



WE4U IAS COACHING
UPSC MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS
OCTOBER 2022

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1. INDIAN POLITY

1.1 Collegium System:

[News]

SC Collegium recommends transfer of two Chief Justices and elevation of three judges

[Background]

Collegium System:

- It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the SC, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.
- The SC collegium is headed by the CJI and comprises four other senior most judges of the court.

For CJI:

- The President of India appoints the CJI and the other SC judges.
- As far as the CJI is concerned, the outgoing CJI recommends his successor.
- In practice, it has been strictly by seniority ever since the supersession controversy of the 1970s.

For SC Judges:

- For other judges of the SC, the proposal is initiated by the CJI.
- The CJI consults the rest of the Collegium members, as well as the senior-most judge of the court hailing from the High Court to which the recommended person belongs.

- The consultees must record their opinions in writing and it should form part of the file.
- The Collegium sends the recommendation to the Law Minister, who forwards it to the Prime Minister to advise the President.

1.2 Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)

[News]:

Tangedco seeks clarity on CERC order allowing up to 20% of coal blending

[Background]:

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)

- Established by: Government of India
- It is the Central Commission for the Electricity Act, 2003 which has repealed the ERC Act, 1998.
- Composition: Chairperson and four other Members including Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority who is the ex-officio Member of the Commission.
- **Functions:**
 - (1) To regulate the tariff of generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government;
 - (2) To regulate the inter-State transmission of electricity; (3) To determine tariff for such transmission of electricity.
 - (3) CERC also advises the Central Government on the formulation of the National Electricity Policy and Tariff Policy.

1.3 Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

[News]:

Delhi Police books PFI under UAPA

[Background]:**Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act**

- Originally enacted in 1967, the UAPA was amended to be modelled as an antiterror law in 2004 and 2008.
- In August 2019, Parliament cleared the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 to designate individuals as terrorists on certain grounds provided in the Act.
- In order to deal with the terrorism related crimes, it deviates from ordinary legal procedures and creates an exceptional regime where constitutional safeguards of the accused are curtailed.

1.4 The Mediation Bill, 2021

- What are the changes which the Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended to the draft Bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha last year? Will pre-litigation mediation be mandatory for all disputes before filing a suit in court?
- The Mediation Bill, 2021 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on December 20, 2021, with the Parliamentary Standing Committee being tasked with a review of the Bill.
- The committee's report to the Rajya Sabha was submitted on July 13, 2022. In its report, the Committee recommends substantial changes the Mediation Bill, aimed at institutionalising mediation and establishing the Mediation Council of India.

Why does India need to promote mediation?

- While there is no standalone legislation for mediation in India, there are several statutes containing mediation provisions, such as the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, the Companies Act, 2013, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, and the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- As India is a signatory to the Singapore Convention on Mediation (formally the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation), it is appropriate to enact a law governing domestic and international mediation.

What are the key features of the Bill?

- The Bill aims to promote, encourage, and facilitate mediation, especially institutional mediation, to resolve disputes, commercial and otherwise.
- The Bill further proposes mandatory mediation before litigation. At the same time, it safeguards the rights of litigants to approach competent adjudicatory forums/ courts for urgent relief.
- The mediation process will be confidential and immunity is provided against its disclosure in certain cases.
- The outcome of the mediation process in the form of a Mediation Settlement Agreement (MSA) will be legally enforceable and can be registered with the State/ district/taluk legal authorities within 90 days to ensure authenticated records of the settlement.
- The Bill establishes the Mediation Council of India and also provides for community mediation.

What are the concerns with the Bill?

- According to the Bill, pre-litigation mediation is mandatory for both parties before filing any suit or proceeding in a court, whether or not there is a mediation agreement between them.

- Parties who fail to attend pre-litigation mediation without a reasonable reason may incur a cost.
- However, as per Article 21 of the Constitution, access to justice is a constitutional right which cannot be fettered or restricted.
- Mediation should just be voluntary and making it otherwise would amount to denial of justice.
- Additionally, according to Clause 26 of the Bill, court-annexed mediation, including pre-litigation mediation, will be conducted in accordance with the directions or rules framed by the Supreme Court or High Courts.
- However, the Committee objected to this. It stated that Clause 26 went against the spirit of the Constitution.

What next?

- In order to enable a faster resolution of disputes, the Bill should be implemented after discussion with stakeholders.
- If the issues of the Bill aren't fixed, our aspirations to become an international mediation hub for easy business transactions could be crushed before they've even begun.

1.5 Model Code of Conduct:

[News]:

- Don't lure, persuade
- The Election Commission of India's proposal to require political parties to disclose the financial implications of the promises they make in their manifestos will add meaning and depth to electoral campaigns.

- The idea that parties should communicate to electors the fiscal rationale for promising delivery of goods or services that would involve a significant outgo from the exchequer is already part of the Model Code of Conduct from 2015.

[Background]:

Model Code of Conduct:



- The MCC is a set of guidelines issued by the EC to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections.
- It helps EC in keeping with the mandate it has been given under Article 324 of the Constitution, which gives it the power to supervise and conduct free and fair elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures.
- The MCC is operational from the date on which the election schedule is announced until the date of result announcement.
- The origins of the MCC lie in the Assembly elections of Kerala in 1960, when the State administration prepared a 'Code of Conduct' for political actors.
- Subsequently, in the Lok Sabha elections in 1962, the ECI circulated the code to all recognised political parties and State governments and it was wholeheartedly followed.
- It was in 1991 after repeated flouting of the election norms and continued corruption, the EC decided to enforce the MCC more strictly.

General Provision

- Religious or communal sentiments must not be hampered during any activity
Criticism of the opposition political party must only be limited to their previous policies or work and not personally related to them
- Places of worship (temples, mosques, church, etc.) must not be used for election propaganda
- Meetings – The party or candidate shall inform the local police authorities of the venue and time proposed for a meeting well in time so that law, order and peace can be maintained by the police
- Procession – The local police or the concerned authorities must be informed well in advance of the time, venue and route of the procession so that the required arrangements can be made
- Polling Day – The party or candidate must cooperate with the authorities at the polling camps for peaceful elections. No eatables or liquor must be served outside the polling camps
- Polling Booth – Except the voters, no one without a valid pass from the Election Commission shall enter the polling booths.

1.6 Voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT)

[News]:

- Debate over audio VVPAT slips for visually challenged

[Background]:

VVPAT

- Voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) is a method of providing feedback to voters using EVMs.

- A VVPAT is intended as an independent verification system for voting machines designed to allow voters to verify that their vote was cast correctly, and to provide a means to audit the stored electronic results.



- It contains the name of the candidate for whom vote has been cast and symbol of the party/individual candidate.

1.7 National Commission for Minorities:

[News]:

- The National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities, headed by retired Chief Justice Ranganath Mishra, also examined this issue.
- In its 2007 report, the panel made a categorical recommendation in favour of giving SC status to Dalits belonging to all religions.
- The main counter-views are well-known: discrimination and deprivation being the consequences of the caste-based Hindu social order, SC status should not be extended to those who have converted to Christianity and Islam; and the benefits involved may be seen as an incentive to mass conversion.
- Another objection is that the share of the reservation pie available to Dalits among Hindus may shrink if new sections are included.

[Background]:

National Commission for Minorities:

- In 1993, the first Statutory National Commission was set up and five religious communities viz the Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) were notified as minority communities.

- In 2014, Jains were also notified as a minority community.

Composition:

- NCM consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and five members and all of them shall be from amongst the minority communities.

- Total of 7 persons to be nominated by the Central Government should be from amongst persons of eminence, ability and integrity.

- Tenure: Each Member holds office for a period of three years from the date of assumption of office.

1.8 Section 66A:

[News]:

No more indictment under Section 66A of IT Act: Supreme Court

[Background]:

Section 66A:



- It empowered police to make arrests over what policemen, in terms of their subjective discretion, could construe as “offensive” or “menacing” or for the purposes of causing annoyance, inconvenience, etc.

- It prescribed the punishment for sending messages through a computer or any other communication device like a mobile phone or a tablet, and a conviction could fetch a maximum of three years in jail.
- Section 66A was contrary to both Articles 19 (free speech) and 21 (right to life) of the Constitution.

1.9 National Commission for Women

[News]:

AAP Gujarat chief detained for 'ruckus' outside NCW office

[Background]:

National Commission for Women

- It was established on January 31, 1992, under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, to review the Constitutional and legal safeguards for women, recommend remedial legislative measures, facilitate grievance redress, and advise the government on all policy matters affecting women.
- The Commission provides financial assistance to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and educational institutions that conduct legal awareness programs to help women become more aware of their rights.
- In order to carry out its duties, the Commission has been given the authority to constitute special committees. Furthermore, the Commission shall have the authority to nominate outsiders as members of any such group.
- Consult with NCW: According to the National Commission for Women Act of 1990, the Central Government must consult the Commission on all policy decisions affecting women.

- The Chairperson and every Member shall hold office for such a period, not exceeding three years, as may be specified by the Central Government on this behalf.
- Inquire into and evaluate all issues connected to the Constitution's and other laws' protections for women.

1.10 Rule of Law:

[News]:

‘Rule of law is defence against oppressive systems like casteism’

[Background]:

Rule of Law:



- The doctrine of rule of law has its origin in England.
- A V Dicey in his book The Law of the Constitution (1885) has given the following three implications of the doctrine of rule of law.
- Absence of arbitrary power, that is, no man is punished except for a breach of law
- Equality before the law, that is, equal subjection of all citizens (rich or poor, high or low, official or non official) to the ordinary law of the land administered by the ordinary law courts

- The primacy of the rights of individual, that is, the constitution is the result of the rights of the individual as defined and enforced by courts of law, rather than constitution being the source of the individual rights

1.11 Sovereignty:

[News]:

Centre retorts to WSJ ad, calls it an attack on Indian sovereignty

[Background]:

Sovereignty:

- Sovereignty is the full right and power of a governing body over itself, without any interference from outside sources or bodies.
- The Preamble to the Indian Constitution lays out the position, wherein the people of India have resolved to constitute the Indian Republic into a sovereign country.
- However, in practical terms, no country can exercise sovereignty by being isolated with other countries, it has to engage and collaborate with other nations under a defined set of international law

1.12 Summon

[News]:

Assembly session to commence today

[Background]:

Summon

- There are two provisions in the Constitution that deal with a governor’s power to summon, prorogue and dissolve an assembly.
- Article 174 of the Constitution: The Governor shall from time to time summon the House or each House of the Legislature of the State to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit. The provision also puts on the Governor the responsibility of ensuring that the House is summoned at least once every six months.
- Article 174 (2) (a) says a governor may from “time to time” prorogue the House and 174
- Article 174 (2) (b) allows her or him to dissolve the Legislative Assembly.
- The Governor is required to act on the “aid and advice” of the Cabinet.

1.13 Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

[News]:

CBI summons Delhi Deputy CM for questioning in excise case

[Background]:

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)



- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating police agency in India.
- It provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.

- It functions under the superintendence of the Dept. of Personnel, Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances, Government of India - which falls under the prime minister's office.
- However for investigations of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, its superintendence vests with the Central Vigilance Commission.
- It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigation on behalf of Interpol Member countries.
- Its conviction rate is as high as 65 to 70% and it is comparable to the best investigation agencies in the world.
- The CBI is not a statutory body but derives its power to investigate from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).

1.14 Competition Commission of India (CCI)

[News]:

In another CCI rap, Google fined ₹936 cr.

[Background]:

Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- Its a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002, it was duly constituted in March 2009.
- The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002, on the recommendations of Raghavan committee.

- Competition Commission of India aims to establish a robust competitive environment.

Functions of CCI:

- To eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.
- To give opinion on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law and to undertake competition advocacy, create public awareness and impart training on competition issues.

1.15 Anti Defection

- 52nd CAA 1985
- According to Schedule X (Anti-Defection Act),
- An elected member voluntarily gives up his membership of a political party,
- An elected member votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party or anyone authorised to do so, without obtaining prior permission.
- Presiding Officer: Final Authority

1.16 Centre – State legislative relationship

[News]:

Centre should stop legislating on State subjects: Minister

[Background]:

- The 7th Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the division of powers between the Union government and State governments.
- It is a part of 12 Schedules of Indian Constitution.
- The division of powers between Union and State is notified through three kinds of the list mentioned in the seventh schedule:

1. Union List – List I

2. State List – List II

3. Concurrent List – List III

- Article 249 gives Parliament the power to legislate concerning a subject enumerated in the State List in the national interest

- Parliament can legislate on subjects that are enumerated under the State List

1. When Rajya Sabha passes resolution

2. During a national emergency (Article 250)

3. When two or more states pass a resolution requesting Parliament to legislate on subjects under State List

4. President Rule

5. To implement International Agreement.

1.17 White collar crime:

[News]:

White collar crimes are highly harmful to society, says High Court

[Background]:

White collar crime:

- The term "white-collar crime" refers to financially motivated, nonviolent or non directly violent crime committed by individuals, businesses and government professionals

1.18 Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

[News]:

Centre mulls removal of TRAI-related provisions from Bill

[Background]:

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was established on 20th February, 1997 by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

Objectives of TRAI:

- TRAI's mission is to create and nurture conditions for growth of telecommunications in the country.
- TRAI regulates telecom services including fixation/revision of tariffs for telecom services which were earlier vested in the Central Government.
- It also aims to provide a fair and transparent policy environment which promotes a level playing field and facilitates fair competition.

1.19 Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) of 2019

[News]:

CAA is a benign piece of legislation, Home Ministry tells SC

[Background]:

Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) of 2019

- The CAA fast-tracks the citizenship- by-naturalisation process for “illegal migrants” from six religious communities, other than Muslims, who have fled persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan
- The government had maintained that the amendments made to the Citizenship Act of 1955 was meant to protect and welcome religiously persecuted people fleeing the three neighbouring countries where Muslims form the majority.
- The petitions have argued that the law welcomes “illegal migrants” into India selectively on the basis of their religion and pointedly excludes Muslims.
- It has an “unholy nexus” with the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise and is against principles of secularism, right to equality and dignity of life enshrined in the Constitution, the petitions said.
- While Muslim migrants would have to show their proof of residency in India for at least 11 years, the law allows illegal migrants from the six communities to be naturalised in five years’ time.

2. INDIAN ECONOMY

2.1 Monetary Policy :

[News]

- Reserve Bank raises rates by 50 bps, brings down growth outlook to 7%
- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Friday raised the policy repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) to 5.9%, with RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das citing the 'persistence of high inflation that necessitated the withdrawal of monetary accommodation to restrain broadening of price pressures and contain second round effects'.
- "This action will support medium-term growth prospects," Mr. Das added.
- The committee also voted by a 5:1 majority to "remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward".

[Background]

Monetary Policy :

- Monetary Policy is the process of regulating the supply of money in an economy by the monetary authority of the country.
- The Monetary Policy, generally, adjusts the inflation rates or interest rates to sustain the price stability and to maintain the predictable exchange rates with foreign currencies.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

- It was constituted as per Section 45ZB under the RBI Act of 1934 by the Central Government. The first meeting of MPC was conducted on 3rd October 2016 in Mumbai.

- The committee determines the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target.
- There are Six Members in MPC, 3 from the RBI and 3 Members appointed by central government
- The MPC is required to meet at least four times in a year.
- The quorum for the meeting of the MPC is four members.
- Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Governor has a second or casting vote.

Repo Rate:

- Repo rate or repurchase rate is referred to as the rate at which the central bank (RBI) lends money to the commercial banks for meeting short-term fund requirements in order to maintain liquidity and control inflation.

2.2 Foreign portfolio investment (FPI)

[News]:

- RBI's monetary policy has sent a positive message: FM
- Sitharaman says inflation at a manageable level, adds India is entering an era of robust economic activity that will see an increase in mergers
- More than 70% of the foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) who had left the Indian stock markets in the months running up to July, had returned over the last two months, the Minister said, asserting that India was now entering an era of robust economic activity.

[Background]:

Foreign portfolio investment (FPI)

- It consists of securities and other financial assets passively held by foreign investors.
- It does not provide the investor with direct ownership of financial assets and is relatively liquid depending on the volatility of the market.
- Examples of FPIs include stocks, bonds, mutual funds.
- FPI is part of a country's capital account and is shown on its Balance of Payments (BOP)

2.3 MGNREGA

[News]:

- MGNREGS to fund work to reverse desertification of land across the States
- In 2019, the government raised its target of restoration of degraded land from 21 million hectares to 26 million hectares by 2030 following a commitment made during the UN Convention Convention to Combat Desertification (COP14).
- Therefore, there is a compelling reason for the Ministry to explore alternative opportunities to fulfil the commitment the advisory read.

[Background]:

MGNREGA

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), also known as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) is Indian legislation enacted on August 25, 2005.
- The MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household

willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage.

- The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Govt of India is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments.
- This act was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of the rural people, primarily semi or un-skilled work to people living below poverty line in rural India.
- It attempts to bridge the gap between the rich and poor in the country.
- Roughly one-third of the stipulated work force must be women.

2.4 Professional tax

[News]:

Corporation turns its attention to professional tax to improve revenue

[Background]:

Professional tax

PROFESSIONAL
TAX



- It is a direct tax on the income of all earning individuals.

- Professional tax is a direct tax on the income of all earning individuals. It is imposed by the state governments. Direct tax on the profits of companies and corporates is called corporate tax

2.5 Direct Tax

[News]:

- At ₹7.45 lakh crore, direct tax receipts cross half the target
- It is an increase of 16.3% over the tax inflows during the corresponding period a year ago. Based on provisional data, net personal income tax collections grew 17.35%, rising faster than corporate income tax collections that were up 16.29% net of refunds.

[Background]:

Direct Tax

- Securities Transaction Tax (STT) collections combined with personal income tax receipts, grew at a more moderate 16.25%.
- Securities Transaction Tax (STT) is a tax payable in India on the value of securities (excluding commodities and currency) transacted through a recognized stock exchange.
- A corporate tax is a tax on the profits of a corporation. The taxes are paid on a company's taxable income

2.6 Minimum Support Price:

[News]:

- Farmers' outfits question delay in announcing MSP for ongoing Rabi season

[Background]:

Minimum Support Price:



- The MSP is the rate at which the government purchases crops from farmers, and is based on a calculation of at least one-and-a-half times the cost of production incurred by the farmers.
- MSP is a “minimum price” for any crop that the government considers as remunerative for farmers and hence deserving of “support”.
- The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.
- CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- The mandated crops include 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and 2 other commercial crops.
- In addition, the MSPs of toria and de-husked coconut are fixed on the basis of the MSPs of rapeseed/mustard and copra, respectively.

Rabi Crops

- Rabi crops are sown in winter from October to December and harvested in summer from April to June.
- Some of the important rabi crops are wheat, barley, peas, gram and mustard.

- Though, these crops are grown in large parts of India, states from the north and northwestern parts such as Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh are important for the production of wheat and other rabi crops.

2.7 Electoral Bonds

[News]:

Will electoral bonds reveal the source of funds, SC asks Centre

[Background]:

Electoral Bonds



- State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds.
- Electoral bonds are purchased anonymously by donors and are valid for 15 days from the date of issue.
- As debt instruments, these can be bought by donors from a bank, and the political party can then encash them.
- These can be redeemed only by an eligible party by depositing the same in its designated account maintained with a bank.
- The bonds are issued by SBI in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore.

- The bonds are available for purchase by any citizen of India for a period of ten days each in the months of January, April, July and October as may be specified by the Central Government.

Eligibility:

- Only the political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and have secured not less than 1% of the votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly, are eligible to receive electoral bonds.

2.8 Wholesale Price Index

[News]:

- Wholesale inflation cooled to 10.7% in Sept.
- Wholesale price inflation dropped from 12.4% in August to 10.7% in September, the lowest in a year-and-a-half, with food price rise easing to a 10-month low from almost double-digit levels a month earlier even though vegetables and cereals prices shot up.

[Background]:

Wholesale Price Index

- It measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.
- Published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It is the most widely used inflation indicator in India.

- The base year of All-India WPI has been revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017.

2.9 Global Hunger Index

[News]:

Global Hunger Index is out, India in 'serious' category at rank 107

[Background]:

Global Hunger Index



- The country ranks below Sri Lanka (64), Nepal (81), Bangladesh (84) and Pakistan (99); Afghanistan is the only South Asian country that lags behind India in the listing
- India ranks 107 out of 121 countries on the Global Hunger Index in which it fares worse than all countries in South Asia barring war-torn Afghanistan.
- GHI scores are based on the values of four component indicators - undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and child mortality.
- Countries are divided into five categories of hunger on the basis of their score, which are 'low', 'moderate', 'serious', 'alarming' and 'extremely alarming'.

- Based on the values of the four indicators, a GHI score is calculated on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger, where zero is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.
- India's score of 29.1 places it in the 'serious' category.
- India's child wasting rate (low weight for height), at 19.3%, is worse than the levels recorded in 2014 (15.1%) and even 2000 (17.15), and is the highest for any country
- Prevalence of undernourishment, which is a measure of the proportion of the population facing chronic deficiency of dietary energy intake, has also risen in the country from 14.6% in 2018-2020 to 16.3% in 2019-2021.
- But India has shown improvement in child stunting, which has declined from 38.7% to 35.5% between 2014 and 2022, as well as child mortality which has also dropped from 4.6% to 3.3% in the same comparative period.
- On the whole, India has shown a slight worsening with its GHI score increasing from 28.2 in 2014 to 29.1 in 2022.

2.10 Directorate of Enforcement (ED)

[News]:

'ED cannot show a single instance of harassment'

[Background]:

Directorate of Enforcement (ED)

- The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is a multi-disciplinary organization mandated with investigation of offences of money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws.

- It functions under the Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance.
- As a premier financial investigation agency of the Government of India, the Enforcement Directorate functions in strict compliance with the Constitution and Laws of India.
- Both FEMA or PMLA apply to the whole of India. So, the ED can take action against any person on which this act applies.
- Cases under FEMA may lie in civil courts where PMLA cases will lie in criminal courts.
- The agency has jurisdiction over a person or any other legal entity who commits a crime.
- All the public servants come under the jurisdiction of the agency if they are involved in any offence related to money laundering.
- ED can not take an action suo motu. One has to complain to any other agency or Police first and then ED will investigate the matter and will identify the accused.
- The ED will investigate the matter and may attach the property of an accused person and also make an arrest and start proceeding with the violation of the provisions of FEMA and PMLA act.
- The matter will be resolved by way of adjudication by courts or PMLA courts.

2.11 Windfall Tax:

[News]:

Tax on windfall profit on crude oil, export of diesel, ATF raised

[Background]:

Windfall Tax:

- A windfall tax is a higher tax rate on profits that result from a sudden windfall gain to a particular company or industry, often as the result of a geo-political disturbance, war or natural disaster that creates unusual spikes in demand and/or interruptions to supply.

2.12 PE/VC**[News]:**

- ‘Monthly India PE/VC inflows slid from \$5 bn to \$2 bn in 6 months’

[Background]:**Private Equity**

- Private equity can be defined as the capital investment, which is made by companies or investors in the private firms that are not a part of the stock exchange.
- These fund investments are made by the high net worth firms or individuals.
- These investors acquire private companies shares or earn authority of public companies to take them private and de-list from public stock exchanges.

Venture Capital

- Venture capital (VC) is a form of private equity and a type of financing that investors provide to startup companies and small businesses that are believed to have long-term growth potential.
- Venture capital generally comes from well-off investors, investment banks, and any other financial institutions.

2.13 Initial Public Offering:

[News]:

BSE IPO, realty, IT indices lost most since last Muhurat

[Background]:

Initial Public Offering:



- It is the process by which a privately held company, or a company owned by the government such as LIC, raises funds by offering shares to the public or to new investors.
- Following the IPO, the company is listed on the stock exchange. Stock exchange is an organized market for the sale and purchase of securities such as shares, stocks, and bonds.
- A listed company can raise share capital for growth and expansion in the future through a follow-on public offering or FPO.

3.INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

3.1 OPEC PLUS

[News]:

White House calls OPEC Plus supply cut move ‘shortsighted’

[Background]:

OPEC PLUS

- The non-OPEC countries which export crude oil are termed as OPEC plus countries.
- OPEC plus countries include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- It aims to manage the supply of oil in an effort to set the price of oil in the world market, in order to avoid fluctuations that might affect the economies of both producing and purchasing countries.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- OPEC membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.

3.2 G20

[News]:

‘India can lead G20 on education, climate and debt sustainability’

Debt sustainability, education and climate action are three areas of potential for India when it takes on the presidency of the Group of Twenty (G20) in December this year, according to World Bank President David Malpass.

[Background]:

G20



- The G20 is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union, with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- The G20 membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, Together, the G20 members represent more than 80% of world GDP, 75% of international trade and 60% of the world population.

The work of G20 is divided into two tracks:

- The finance track comprises all meetings with G20 finance ministers and central bank governors and their deputies. Meeting several times throughout the year they focus on monetary and fiscal issues, financial regulations, etc.
- The Sherpa track focuses on broader issues such as political engagement, anti-corruption, development, energy, etc.
- The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.
- Spain as a permanent, non-member invitee, also attends leader summits.

- The G20 Presidency rotates annually according to a system that ensures a regional balance over time.
- For the selection of presidency, the 19 countries are divided into 5 groups, each having no more than 4 countries. The presidency rotates between each group. Every year the G20 selects a country from another group to be president.
- India is in Group 2 which also has Russia, South Africa, and Turkey.

3.3 International Energy Agency

[News]:

World in 'first truly global energy crisis,' says IEA's Birol

[Background]:

International Energy Agency



- It is an autonomous Intergovernmental Organisation established in 1974 in Paris, France.
- It mainly focuses on its energy policies which include economic development, energy security and environmental protection. These policies are also known as the 3 E's of IEA.
- IEA Clean Coal Centre is dedicated to providing independent information and analysis on how coal can become a cleaner source of energy, compatible with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Major Reports:

- World Energy Outlook Report.
- World Energy Investment Report.
- World Energy Statistics.
- World Energy Balances.
- Energy Technology Perspectives.
- India Energy Outlook Report.

3.4 FATF

[News]:

Pakistan is out of FATF 'grey list' on terror funding

[Background]:

FATF



- The FATF is an inter-governmental body that sets international standards seeking to prevent international financial crimes that aid terrorism.
- The FATF was established in July 1989 by a G-7 Summit in Paris, initially to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.
- India has been a member of the FATF since 2010.

Lists under FATF:

Grey List:

- Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list.

- This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

Black List:

- Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities.

- The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.

3.5 Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

[News]:

‘AIIB must scale up clean energy, infra investments’

[Background]:

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

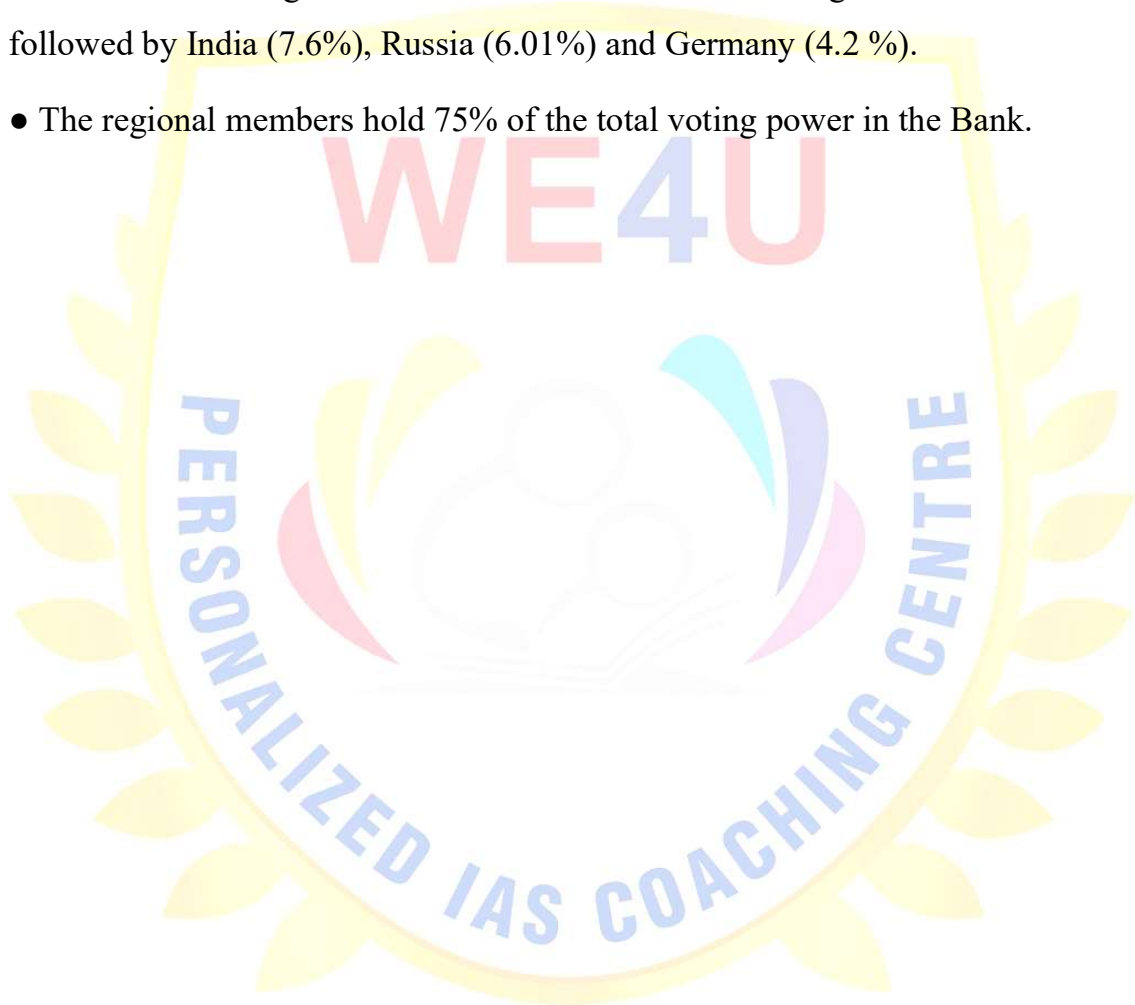


- Its a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia.

- It is established by the AIIB Articles of Agreement (entered into force Dec. 25, 2015) which is a multilateral treaty.

- It is headquartered in Beijing and began its operations in January 2016.

- By the end of 2020, AIIB had 103 approved Members representing approximately 79% of the global population and 65% of global GDP.
- By investing in sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors in Asia and beyond, it will better connect people, services and markets that over time will impact the lives of billions and build a better future.
- China is the largest shareholder with 26.61 % voting shares in the bank followed by India (7.6%), Russia (6.01%) and Germany (4.2 %).
- The regional members hold 75% of the total voting power in the Bank.



4. INDIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

4.1 Bandhavgarh caves

[News]:

‘Caves of Bandhavgarh not Buddhist’

[Background]:

FINDINGS-Buddhist Caves:



- 26 Buddhist Caves were discovered dating back to the 2nd and 5th centuries, pertaining to the Mahayana sect of Buddhism.

Inscriptions in Brahmi text:

- 24 inscriptions in Brahmi text were, all dating back to the 2nd-5th centuries.
- The inscriptions mention sites such as Mathura and Kaushambi, and Pavata, Vejabharada and Sapatanaairikaa.

Remains of Temples:

- The remains of 26 temples dating to the Kalachuri period between 9th-11th centuries and the possibly world's largest Varaha sculpture also dating to the same period were found.
- The Kalachuri dynasty, which spread over parts of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, is also associated with the earliest Ellora and Elephanta cave monuments.

- The Varaha sculpture is among the many monolithic sculptures of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu.
- Two Saiva mutts have also been found.

4.2 Basavanna:



- Basavanna was a 12th-century philosopher, statesman, Kannada poet and a social reformer during the reign of the Kalachuri-dynasty king Bijjala I in Karnataka, India.
- Basavanna spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as Vachanaas. Basavanna rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions and rituals.
- He introduced new public institutions such as the Anubhava Mantapa which welcomed men and women from all socio-economic backgrounds to discuss spiritual and mundane questions of life, in open.
- The Sharana movement he presided over attracted people from all castes.

4.3 Mangarh Dham

[News]:

Gehlot seeks national monument status for Mangarh Dham

[Background]:

Mangarh Dham



- Mangarh is a hill station in Banswara district in Rajasthan .
- It also shares the borders of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat . Here 1500 Bhils sacrificed their lives under the leadership of the great saint Govind Guru .
- It is such a monument that reflects the devotion and patriotism together.
- About a hundred years ago, on November 17, 1913, on Margashirsha Purnima, thousands of Gurubhakts who had gathered to celebrate the Guru's birthday were put to death by the British Army.

5.ENVIRONMENT

5.1 Corbett National Park

[News]:

Over 6,000 trees illegally cut for tiger safari project in Corbett Reserve, says FSI report.

[Background]:

Corbett National Park



- 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.

5.2 Swachh Survekshan:

[News]:

Indore adjudged cleanest city sixth year in a row

- Indore has been adjudged the cleanest city of India for the sixth year in a row, while Madhya Pradesh is the cleanest State in the country.
- Surat is the second cleanest city and Navi Mumbai ranks a close third in the category of cities with a population more than a lakh.

[Background]:

Swachh Survekshan:



- It is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India.
- It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aimed to make India clean and free of open defecation.
- The first survey was undertaken in 2016
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

5.3 UNCCD

[News]:

- MGNREGS to fund work to reverse desertification of land across the States
- In 2019, the government raised its target of restoration of degraded land from 21 million hectares to 26 million hectares by 2030 following a commitment made during the UN Convention Convention to Combat Desertification (COP14).
- Therefore, there is a compelling reason for the Ministry to explore alternative opportunities to fulfil the commitment the advisory read.

[Background]:

UNCCD

- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Established in 1994, UNCCC is a sole legally binding environment convention that links development and environment to sustainable land management.
- The UNCCD addresses particularly the arid, semi-arid & dry sub-humid areas, called drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples are found.
- The convention was drafted and opened for signing in 1994. It became effective in 1996 after receiving 50 ratifications.
- The convention obliges national governments to take measures to tackle the issue of desertification.
- The convention focuses on having a bottom-up approach to achieve its goals, by involving the local communities.

The UNCCD is one of the three Rio Conventions, the other two being:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- The three Rio Conventions work in close collaboration with each other.
- To spread the word about the UNCCD, 2006 was declared as “International Year of Deserts and Desertification”.

5.4 Gujjars and Bakarwals :

[News]:

- Technology eases path for the weary
- For centuries, Jammu and Kashmir’s nomadic community, known as Gujjars and Bakarwals, have undertaken arduous journeys on foot as part of their seasonal migration to find better pastures for their livestock.
- They often lose cattle and, on occasion, family members to accidents and hardships along the way.
- However, technological solutions and transport services have been offered this year to help them cover long distances in less time and more safely.

[Background]:

- **Transhumance** is a type of pastoralism or nomadism, a seasonal movement of livestock between fixed summer and winter pastures. In montane regions (vertical transhumance), it implies movement between higher pastures in summer and lower valleys in winter.

Gujjars and Bakarwals :

- They 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

5.5 slender loris

[News]:

- Tamil Nadu notifies India's first slender loris sanctuary
- In a first in the country, the Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday notified the Kaduvur slender loris sanctuary covering 11,806 hectares in Karur and Dindigul districts.

[Background]:

slender loris



- Slender lorises, which are small nocturnal mammals, are arboreal as they spend most of their life on trees.
- The species acts as a biological predator of pests in agricultural crops and benefits farmers.

- Listed as an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, slender loris has a wide range of ecological roles in the terrestrial ecosystem.

Habitat improvement

- In significant steps towards conservation of wildlife, the State government notified India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in the Palk Bay, Kazhuvelli bird sanctuary in Villupuram, Nanjarayan Tank birds sanctuary in Tiruppur and the State's fifth elephant reserve at Agasthyamalai in Tirunelveli.

5.6 National Green Tribunal

[News]:

- NGT asks Delhi govt. to pay ₹900 cr. fine for 3 crore MT undisposed waste in city landfills

[Background]:

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.

5.7 Sloth bear

[News]:

- A day to explore bear necessities
- On first World Sloth Bear Day, Central Zoo Authority urges every zoo in India and around the world to celebrate the occasion for conservation and protection of the Indian species of bear

[Background]:

Sloth bear



- Sloth bears are found in Sri Lanka, India, Bhutan and Nepal, predominantly in lowland areas. Sloth bears primarily eat termites and ants, and unlike other bear species, they routinely carry their cubs on their backs.
- They are also very fond of honey, hence their alternative name of “honey bear”.
- Sloth bears do not hibernate.
- As per the IUCN Red List, the Sloth bear is listed as vulnerable. No fewer than 20,000 sloth bears survive in the forests of Indian and Sri Lanka. It is listed in Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- October 12 World sloth bear day.

5.8 Snow Leopard

[News]:

- The snow leopard has never been spotted nor recorded in the Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

[Background]:

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.

- 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.
- The Government of India has identified the snow leopard as a flagship species for the high altitude Himalayas.
- India is also party to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme since 2013.
- Project Snow Leopard (PSL): It was launched in 2009 to promote an inclusive and participatory approach to conserve snow leopards and their habitat.

Namdapha National Park

- The Namdapha National Park is located in Arunachal Pradesh
- Namdapha National Park is nestled between the Patkai and Dapha bum ranges of Mishmi Hills in the Eastern Himalayan Sub-region.
- Namdapha is located on the international border between India and Myanmar, along the raging Noa- Dihing River.
- In 1972, Namdapha was designated as a wildlife sanctuary. In 1983, it was designated as a tiger reserve and national park

5.9 Indian Bison

[News]:

Centre considering Sri Lanka's proposal to translocate gaurs Indian Bison or Gaur (*Bos gaurus*)

[Background]:

Indian Bison



- Location: Native to South and southeast Asia
- In India, they are found in Nagarhole, Bandipur, Masinagudi National Parks and BR Hills.

Conservation Status:

- Vulnerable in IUCN Red List.
- Included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.

Important Facts:

- It is the tallest species of wild cattle found in India and largest extant bovine.
- Recently, the first population estimation exercise of the Indian Gaur (Bison) was carried out in the Nilgiris Forest Division, Tamil Nadu

5.10 Endosulfan

[News]:

Endosulfan: Daya Bai ends stir as govt. clarifies on treatment

[Background]:

Endosulfan

- Endosulfan is an organochlorine insecticide which was first introduced in the 1950s and is commonly known by its trade name Thiodan.

- It is linked to a slew of grave medical conditions, such as neurotoxicity, physical deformities, poisoning and more.
- It is sprayed on crops like cotton, cashew, fruits, tea, paddy, tobacco etc. for control of pests such as whiteflies, aphids, beetles, worms etc.
- Endosulfan is listed under both the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

5.11 *Dravidacris annamalaica*

[News]:

- New addition to grasshopper world named to honour Dravidians
- A new member of the grasshopper world, which has been identified from Tamil Nadu, is named after the Dravidian landscape.

[Background]:

Dravidacris annamalaica



- The newly described pygmy unicorn grasshopper *Dravidacris annamalaica* is restricted to the eastern coast of Tamil Nadu.
- The ending – acris – is the Greek word for grasshopper, locust and is of feminine gender.

- The epitheton annamalaicas refers to Annamalai Nagar near Chidambaram. *Dravidacris annamalaica* is now in the checklist of Indian orthoptera and among the 500-odd species under 89 genera of *Metrodorinae* grasshopper subfamily in the world.

5.12 Swadesh Darshan

[News]:

Centre to promote destinations in 15 States as part of Swadesh Darshan 2

[Background]:

Swadesh Darshan

- Swadesh Darshan, a Central Sector Scheme, was launched in 2014 -15 for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country.
- This scheme is envisioned to synergise with other schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India etc.
- Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development of circuits.
- One of the objectives of the scheme is to develop theme-based tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner.

5.13 Air Quality Index

[News]:

Deepavali fireworks suffocate city; AQI reaches severe levels in multiple localities

[Background]:

Air Quality Index

- The measurement of air quality is based on eight pollutants, namely: Particulate Matter (PM10), Particulate Matter (PM2.5), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone (O₃), Ammonia (NH₃), and Lead (Pb).
- AQI has six categories of air quality. These are: Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor and Severe.
- It has been developed by the CPCB in consultation with IIT-Kanpur and an expert group comprising medical and air-quality professionals.

5.14 Sukapaika

Breathing life into a dead river

[Background]:

Sukapaika

- Sukapaika is one of the several distributaries of the mighty Mahanadi river in Odisha.
- It branches away from the Mahanadi at Ayatpur village in Cuttack district and flows for about 40 kilometres (km) before rejoining its parent river at Tarapur in the same district.
- In the process, it drains a large landmass comprising over 425 villages.
- However, the river is undergoing sudden barrenness.

5.15 Great Indian Bustards

[News]:

Are critically endangered Great Indian Bustards now migrating to Pakistan?

[Background]:

Great Indian Bustards



- It is the State bird of Rajasthan and is considered India's most critically endangered bird.
- It is considered the flagship grassland species, representing the health of the grassland ecology.
- Its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small populations occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List: Critically Endangered
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule 1

5.16 Cop-27

[News]:

Is the world's climate action plan on track?

[Background]:**Cop-27**

- Leaders from around 200 countries will gather in the Egyptian city of Sharm El-Sheikh from November 6-18 for the 27th round of the Conference of Parties, or COP27, to deliberate on a global response to the increasing threat of climate change.
- The annual summit comes at a crucial juncture against the backdrop of global inflation, energy, food and supply chain crises, fuelled by an ongoing war in Ukraine and exacerbated by extreme weather events, with data showing that the world is not doing enough.
- At COP27, negotiations are likely to focus on efforts to decarbonise, finance climate action measures and other issues related to food security, energy and biodiversity.

What have been the key takeaways from past COPs?

- The participants at COPs are signatories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or UNFCCC, adopted 30 years ago.
- At present, the UNFCCC has 198 members.
- The first COP was held in 1995 in Berlin.
- Since then, a few COPs have stood out with historic agreements.
- For instance, the Kyoto Protocol, adopted at COP3 in 1997, committed industrialised economies to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. COP21, another significant conference, ended with the 2015 Paris Agreement in which member countries agreed to keep global warming below 2°C , ideally no more than 1.5°C , compared to pre-industrial levels.

- The previous summit, hosted by Glasgow, ended with the Glasgow Climate Pact that called for the ‘phasing down’ of unabated coal power.

What’s on the agenda at the upcoming summit?

- COP27 will seek to strengthen a global response and deliberate if wealthy nations emitting carbon dioxide should compensate for the loss to developing countries with a lower carbon footprint.
- Broadly, the summit seeks to “accelerate global climate action through emissions reduction, scaled-up adaptation efforts and enhanced flows of appropriate finance” through its four priority areas of mitigation, adaptation, finance and collaboration.
- As per the presidential vision statement, COP27 will be about moving from negotiations and planning to the implementation of promises and pledges made.

How has the world been doing on climate change since the Glasgow meet?

- The findings are based on an analysis of the latest Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), or country-specific action plans to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts. The report adds that emissions compared to 2010 levels need to fall 45% by 2030 to meet the Paris deal’s goal.

What did the IPCC report state?

- This year’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment report stated that climate change has produced irreversible losses to natural ecosystems and has warned of severe consequences to food supply, human health and biodiversity loss if carbon emissions from human activity are not sharply reduced.
- As per the report, 3-14% of all species on earth face a very high risk of extinction at even 1.5°C, with devastating losses at higher temperatures in the current situation.

Where does India stand?

- India is the third-largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world.
- Though India updated its climate pledges in line with commitments made at the previous summit, experts have slammed New Delhi for not setting ambitious targets.
- India had previously come under intense criticism over its stand to “phase down” coal power, instead of phasing it out, at COP26. “
- The official said the country wants the \$100 billion-a-year pledge of climate funds for developing countries, a promise that remains.

5.17 Ganga Dolphin:

[News]:

‘Dolphins return to the Ganga in U.P.’

Dolphins have started coming back to the Ganga with improvement in the quality of the river water made possible by the Namami Gange programme, the Uttar Pradesh government said on Sunday

[Background]:

Ganga Dolphin:



- The Ganges River Dolphin or also called ‘Susu,’ is the National Aquatic Animal of India.
- It is one of the National Symbols of India.
- Gangetic Dolphins are found in the river systems of Ganga, Brahmaputra, Meghna, and Karnaphuli- Sangu in Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.
- The reason to declare Ganges River Dolphin as the National Aquatic Animal of India was to save it from extinction.
- Also, the Ganges Dolphin is seen as the reflector of the health of the Ganga River. The declaration was made in 2009 in the National Ganga River Basin Authority’s (NGRBA) first meeting.
- Ganges River Dolphin is found only in freshwater
- As the name goes, the Ganges Dolphin are endemic to the river Ganga

6.SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

6.1 Nobel Prize

[News]:

- Swedish scientist gets medicine Nobel for work on human evolution

[Background]:

- Swedish scientist Svante Paabo won the Nobel Prize in medicine on Monday for his discoveries on human evolution that provided key insights into our immune system and what makes us unique compared with our extinct cousins, the award's panel said.
- Mr. Paabo has spearheaded the development of new techniques that allowed researchers to compare the genome of modern humans and that of other hominins — the Neanderthals and Denisovans.

6.1.1 Nobel for work on 'click chemistry' and quantum mechanics

[Background]:

- Scientists Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and K. Barry Sharpless won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry on Wednesday for discovering reactions that let molecules snap together to create desired compounds and that offer insight into cell biology.
- It came a day after Alain Aspect, John F. Clauser and Anton Zeilinger won the prize in physics for their advances in quantum mechanics on the behaviour of subatomic particles, opening the door to work on super computers and encrypted communication.

6.1.2 Nobel Prize

- Annie Ernaux wins Literature Nobel
- French author Annie Ernaux, known for her deceptively simple novels drawing on personal experience of class and gender, was on Thursday awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

6.2 DART:

[News]:

Smash hit

- For the very first time, NASA scientists have succeeded in slightly altering the trajectory of an asteroid by using a spacecraft to slam into it.
- On September 27, 4.44 a.m. IST, a small spacecraft DART (Double Asteroid Redirection Test) was aimed at a 160-metre-wide asteroid Dimorphos, which was orbiting a larger asteroid Didymos, both of which were circling the sun, 11.2 million kilometres from the earth.
- Since neither body would have come closer than about 6.4 million km of the earth in their lifetime, they did not pose any threat. However, DART was a test mission to see if this technique, known as kinetic impactor, would give the necessary ‘nudge’ to an asteroid and alter its course by a desired amount.

[Background]:

DART:

- DART is a low-cost spacecraft
- The mission is to test the new technology to be prepared in case an asteroid heads towards Earth in the future.

- The aim is to test the newly developed technology that would allow a spacecraft to crash into an asteroid and change its course.
- The target of the spacecraft is a small moonlet called Dimorphos (Greek for “two forms”).
- Dimorphos orbits a larger asteroid named Didymos (Greek for “twin”).
- It is a suicide mission and the spacecraft will be completely destroyed.

6.3 Web 3.0

[News]:

- ‘India fast emerging as Web3 ecosystem’
- India’s growing economy, demographic dividend and exponential adoption of emerging technologies across sectors, positioned the country to become one of the highest growth markets for Web3 globally.
- Web3, a new iteration of the World Wide Web, incorporates concepts such as blockchain technologies and metaverse.

Web 3.0



- The concept of Web3, also called Web 3.0, used to describe a potential next phase of the internet, created quite a buzz in 2021.

- World Wide Web, which is also known as a Web, is a collection of websites or web pages stored in web servers and connected to local computers through the internet.
- Web 3.0 is a decentralized internet to be run on blockchain technology, which would be different from the versions in use, Web 1.0 and Web 2.0.
- In Web3, users will have ownership stakes in platforms and applications unlike now where tech giants control the platforms.

6.4 Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)

[News]:

GM mustard will be ready for cultivation in 3 crop seasons: IARI director

[Background]:

Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)

- The GEAC is India's apex biotechnology regulatory body.
- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is a statutory body constituted under the 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use Import /Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineering Organisms or Cells, 1989' notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- It was formed as the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee and was renamed to its current name in 2010.
- It functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.
- The body regulates the use, manufacture, storage, import and export of hazardous microorganisms or genetically-engineered organisms and cells in India.

6.5 Navigation with Indian Constellation(NavIC)

[News]:

ISRO to boost NavIC, widen user base of location system

[Background]:

Navigation with Indian Constellation(NavIC)

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is working on a series of improvements to NavIC, or India's equivalent of the Global Positioning System (GPS), so that more people are motivated to install and use it.
- NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation), or the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), is a constellation of seven satellites akin to the U.S. GPS, the European Galileo and the Russian GLONASS, and can be used to track location.
- Though available for use in mainland India and within 1,500 km around it, the system is not in wide regular use in India primarily because mobile phones have not been made compatible to process its signals.

Navigation in Indian Constellation



- Navigation in Indian Constellation (NavIC) is an Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), developed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

- IRNSS consists of eight satellites, three satellites in geostationary orbit and five satellites in geosynchronous orbit.
- The main objective is to provide reliable position, navigation and timing services over India and its neighbourhood.
- It works just like the established and popular U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS) but within a 1,500-km radius over the sub-continent.

