

## Hate Speech

### ❖ Context

- A recent religious conclave held in Haridwar witnessed **inflammatory and provocative speeches** by proponents of Hindutva, many of them leaders of religious organisations.
- Political parties and concerned citizens have termed these as '**hate speech**' and demanded legal action against those involved in the propagation of hate and violence.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- There is **no specific legal definition** of 'hate speech'
- In general, hate speech is considered a **limitation on free speech** that seeks to prevent or bar speech that exposes a person or a group or section of society to hate, violence, ridicule or indignity.
- **Provisions in law criminalise speeches, writings, actions, signs and representations** that foment violence and spread disharmony between communities and groups and these are understood to refer to 'hate speech'.

### ❖ Indian Laws With Respect to Hate Speech

- In the **267th Report of the Law Commission of India**, hate speech is stated as an incitement to hatred primarily against a group of persons defined in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief and the like.
- **Sections 153A and 153B of the IPC**: Punishes acts that cause enmity and hatred between two groups.
- **Section 295A of the IPC**: Deals with punishing acts which deliberately or with malicious intention outrage the religious feelings of a class of persons.
- **Sections 505(1) and 505(2)**: Make the publication and circulation of content which may cause ill-will or hatred between different groups an offence.
- **Section 8 of RPA Act 1951**: Prevents a person convicted of the illegal use of the freedom of speech from contesting an election.
- **Sections 123(3A) and 125 of the RPA**: Bars the promotion of animosity on the grounds of race, religion, community, caste, or language in reference to elections and include it under corrupt electoral practices.

## Tiger Deaths in India in 2021

### ❖ Context

- As per data from **National Tiger Conservation Authority**, **126 tigers have died** across the country in 2021. This is the **highest number of annual deaths** recorded in a decade.

### ❖ Key Highlights

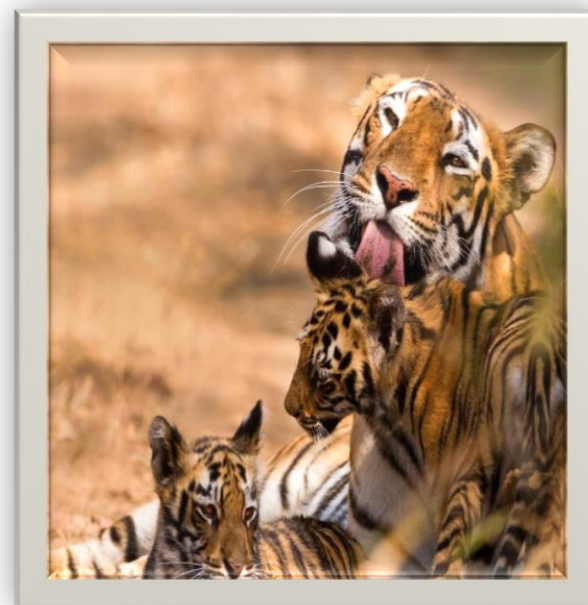
- Tiger deaths in the country this year have **gone up by 48 per cent** jump as compared to 2020.
- **India is home to a third of the global tiger population** and the estimated tiger population stood at 2,967 as per 2018 tiger census.
- The population of tigers has **increased by 33% since** the last census in 2014 when the total estimate was 2,226.
- Madhya Pradesh leads the states in tiger numbers as per 2018 figures. This year, the State also led in tiger deaths and saw 42 fatalities.
- **Tigers in states:**
  - **Madhya Pradesh (526) > Karnataka(524) > Uttarakhand (442)**
- ❖ **Protection Status**
  - **IUCN -Endangered**
  - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 - Schedule 1**

### ❖ NTCA

- **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- It was **established in 2005** following the **recommendations of the Tiger Task Force**.
- It was constituted under enabling provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, as **amended in 2006**, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it.

### ❖ Project Tiger

- Project Tiger is an ongoing **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change providing central assistance to the tiger States for tiger conservation in designated tiger reserves.
- **The tiger reserves are constituted on a core/buffer strategy.**
- The **core areas have the legal status of a national park** or a sanctuary, whereas the **buffer or peripheral areas are a mix of forest and non-forest land**, managed as a multiple-use area.



## Face to Face Centres



## New IPO rules

### ❖ Context

- Recently, SEBI had released new rules related to IPO amid the **boom in IPO offerings** being witnessed in stock markets worldwide with companies raising record amount of capital.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- **In India alone**, capital worth over **₹1 trillion** has been mopped up through IPOs this year.
- Companies see bull markets as an opportunity to collect the necessary funds for their growth.
- The **owners** see it as an opportunity to **sell their stake** in the business **at an attractive price**.
- A lot of **companies** that raised funds through IPOs this year, such as Zomato, Paytm etc., are **loss-making**.
- This puts **investors** who have invested in these IPOs at the risk of **huge losses** if the **prices** of these shares witness a **sharp correction**. Paytm, for instance, has lost more than one-third of its value since it was listed for trading.
- SEBI believes that the **new regulations** will ensure that promoters of companies will have more skin in the game and **protect retail investors**
- However, some fear that the new rules may hinder the raising of fresh capital by companies to fuel growth.

### ❖ What does the new rules say

- The price band of an IPO should be set in such a way that the **ceiling price is at least 105% of the floor price**.
- Companies will not be allowed to use more than 35% of the money that they collect through IPOs to fund the purchase of other businesses, unless they offer sufficient details.
- **Promoters** with a stake of over 20% in a company **cannot sell more than half of their stake in an IPO**.
- **Anchor investors** will not be able to sell more than half their shares before **90 days** from the date of the IPO, against the current time stipulation of 30 days.

### ❖ IPO (Initial Public Offering)

- It is the sale of securities (held by promoters) by a private limited company for the first time to the public to raise funds for capital expenditure. It forms the **primary market** for shares
- Upon IPO, the company's shares are listed on stock exchange for trading between the investors. This forms the secondary market for shares

### ❖ Anchor Investors

- Anchor investors are **institutional investors** (mutual funds, pension funds, etc.) who are allotted shares just before an IPO opens for subscription. **All anchor investors are bound by a lock-in period** since they get a **confirmed allotment of a company's shares** unlike retail investors

## Arctic warming

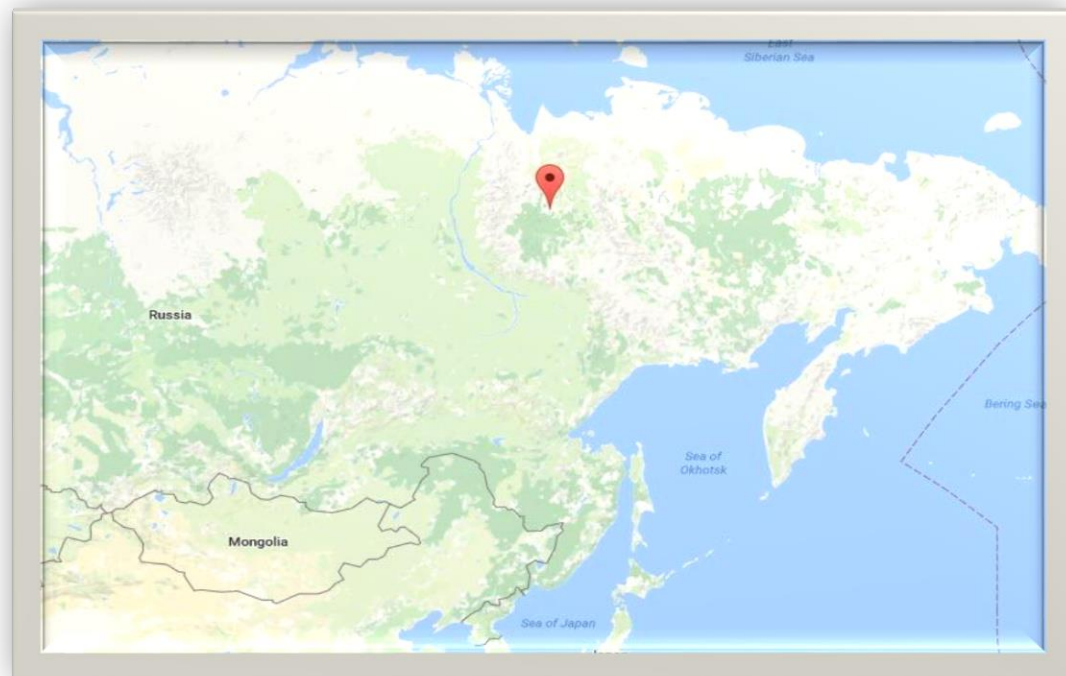
### ❖ Context

- **WMO has recently confirmed** that the temperature of **38 degree celsius** recorded in **June 2020** in the eastern Siberian town of **Verkhoyansk**, 115 km north of the **Arctic circle**, is the **highest ever recorded temperature** in the Arctic region.
- At that time most of the Arctic region, especially Siberia, was experiencing an **unprecedented heatwave**, with temperatures in the Siberian Arctic rising up to **10°C above normal**.
- The warming of Siberia is also causing **thawing of permafrost** leading to release of carbon dioxide trapped in soil for thousand of years
- The heat also drove plague of tree eating moths

### ❖ Key Highlights

### ❖ Arctic Amplification

- The **Arctic region** is **warming at more than twice the rate** as the rest of the world, mainly because of human-made greenhouse gas emissions.
- The increased rate of warming is because of a phenomenon known as Arctic amplification
- **Melting ice** hastens the process of warming by **exposing areas** that are **not good at reflecting** back heat into the atmosphere.
- This creates a **feedback loop** between melting ice and rising temperatures, amplifying the impact of warming.



## Face to Face Centres



## News in Between the Lines

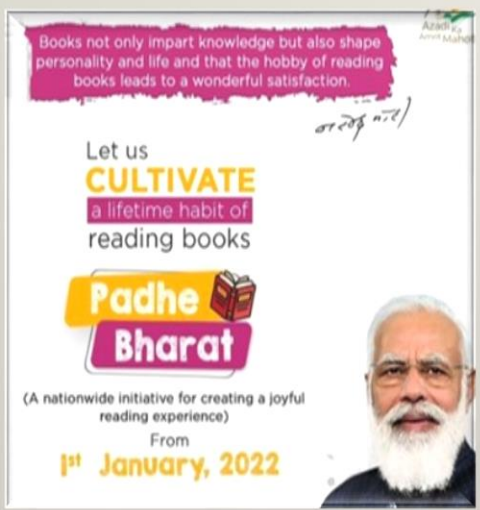
### Padhe Bharat

#### ❖ Context

- Education ministry launched 100-day reading campaign 'Padhe Bharat'

#### ❖ Key Highlights

- Children studying in **Balvatika to class 8** will be part of this campaign.
- The reading campaign **will be organised for 100 days (14 weeks) starting from January 1 to April 10, 2022.**
- This Campaign is in alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**
- The reading **campaign aims to have the participation of all stakeholders at national and state level** including children, teachers, parents, community, educational administrators etc.
- The campaign **will improve the learning levels of students as it develops creativity, critical thinking, vocabulary and the ability to express** both verbally and in writing.
- It has been **designed with the focus on making reading enjoyable** and builds lifelong association with the joy of reading.



### White Rhinoceros

#### ❖ Context

- Recently, **30 white rhinos** were transferred from **South Africa to Rwanda**, onboard a Boeing 747 chartered plane.

#### ❖ About Rhinoceros

- **Second largest land mammal** after the elephant.
- Also known as the **square-lipped rhinoceros** due to their square (not pointed) upper lip.
- Two genetically different subspecies exist, **the northern and southern white rhino** and are found in two different regions in Africa.
- **IUCN Protection Status**
  - **Northern White Rhino:** Critically Endangered
  - **Southern White Rhino:** Near Threatened
- **Indian rhinoceros IUCN Status-** Vulnerable
- There is also a **Javan rhino**, which too, has one horn, and a **Sumatran rhino** which, like the African rhinos, has two horns. Both Javan and Sumatran Rhino are critically endangered in the IUCN Red list



### Iran's new Space Launch

#### ❖ Context

- Recently, Iran has **launched a rocket with a satellite** carrier bearing three devices into space.

#### ❖ Key Highlights

- The Defense Ministry **identified the rocket as "Simorgh, or Phoenix"**, that sent up the three devices into space at **470 kilometers.**
- **Status of the objects is still unknown**, which suggests the rocket had failed in placing its payload into the correct orbit.

#### ❖ Recent Missions By Iran

- **January 2019-** AUT-SAT microsatellite, was launched onboard the Simorgh rocket. It failed to reach orbit.
- **February 2020-** Launched its communication satellite called **Zafar 1**, onboard the Simorgh rocket from Imam Khomeini Space Center. Failed to put it in orbit.
- **April 2020-** Iran successfully launched "**Noor**", a military satellite, into orbit.



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## Punjab's new Sand Mining Policy



### ❖ Context

- The Punjab government has recently allowed landowners to dispose of ordinary earth extracted or removed during leveling of their agricultural fields upto 3 feet without any environmental clearance certificate

### ❖ Key Highlights

- Several individual farmers as well as panchayats who own large chunk of lands were already into illegal sand mining in their fields due to huge amount received by them
- Earlier, farmers were required to take environment clearance for mining their fields
- **According to soil experts, all the important nutrients of the soil are available up to 60 cm till the root zone layer of the crops, and the first 6 inches are the most important one.**
- Once this **upper layer or soil head**, the destruction is "forever", and irreparable.

## Bird flu scare in Kerala



### ❖ Context

- Recently, the state had to ordered mass culling of ducks in Alappuzha and Kottayam districts because of recurrence of bird flu

### ❖ Key Highlights

- Kerala had to fight with the avian influenza (**H5N1**) in Jan 2021 only.
- It is being believed that the sudden rise in cases again is due to the presence of **migratory birds**
- The area is adjacent to **Kumarakom Bird sanctuary** and **Vembanad lake**
- The presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza was confirmed in the sanctuary
- **Vembanad Lake** is the **India's second largest wetland ecosystem** where migratory birds like Siberian cranes, various herons, darters, bitterns, Brahminy kites, marsh harriers, teals, larks and flycatchers, flock at regular intervals
- There is **no vaccine** to prevent avian influenza and the virus outbreak has turned into an annual affair in the region
- The virus can also **transmit from birds to humans and humans to humans**

## International Investment Position



### ❖ Context

- **RBI released** data relating to India's International Investment Position (IIP) at end-September 2021.

### ❖ Key Highlights

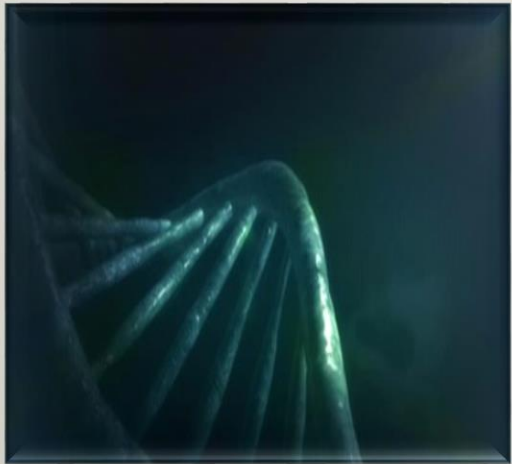
- The **International Monetary Fund describes** a nation's IIP as showing the value of financial assets of residents of an economy that are claims on non-residents, or are gold bullion held as reserve assets; and of the liabilities of residents to non-residents.
- **India's net IIP position as on Sep-21 is - 331.8 BN \$** i.e. Indian resident's liabilities towards non-residents are more than its assets.
- However, the ratio of international assets to international liabilities improved to 73.6% from 70.4% a year earlier.
- **Reserve assets accounted for 68.5% of the total assets**
- Reserve assets are currencies or other assets, such as gold, that can be readily transferable and are used to balance international transactions and payments.

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## Dark Genome



### ❖ Context

- Scientists have identified **recently evolved portions of dark genome coding** for proteins associated with **schizophrenia and bipolar disorder**
- The researchers say that the **newly discovered proteins can be used as biological indicators** to distinguish the two conditions and identify patients more prone to psychosis

### ❖ Key Highlights

- **Only 1.5% of the entire human genome codes for 20,000 'known' proteins.** Rest of the genomic space is occupied by the **'Dark genome' which does not code 'known' proteins**
- Dark genome is an informal term for unclassified or poorly understood genetic material

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**DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR:** 9205274741, 42 | **LAXMI NAGAR :** 9205212500, 9205962002 | **RAJENDRA NAGAR:** 9205274743 | **UTTAR PRADESH PRAYAGRAJ:** 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | **LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ):** 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | **LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR):** 7234000501, 7234000502 | **GREATER NOIDA:** 9205336037, 38 | **KANPUR:** 7887003962, 7897003962 | **GORAKHPUR :** 7080847474, 9161947474 | **ODISHA BHUBANESWAR:** 9818244644/7656949029

