



## Stockholm Convention

### ❖ Context

- The 18th meeting of the **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP) Review Committee (POPRC-18)** to the Stockholm Convention took place between 26th - 30th September 2022.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- Two chemicals - **dechlorane plus**, a flame retardant and **UV-328**, a stabiliser used in some personal care products - which qualified for risk management evaluation at POPRC-17 were evaluated at the session.
- The **United Nations Environment Programme's** proposal to list **chlorpyrifos** as POP was resisted by India. Still, chlorpyrifos got nominated as POP.

### ❖ About Chlorpyrifos

- **China and India** are among the largest producers of chlorpyrifos. Nearly 48 % of chlorpyrifos is produced in India.
- Chlorpyrifos was approved in 2021, for use as a **pesticide** against pests affecting **Bengal gram, rice and cotton**.
- It is one of the ten pesticides **banned by Punjab and Haryana governments** in August 2022.

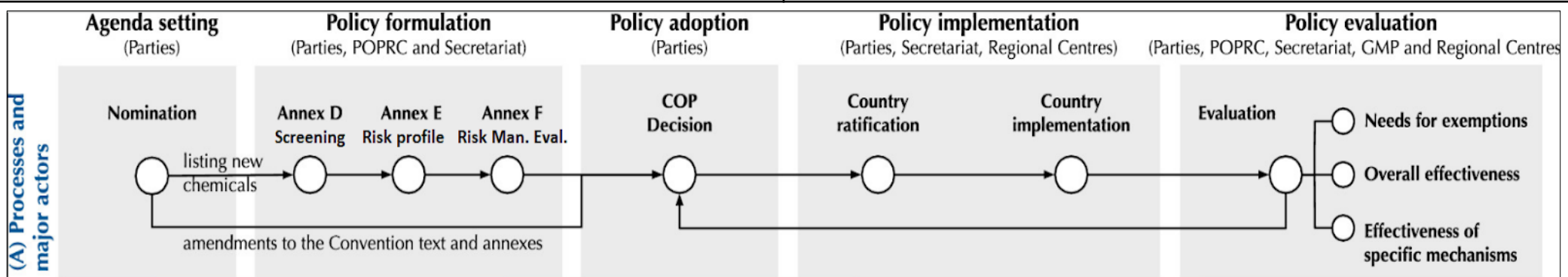
### ❖ About the Convention

- An international environmental treaty that aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). It has listed 31 chemicals as of December 2020.

- It was signed in **2001** and became effective from **2004**. As of September 2022, there are **186 parties** to the Convention (185 states and the European Union).
- Notable **non-ratifying states include the United States, Israel, and Malaysia**.
- The chemicals under the convention are listed under three Annexures -

Type	Action by Parties	Major chemicals
Annexure A	Elimination	Aldrin, Endrin, Dicofol, Endosulfan etc.
Annexure B	Restriction	DDT, PFOS
Annexure C	Reduce unintentional production	PCDD, PCDF, HCB

- **POPRC** consists of **31 government-designated experts** drawn from the **five regions of the world** and appointed for **four years**.
- It recommends to the **Conference of Parties (COP)** the chemicals, after three stage consideration of their information in **Annexures D, E & F**, for inclusion in the **Annexures A, B or C**.



## Iconic Indian Textiles

### ❖ Context

- UNESCO released a list of **50 exclusive and iconic heritage textile crafts** of the country.



### ❖ Key Highlights

- According to **UNESCO**, one of the major **challenges** to the safeguarding of **Intangible Cultural Heritage** in South Asia is the **lack of proper inventory and documentation**.
- The publication aims to bridge this gap.
- Safeguarding Traditional Indian Textile lists the histories and legends behind the textiles, describes the complicated and secret processes behind their making, mentions the causes for their dwindling popularity, and provides strategies for their preservation.

Key Crafts in the List	
Toda embroidery (Nilgiris), Sungadi (Madurai) & Sikalnayakanpet Kalamkari (Thanjavur)	Tamil Nadu
Himroo	Telangana & Maharashtra
Ikat or Bandha tie & dye	Odisha
Ilkal and Lambadi or Banjara embroidery	Karnataka
Garad-Koirial	West Bengal
Kunbi weaves	Goa
Mashru weaves and Patola	Gujarat
Khes (Panipat)	Haryana
Thigma or wool tie and dye	Ladakh
Awadh Jamdani (Varanasi)	UP

## Face to Face Centres



## 24X7 Water Supply Systems

### ❖ Context

- **Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO)**, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with technical cooperation of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Government of Odisha, organised first of its kind regional workshop on 24x7 Water Supply System at Puri in Odisha.

### ❖ About 24X7 Water Supply

- One of the outcomes of **AMRUT 2.0** (launched in 2021) is to provide 24x7 water supply with drink from tap facilities in **at least one ward** or one DMA in all **500 AMRUT cities**.
- In order to disseminate knowledge and extend handholding support to states and cities for converting from intermittent water supply to 24X7 continuous water supply systems, the Ministry has constituted **National Task Force (NTF)** at national level and **State-level Task Force (STF)** at state level respectively.

### ❖ Key features of "Drink from Tap" Mission of Odisha

- Launched by the Odisha government in **October 2020**.
- First of its kind programme in India to supply **pipied drinking & cooking quality water**, that can be directly used, by citizens on 24X7 basis.
- Water supply management through community partnership (Self Help Groups) - "**Jalsaathi**".
- 100% coverage of households.
- 100% metering of house connections to eliminate non-revenue water (NRW).
- Quality assurance through third party monitoring and PPP laboratories.





## Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)

### ❖ Context

- A **national level exhibition (Mela)** of traditional products from **SFURTI** clusters is being organised in New Delhi by **KVIC** for the first time.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- During Mela, 100 artisans from 50 SFURTI clusters covering 28 States will be showcasing their traditional products including -

<b>Sozni Embroidery cluster</b>	Jammu and Kashmir	
<b>Channapatna Toy cluster</b>	Karnataka	
<b>Carpet and Durrie cluster</b>	Uttar Pradesh	
<b>Eri Silk Khadi Cluster</b>	Arunachal Pradesh	

### ❖ About the Scheme

- SFURTI is a **Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries**.
- The **Ministry of MSME** launched this scheme in **2005** to promote **cluster development** of traditional industries and enhance income of traditional artisans.
- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**, a statutory body under Ministry of MSME, is the **nodal agency** for its promotion.
- Till date, **498 clusters** have been supported under SFURTI across the country directly benefiting around **3 lakh artisans**.

## Cook Islands & Niue

### ❖ Context

- The US administration announced during a **summit with Pacific leaders** that it would recognise Cook Islands and Niue as **sovereign states** as part of its new Pacific plan that will pump \$1.4 billion into the region.

### ❖ Political Status

- The Cook islands and Niue are **states in free association within the Realm of New Zealand**.
- These are **self-governing territories**, having **constitutional independence**, whose foreign & defence policies & currency are linked to New Zealand.
- Some countries have recognised them as sovereign entities and established diplomatic relations.
- They are **not UN members** but are **recognised by the UN Secretariat** and are **full members of some UN specialised agencies** like WHO, UNESCO.

### ❖ About Cook Islands

- Comprises **15 major islands** located in the **South Pacific Ocean**. The islands are formed by **volcanic activity**.

### ❖ About Niue



- Located in the **South Pacific Ocean** in a triangle between Tonga, Samoa and the Cook Islands.
- Commonly referred to as "**The Rock**", which comes from the traditional name "Rock of Polynesia".
- **One of the world's largest coral islands**.

## Face to Face Centres

## Aravallis

### ❖ Context

- The Haryana CM said that the state will develop a **curated jungle safari park, largest outside of Africa**, with the support of the **Union Ministry of Environment and Forest**.



### ❖ Key Highlights

- The proposed park in the Aravalli mountain range will be **spread across 10,000 acres** of land in the **Gurgaon and Nuh districts**.
- It would include a large herpetarium, aviary/ bird park, four zones for big cats, an area for exotic animals and birds, an underwater world, etc.
- Currently, the **largest curated safari park outside Africa is in Sharjah, UAE** and covers an area of about **2,000 acres**.

### ❖ About Aravallis Range

- **Oldest folded mountain range** in India running in a south-west direction for approx. 690 kms from Delhi through southern Haryana, Rajasthan ending in plains of Gujarat.
- One of the **oldest geological features in the world** having its origin in the **Proterozoic era**.
- Rich in natural resources (including minerals) and serves as a **check to the growth of the western desert**.
- The system is divided into two sections:
  - **The Sambhar-Sirohi ranges**, taller and including **Guru Shikhar** (named after Dattatreya, Vishnu's incarnation) on Mount Abu, the highest peak in the Aravalli Range (1,722 metres);
  - **The Sambhar-Khetri ranges**, consisting of three discontinuous ridges.

## TRAI and TDSAT

### ❖ Context

- The Delhi High Court stayed an order of **Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)** directing broadcasters to submit information pertaining to the content on their **over-the-top (OTT)** platforms to the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**.



### ❖ About TRAI

- **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act (TRAI)**, enacted in **1997** established a Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
- It consists of a **Chairperson, two whole-time members and two part-time members**, all appointed by the Government of India.
- The Chairperson and other members shall hold their office for a **term of three years or till the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier.

### ❖ About TDSAT

- The Act was **amended in the year 2000 to set up TDSAT**.
- Its function is to adjudicate disputes and dispose of appeals with a view to protect the interests of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector.

- The Tribunal consists of a **Chairperson and two Members** appointed by the Central Government.
- The **Chairperson** should be or should have been a **Judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court**.
- The Tribunal exercises jurisdiction over **Telecom, Broadcasting, IT & Airport tariff matters under the TRAI Act, 1997 (as amended), the IT Act, 2008 and the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008**.
- The Tribunal exercises **original as well as appellate jurisdiction** in regard to **Telecom, Broadcasting and Airport tariff matters**.
- In regard to **cyber matters** the Tribunal exercises only the **appellate jurisdiction**.

## Foreign Investment in Commodity Derivatives

### ❖ Context

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** allowed foreign investors to participate in Indian **exchange-traded commodity derivatives (ETCDs)** through the **FPI route**, subject to conditions.



### ❖ Key highlights

- **Foreign portfolio investment (FPI)** unlike FDI refers to investments made in securities and other financial assets issued in another country.
- A Foreign portfolio investor has to obtain a **certificate of registration** from a designated depository participant on behalf of SEBI for dealing with securities.

- **SEBI regulations classifies FPIs** into two categories -
  - **Category I** - Central banks, sovereign wealth funds, international or multilateral organisations, pension funds, university funds, FATF member countries (subject to conditions) and appropriated regulated entities like investment managers, insurance entities etc.
  - **Category II** - Endowment & foundations, charitable organisations, corporate bodies, family offices, individuals etc.
- **Derivatives** are financial contracts between parties that get the right to transact (buy/sell) the underlying asset at a later date at a certain agreed price. It can trade on an **exchange or over-the-counter**.

### Face to Face Centres

## NDMF and SDMF

### ❖ Context

- The Union Home Ministry approved the release of Rs. 488.00 crore as Central share of the **State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF)** to the three States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Goa for the year 2021-22.

### ❖ Constitution of the Funds

#### • Legal Provisions :

- Under **Section 47(1)**, the Central Government *may*, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Fund to be called the **National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF)**.
- Under **Section 48(1)**, the State Government *shall*, immediately after notifications issued for constituting the State Authority, establish **State Disaster Mitigation Fund** and District Disaster Mitigation Fund.
- Despite statutory provisions, no Mitigation fund, NDMF/ SDMF, was created till Feb'21.
- In pursuance of recommendation of **15th Finance Commission (XV FC)** and provision of DM Act, **NDMF was constituted by MHA on 5.2.2021**.
- Based on the recommendations of the **XV FC**, the Central Government has allocated **Rs. 32,031 crore for the SDMF** and **Rs 13,693 crore** for the NDMF for the years **2021-22 to 2025-26**.

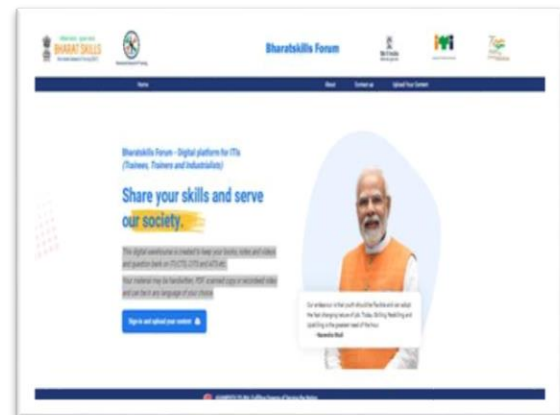
### ❖ Salient Points

- Mitigation funds should typically provide small grants for community based local initiatives to mitigate hazards through soft measures, rather through hard measures.

- **Mitigation Funds to be supervised by the NDMA at the national level and by SDMA at State level.**
- Contribution to SDMF will be in the **ratio of 90:10** for NE & Hill States; **75:25** for other States.
- State Governments transfer their contributions in SDMF, **within 15 days** of receipt of Central Share of SDMF and NDMF. In case of **delay**, the State Government is **required to contribute the amount with interest at bank rate** of RBI.
- **MHA is the nodal Ministry** for overall operation and monitoring of NDMF/ SDMF.
- MHA, with the concurrence of Department of Expenditure (DoE) can alter/ modify guidelines as considered necessary.
- Additional financial assistance from NDMF to be on a **graded cost-sharing basis**, as recommended by the XV FC.

## News in Between the Lines

### Bharatskills Forum



### ❖ Context

- **Directorate General of Training (DGT)** recently launched **Bharatskills Forum**.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- This facility will act as a **digital warehouse** for the skilling community.
- It will allow **sharing of contents** in **various forms** like handwritten trainers' or trainees' notes, PDFs, scanned copies, or recorded videos in any language.
- The **Directorate General of Training (DGT)** in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is the apex organisation for development and coordination at national level for the programmes relating to vocational training.
- DGT in **Oct 2019** had launched an **online learning platform** called the **Bharatskills**.
- It is a **central digital repository** for the trainees and trainers of the ITI ecosystem enabling anytime, anywhere learning outside the classrooms.

### Global Innovation Index 2022



### ❖ Context

- Released by **World Intellectual Property Organisation**.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- **India's ranking improved from 46 (2021) to 40 (2022)**.
- India and Turkey (37th) enter the top 40 for the first time.
- **Switzerland, the United States, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands** are the world's most-innovative economies.

### ❖ About WIPO

- Established in **1967 by WIPO Convention**, it is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It is one of the 15 **specialised agencies** of the **UN ECOSOC**.
- It has 193 member states. The **only non-members**, among the countries recognised by the UN are the Federated States of **Micronesia, Palau and South Sudan**.

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## Face to Face Centres

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