

Anti-Lynching Bills

❖ Context

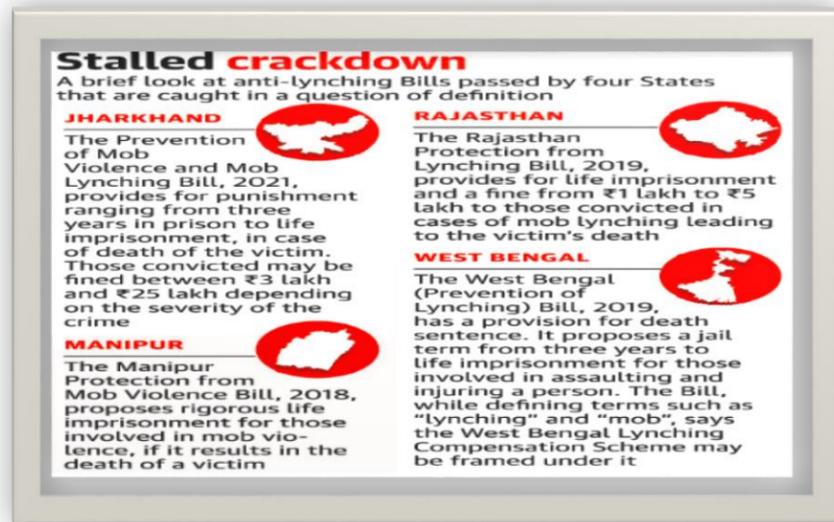
- Recently, the Centre has returned the anti-lynching bills of Rajasthan and Manipur to the respective state government seeking certain clarifications.
- Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in a written reply that lynching is not defined as a crime under the Indian Penal Code.

• Key Highlights

- Bills passed against mob lynching in the past four years by at least three States ruled by BJP rivals and one governed by the party itself.
- These states include **Jharkhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Manipur.**
- The Union Home Ministry informed Parliament in 2019 that there was “no separate” definition for lynching under the IPC.
 - Also added that such incidents could be dealt with under **Sections 300 and 302 of the IPC** which pertain to murder.
- In 2017, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) collected data on mob lynching, hate crimes and cow vigilantism.
 - However, the figures were not published and the work was discontinued as these crimes are not defined and the data were found to be unreliable.
- In 2018, the **Supreme Court asked Parliament to make lynching a separate offence.**

❖ Section 302

- Section 302 states that Whoever commits murder shall be punished with death or imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine.



❖ About Lynching

- Any act or series of acts of violence or aiding, abetting (encouraging) such act/acts thereof, whether spontaneous or planned, by a mob on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, language, dietary practices, sexual orientation, political affiliation, ethnicity or any other related grounds.
- There is “no separate” definition for such incidents under the existing IPC.
- Lynching incidents can be dealt with under Section 300 and 302 of IPC.

Rejuvenation of Major Rivers through Forestry Intervention

❖ Context

- Environment Ministry and Jal Shakti Ministry have jointly released Detailed project reports on rejuvenation of 13 major rivers through Forestry Intervention.

❖ Key Highlights

- The **13 major rivers** are :
 - Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej.
 - Yamuna, Brahmaputra.
 - Luni, Narmada.
 - Godavri, Mahanadi, Krishna, Cauvery.
- The 13 rivers cover a total basin representing **57.45% of the geographical area of country.**
- The reports have been prepared by **Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education.**
- The reports aim to alleviate growing water stress and help achieve goals related to climate change and sustainable development.

❖ Implementation:

- The DPRs focus on protection, afforestation, catchment treatment, ecological restoration, moisture conservation, livelihood improvement, income generation, ecotourism by developing river fronts, eco-parks and bringing awareness amongst the masses.

- The DPRs are expected to be **executed through the State Forest Departments** as nodal departments through convergence with other schemes and funding support from the Government of India.
- Technical support shall be provided by ICFRE.
- ❖ **Expected Outcomes**
 - To increase the cumulative forest cover by 7,417.36 km² across 13 riverscapes.
 - To sequester 50.21 million tons CO₂ equivalent in 10-year-old plantations and 74.76 million tons CO₂ equivalent in 20-year-old plantations.
 - Groundwater recharges to the extent of 1,889.89 million m³ yr⁻¹,
 - Rs. 449.01 crore is likely to be generated from expected non-timber and other forest produce.
 - Employment of 344 million man-days.

Face to Face Centres

Russia-Ukraine Conflict Impact on Fertilizers Market

❖ Context

- Russia has suspended exports of fertilizers in the wake of western worlds' sanctions imposed.

❖ Key Highlights

- Russia produces 50 million tonnes of fertilizers annually accounting for 13 per cent of the world's total output.
- Russia is the **second-largest producer of ammonia, urea, potash** and the **fifth-largest producer of complex phosphates**.
- Russia is the second largest producer of potash after Canada and followed by Belarus.
- Russia and allied countries like Belarus help meet about a third of the global requirement of muriate of potash (MoP).
- Russia is a **major supplier of natural gas to Europe (1/3rd)**, and the **Black Sea area is a major hub of fertilizer production and trade**.
- Russia is also the **largest exporter of urea, NPKs, ammonia, UAN and ammonium nitrate**.
- The country accounts for 23% of the global ammonia export market, 14 % of urea, 21 % of potash and 10 % of complex phosphates.

❖ Impact on India

- India's dependency on imports at present is to the extent of **25% of our requirement of urea, 90% in case of phosphates (either as raw material or finished fertilizers) and 100% in case of Potash**.
- Though rest of the requirement of urea is produced domestically from natural gas, **India is still the world's largest urea importer**.
- Thus rise in natural gas prices is also going to impact urea prices too.
- **One-third of total potash imported by India in 2020-21 came from Russia and Belarus.**

Fertilizer	Source countries
Urea	China, Oman, Ukraine, Egypt
Phosphate	China (restricted its export in 2021), Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Jordan
Potash	Canada, Russia, Belarus, Jordan, Lithuania, Israel, Germany

News in Between the Lines

Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV)



❖ Context

- Recently, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched **green hydrogen-based advanced fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV), Toyota Mirai**.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Toyota Kirloskar Motor**, along with the **International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT)**, is conducting a pilot project to study and evaluate the world's most advanced FCEV Toyota Mirai, which runs on hydrogen, on Indian roads and climatic conditions.
- This is the **first-of-its-kind project** in India that **aims to create an ecosystem for such vehicles in the country**.
- **Significance:**
 - FCEV, powered by hydrogen, is one of the best **zero-emission solutions**.
 - It is completely **environment-friendly with no tailpipe emissions** other than water.
 - Green hydrogen can be generated from renewable energy and abundantly available biomass.
 - The introduction and adoption of technology to tap into the green hydrogen's potential will play a key role in **securing a clean and affordable energy future for India**.

❖ About Fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV)

- At the heart of the fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEV) is a device that **uses a source of fuel, such as hydrogen, and an oxidant** to create electricity by an electrochemical process. The **fuel cell combines hydrogen and oxygen** to generate electric current, **water being the only byproduct**.
- Like conventional batteries under the bonnets of automobiles, hydrogen fuel cells too convert chemical energy into electrical energy. From a long-term viability perspective, FCEVs are billed as **vehicles of the future**, given that hydrogen is the most abundant resource in the universe.

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MV Ram Prasad Bismil



❖ Context

- Recently, The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways achieved a landmark when the **MV Ram Prasad Bismil** became the longest vessel ever to sail on Brahmaputra.

❖ Key Highlights

- The **90 meters long** flotilla is **26 meters wide**, loaded with a draft of **2.1 meters**.
- It successfully completed the aspiring pilot run of heavy cargo movement from **Haldia Dock in Kolkata** after it anchored at Pandu port in Guwahati.
- The vessel along with two barges - **DB Kalpana Chawla** and **DB APJ Abdul Kalam** - were flagged off from the **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Haldia on 16 feb**.
- The significance of this pilot run lays down the **path for commencement of barging operations from Kolkata to Guwahati via Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBRP)**.
- The **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** as well as **Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA)** worked together so that this historic cargo movement can move smoothly.

India's Solar Capacity



❖ Context

- Recently, India has **surpassed 50 GW** of cumulative installed solar capacity.
- This ranks the **country fifth in solar power deployment**.

❖ Key Highlights

- India added a **record 10 Gigawatt (GW)** of solar energy to its cumulative installed capacity in 2021. This has been the **highest 12-month capacity addition**, recording nearly a 200% year-on-year growth.
- This is a milestone in India's journey towards generating **500 GW from renewable energy by 2030**.
 - **300 GW is expected to come from solar power**.
- Of the 50 GW installed solar capacity-
 - 42 GW comes from ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) systems,
 - 6.48 GW comes from rooftop solar (RTS).
 - 1.48 GW from off-grid solar PV.
- India is contributing nearly **6.5% to the global cumulative capacity of 709.68 GW**.

Chair of Excellence



❖ Context

- Recently, on the eve of the 65th birthday of late **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat**, the **Indian Army has instituted a Chair of Excellence** in his memory at the United Service Institution of India (USI).

❖ Key Highlights

- The aim of the proposed Chair of Excellence will be to **conduct research on strategic issues** of significance pertaining to the armed forces.
- The Chair will be **open to veterans of the three Services and civilians having expertise in the field of national security and military affairs**.
- **United Service Institution of India (USI)**.
 - United Service Institution of India (USI) is a **national security and defense services think tank** based in New Delhi.
 - It was **founded in 1870** by a soldier scholar, Colonel (later Major General) Sir Charles MacGregor.

NeVA

❖ Context

- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs informed LS that with aim to make the functioning of all Legislative Houses in the country paperless, a Mission Mode Project - **National eVidhan Application (NeVA)** had been developed on the theme of **'One Nation – One Application'**.

Face to Face Centres



❖ Key Highlights

- Its aim is to transform all State Legislatures into **DIGITAL HOUSES**.
- It will enable the legislatures to transact entire Government Business on digital platform including information exchange with the State Government Departments in digital mode.
- It is a **Unicode compliant software** having provision for easy access to various documents like List of Questions, List of Business, Reports etc. bilingually viz. English and any regional language.
- As a special achievement, **Bihar Legislative Council** became the **first House in the country to transit to NeVA platform completely** on 25th Nov, 2021 and conducted Winter Session, 2021 on the NeVA platform in paperless mode.

Fishlizer



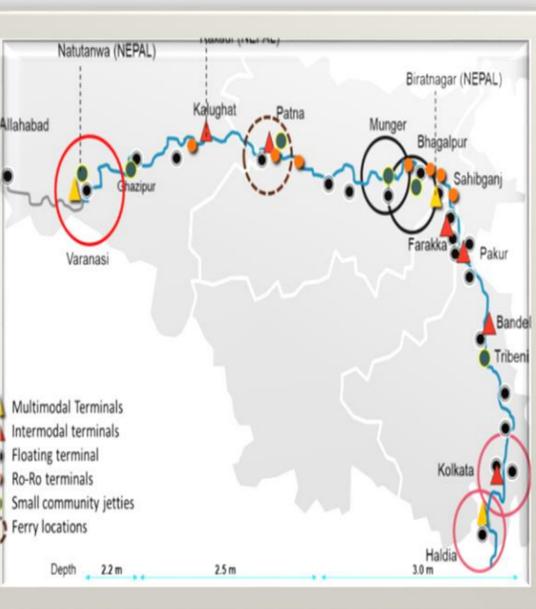
❖ Context

- KVK develops organic fish manure 'Fishlizer' to boost kitchen gardening.

❖ Key Highlights

- Organic fish manure was developed by **two women entrepreneurs** who are trained by Ernakulam Krishi Vigyan Kendra.
- The initiative is an outcome of a series of training programmes provided by the **KVK, under Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute**, aimed at promoting startups in producing manure on a commercial scale.
- The manure is one of the best options for crops especially vegetables to increase productivity as it is developed by mixing **fish wastes with coco peat and converting it into organic manure through aerobic composting** using a **microbial mix**.
- Using the microbial mix has an added advantage - the manure will **not produce a foul smell**.
- Coco peat in the product **prevents leaching** as it absorbs water content in fish, leading to full utilization of nutrients contained in the fish.

Project Dolphin & Arth Ganga



❖ Context

- Union Jal Shakti Minister expressed his displeasure over the slow pace of the approval process for Project Dolphin at a meeting of the Empowered Task Force (ETF) on Ganga.

❖ Key Highlights

- The **ETF on Ganga is the second highest decision-making body on Ganga**, after the **National Ganga Council (NGC)** headed by the **Prime Minister**.
- Project Dolphin, on the lines of Project Tiger, is one of the activities planned under Arth Ganga, an ambitious inter-ministerial initiative of the government, approved during the first meeting of NGC in 2019.
- Aquatic life is an indicator of the health of river ecosystems. As the Gangetic dolphin is at the top of the food chain, protecting the species and its habitat will ensure conservation of aquatic lives of the river.
- 'Arth Ganga' is a sustainable development model with a focus to energize economic activities related to Ganga long river banks in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- Other initiatives planned under Arth Ganga:
 - Farmers encouraged to engage in sustainable agriculture practices, including zero budget farming, planting of fruit trees and building plant nurseries on the banks of Ganga.
 - Creation of infrastructure for water sports and development of campsites, cycling and walking tracks etc , would help to tap the 'hybrid' tourism potential.
 - About 40 floating jetties and 10 pairs of Ro-Ro terminals are being planned by IWAI which will bring down the logistics cost for farmers in the movement of local produce.

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