

## National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

### ❖ Context

- According to a parliamentary panel report, reports of the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes** since 2018 are still under process in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and have not been presented to the parliament till date.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The parliamentary committee also noted that the **budgetary allocation for the Commission needs to be reviewed** so that its functioning is not made to suffer for lack of funds.
- The panel desires that the **vacancies should be immediately filled**.
- It recommended that necessary action be urgently taken in respect of **annual reports, recruitment of officials and budgetary allocation** for the said Commission.
- The **pending reports include**:
  - A study by the Commission of the **impact of the Indira Sagar Polavaram Project** in Andhra Pradesh on the tribal population
  - A special **report on rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced tribals** because of the Rourkela Steel Plant.

### ❖ About NCST

- NCST was set up with effect from 19th February 2004 by **amending Article 338** and by **inserting a new article 338A** in the Constitution through the **89th Constitution Amendment Act, 2003**.
- **Status**- Constitutional body.

### • Composition:

- It consists of a **Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and 3 other Members** who are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
- **At least one member should be a woman**.
- The **Chairperson** has been given the rank of **Union Cabinet Ministers**.
- The **Vice Chairperson** has the rank of a **Minister of State**.
- Other members have the rank of a Secretary to the Government of India.

### • Tenure:

- The Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the other Members **hold office for a term of 3 years**.
- The members are not eligible for appointment for more than two terms.

### • Powers & Functions:

- It **oversees the implementation of various safeguards** provided to STs under the Constitution and to evaluate the working of such safeguards.
- **Vested with all the powers of a civil court** while investigating any matter on inquiring into any complaint relating to deprivation of rights and safeguards for the Scheduled Tribes
- To **present to the President, annually** and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, **reports upon the working of those safeguards**.

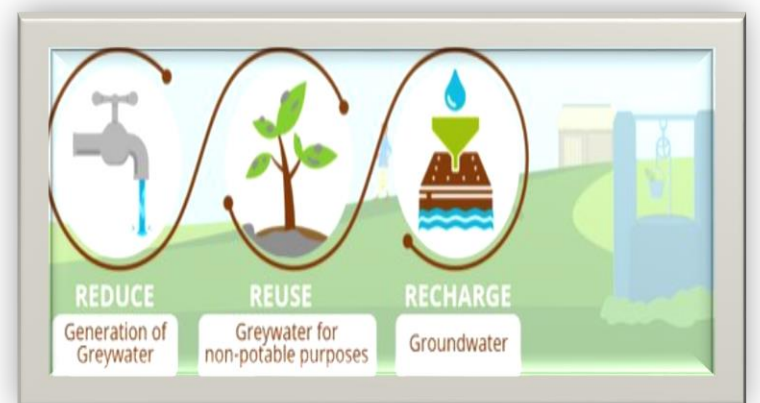
## SUJALAM 2.0

### ❖ Context

- **Ministry of Jal Shakti** launched Sujalam 2.0 campaign for greywater management through people's participation marking **World Water Day on 22nd March**.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- This year theme of World Water Day is "**Groundwater: making the invisible visible**".
- A Joint Advisory was also signed by 9 Ministries on how greywater management will be taken up at their level based on a convergence model.
  - Ministry of (M/o) Jal Shakti,
  - M/o Rural Development,
  - M/o Women & Child Development,
  - M/o Youth Affairs and Sports,
  - M/o Tribal Affairs,
  - M/o Health and Family Welfare,
  - M/o Education,
  - M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change and
  - M/o Panchayati Raj
- The campaign would focus on the **creation of institutional level greywater management assets** in Panchayat Ghar, healthcare facilities, schools, anganwadi centres (AWCs), community centres and other government institutions.
- For example - There are about 4.68 lakh kitchen gardens of the total 14 lakh AWCs. The treated greywater can be used to irrigate these kitchen gardens.



## Face to Face Centres

- The treated greywater can be used to recharge the groundwater.
- Under the **Sujlam 1.0 campaign** which was started in August 2021, more than 1 million soak pits were built at household and community level across the country.

## ❖ Greywater

- Greywater refers to **domestic wastewater** generated in households or office buildings from streams **without faecal contamination**, i.e., all streams except for the wastewater from toilets (**blackwater**).
- Sources of greywater include sinks, showers, baths, washing machines or dishwashers.
- As greywater contains fewer pathogens than domestic wastewater, it is generally safer to handle and easier to treat and reuse onsite for toilet flushing, landscape or crop irrigation, and other non-potable uses.
- It is estimated that **31 billion litres of greywater is generated every day in India**.
- Greywater can be best managed where it is generated and turns into a major management and infrastructure challenge, if it is allowed to accumulate and stagnate.
- **2.2 billion people across the world are facing a water crisis**. **SDG 6** aims to provide universal access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation.

## News in Between the Lines

### Hypersonic Missiles



#### ❖ Context

- Recently, the **Russian Ministry of Defense** announced that it had **used a hypersonic missile for the first time** in the ongoing conflict with Ukraine.

#### ❖ About Hypersonic Missile

- A hypersonic missile is a **weapon system which flies at least at the speed of Mach 5**.
- Unlike ballistic missiles, **hypersonic missiles do not follow a ballistic trajectory and can be maneuvered to the intended target**.
- The **two types** of hypersonic weapons systems are:
  - **Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGV):**
    - The HGV are launched from a rocket before gliding to the intended target and.
  - **Hypersonic Cruise Missiles:**
    - Hypersonic cruise missiles are powered by air breathing high speed engines or 'scramjets' after acquiring their target.
- **US, Russia and China** are in advanced stages of hypersonic missile programmes.
- **India, France, Germany, Japan and Australia** too are developing hypersonic weapons.
- **Indian hypersonic missile programme:**
  - India is also developing an indigenous, dual capable (conventional as well as nuclear) hypersonic cruise missile as part of its Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle programme.
  - It has successfully **tested a Mach 6 scramjet in June 2019** and September 2020.
  - India operates approximately 12 hypersonic wind tunnels and is capable of testing speeds upto Mach 13.

#### ❖ Context

- A parliamentary standing committee has asked the Food Ministry to make an **"objective assessment"** and find out to **what extent the scheme has helped beneficiaries** and for how long it needs to be continued.

#### ❖ Key Highlights

- Spread over five phases, with a **total allocation of Rs 759.22 lakh tonnes** and financial implication pegged at **Rs 2.68 lakh crore**, the scheme is scheduled to end March 31, 2022.
- The Food Ministry had earlier informed the Standing Committee extension of the scheme beyond March, 2022, would be considered by it "based on the prevailing situation" in the country.

### Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)

#### ❖ Key Highlights

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## ❖ About PMGKAY

- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) is a **scheme as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat** to supply free food grains to migrants and the poor.
- The scheme aimed at providing each person who is covered under the **National Food Security Act 2013** with an **additional 5 kg grains** (wheat or rice) for free, in addition to the **5 kg of subsidized foodgrain already provided** through the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- **Aims:**
  - It aims at **ensuring sufficient food for the poor** and needy during the coronavirus crisis.
- **Nodal Ministry:**
  - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- **Beneficiaries:**
  - **Families belonging to the Below Poverty Line** - Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH) categories will be eligible for the scheme.
  - **Widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years** or more or single women or single men with no family or societal support or assured means of subsistence.
  - All primitive **tribal households**.
  - **All eligible Below Poverty Line families of HIV positive persons.**
  - Landless agricultural laborers, marginal farmers, rural artisans/craftsmen such as potters etc.



## ❖ Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the occasion of Shaheed Diwas on Wednesday, **virtually inaugurated the Biplobi Bharat Gallery at Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata.**

## ❖ Key Highlights

- The **gallery provides a holistic view of the events** that led to Independence, highlighting the contributions of revolutionaries in the freedom struggle.
- Biplobi Bharat Gallery **depicts the political and intellectual backdrop that triggered the Revolutionary movement.**
- It **showcases the birth of the revolutionary movement**, formation of significant associations by revolutionary leaders, spread of the movement, formation of Indian National Army, contribution of Naval Mutiny, among others.

## ❖ Context

- Recently, the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute for the 2022-2023 season.

## ❖ Key Highlights

- The MSP of raw jute has been fixed at **Rs. 4,750 a quintal** for 2022-2023 season.
- It is **Rs. 250 higher** than the previous season.

## ❖ About MSP

- The MSP is a **minimum price guarantee** that acts as a safety net or insurance for farmers when they sell particular crops.
- These crops are **procured by government agencies** at a promised price to farmers and the MSP cannot be altered in any given situation.
- **A total of 23 crops are procured under MSP.**
- The MSP is set by the central government for selected crops, based on **recommendations it receives from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).**
- MSP based on a calculation of **at least one-and-a-half (1.5) times** the cost

## Biplobi Bharat Gallery



## Minimum Support Price (MSP)



## Face to Face Centres



## World Air Quality Report 2021



of production incurred by the farmers.

- **As of now, CACP recommends MSPs of 23 commodities**, which comprise.
  - 7 cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley and ragi).
  - 5 pulses (gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil).
  - 7 oilseeds (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, seasmum, sunflower, safflower, niger seed).
  - 4 commercial crops (copra, sugarcane, cotton and raw jute).

### ❖ Context

- Report prepared by IQAir, a Swiss air quality technology company.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- In terms of annual average PM 2.5 levels in 2021, **Delhi ranked as the most polluted out of the 107 capital cities of the world.**
- The city is topping the list for the fourth consecutive year.
- **No city in India met the WHO air quality guideline of 5µg/m<sup>3</sup>.**
- In 2021, **48% of Indian cities exceeded 50µg/m<sup>3</sup>** (more than 10 times the WHO limit).
- **35 Indian cities in top 50 of the world's most polluted cities topped by Bhiwadi.** According to the report's executive summary, air pollution is now considered to be the world's largest environmental health threat, accounting for **seven million deaths around the world every year.**
- The estimated **daily economic cost** of air pollution has been figured at \$8 billion (USD), or **3 to 4 % of the gross world product.**
- In India, major sources of air pollution include vehicular emissions, power generation, industrial waste, biomass combustion for cooking, the construction sector, and episodic events like crop burning, noted the report.

## 12th Periodic Labour Force Survey



### ❖ Context

- 12th Periodic Labour Force survey released by **National Statistics Office** for the July-Sep 21 quarter.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- **Unemployment rate** for persons of age 15 years and above in urban areas **dipped to 9.8 per cent in July-September 2021 from 13.2 per cent** in the same quarter of the previous year.
- Unemployment rate in July-Sep 2020 quarter was high due to lockdown restrictions. The National Statistical Office (NSO) launched the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in **April 2017.**

### ❖ Key Definitions

- **Labour Force Participation Rate** refers to the **part of the population** which **supplies or offers to supply labour** for pursuing economic activities for the production of goods and services and therefore, **includes both 'employed' and 'unemployed' persons.**
  - Labour force according to current weekly status (CWS) is the number of persons either employed or unemployed on an average in a week of 7 days preceding the date of survey.
- **Working Population** is defined as the **percentage of workers in the population.**
  - The estimate of workforce in the CWS provides the **number of persons who worked for at least 1 hour on any day during the 7 days** preceding the date of survey.
- **Unemployment Rate** is defined as the **percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.**
  - According to the CWS approach, a person was considered as unemployed in a week if he/she **did not work even for 1 hour on any day** during the reference week but sought or was available for work at least for 1 hour on any day during the reference week.

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## Splinternet



### ❖ Context

- MoS, Electronics & IT, said that sanctions imposed by countries, companies and big tech platforms have shown the emerging two phenomena - **weaponization of internet and splinternet**.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- Russia's increasing online censorship with Ukraine's intensified calls for Russia to be taken offline could be bringing the world closer to the **"fragmentation of the internet."**
- The splinternet refers to the splintering of cyberspace into **disparate realms controlled by autonomous political blocs or any other controlling power**—such as tech or e-commerce companies, or countries with diverging national interests tied to nationalism or religion.
- **Clyde Wayne Crews**, a researcher at the Cato Institute, **coined the term "splinternet" in 2001** to describe "parallel internets that would be run as distinct, private, and autonomous universes."
- Over the past 15 years, state security concerns and the privatisation of e-commerce have led to **walled-off infrastructure** and **techno-isolationism** separating the internet with geopolitical borders.
- Russia has been pushing forward on plans to create a more sovereign internet for several years.
- **In 2019, Russia enacted a law known as the "sovereign internet" law** to shield the country from what it called the "aggressive nature" of the United States' national cybersecurity strategy.
- The law installed **technological equipment to counter external threats** and allow the Russian network to **track, filter, and reroute** internet traffic.
- Russia has also run tests on its **RUNET intranet** by disconnecting itself entirely from the global internet.

## Promoting Exports of GI-Tagged



### ❖ Context

- **Centre promote exports** of locally sourced **Geographical Indications (GI) tagged agricultural products**, Centre has been striving to identify new products and new export destinations.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- While Darjeeling Tea and Basmati Rice are the two popular GI-tagged agricultural products of India, which have ready markets across the globe.
- **'Vocal for Local'** and **'Atmanirbhar Bharat'**, the Centre, through **Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has been facilitating trial shipments into new markets world wide for products.
- The Government has placed great emphasis on connecting **farmer producer organisations (FPOs), food producer companies (FPCs)** and exporters with international business communities to create an **export hub in Varanasi**, especially for **GI-tagged agricultural products**.
- To promote the unique GI Products from the North Eastern Region, Centre through APEDA has been organising buyer-seller meets, **conducting awareness and capacity building workshops with the participation of representatives of the NER States**, FPOs/FPCs, Exporters, Associations, and Government Departments such as **Indian Railways, AAICLAS, NAFED, DGFT, IIFPT etc.**
- **Potential importing countries** such as UAE, Indonesia, Kuwait Iran, Thailand, Bhutan, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, etc., for the promotion of APEDA scheduled products. Special focus was given on export of GI-tagged products.
- As on date, there are **417 registered GI products** and of them, **around 150 GI tagged products are agricultural and food products**, out of which more than **100 registered GI products fall under the category of APEDA scheduled products** (Cereals, Fresh Fruits and vegetables, etc).

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