

Birsa Munda

❖ Context

- On the occasion of the **birth anniversary of tribal leader Birsa Munda**, the Centre marked the second **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on November 15** to celebrate the contributions of tribal communities to Indian culture.

❖ Key Highlights

- The government has also paid tributes to other pre-independence era tribal leaders recently.
 - Statue of **Alluri Sitharama Raju** was inaugurated by the Prime Minister this year.
 - A new 'tribal museums' was announced.

❖ About Birsa Munda

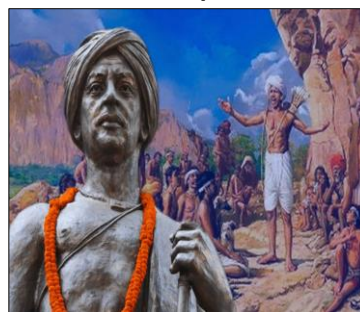
- Born on **November 15, 1875**.
- He belonged to the **Munda tribe** which inhabited the **Chota Nagpur** region of today's Jharkhand.
- Birsa **converted to Christianity** in order to join the German Mission school. He, however, opted out of the school after a few years.
- He is remembered to be a strong mark of protest against British rule in India.
- Also known as **Dharti Aaba (Father of Earth)**, Birsa Munda is known to have mobilised the tribal community against the British
- He had forced the colonial officials to introduce laws protecting the land rights of the tribals.
- From 1886 to 1890, Birsa Munda spent a large amount of time in **Chaibasa**, which was close to the centre of the Sardari agitation.

• Birsa Sect :

- Birsa wanted to **reform the tribal society**.
- He urged them to **let go of beliefs in witchcraft**.
- He stressed on the importance of prayer, staying away from alcohol, having faith in God and observing a code of conduct.
- Based on these, he started the **faith of 'Birsait'**.

• Ulgulan Movement :

- It is also known as **Munda Rebellion or Great Tumult**.
- It was **led by Birsa Munda** in the south of Ranchi in **1899-1900**.
- Munda encouraged the tribals to **refuse colonial laws and paying rent**.
- He **encouraged changes in the social sphere too**, challenging religious practices to fight against superstition.



- He became known as '**Bhagwan**' (God) and '**Dharati Aaba**' (Father of the earth) by his followers.
- It forced the colonial govt. to introduce laws so that the land of the tribals could not be easily taken over by dikus (Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908).

Financing India's Infrastructure Needs Report

❖ Context

- The World Bank has released a report - 'Financing India's Infrastructure Needs: Constraints to Commercial Financing & Prospects for Policy Action'.



INFRA UPGRADE	
World Bank says need to spend \$840 b over next 15 years	600 m people to live in urban cities by 2036
Policy interventions suggested:	
Improve revenue streams of urban local bodies	Enable commercial borrowing avenues for local bodies
Increase involvement of private sector in delivery of services	Switch to a more stable, formula-based & unconditional fiscal transfer regime
	Set up a dedicated structure like Cities Investment Support Unit

❖ Key Highlights

- **By 2036**, 600 million people will be living in urban cities in India, representing **40% of the population**.
- India would need **\$840 billion** over the **next 15 years** to meet the needs of the growing urban population.
- India needs to **increase its annual investment** in city infrastructure from an average of **\$10.6 billion** a year in the past decade to an average of **\$55 billion a year**.
- Half of the needed investment is in the **basic municipal services sector** that includes water supply, sewerage, solid waste management, roads and street lights.

❖ Local Bodies Finance

- Currently, the **central and state governments finance over 75% of city infrastructure**, while urban local bodies (ULB) finance 15% through their own surplus revenues.

- Between 2011 and 2018, **urban property tax** stood at 0.15% of GDP compared to an average of 0.3-0.6% of GDP for low and middle-income countries.
- **Low service charges for municipal services** also undermines their financial viability and attractiveness to private investment

❖ Role of Private Finance

- As of now, only 5 per cent of the urban infrastructure investments were coming from the private sector.
- With the government's current (2018) annual urban infrastructure investments topping at \$16 billion, **much of the gap will require private financing**.

❖ Recommendations

- Making the transfer of funds to cities formula-based and unconditional.
- Increasing the mandates of city agencies gradually.
- The Government of India to play an important role in removing market frictions that cities face in accessing private financing.

In our LiFEtime" Campaign

❖ Context

- Recently, India at **Climate Summit 2022 (COP 27)** launched "In our LiFEtime" Campaign.



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❖ Key Highlights

- **Launched by :** National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), under the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- **Objective :** To encourage youth between the ages of 18 to 23 years to become message bearers of sustainable lifestyles.
- **Functions :** The youth will be encouraged to submit their climate actions that contribute to lifestyles for the environment within their capacity, which are sustainable and scalable, and serve as good practices that can be shared globally.

- The campaign will involve more youth in the conversation about climate change, adaptation and mitigation.
- It provide them a platform to share their concerns, issues and solutions with the leaders of the world.
- It will amplify the voices of the youth who are increasingly climate conscious and provide recognition to young climate champions.
- **Need for Youth :**
 - The young people are adept at popularising new habits, embracing technologies and are best placed to contribute to the fight against climate change.
 - The youth need to make low- carbon career choices and adopt such lifestyles as a part of their everyday life.

Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs)

❖ Context

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has come out with a detailed regulatory framework for online bond platform providers.



❖ Background

- India has a bond market worth trillions of rupees but it does not attract traders like in equities on the BSE and the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- Instead, tens of websites, which call themselves fintech companies, mainly backed by large stock brokers, started selling bonds on their platforms to retail investors without any regulatory oversight.
- As a result, online bond platforms mushroomed, like e-commerce websites in India, offering debt securities to non-institutional investors.

❖ What do the rules say?

- OBPPs would be companies incorporated in India.
- They should register themselves as stock brokers in the debt segment of the stock exchange.
- After obtaining registration as a stock broker in the debt segment of a stock exchange, an entity would have to apply to the stock exchange to act as an OBPP.
- They cannot offer products or services on its platform except :
 - Listed debt securities.
 - Debt securities proposed to be listed through a public offering.

News in Between the Lines

Taman Hutun Raya



❖ Context

- The Indonesian President will lead his G20 guests to the Indonesian mangroves of Taman Hutun Raya.

❖ Key Highlights



- It is a conservation area and botanical garden located on Mount Pulosari in Bandung, Indonesia.
- It has been restored over a 30-year project now covering nearly 700 acres.
- The visit to the park will help in highlighting the importance of saving mangrove forests.

- They have one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world, acting as bio-shields against extreme climatic events and as important carbon sinks, absorbing more carbon emissions than regular forests.

Market Borrowing Limits of States



❖ Context

- Kerala Finance Minister has urged the Union Finance Minister to expand the borrowing limit of the state.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Centre has fixed the net borrowing ceiling of states at Rs 8,57,849 crore or 3.5 percent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) based on the recommendation of the Fifteenth Finance Commission.
- States are also eligible for additional borrowing of 0.50 per cent of GSDP linked to reforms in the power sector.

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❖ Constitutional Provisions

- States can't borrow beyond the annual limits set by the central government under **Article 293(3)** of the Constitution.
- The Centre can impose certain conditions while granting consent under **Article 293(4)**. However **states don't need prior consent** from the Centre to **guarantee the loans and advances**, and bonds issued by its entities.

❖ Context

- Recently, **Google** revealed that it's developing a **model that can support the 1,000 most spoken languages of the world**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The **project is under development** and researchers are now collecting linguistic data to train the model.
- The end goal is to enable Google users to **experience better searches, more accurate auto-generated captions, natural online translation, and faster calculations**.
- Google's **plan is to build one gigantic model for the 1,000 languages** so that both widely used and rarer languages can co-exist, interact, and grow together.
- **Application of AI Language Models** : Through AI language models, companies aim to automate manual processes, generate new insights based on existing data.
 - Companies try to reduce reliance on human labour in fields like translation, customer service, or computation.
 - **Examples-** Website Chatbots.

Google's 1,000 Language AI Model



LeadIT Summit 2022



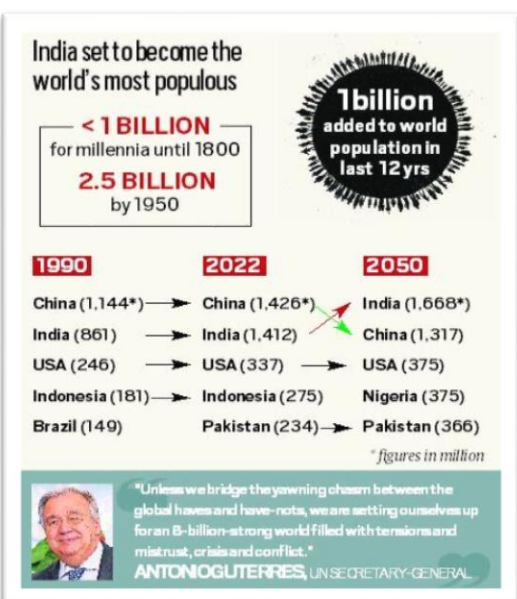
❖ Context

- Recently, **India and Sweden** hosted the **LeadIT** (The Leadership for Industry Transition) Summit on the sidelines of COP27 at Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt.

❖ Key Highlights

- LeadIT initiative **focuses on low carbon transition** of the hard to abate industrial sector.
- It gathers countries and companies that are committed to action to achieve the Paris Agreement.
- It was **launched by the governments of Sweden and India** at the UN Climate Action Summit in **September 2019**.
- It is **supported by the World Economic Forum**.
- LeadIT members subscribe to the notion that energy-intensive industry can and must progress on low-carbon pathways, aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions.

Human Population Touched 8 Billion

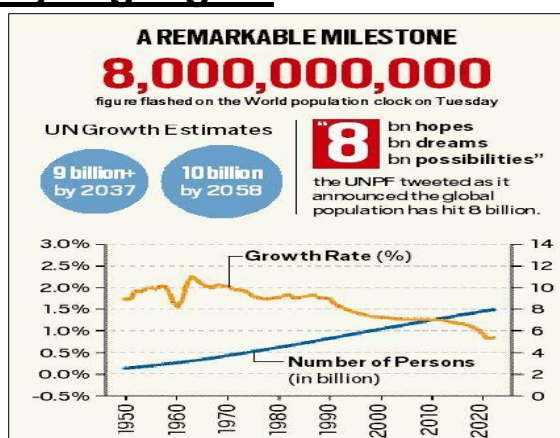


❖ Context

- Recently, the **human population reached 8 billion** on November 15, 2022.

❖ Key Highlights

- According to The **UN population report** : The **global population is growing at its slowest rate since 1950**, having fallen under 1% in 2020.
 - The world's population could grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050.
 - It is projected to reach a peak of around 10.4 billion people during the 2080s and to remain at that level until 2100.
- **The top 10 most populous countries** are : China, India, United States, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Brazil, Bangladesh, Russia & Mexico.
- **Demography of India** : India is projected to overtake China as the world's most populous country in 2023.
 - **Age-** 15-64 years old (68%), Above 65 years (7%), 15-29 years old (27%).
 - India is also home to the world's largest adolescent population (10-19) years.



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YUDH ABHYAS 22



❖ Context

- The 18th edition of Indo - US joint training exercise "YUDH ABHYAS 22" is scheduled to be conducted in Uttarakhand November, 2022.

❖ Key Highlights

- The previous edition of the exercise was conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska (USA) in October 2021.
- Exercise Yudh Abhyas is **conducted annually between India and USA**.
- It **aims at exchanging best practices, Tactics, Techniques and Procedures** between the armies of the two nations.
- US Army soldiers of 2nd Brigade of the 11th Airborne Division and Indian Army soldiers from the ASSAM Regiment will be participating in the exercise.
- The exercise will involve exchanges and practices on a wide spectrum of **combat skills** including combat engineering, **employment of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)/Counter UAS techniques** and information operations.
- The joint exercise will also focus on **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations**.

ReALCraft



❖ Context

- The Indian Navy had said that ReALCraft has greatly eased the verification & monitoring of fishing vessels in India.

❖ Key Highlights

- ReALCraft stands for **Registration & Licensing of Fishing Craft**.
- It is an **web enabled workflow based application** developed under open source technology.
- It is implemented by the **Department of Fisheries**.
- Its purpose is to issue **Vessel Registration Certificate**, under Merchant Shipping Act, and **Fishing License Certificate**, under Marine Fishing Regulation Acts of respective States, to all the fishing vessels operating along the Indian coast.
- The main objectives are to prepare a **national database for fishing vessels** and to regulate the movements of the same to **strengthen coastal security** and security of fishermen in the sea.
- The Security Agencies and other approved Government machinery are able to **track the status of any registered marine vessel at any point of time from anywhere**, through internet or SMS.

LODR (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Rules



❖ Context

- The SEBI has proposed some key changes under **LODR rules** keeping pace with the changing market dynamics.

❖ Key Highlights

Current Provisions	Proposed Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A listed entity may on its own initiative, confirm or deny any reported event or information to stock exchanges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top 250 listed companies have to confirm or deny any information reported in the mainstream media that could have material impact on the listed entity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The company has to disclose information to the stock exchanges within 24 hours from the occurrence of a material event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the disclosure timeline to 12 hours. • A quantitative criterion of minimum threshold for disclosure of events based on the value or the expected quantitative impact of the event.

❖ About Listed Company

- A listed company is a **public company**. It has **issued shares of its stock through an exchange**, with each share representing a sliver of ownership of the company, which can be further traded on a stock exchange.
- All listed companies in India are subject to regulation by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- A company that does not meet the standards of an exchange may offer stock shares to the public through the over-the-counter market.

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