wangala Meghalaya, Nagaland and Assam
- Also known as the 'Hundred Drums Festival', Wangala is celebrated by the people of the Garo tribe from Meghalaya, Nagaland and Assam. Various food items made from rice—a staple in this region—and rice beer (called chubitchi/chubok/chu)are consumed during the festivities.
- The date of the Wangala varies from village to village and it takes place between September and December.
- Typically, the celebrations are accompanied by dance and music, with people from across the village participating.

5.5 Snow Leopard

[News]:

Camera traps give hope for snow leopard in Kashmir [Concept]:

Snow Leopard



- Snow leopards act as an indicator of the health of the mountain ecosystem in which they live, due to their position as the top predator in the food web.
- Mountainous regions of central and southern Asia. In India, their geographical range encompasses:
- Western Himalayas: Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh.
- Eastern Himalayas: Uttarakhand and Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Hemis National Park is the biggest national park in India and also has a good presence of Snow Leopard.

Status:

Habitat:

- The snow leopard is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN-World Conservation Union's Red List of the Threatened Species.
- It is listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- Project Snow Leopard (PSL): It was launched in 2009 to promote an inclusive and participatory approach to conserve snow leopards and their habitat.

5.6 Indian black honeybee

[News]:

Indian black honeybee is a Western Ghats discovery [Concept]:

• A new species of endemic honeybee has been discovered in the Western Ghats.

• The new species has been named Apis karinjodian and given the common name Indian black honeybee.



- The last honeybee described from India was Apis indica in 1798 by Fabricius.
- The distribution of Apis karinjodian ranges from the central Western Ghats and Nilgiris to the southern Western Ghats, covering the States of Goa, Karnataka.

5.7 Hydrogen

[News]:

Atomic hydrogen power India's energy, net zero plan India announces COP27. longterm strategy at • It will help the nation be carbon neutral by 2070, a commitment made by Prime Minister at Glasgow last Environment Minister year, says • At the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) in Sharm elSheikh, India on Monday announced its longterm strategy to transition to a "low emissions" pathway, which is premised on expanding its nuclear power capacity by at least threefold in the next decade, apart from becoming an international hub for producing green hydrogen and increasing the proportion of ethanol in petrol. • Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said these steps were consonant with India's "five decade journey" to net zero, or being carbon neutral by 2070 — a commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Glasgow, where the 26th COP was held last year.

- We have ensured that the strategy emphasises energy security, energy access, and employment, while keeping focus on our vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat," Mr.
 Yadav
- "The journey to net zero is a five decade long one and India's vision is therefore evolutionary and flexible, accommodating new technological developments and developments in the global economy and international cooperation."

Hydrogen

[Concept]:

• Hydrogen is one of the most abundant elements on earth for a cleaner alternative fuel option.

Type of hydrogen depend up on the process of its formation:

- Green hydrogen is produced by electrolysis of water using renewable energy (like Solar, Wind) and has a lower carbon footprint.
- Electricity splits water into hydrogen and oxygen.
- By Products: Water, Water Vapor.

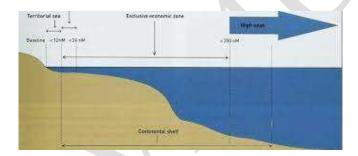
Ethanol Blending:

- Ethanol: It is one of the principal biofuels, which is naturally produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes such as ethylene hydration.
- Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP): It is aimed at reducing the country's dependence on crude oil imports, cutting carbon emissions and boosting farmers' incomes.
- Blending Target: The Government of India has advanced the target for 20% ethanol blending in petrol (also called E20) to 2025 from 2030.

5.8 Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

[Concept]:

- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982, also known as Law of the Sea divides marine areas into five main zones namely-Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas.
- Each coastal State may claim an EEZ beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea that extends seaward up to 200 nm from its baselines.
- Within its EEZ, a coastal state has:
- Sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing natural resources, whether living or nonliving, of the seabed and subsoil.
- Rights to carry out activities like the production of energy from the water, currents and wind.



• Unlike the territorial sea and the contiguous zone, the EEZ only allows for the abovementioned resource rights. It does not give a coastal state the right to prohibit or limit freedom of navigation or overflight, subject to very limited exceptions

5.9 Siberian rubythroat

[News]:

Siberian rubythroat recorded in the Nilgiris

[Concept]:

- The bird, which breeds in the coniferous forests of Siberia, is known to winter in Thailand, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh
- It is a migratory insectivorous species breeding in mixed coniferous forests with undergrowth in Siberia. It nests near the ground. It winters in Thailand, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh (See wintering range map).



• IUCN Least Concern

5.10 One Horned Rhino

[News]:

Rhino horns trafficked with impunity: report

[Concept]:

One Horned Rhino



- Only the Great One-Horned Rhino is found in India.
- Also known as Indian rhino, it is the largest of the rhino species.
- It is identified by a single black horn and a grey-brown hide with skin folds.
- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable.
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.

5.11 COP27

[News]:

COP27 sets up loss and damage fund [Concept]:

- Delegates at the UN's climate conference in Sharm elSheikh, Egypt thrashed out an agreement on Sunday to establish a loss and damage (L&D) fund to compensate the most vulnerable countries from climatelinked disasters.
- Crucial questions such as who will manage this fund, whether contributions are expected from large developing countries and what the fair share of contributors will be have been left to a "transitional committee" that will make recommendations for the adoption of the fund.

Loss and damage:

• It is used in UN climate negotiations to express the effects of climate change that outweigh people's ability to adapt.

- It is disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities, making addressing the issue a matter of climate justice.
- While the UNFCCC has not defined loss and damage precisely, it is caused by extreme weather events (cyclones, droughts, heatwaves) and slow-onset changes (sea level rise, desertification, ocean acidification).
- Climate change damages can be classified as economic losses or non-economic losses (such as loss of life).

5.12 biodiversity heritage site

[News]:

Tamil Nadu gets its first biodiversity heritage site

[Concept]:

- The Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday issued a notification declaring Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district the first biodiversity heritage site in the State.
- The site, comprising 139.63 hectares in Arittapatti village (in Melur taluk) and 53.58 hectares in Meenakshipuram village (Madurai East taluk), will be known as the Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage Site, said a notification.
- Arittapatti, known for its ecological and historical significance, houses around 250 species of birds, including three important raptors the Laggar Falcon, the Shaheen Falcon and Bonelli's Eagle.
- It is also home to wildlife such as the Indian pangolin, slender loris and pythons.
- BHS are areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems terrestrial, coastal, inland and marine waters having a rich biodiversity.
- The biodiversity comprises any one or more of the components like,

- Species richness Wild and domesticated species or intra-specific categories,
- High endemism,
- Presence of rare, endemic and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance,
- Presence of wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or landraces or their varieties,
- Past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having cultural or aesthetic values.
- Area with significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values; important for the maintenance of cultural diversity.
- As per Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002,
- State Governments can notify in the official gazette, in consultation with 'local bodies', areas of biodiversity importance as BHS.
- State Government in consultation with the Central Government may frame rules for the management and conservation of BHS.
- State Governments can frame schemes for compensating or rehabilitating anyone economically affected by such notification.

5.13 Koya Tribe:

[News]:

Forest Range Officer killed by Gutti Koya tribals in Telangana

[Concept]:

Koya Tribe:

- Koya tribe is the largest adivasi tribe of Telangana and listed as Scheduled Tribe in Telangana.
- The community is spread across Telugu speaking states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Habitat and livelihood:

- The Godavari and Sabari rivers which are flowing through their area of habitation exercise profound influence on Koyas' economic, social and cultural life.
- The Koyas are mainly settled cultivators. They grow Jowar, Ragi, Bajra and other millets.
- Lord Bhima
- Koyas perform a robust colourful dance called Permakok ata (Bison horn dance) during festivals and marriage ceremonies.

5.14 Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)

[News]:

NITI Aayog proposes decarbonising of industrial emissions [Concept]:

- Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), the technology for decarbonising emissions from high polluting sectors such as steel, cement, oil, gas, petrochemicals, chemicals and fertilizers, has a critical role to play for the country to halve carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, says a report on the policy framework of the CCUS prepared by the NITI Aayog and MN Dastur & Company.
- The report, released here on Tuesday by NITI Aayog ViceChairman Suman K.

Bery, said the CCUS technology would help in promoting the low carbonhydrogen economy and in removal of the CO2 stock from the atmosphere.

- Mr. Bery said the key challenge would be to reduce the cost of the mechanisms to implement the technology.
- CCUS has an important and critical role to play in it, especially for India to accomplish netzero by 2070."

Carbon capture and utilization

- Carbon capture and utilization (CCU) is the process of capturing carbon dioxide (CO2) to be recycled for further usage.
- Carbon capture and utilization may help in significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions from major industrial emitters.
- CCU is different from carbon capture and storage (CCS) because CCU does not aim nor result in permanent geological storage of carbon dioxide.
- Instead, CCU aims to convert the captured carbon dioxide into more valuable substances or products; such as plastics, concrete or biofuel; while retaining the carbon neutrality of the production processes.

5.15 Binturong

[News]:

Betting for exotic meat, gambling dens in Manipur descend further into illegality

• The police and forest officials in the Manipur's Ukhrul town have been scanning "gambling dens" following reports of wild animals – dead or alive – being offered as prizes for raffle draws.

[Concept]:



- Binturong, (Arctictis binturong), also called bear cat or cat bear, catlike omnivore of the civet family (Viverridae), found in dense forests of Southeast Asia.
- Its range extends from Nepal, India, and Bhutan southward to the Indonesian islands of Sumatra and Java and eastward to Borneo.
- It has long shaggy hair, tufted ears, and a long, bushy, prehensile tail. The colour generally is black with a sprinkling of whitish hairs.
- The binturong is principally nocturnal and crepuscular (that is, active during twilight).
- It is found most often among the trees, using its prehensile tail as an aid in climbing. It feeds mainly on fruit, such as figs, but it also takes eggs and small animals.
- In some areas binturongs are tamed and have been reported as being affectionate pets.
- Binturongs are classified as a vulnerable species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

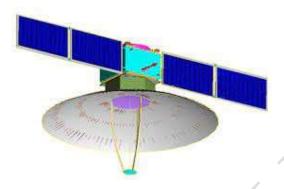
6.SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

6.1 RISAT-2

[News]:

RISAT-2 satellite makes re-entry into Earth's atmosphere [Concept]:

• RISAT (Radar Imaging Satellite) is a series of Indian radar imaging reconnaissance satellites built by ISRO.



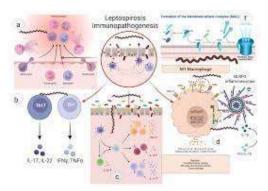
- They provide all-weather surveillance.
- The RISAT series are the first all-weather Earth observation satellites from ISRO. Previous Indian observation satellites relied primarily on optical and spectral sensors which were hampered by cloud cover.

6.2 leptospirosis

[News]:

New laboratory gives Tamil Nadu a legup to fight leptospirosis cases [Concept]:

Leptospirosis



- It is a bacterial disease that affects humans and animals.
- It is caused by bacteria of the genus Leptospira.
- In humans, it can cause a wide range of symptoms, some of which may be mistaken for other diseases.
- Some infected persons, however, may have no symptoms at all.
- Without treatment, Leptospirosis can lead to kidney damage, meningitis (inflammation of the membrane around the brain and spinal cord), liver failure, respiratory distress, and even death.
- A single dose of doxycycline 200 mg tablet is effective as a preventive medicine against leptospirosis, a bacterial infection, if given to the flood-affected within a week of the natural calamity.

6.3 Rubella and Measles

[News]:

Centre sends experts to 3 cities to contain measles infection [Concept]:

Rubella and Measles

• Rubella is a contagious, generally mild viral infection that occurs most often in children and young adults.

- Measles is a highly contagious viral disease and is a cause of death among young children globally.
- Though the diseases are caused by different viruses but share more or less the same symptoms, including the red rashes.
- The Measles & Rubella Initiative, a global program, aims at eliminating both these diseases.
- The vaccine for the diseases are provided in the form of measles-rubella (MR), measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), or measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (MMRV) combination.

6.4 Bluebugging



- Bluetooth is an open wireless technology standard for transmitting data between fixed and mobile electronic devices over short distances.
- Bluebugging is a method for skilled hackers to access mobile commands on
 Bluetooth-enabled devices in discoverable mode.
- Bluebugging is a type of bugging that is comparable to phone eavesdropping
- Most Bluetooth-enabled mobile phones and devices are immediately vulnerable to blue bugging attacks because the discoverable mode is the default configuration.

• Hackers can exploit Bluetooth-enabled devices that aren't in discoverable mode using programs like RedFang and BlueSniff

