

District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Funds

❖ Context

- A Chattisgarh MLA has written to PMO alleging misuse of the funds in the state.

❖ Key Highlights

❖ What is DMF?

- It is a **statutory body** set up as a **non-profit trust**, in those **districts affected by the mining works**, to **work for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected** by mining related operations.
- They derive their legal status from **section 9B of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (amended in 2015)** which mandates their establishment by states.

❖ Role of Central Government

- The Central Government issued a notification in 2015 directing states, under Section 20A of the Act, to establish DMF.
- Every mining lease holder pays a **fraction of royalty**, as **contribution** to the fund, **not exceeding one-third of the royalty** to the DMF as per rates **prescribed by the Central Government**.
- If the mining area is spread across several districts, the fund is shared on a pro-rata basis by these districts.

- A provision was also made in the MMDR Amendment Act 2015 to create a **National Mineral Exploration Trust** under the jurisdiction of the central government, with 2% of royalty as levy, for boosting detailed exploration of minerals.
- Further, using the funds generated by this contribution, the **DMFs** are expected to **implement the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)**, launched in 2015 by the Centre, for the welfare of mining areas and affected populations.

❖ Role of State Government

- Apart from **establishment**, the **composition & function** of DMF is prescribed by the states.
- They take guidelines from article 244 of Indian Constitution, fifth and sixth schedules, Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 and the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

International Court of Justice

❖ Context

- Recently, Ukraine has filed an application before the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**.
- It was instituting proceedings against the Russia concerning “a dispute relating to the interpretation of the **1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide**”.

❖ Key Highlights

- Ukraine has accused Russia of falsely claiming that “**acts of genocide** have occurred in the **Luhansk and Donetsk** oblasts of Ukraine”.
- Also, using the reason as a pretext to recognise the independence of these regions and of going to war against Ukraine.

❖ International Court of Justice

- It is a principal **judicial organ of the United Nations (UN)**.
- **Established** in June 1945.
- Successor to the **Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ)**. **Headquarter**: Hague.
 - The only one of the six principal organs of the UN that is not located in New York City.
- The judges of the court are **assisted by a Registry**, the administrative organ of the ICJ.
- **English and French** are the ICJ's official languages.
- **All members of the UN** are automatically parties to the **ICJ statute**.
 - But this **does not automatically give the ICJ jurisdiction** over disputes involving them.
- The ICJ gets jurisdiction only if both parties consent to it.
- The judgment of the ICJ is **final and technically binding** on the parties to a case.
 - **No provision of appeal**.

• Judges of the Court:

- The ICJ has **15 judges** who are elected to **nine-year terms** by the UN General Assembly and Security Council, which vote simultaneously but separately.
- To be elected, a **candidate must receive a majority of the votes** in both bodies.
- A third of the court is elected **every three years**.
- The **president and vice-president** of the court are elected for **three-year terms** by secret ballot.
- Judges are **eligible for re-election**.
- **Four Indians** have been members of the ICJ so far.
- Justice Dalveer Bhandari, former judge of the Supreme Court, has been serving at the ICJ since 2012.

• Functions:

- To **settle legal disputes** submitted by States in accordance with established international laws.
- To act as an **advisory board** on issues submitted to it by authorized international organizations.

Face to Face Centres



National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

❖ Context

- Recently, The **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** celebrated its **17th Foundation Day**.

❖ Key Highlights

- On the occasion, the Union WCD Minister Smt Irani launched the new motto of NCPCR '**भविष्यो रक्षति रक्षितः**'
- She complemented the **collaboration between NCPCR & Border Security Force** for the special initiative called '**SAHARA**'
 - It is an initiative to provide psycho-social counseling & support to children of BSF jawans who made the supreme sacrifice.



❖ About NPCR

- It's a **statutory body**.
- Established by an Act of Parliament, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- The Commission **works under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI.**
- **Mandate:**
 - It ensures that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- As defined by the commission, a child includes a person **up to the age of 18 years**.
- It monitors the implementation of **POCSO Act**.
- **Composition:**
 - **A chairperson and six members** of which at least two should be women.
 - All of them are **appointed by the Central Government for three years**.
 - The maximum age to serve in commission is **65 years for Chairman and 60 years for members**.

News in Between the Lines

Indian Grey Hornbill



❖ Context

- Recently, the forest department has released 20 Indian grey hornbills (IGH) in three batches.
- This is the second attempt to reintroduce this species in Gir after an unsuccessful effort in 1980.
- Out of the **62 species of hornbills globally**, almost **48% are threatened**, while **10 of the species are found in the Indian subcontinent**.

❖ About Indian Grey Hornbill

- The Indian grey hornbill is a medium-sized hornbill.
- The upper parts are greyish brown and there is a slight trace of a pale supercilium. The ear coverts are darker.
- **Distribution:**
 - It is found from the **foothills of the Himalayas** southwards, bounded to the west by the Indus system and to the east by the Ganges Delta.
 - It is **found even in cities** that have old avenue trees.
- **Food:**
 - They feed on fruits and berries from fig (अंजीर) trees, insects, reptiles (snakes, lizards), small birds but on occasion can go after slightly bigger adult birds as well.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List- Least Concern.**
- **Threat:**
 - **Habitat Loss.**
- **Significance:**
 - Hornbills are among the species which act as **indicators of health of the ecosystems** they depend on.
 - Hornbills are frugivorous who are **excellent in dispersing seeds** of fruit-bearing trees.

Face to Face Centres



Solar Aviation Fuel



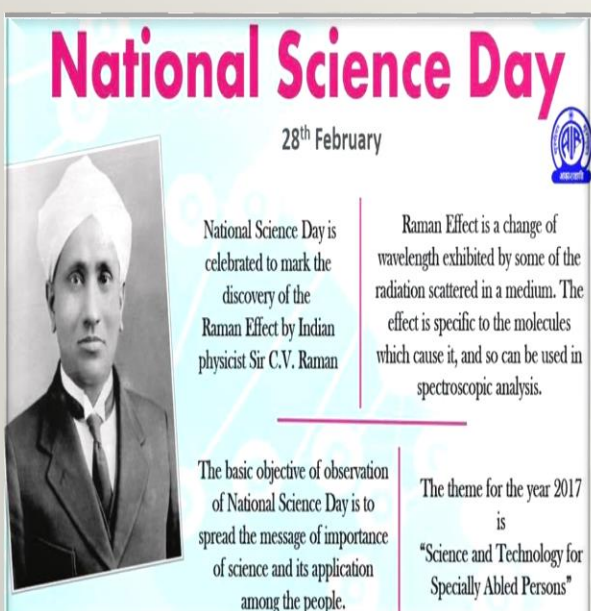
❖ Context

- Recently, Swiss International Air Lines and its parent Lufthansa Group have agreed with synthetic fuel group Synhelion to **use its solar aviation fuel**.

❖ Key Highlights

- This will make **SWISS the first airline in the world** to use 'sun-to-liquid' fuel. The process uses **concentrated sunlight** to produce **carbon-neutral kerosene**.
- This next-generation carbon-neutral solar kerosene is an **economically and ecologically viable substitute for fossil fuels**.
- SWISS is set to become the **first customer for solar kerosene in 2023**.

National Science Day



❖ Context

- Each year, February 28 is celebrated as **National Science Day** to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by Indian physicist CV Raman.

❖ Key Highlights

- The day was **first celebrated on February 28, 1987**. On this day, scientist Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman discovered the Raman Effect.
 - Raman won the Nobel Prize in 1930 for his work on '**The scattering of light and the discovery of the Raman effect**'.
- **Theme of this year:**
 - Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future.
- **Significance:**
 - Students from across the country present science-related projects and innovations at the state and national levels.
 - The day is celebrated to encourage youth to understand the aspects of science and develop an interest in it.
 - The goal is to **explain the importance of science among people**.

❖ Raman Effect:

- Raman Effect is a **spectroscopy phenomenon discovered by CV Raman**. He observed the phenomena in 1921 when he noticed the **blue colour of the Mediterranean Sea and icebergs**. He performed various experiments and was the first one to publish the observations in 1928.

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)



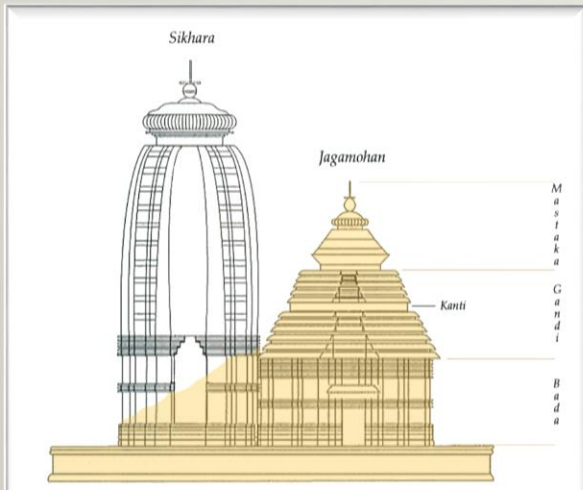
❖ Context

- **Representatives from 175 countries** meeting at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (**UNEA-5.2**) in Nairobi, agreed to end plastic pollution and **formulate an internationally binding treaty by 2024**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The **resolution establishes an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)**, which will begin its work in 2022, with the **ambition of completing a draft global legally binding agreement** by the end of 2024.
- **India has agreed** to the setting up of the INC. The INC is expected to present a legally binding instrument, which would reflect.
 - Diverse alternatives to address the full lifecycle of plastics,
 - The design of reusable and recyclable products and materials and
 - The need for enhanced international collaboration to facilitate access to technology, capacity building and scientific and technical cooperation.
- Under the legally binding agreement, **countries will be expected to develop, implement and update national action plans** reflecting country-driven approaches to contribute to the objectives of the instrument.
- This is significant as **11 million tonnes of plastic waste flows annually into oceans** according to an analysis by the Pew Charitable Trust. **This may triple by 2040 to 29 million tonnes**.

Konark Temple



❖ Context

- Odisha plans to make the Coastal Temple Town, Konark, a **100 % solar town** and also place it among India's first few zero emission cities or towns by December 2022.

❖ Key Highlights

- Konark's transition to renewable energy is part of an **ambitious plan by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- The Rs 25-crore programme aims to ensure all energy needs of Konark Temple and Konark town are met by solar power. **Another project is the Sun Temple at Modhera in Gujarat.**
- The work in Konark is being carried out with the active collaboration of the state government. The **OREDA** (Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency), a nodal agency of the Government of Odisha, is the **implementing agency**.

❖ About the Temple

- The word 'Konark' is a combination of two Sanskrit words **kona (corner or angle)** and **arka (the sun)**. The temple, located in **Puri** district, is dedicated to the Hindu sun god Surya, and, conceived as a **giant stone chariot with 12 wheels**.
- It was built in **1250 CE by King Narasimhadeva I** (r. 1238-1264 CE) of the **Eastern Ganga dynasty** (8th century CE - 15th century CE).
- The temple in its present state was declared by UNESCO a **World Heritage Site in 1984**. The style of architecture is **Kalinga or Odisha style** which is a **subset of Nagara style** of architecture.
- The sanctum along with the *shikhara* of the temple is in ruins.
- It is also known as **Black Pagoda**. The Marathas relocated the temple's **Aruna stambha** (pillar with Aruna the charioteer seated atop it) to the Lion's Gate entrance of the Jagannath Temple in Puri.

International Energy Agency (IEA)



❖ Context

- As crude oil prices are rising amid severe supply shortfall concerns due to Russia-Ukraine conflict, the IEA has decided to **release 60 MN barrels of oil from their emergency reserves**.

❖ About the Agency

- The IEA is a **Paris-based autonomous Intergovernmental Organisation** established in the framework of the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** in **1974** in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis. It is best known for the publication of its annual **World Energy Outlook**.
- The IEA family is made up of **31 member countries**, **8 association countries**, and **4 accession countries**. **India is among the eight association countries**. The **foremost criterion for its membership is that the candidate country must be the member of OECD**.
- The IEA was initially dedicated to responding to physical disruptions in the supply of oil, as well as serving as an information source on statistics about the international oil market and other energy sectors.
- Today the IEA acts as a policy adviser to its member states, as well as association countries to support energy security and advance the clean energy transition worldwide.
- IEA members hold **emergency stock-piles of 1.5 billion barrels**. The announcement of an initial release of 60million barrels, or 4% of those stock-piles, is equivalent to 2 million barrels a day for 30 days. **Russia** plays a major role in the global energy markets as it is the **World's third largest oil producer and the largest exporter**. Its exports of about 5 million barrels a day of crude represent roughly 12% of global trade. Around 60% of Russia's oil exports go to Europe & another 20% to China.

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