



YOJNA IAS

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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21/02/2022 TO 27/02/2022

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 2022



SEED Scheme



- You must have often seen people playing songs or dancing in trains during one of your travels. Apart from this, you must have seen snake charmers, banjaras or madaris at all the squares or nooks.
- Have you ever wondered who these people are? What is their history, why are they doing such things in their life and what did us or the government do for the upliftment of their lives?
- Actually, during the British Government, in the year 1871, a law came which was called the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871.
- Due to prejudice, about 200 communities were considered 'hereditary criminals' under this law, because some of these people lived their life through looting and snatching etc. Thus these communities became victims of surveillance, imprisonment and gross discrimination.
- The policy makers of the time believed that crime is a genetic trait, which is automatically passed

from one generation to another. Later, when the country became independent, an All India Criminal Tribes Investigation Committee was formed in the year 1949.

- Based on the recommendation of this committee, this law made by the British was removed in 1952. After which these came to be known as non-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes.
- These people work in a variety of professions such as herding, hunting small animals, food-gathering, dancing, singing, performing acrobatics, and snake charmers and as madari etc.
- They became a nomadic life because at that time they used to change their whereabouts to avoid police-administration etc. At times, in search of livelihood, they also kept changing their residence.
- For example, when the grass of a particular area was finished grazing by the animals, the pastoral community there moved to some other place.
- Many steps were also taken by the governments from time to time after independence for their welfare, but their condition did not change much.
- In this way these people became the most neglected, marginalized and economically and socially deprived communities. They are forced to live a life of poverty for generations. Historically they never had access to private land or home ownership.
- Now the question arises that why are we suddenly talking about this community today. In fact, on 16th February, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar has launched “Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs”.
- This scheme is being called SEED in short. The main four components of this scheme launched for the welfare of these communities are –
- To provide good quality coaching to the candidates from these communities so that they can take admission in competitive examinations like civil services, medical, engineering and MBA etc. Today Current Affairs.
- To provide health insurance to these communities through Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- To arrange their accommodation through the Prime Minister’s Housing Scheme
- Facilitate livelihood initiatives at the community level to create and strengthen small groups of DNT/NT/SNT community institutions. Explain that DNT means Denotified Tribes, NT means Notified Tribes and SNT means Semi Notified Tribes.

Today Current Affairs

- Under this scheme, around Rs 200 crore will be spent over a period of 5 years, from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The task of implementing the scheme ie its nodal agency has been made by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- This department has also created a portal to implement the scheme. Through this portal, beneficiaries will be able to register themselves as well as track the actual status of their application.
- Through this payment can be made to the beneficiaries directly in their account. In addition, this portal will also act as a data storage for these communities.
- It is worth noting that in the year 2015, a National Commission for Non-Notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes was also constituted for the welfare of this community.

Swadeep Kumar

G20 Summit



- The Union Cabinet has started the process of setting up a Secretariat to look after the matters related to the organization of the G20 Summit to be held in the year 2023.
- India will chair this international body from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023, and the 2023 G20 summit will be held in India.

Proposed G20 Secretariat: The Hindu Analysis

- The G20 Secretariat is being set up to handle the basic/information/material, technical, media, and security and logistics aspects of the G20 Presidency/Presidency of India.
- The Secretariat would be manned by officers and staff from the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and other relevant Ministries/Departments and domain information experts.
- This secretariat will remain functional till February 2024.

About G20 Group: The Hindu Analysis

- The G20 is a grouping of countries with the world's largest and fastest growing economy.
- This group controls 85 percent of the world's GDP, and represents two-thirds of the world's population.
- The G20 summit is formally known as the 'Financial Markets and Global Economy Summit'.

Establishment: The Hindu Analysis

- After the Asian financial crisis of 1997–98, it was recognized that there was a need for participation in discussions on the international financial system for major emerging economies.

- In 1999, a meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors was agreed upon by the G7 finance ministers.

Presidency: The Hindu Analysis

- The G20 Group has no permanent staff and no headquarters. The G20 grouping is chaired by the member states sequentially.
- The presiding country is responsible for organizing the next summit and for organizing smaller meetings in the coming year.
- Non-member countries can be invited as guests to the meeting of the G20 group.
- The first meeting of the G20 was held in Berlin in December 1999, after the financial crisis in East Asia affected many countries around the world.

Full members of G20: The Hindu Analysis

- Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.

Relevance of G20 group in changing times: The Hindu Analysis

- Given the rise in globalization and the complexity of various issues, with the recent G20 summits focusing on macro economies and trade, the ones that have the greatest impact on the global economy – development, climate change and energy, health, terrorism Global issues such as antisemitism, migration and refugees are also focused.
- The G20 Group, through its contribution towards solving these global issues, has been striving to create an inclusive and sustainable world.

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Fly ash



Fly ash – Today Current Affairs

- Recently, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has decided to simultaneously hear eight ongoing cases on 'fly ash mismanagement' and accidents registered between 2013 and 2020.
- The NGT's decision is a significant acknowledgment of the 'fly ash crisis' in the country, and may usher in better regulations to govern such infrastructure.

Fly Ash Management and Utilization Campaign: The Hindu Analysis

- In order to streamline monitoring and coordination of all issues regarding management and disposal of fly ash in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the 'National Green Tribunal' (NGT) has directed the Central Government to have Secretaries of the Ministries of Environment and Coal and Chief Ministers of both the States. Directed to constitute a 'Fly Ash Management and Utilization Mission' involving Secretaries.
- The mission's mandate includes preparation of an action plan based on the findings of various committees (constituted to look into the accidents) including bridging the wide gap in storage, handling, management and utilization of fly ash.
- The mission will be financed through a CSR fund, and will also act as an environmental restoration and compensation fund responsible for relief compensation for those affected.

'Fly ash'

- It is commonly known as 'chimney ash' or 'pulverised fuel ash'. It is a by-product of coal combustion.
- Combination of Fly Ash: The Hindu Analysis
- It is made from fine particles released from coal-fired boilers.
- The constituents of fly ash vary greatly depending on the source and composition of the coal being burned in the furnaces, but silicon dioxide (SiO₂), aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃) and calcium oxide (CaO) are sufficient in all types of fly ash are present in quantity.
- Among the minor constituents of fly ash, arsenic, beryllium, boron, cadmium, chromium, hexavalent chromium, cobalt, lead, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, selenium, strontium, thallium, and vanadium are found. Particles of unburned carbon are also found in it.

Health and environmental hazards: The Hindu Analysis

Presence of Toxic Heavy Metals:

- Nickel, cadmium, arsenic, chromium, lead, etc. found in fly ash are all toxic in nature. Their fine and toxic particles get deposited in the respiratory tract and gradually cause poisoning.

Radiation:

- Fly ash emits a hundred times more radiation than nuclear waste, given the same amount of electricity generated from nuclear plants and coal-fired thermal plants.

Water Pollution:

- Incidents of breaking of fly ash channels and the consequent scattering of ash are frequent in India, which pollute water bodies to a large extent.

Impact on Environment:

- Destruction of mangroves from ash waste from nearby coal-fired power plants, drastic reduction in crop yields, and contamination of groundwater in the Rann of Kutch have been well documented.

Uses of Fly Ash: The Hindu Analysis

- As an alternative material for concrete production, sand and Portland cement.
- Ordinary mix of fly-ash particles can be converted into concrete mix.
- Embankment construction and other structural fillers.
- Cement slag production – (as an alternative material in place of clay).
- Stabilization of soft soil.
- Road Construction.
- As brick building material.

Agricultural Use: The Hindu Analysis

- Soil Improvement, Fertilizer, Soil Stabilization.
- To melt the ice on the rivers.
- To control snow accumulation on roads and parking lots.

Kaziranga National Park



- Recently, a case of poaching of world famous 'Greater one-horned rhinoceros' has come to the fore in Kaziranga National Park of Assam.

Introduction:

- There are five species of rhinoceros – White and Black Rhinos in Africa, Greater one-horned rhinoceros in Asia, Java and Sumatran rhinoceros (Javan and Sumatran rhino) species.

Status on the IUCN Red List: The Hindu Analysis

- **Black Rhino:** Critically Endangered. The smaller of the two African species.
- **White Rhino:** Near danger or danger. Researchers have created an embryo of a northern white rhino using in vitro fertilization (IVF) procedure.
- **One Horned Rhinoceros:**
- **Java:** Critically Endangered.
- **Sumatran Rhino:** Critically Endangered.
- Only one-horned rhinoceros is found in India.
- The one-horned rhinoceros (Indian rhinoceros) is the largest of the rhino species.
- This rhinoceros is identified by a single black horn and brown color with folds of skin.
- They mainly graze on grasses, leaves, branches of shrubs and trees, fruits and aquatic plants.

Habitat: The Hindu Analysis

- This species is restricted to the Terai region of Indo-Nepal, northern West Bengal and Assam.
- Rhinos in India are mainly found in Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.
- Assam has 2,640 rhinos in four protected areas (Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park).
- About 2,400 of these rhinos are in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.

Conservation status: The Hindu Analysis

- **IUCN Red List:**
- **CITES:** Appendix I (includes 'endangered' species that may be at greater risk if traded.)
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule-I

To risk: The Hindu Analysis

- Poaching for horns
- Loss of Habitat
- Population density
- Decreasing Genetic Diversity

Conservation Efforts by India: The Hindu Analysis

- Five countries of the rhino range (India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia) have signed the New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos, 2019 for the conservation and protection of these species.
- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has started a project to create DNA profiles for all rhinos in the country.

- **National Rhino Conservation Strategy:** It was launched in the year 2019 to conserve one-horned rhinoceros.
- **Indian Rhino Vision 2020:** It was launched in the year 2005. The Indian Rhino Vision 2020 was an ambitious effort to increase the population of one-horned rhinoceros to at least 3,000 by the year 2020 spread across seven protected areas located in the Indian state of Assam.
- Kaziranga National Park was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in the year 1985.
- It was declared a tiger reserve by the Government of India in 2006.

Swadeep Kumar

‘Bent-toed Gecko’



- Recently a team of veterinarians has recorded the presence of a new species of ‘Bent-toed Gecko’ lizard in a wild part of Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya.
- Its scientific name is ‘Crytodactylus Exercitus’ and its English name is ‘Indian Army’s Bent-Toed Gecko’.
- Apart from this, another new ‘Bent-toed Gecko’ was named ‘Crytodactylus siahaensis’ after the Siaha district of Mizoram (where it was found).
- A herpetologist or herpetologist is a person who specializes in the study of reptiles and amphibians.

Geckos:

- Gecko comes under the reptile category of fauna and is found in all continents except Antarctica.
- These colorful lizards have adapted to habitats ranging from rainforests to deserts and cold mountain slopes.
- In the past, geckos have developed certain physical characteristics to survive and avoid predators.
- Geckos serve many purposes with their tails. It helps them to balance their weight while climbing branches and acts as a fuel tank to store fat as well as help them to become invisible in the environment.

- Geckos are able to drop their tail while being caught by the hunter. The Hindu Analysis.
- Most gecko species are nocturnal, meaning they are active at night, but gecko species that are active during the day depend on pollen from insects, fruits and flowers.
- Most geckos make noises such as chirping, barking and clicking when they are defending their territory or attracting a mate. Today Current Affairs.
- There are many species of geckos. Their conservation status ranges from Least Concern- LC to Critically Endangered, depending on the species.

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Arunachal Pradesh: 36th Foundation Day



Mizoram And Arunachal Pradesh Statehood Day - 20 February

- Recently, the Prime Minister greeted the people of Arunachal Pradesh on its 36th Foundation Day.
- Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state of the Indian Union on February 20, 1987, through the 55th amendment to the Indian Constitution (the year 1986).

About Arunachal Pradesh:

Historical background: The Hindu Analysis

- The state was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) until 1972 during the British colonial rule.

- On January 20, 1972, it became a union territory and was named Arunachal Pradesh. It was granted statehood by the Arunachal Pradesh State Act, 1986.

Geographical Location: The Hindu Analysis

- Arunachal Pradesh was formed in the year 1987 as a full-fledged state separate from Assam.
- Arunachal Pradesh is bordered by Bhutan to the west and the Tibetan region of China to its north.
- Nagaland and Myanmar are in its south-eastern part, while Assam lies in the south-western part.

Population: The Hindu Analysis

- Itanagar is the capital of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The total literacy rate of the state (as per 2011 census) is 65.38%, in which male literacy rate is 72.55% and female literacy rate is 57.70%.
- The state's sex ratio is 938 females per 1000 males (National Sex Ratio: 943).
- The state is home to 26 major tribes, of which there are more than 100 sub-tribes, many of which are unidentified tribes. About 65% of the population of this state is tribal.

Business: The Hindu Analysis

- Majority of the population of this state is dependent on agriculture (mainly shifting cultivation) for their livelihood.
- Cultivation of other cash crops such as potatoes etc.
- Horticulture crops like pineapple, apple, orange etc. are also cultivated.

Biodiversity: The Hindu Analysis

- **State Animal:** Mithun (also known as Gayal).
- **State Bird:**
- Dihang Dibang Biosphere Reserve is also located in this state.

Protected Areas: Today Current Affairs

- Namdapha National Park
- Mouling National Park
- Sesa Orchid Sanctuary
- Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary
- Pucca Tiger Reserve

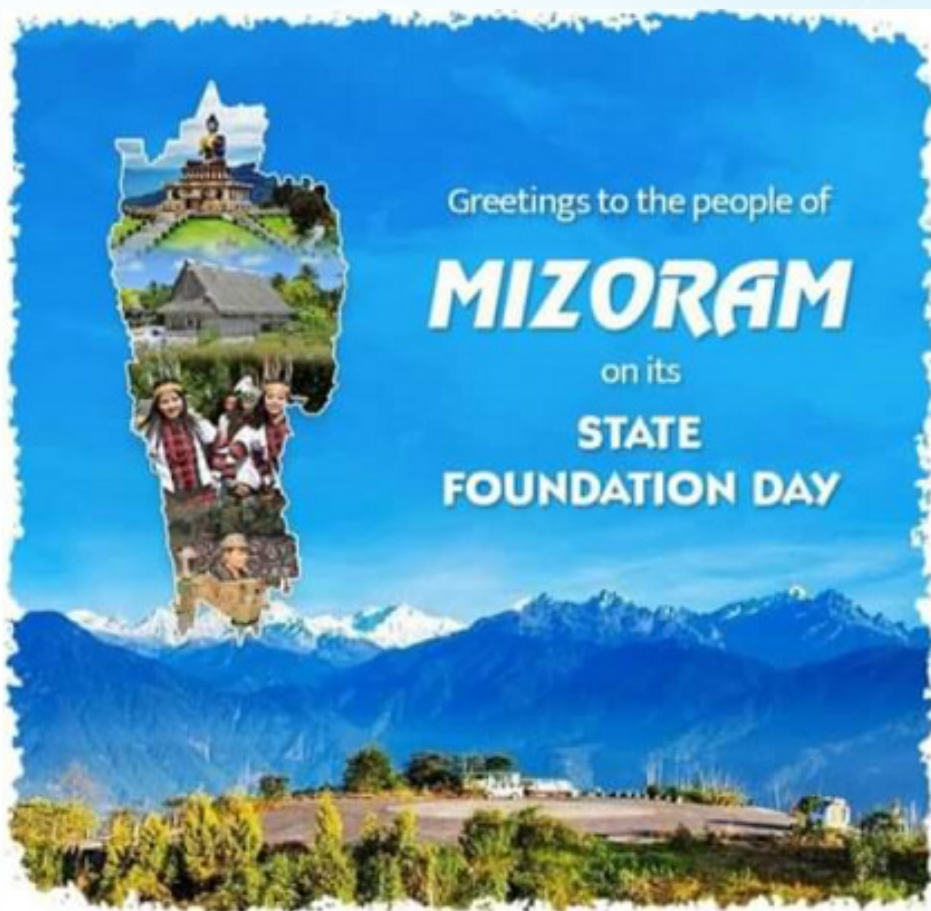
Tribals of Arunachal: The Hindu Analysis

- Important tribal groups of Arunachal Pradesh include **Monpa, Nishi, Apatani, Nokte and Sherdukpen**.
- **Monpa:** considered to be the only nomadic tribe in the Northeast, living in West Kameng and Tawang districts, they are predominantly Buddhists who follow the Mahayana sect.
- **Apatani:** They follow pre-Aryan beliefs, as is evident from their worship of trees, rocks and plants etc. They mainly cultivate bamboo.

- **Nocte:** They live in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh and follow Theravada Buddhism and Animism.
- **Sherdukpen:** A small tribal group, this group is one of the most progressive tribes of Arunachal Pradesh. These people do agriculture, fish farming and animal husbandry. Although they have adopted Buddhism, most of their practices are still pre-Buddhism and more animistic.
- **Nishi:** This is the most populous tribe of Arunachal Pradesh, these people mainly practice shifting cultivation and produce rice, bajra, cucumber, etc.

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Mizoram: 36th Foundation Day



- Recently, on the occasion of the 36th Foundation Day of Mizoram (February 20), the Prime Minister greeted the people there.
- Mizoram became the 23rd state of the Indian Union on 20 February 1987 with the 53rd amendment of the Indian Constitution (the year 1986).

Mizoram:

Historical background: The Hindu Analysis

- The Mizo Hills region became the Lushai Hills district within Assam at the time of independence.

Later in the year 1954, its name was changed to Mizo Hills district of Assam.

- Mizoram was given Union Territory status in the year 1972 after the signing of an agreement with the Moderates of the Mizo National Front (MNF).
- The Union Territory of Mizoram was given full statehood in 1986 after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (Mizoram Peace Accord) between the Central Government and the MNF.

Geographical Location: The Hindu Analysis

- **International Border:** Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- **State Boundary:** Tripura (North-West), Assam (North) and Manipur (North-East).

Demographics: The Hindu Analysis

- The population of Mizoram is estimated to be 1.27 million in the year 2022, making it the second least populous state in India after Sikkim.
- Sex Ratio is 975 females per 1000 males (National level it is 943).
- Literacy rate of the state is 91.58% (National rate: 74.04%).

Biodiversity: The Hindu Analysis

- According to India Forest Status Report (ISFR), 2021, Mizoram has the highest forest cover area (85.4%) as compared to other states in the country.
- **State Animal:** Serow
- **State bird:** Hume Bartailed Pheasant

Protected Areas: The Hindu Analysis

- Dampa Tiger Reserve
- Murlen National Park
- Phawngpui National Park
- Nengngpui Wildlife Sanctuary
- Tawi Wildlife Sanctuary

Tribes: The Hindu Analysis

- Mizoram has the highest percentage of tribal population as compared to all other states of India.
- The Mizo community consists of 5 major and 11 minor tribes collectively called Awzia. These 5 major tribes include Lushai, Ralte, Hmar, Paihte, Pavi (or Poi).
- Mizo is a socially connected society in which there is no discrimination on the basis of gender, status or religion.
- Mizo is an agricultural community, the people of this community adopt the system of Jhum Cultivation.

Mizo community has two main festivals- Mim Kut, Chapchar Kut

- **Mim Kut:** Mim Kut or Maize festival is celebrated during the months of August and September after the harvesting of maize.

- **Chapchar Kut:** This is a festival of spring, which is celebrated “after the completion of forest clearing work for jhum cultivation, it is the most popular festival of Mizoram.
- The most colorful and distinctive dance of Mizos is called ‘Cherava’. Long bamboo steps are used for this dance, hence many people also call it ‘Bamboo Dance’.

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Kisaan drone



- Recently the Prime Minister has launched 100 farmer drones to spray pesticides in the fields across India.
- He also started ‘Drone Kisan Yatra’ to promote chemical free farming in India.
- This initiative was first announced in Budget 2022 to ensure inclusive drone development.
- Earlier the government had banned the import of drones in the country to encourage the manufacture of drones within the country (Drone Shakti Yojana).
- Revised guidelines for the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) scheme were issued in January 2022 to make drones more accessible to farmers.

What are Kisaan Drones?

- The Farmer Drone consists of an unmanned tank filled with pesticides and nutrients.
- Drones have a high carrying capacity of about 5 to 10 kg.
- Drone can spray 5 to 10 kg of insecticide on about one acre of land in just 15 minutes.

- This will save time, spraying will be done evenly with less effort.
- They will also be used to transport vegetables, fruits, fish etc. from the fields to the markets.
- These items will be supplied directly to the market with minimum loss which will take less time, resulting in more profit to the farmers and fishermen.

Importance of using Kisaan Drones: The Hindu Analysis

- Kisan Drones will be used to promote the agriculture sector in the country.
- Use of farmer drones will be promoted for crop evaluation, digitization of land records, spraying of pesticides and nutrients.
- It will usher in a new edge revolution as high-capacity drones will be used to transport vegetables, fruits and fish directly from the fields to the market.
- Development of drone market in India will create new employment opportunities for the youth.

Related challenges: The Hindu Analysis

- Agriculture sector experts are sceptical about the benefits of drones and increase in farmers' income.
- There is no sign of the government fulfilling its earlier promise of doubling farmers' income by the year 2022.
- Spraying of pesticides and fertilizers can help in increasing production, but industries will benefit the most.

Reasons for using drones these days: The Hindu Analysis

- Until recently, there was a belief that drones are meant to fight armed forces and enemies.
- However, Kisan Drone Facility has added a new chapter in the agriculture sector and it will prove to be a milestone for drone technology.
- **Garuda Aerospace** has set a target of developing one lakh drones, which are being used for various purposes.
- Documentation of land records is being done through drone technology under "Swamitva Yojana". Along with this, medicines, vaccines are being supplied in different parts of the country and it is also being used for spraying pesticides etc. on crops.

Swadeep Kumar

Simlipal Biosphere Reserve

- Recently forest administration and self-help groups have started awareness campaign for management of fire in Simlipal Biosphere Reserve this year.
- Earlier, scientists in Simlipal Tiger Reserve (STR) uncovered the secret behind the colours of the Black Tigers of Odisha.

Introduction:

- The name of Simlipal is derived from the name of 'Simul' (Simul- Silk Cotton) tree.

- It was officially selected for the Tiger Reserve in the year 1956, which was brought under Project Tiger in the year 1973.
- The Government of India declared it a Biosphere Reserve area in June 1994.
- This Biosphere Reserve is part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves since 2009.
- It is part of the Simlipal-Kuldiha-Hadgarh Elephant Reserve, which is known as the Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve.
- This forest is prone to forest fire. In the year 2021, Simlipal witnessed forest fires in late February and early March.

Location: The Hindu Analysis

- It is located in the northern part of the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha, which is geographically located on the eastern edge of the Eastern Ghats.

Circled area: The Hindu Analysis

- This biosphere covers an area of 4,374 sq km. It is spread over an area of 845 sq. km. The core area of (Tiger Sanctuary), 2,129 sq.km Buffer area of 1,400 sq.km contains the transition zone.

Plants: The Hindu Analysis

- Simlipal has 1,076 species of flowers and 96 species of orchids.
- It consists of tropical semi-evergreen forests, tropical moist deciduous forests, dry deciduous hill forests and vast grasslands.

Tribes: The Hindu Analysis

- This biosphere reserve area is inhabited by two tribes namely Ereng Kharias and Mankirdias, who still collect food through traditional agricultural activities (collection of seeds and wood).

Wildlife: The Hindu Analysis

- Simlipal is home to a wide range of wild animals including tigers and elephants, apart from 304 species of birds, 20 species of amphibians and 62 species of reptiles.

Causes and mitigation of forest fires: The Hindu Analysis

- **Natural:** Natural factors like heat of the sun and rising temperature in this area can cause forest fires.
- **Man-made cause:** Fire is used by hunters to hunt wild animals which can be the cause of forest fire.

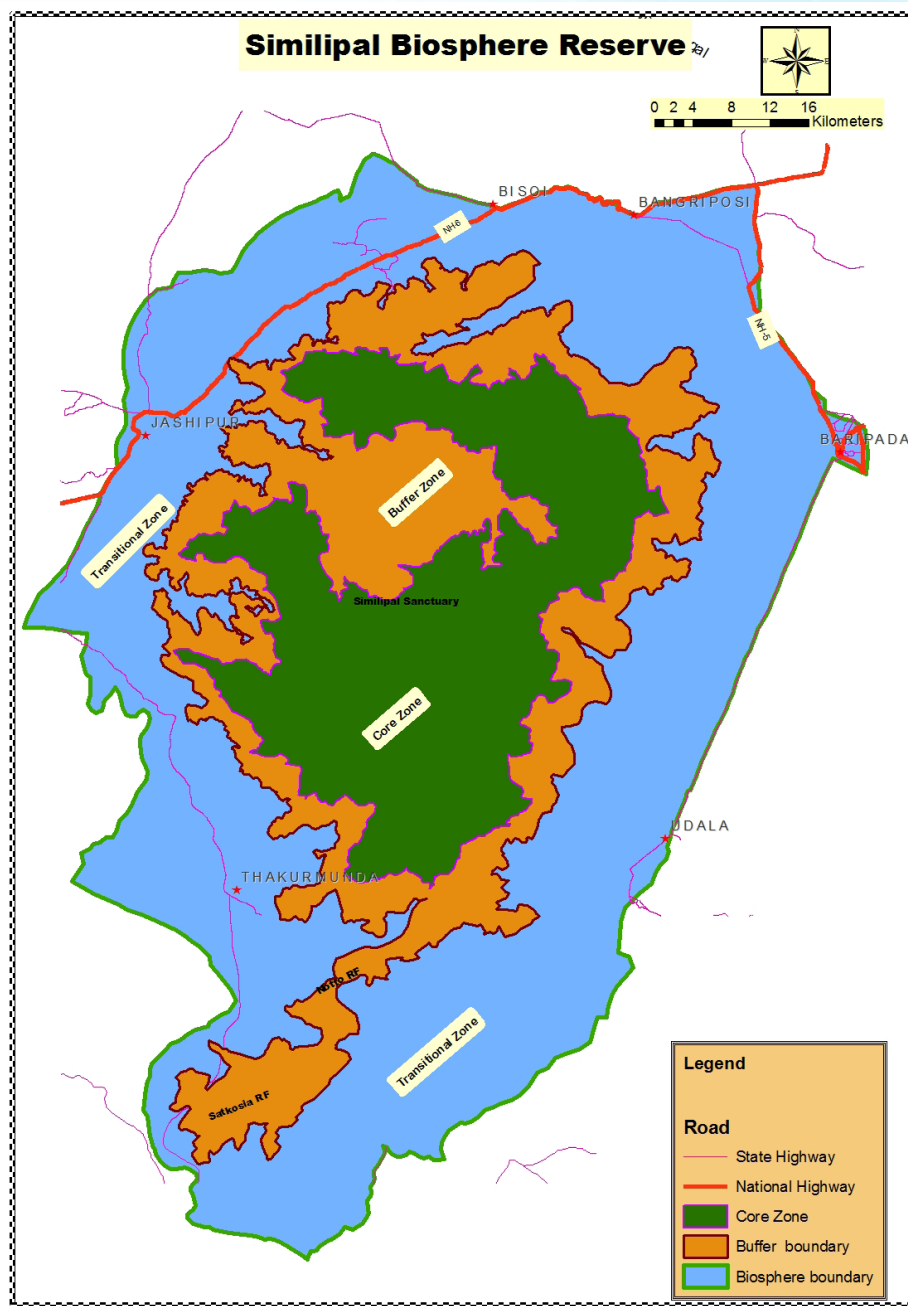
Mitigation Strategies: The Hindu Analysis

- These strategies include forecasting fire-prone days, building control fire lines to reduce fire incidence, working with community members in the region, removing dried biomass, taking action against poachers, etc.

Other Major Protected Areas of Odisha: Today Current Affairs

- Bhitarkanika National Park

- Badrama Wildlife Sanctuary
- Chilka (Nalban) Wildlife Sanctuary
- Hadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kotgarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Nandankanan Wildlife Sanctuary
- Lakhari Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
- Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary



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National Means-Cum-Merit Scholarship- NMMSS

राष्ट्रीय साधन सह मेधा छात्रवृत्ति योजना



National Scholarship Portal

Ministry Of Electronics & Information Technology,
Government of India

NMMS Scheme - National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)

- Recently, the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMSS) by the Ministry of Education has been approved by the 15th Finance Commission with a total financial outlay of Rs 1827.00 crore for a period of five years i.e. from the year 2021-22. Approved to continue till 2025-26 with minor changes in eligibility criteria and revision of renewal criteria under this scheme.

About National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship: The Hindu Analysis

- It is a central sector scheme, which was started in the year 2008-09 to prevent the meritorious students from economically weaker sections from dropping out of their studies in class VIII.
- 06 lakh scholarships have been sanctioned till the year 2020-21, involving an expenditure of Rs.1783.03 crore.
- It deals with encouraging students to continue their studies at the secondary level.
- Under this scheme, the state government would provide one lakh new scholarships every year to the selected students of classes IX to XII to study in government aided and local body schools and encourage their continuation/renewal in classes X to XII.

Scholarship Details: The Hindu Analysis

- Under this scheme one lakh new scholarships of Rs. 12,000/- per annum (Rs. 1000/- per month) are provided to the selected students of class IX every year.
- The students are selected through the examination conducted by the state governments for providing scholarship.
- The scholarship is disbursed directly into the bank accounts of the students by the State Bank of India on quarterly basis.

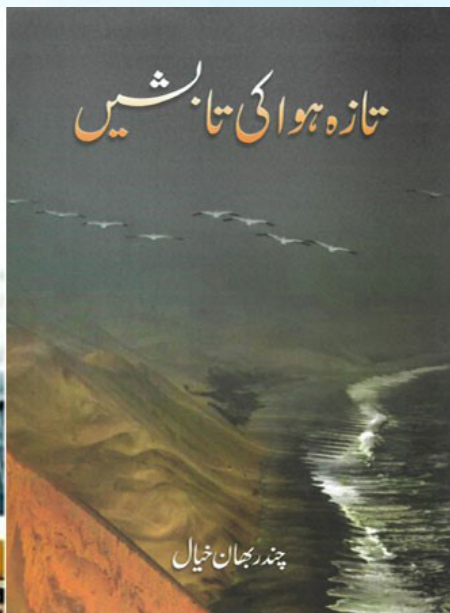
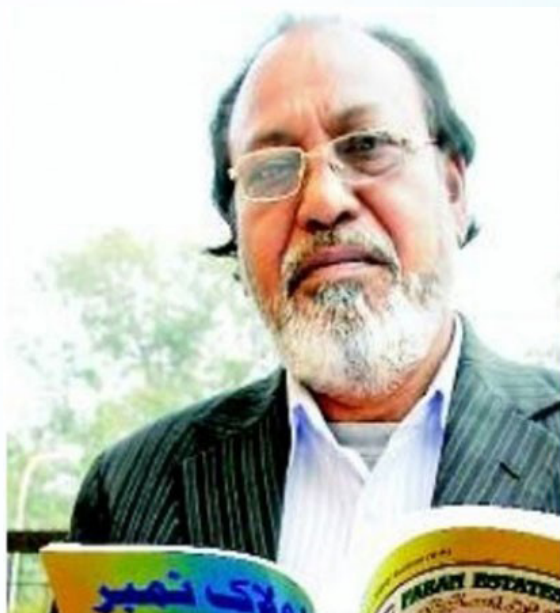
Eligibility Criteria: The Hindu Analysis

- Students whose parents' income from all sources does not exceed Rs.3,50,000 per annum. They are eligible to receive the scholarship.

- Students studying in Kendriya Vidyalayas, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and residential schools run by state government institutions and private schools are not eligible to get scholarship under this scheme.
- At the time of selection for the scholarship, the candidate must have secured at least 55% marks or equivalent grade in the 8th standard examination. There will be a relaxation of 5% for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

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Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu Language



- Sahitya Akademi has announced the Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 in Urdu language to Urdu language poet Chandrabhan Khayal for his collection of poetry “Taza Hawa Ki Tabishen”.
- Shri Chandrabhan will be presented with an engraved copper plate, shawl and an amount of one lakh rupees as a prize at the literary festival to be held in Delhi on March 11 this year.
- Along with this, the Akademi on Monday announced the Sahitya Akademi Award for Jagdish Prasad Mandal for his novel ‘Pangu’ in Maithili language. Today Current Affairs.
- Sahitya Akademi Award is a literary honor instituted in the year 1954. The award is presented annually by the Sahitya Akademi (National Academy of Letters).
- Awards are given every year by the Academy for literary works in 24 languages recognized by it, as well as for mutual literary translation in these languages.
- Apart from the 22 languages included in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Akademi has also recognized English and Rajasthani as the languages in which the program of the Akademi can be implemented. The Hindu Analysis.
- The Sahitya Akademi Award is the second highest literary award given by the Government of India after the Jnanpith Award.

Swadeep Kumar

Ayush Start-up Challenge



- Recently All India Institute of Ayurveda- AIIA has launched 'Ayush Start-up Challenge' in association with Start-up India.
- AYUSH Traditional and non-traditional systems of health care and treatment including Ayurveda (Ayurveda), Yoga (Yoga), Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha (Siddha), Sowa-Rigpa (Sowa-Rigpa) and Homeopathy (Homoeopathy) etc are included.

About Ayush Start-up Challenge: The Hindu Analysis

- It was launched to encourage start-ups and individuals working on innovations in the field of Ayurveda and alternative medicine.
- The winners of the AYUSH Start-up Challenge will receive a cash prize and incubation support from AIIA.
- The winner will be given a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and the runner-up Rs 50,000.

Categories: The Hindu Analysis

3 Entry Categories for Participating Start-ups:

- AYUSH Food Innovation
- AYUSH Bio-Instrumentation (Hardware Solution)
- AYUSH IT Solutions (Software Solutions)
- There will be two winners in each of the 3 categories.

Status of AYUSH Market: The Hindu Analysis

- The market for AYUSH sector has grown by 17% to reach US\$ 18.1 billion in 2014-20.
- In global share, India has gained the fastest growth in the AYUSH market as compared to the world and has a market share of around 2.8 per cent and is likely to remain so. Today Current Affairs.

- The AYUSH market is currently estimated to be around US\$ 10 billion and is expected to grow by 50% during the next five years.

Other schemes related to AYUSH: The Hindu Analysis

- National AYUSH Mission
- New portal related to AYUSH sector
- AYUSH Entrepreneurship Program
- Ayush Wellness Center
- ACCR Portal and Ayush Sanjeevani App

Swadeep Kumar

Eastern Bridge VI: Exercises



- Recently, Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force of Oman started a five-day bilateral exercise at Jodhpur Air Force Station. The exercise has been named Eastern Bridge VI.
- The exercise will enhance interaction, exchange of experiences and operational knowledge, besides strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries.
- Exercise Eastern Bridge V was conducted in October 2019 at Air Force Base Masirah, Oman.

Oman's strategic importance for India: The Hindu Analysis

- Oman is India's closest defense partner in the Gulf region and is vital to India's defense and strategic interests.
- Oman is at the entrance of the Strait of Hormuz through which India imports a fifth of its oil imports.

- Defense cooperation has emerged as a key pillar for a strong India-Oman strategic partnership. Defense exchanges are guided by a framework MoU which was recently renewed in the year 2021.
- Oman is the only country in the Gulf region with which the three forces of the Indian Armed Forces regularly conduct bilateral exercises and staff talks, thereby establishing close professional cooperation and trust between the two countries. Today Current Affairs.
- Naseem al-Bahr is a naval exercise conducted between the two countries.
- Al Nagah is a joint exercise between the armies of two countries.
- Eastern Bridge is a joint exercise between the Air Forces of both the countries.
- Oman also provides vital operational support to the Indian Navy's deployment in the Arabian Sea for anti-piracy operations.
- Oman has also been actively participating in the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).
- India has supplied rifles to Oman. Along with this, India is also considering setting up a defense production unit in Oman.

Access to Duqm Port in Oman: The Hindu Analysis

- As a strategic move to expand its presence in the Indian Ocean region, India has gained access to the major port of Duqm in Oman for military use and military support.
- The move is part of India's maritime strategy to counter Chinese influence and activities in the region.
- Duqm port is located on the southeast coast of Oman. Today Current Affairs.
- It is strategically located near Chabahar port in Iran. With Assumption Island being developed at Agalega in Seychelles and Mauritius, Duqm fits well into India's active maritime security roadmap.

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MILAN Exercise



MILAN Exercise – Today Current Affairs

- 'MILAN' is a multilateral naval exercise organized by the Indian Navy. It is a biennial exercise and includes seminars, games, social events and professional exercises between the participating countries.

Key point

- This exercise was started in the year 1995.
- Navies of Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka along with the Indian Navy participated in the inaugural edition of the exercise.
- All the editions of MILAN were held in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands under the Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- The Navy announced in 2020 that the next edition of Milan will be held at Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command.
- The exercise is conducted under various themes like anti-submarine warfare and other areas.
- Areas of cooperation for this exercise include capacity building, training, maritime domain awareness, technical support, hydrography and operational exercises.
- Through professional engagement with friendly navies, the exercise aims to improve operational capabilities, establish best practices and procedures and enable learning in the maritime environment.

Milan Exercise 2022

- This year's MILAN exercise will be the largest edition of the exercise in which 46 countries will be invited to participate. The Hindu Analysis.
- This year's Milan exercise will be held in February 2022 in Visakhapatnam. QUAD countries will also participate in this.
- MILAN 22 is being conducted in two phases over a period of nine days, with the port phase from February 25 to February 28 and the sea phase from March 1 to 4. The Hindu Analysis.
- The theme of this year's exercise is 'Camaraderie – Cohesion – Collaboration' through which India will be projected to the world as a responsible maritime power.

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Cobra Warrior' exercise

- India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, indigenously designed, developed and manufactured, will participate in the famous 'Cobra Warrior' exercise.

Key point

- Cobra Warrior is a multi-nation air exercise, which will be conducted at Royal Air Force Station Waddington in the United Kingdom.
- Earlier, Tejas participated in flying displays at International Air Shows in Dubai and Singapore.



Exercise Cobra Warrior

- The Cobra Warrior exercise is the largest joint military exercise, conducted by the Royal Air Force (RAAF) in the United Kingdom. This exercise is the most challenging training for aircrew.
- On February 23, five Tejas fighter jets will fly to the United Kingdom. Necessary transport support to Tejas will be provided by an IAF, C-17 Globemaster III military transport aircraft and two C-130Js.
- This exercise will be conducted from March 6, 2022 to March 27, 2022.

Purpose of the exercise : The Hindu Analysis

- The Cobra Warrior exercise will be conducted with an objective to provide operational demonstration and share best practices among the participating Air Forces.
- It will also enhance the combat capability and strengthen the bond of friendship. LCA Tejas will showcase its mobility and operational efficiency on this platform.

Swadeep Kumar

'Meri Policy Mere Haath' campaign

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced the launch of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana on 18 February 2016 in Sehore, Madhya Pradesh.
- That is, on February 18, the scheme completed 6 years and now it has successfully entered its 7th year of implementation with the upcoming Kharif 2022 season. The Hindu Analysis.
- In such a situation, the Government of India is going to start a door-to-door campaign to provide crop insurance policy to the farmers called 'Meri Policy Mere Haath' campaign.
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is a flagship scheme of the Government of India. Its objective

is to provide financial assistance through insurance to farmers suffering crop loss due to natural calamities. Today Current Affairs.

- In this, the share between the states and the central government in the subsidy on premium is 50-50%, while in Northeast India it is in the ratio of 90:10. So far more than 36 crore farmers have been insured under this.
- According to the government, till February 4, 2022, claims of more than Rs 1,07,059 crore have been paid under this scheme.
- Some of the salient features of the scheme include PMFBY's National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP), a crop insurance mobile app for quick enrollment of farmers, a subsidy release module, remittance of farmer premium through NCIP, etc.
- The scheme has been able to provide financial assistance to vulnerable farmers, as about 85 percent of the farmers enrolled in it are small and marginal farmers.
- In the year 2020, a lot of changes were made in this scheme according to the convenience of the farmers. Under the change, farmers can register their complaints within 72 hours of any incident. The Hindu Analysis.
- Farmers can also give this information on their crop insurance app. Apart from this, one can also go to the CSC center or the nearest Agriculture Officer. Along with this, arrangements have been made to pay the loss online in the bank accounts of the farmers.
- A 'Meri Policy Mere Haath' campaign has been launched to further encourage the voluntary participation of farmers. Under this, a door-to-door distribution campaign will be conducted to provide crop insurance policies to the farmers in all the states where it is applicable.
- The objective of the campaign is to ensure that all farmers are well informed about their policies, land records, claim process and grievance redressal under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.



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Financial Stability and Development Council

Financial Stability and Development Council

The FSDC, set up in 2010, is a body consisting all regulators and the Ministry of Finance. It is the highest forum in matters relating to financial stability. The Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister



- If our markets remain volatile, i.e. financial stability, then investors will not want to take risk and thus economic activity will start decreasing.
- It will not be considered good for any economy. Also, how to develop our financial sector; how should there be coordination between the big agencies related to finance; How to make people financially literate and involve them in the organized financial system.
- These are all such issues on which development is not possible without taking care of them. To address such issues, an organization has been formed named – Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC). Today Current Affairs.
- In fact, on February 22, the 25th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council was held in Mumbai under the chairmanship of Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.
- After the budget, the Finance Minister Smt. Sitharaman was on a two-day visit to the city of Mumbai, where she held meetings with industry representatives, financial market functionaries and bankers on a wide range of issues.
- In the meeting, FSDC deliberated on its various mandates and various macro-financial challenges arising in view of global and domestic developments.
- In a macro-level meeting, the Council observed that there is a need for the Government and all regulators to continuously monitor the financial conditions and functioning of important financial institutions.
- The Council discussed operational issues related to currency management. It also took note of the activities done by the FSDC Sub-Committee chaired by the RBI Governor and the action taken by the members on the past decisions of the FSDC.

- The Financial Stability and Development Council was constituted on 30 December 2010 on the basis of the recommendations of the Raghuram Rajan Committee. It is headed by the Finance Minister. The Hindu Analysis.
- Its members include the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, the Finance Secretary, the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, the Secretary, Department of Financial Services, the Chief Economic Adviser to the Ministry of Finance, the Chairman of SEBI, the Chairman of IRDA and PFRDA.
- The function of FSDC is to provide judicious supervision of small issues related to the economy including financial stability, development of the financial sector, inter-regulatory coordination, financial literacy, and financial inclusion and functioning of large financial companies. It is to be noted that no separate fund is allocated to this council for its activities.

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