

PM-Svanidhi Scheme

❖ Context

- **Non-performing assets (NPA) accounted for “12-13%” of the loans** disbursed to street vendors under the Prime Minister’s Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM-Svanidhi) scheme.
- The scheme has so far disbursed loans of ₹10,000 each to 30.23 lakh street vendors, of which 11.63 lakh loans have been repaid.

❖ About PM SVANidhi

- **Launched By:**
 - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Implementing Agency:**
 - Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- **Objective:**
 - To provide affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdown.
 - It has been extended till december 2024 with focus on enhanced collateral free affordable loan corpus, increased adoption of digital transactions and holistic socio-economic development of the Street Vendors and their families.
- **Target Beneficiaries:**
 - Over 50 lakh people, including vendors, hawkers, thelewalas etc. who supply vegetables, ready-to-eat foods, fruits etc.

- It also includes service providers like **barber shops, cobblers, pan shops, laundry services etc.**
- Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs which have notified Rules and Scheme under **Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.**
- **Scheme Benefits:**
 - Vendors can avail a **working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000**, which is **repayable in monthly installments in the tenure of one year.**
 - On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an **interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts** of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on quarterly basis.
 - There will be **no penalty on early repayment of loan.**
 - The scheme **promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives** up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month.
 - The vendors can avail the facility of escalation of the credit limit on timely/ early repayment of loan.

UNESCO Panel on Intangible Cultural Heritage

❖ Context

- Recently, India has been elected a member of the **Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO’s 2003 Convention** for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage for the 2022-2026 cycle.

❖ Key Highlights

- Membership to the **ICH Committee** will provide India an opportunity to restore the values of ‘**Vasudeva Kutumbakam**’.
- Previously, India has served as a member of the ICH Committee twice — **from 2006 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2018.**
- Amid the ongoing celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, India has been elected for **two prominent Committees** of UNESCO namely,
 - **Intangible Cultural Heritage** (for 2022-2026).
 - **World Heritage** (for 2021-2025).
- **Members of the ICH Committee:**
 - The Intergovernmental Committee of 2003 Convention **includes 24 members.**
 - Members are **elected in the General Assembly of the Convention.**
 - States Members are elected for a **four years term.**

- For 2022-2026 term, **India’s Key Focus Areas:**
 - Fostering **community participation.**
 - **Strengthening international cooperation** through intangible heritage.
 - Promoting **academic research** on intangible cultural heritage.
 - **Aligning the work of the Convention with the UN Sustainable Development.**
- ❖ **Intangible Cultural Heritage**
 - Intangible cultural heritage is the **practices, expressions, knowledge and skills that communities, groups and sometimes individuals recognise** as part of their cultural heritage.
 - Also called living cultural heritage, it is **usually expressed in one of the following forms:**
 - Oral Traditions.
 - Performing Arts.
 - Social Practices.
 - Rituals and Festive events.
 - Knowledge and Practices concerning nature and the universe.
 - Traditional Craftsmanship.



Forest Rights Act (FRA)

❖ Context

- The Odisha government is chasing an **ambitious target of completing implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA)** by granting all kinds of rights mandated under the historic Act **by 2024**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Mission is **under scrutiny by the Finance Department and the Planning and Convergence Department**.
- All tribals will be granted their **rightful ownership**.
- All **old records of rights** [land pattas] have been **digitized**.
- A dedicated **website** has been hosted to keep all records.

❖ Forest Rights Act (FRA)

- **About:** The **Forest Resources Act of 2006 (FRA)** recognises the rights of Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (**FDST**) and other traditional forest dwellers (**OTFD**) to forest resources on which they rely for a range of purposes.
- **Aims:** To make up for the **past injustices** that have been **committed against the forest-dwelling communities**.
 - To **safeguard the forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes** and other traditional forest dwellers' land tenure, livelihood, and food security.
 - To **enhance the forest conservation regime** by assigning obligations and authorities to Forest Rights holders for sustainable use, biodiversity protection, and ecological balance.

- **Eligibility Criteria Claim These Rights:** Scheduled Tribes members or communities who **predominantly reside in and rely on forests or forest areas for bona fide livelihood needs**.
 - Any member or community that has lived on the forest land for **at least three generations (75 years) prior to December 13, 2005**, for bona fide livelihood needs.
 - The **Gram Sabha has the power to begin the process of deciding the type and scope** of Individual Forest Rights (IFR), Community Forest Rights (CFR), or both, that may be granted to FDST and OTFD.
- **Rights Under the Act:**
 - **Rights to the Title-** It grants the FDST and OTFD the ability to possess land farmed by tribals or forest inhabitants up to 4 hectares in size.
 - **No additional lands will be awarded;** only property that is currently being cultivated by the concerned family will be granted ownership.
 - **Rights to Use-** The rights of the inhabitants include the extraction of Minor Forest Produce, grazing lands, and so on.
 - **Rights to Relief and Development-** To rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement; and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.
 - Forest management rights include the following:
 - It includes the **right to safeguard**, regenerate, maintain, or manage any community forest resource that they have historically safeguarded and conserved for long-term usage.

News in Between the Lines

Mangarh Hillock



❖ Context

- Recently, a **team from National Monuments Authority**, submitted a report on declaring Mangarh hillock in Rajasthan as a monument of National Importance.

❖ About Mangarh Hillock

- Mangarh Hillock is **located in Banswara District, Rajasthan**.
- It is **situated in the Aravali mountains** on the Rajasthan-Gujarat border.
- It is a site of a tribal uprising where a **massacre of over 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters took place in 1913**.
- This place is also known as the **Adivasi Jallianwala**.

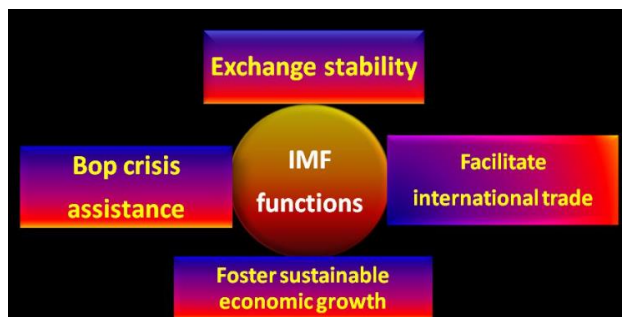
Ghana



❖ Context

- Recently, the government of **Ghana** announced it would **begin formal talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF)** for support.

❖ Key Highlights



- **Inflation** in Ghana hit an **18-year high of 27.6% in May**, capping off a year of accelerating prices.
- **Growth slowed to 3.3% in the first quarter**.
- The value of the **cedi currency has declined 23.5%** against the dollar since the year began.

Face to Face Centres

CAATSA



- Ghana's **debt stock has more than doubled since 2015**, steadily climbing from 54.2% of GDP that year to 76.6% at the end of 2021.
- When Ghana last sought IMF assistance in 2015, it received \$918 million through an Extended Credit Facility Arrangement, equal to 180% of its quota.

❖ Context

- Recently, US Democratic Representative said the **US government must not impose sanctions** on India under the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for its purchase of the S-400 missile weapons system from Russia.

❖ About CAATSA

- The US Congress passed Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) in 2017 with an **aim to counter the aggressions by Russia, Iran and North Korea**.
- **Objective:** To discourage exports of Russian defense equipment.
- **Types of Sanction:** The CAATSA contains **12 types of sanctions**.
 - There are **only two sanctions that may impact either India-Russia relations or India-US relations**.
 - The first of these, which is likely to have an impact on India-Russia relations, is the **"Prohibition of Banking transactions"**.
 - This would mean difficulties for India in making **payments in US Dollars to Russia** for the purchase of the S-400 systems
 - The second sanction is export sanction which has the potential to completely **derail the India-US Strategic and Defense partnership**, as it will deny the license for, and export of, any items controlled by the US.

Colombo Security Conclave



❖ Context

- Recently, the **sixth Deputy National Advisers' meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave** was organized.

❖ Key Highlights

- It was **hosted by the National Security Council Secretariat of India** in Kochi on July 7, 2022.
- It was resolved to **combat jointly the increasing threats related to maritime safety, terrorism, trafficking and organised crime affecting partner nations**.
- Colombo Security Conclave, **members** are Maldives, India, Mauritius and Sri Lanka.
- The **two observer** nations in the conclave - Bangladesh and the Seychelles.
- The **five broad areas of cooperation** to strengthen regional security are –
 - Maritime safety and security.
 - Countering terrorism and radicalisation.
 - Combating trafficking and transnational organized crime.
 - Cyber security and protection of critical infrastructure and technology.
 - Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

ARYABHAT-1



❖ Context

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a design framework to **build next-generation analog computing chipsets (ARYABHAT-1)**.

❖ Key Highlights

- It could be **faster and require less power** than the digital chips found in most electronic devices.
- It can **operate robustly across a wide range of temperatures**.
- This type of chipset can be **especially helpful for :- Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based applications** like object or speech recognition (Alexa or Siri).
 - Those that require **massive parallel computing operations at high speed**.

Face to Face Centres



Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



- Most electronic devices, particularly those that involve computing, use digital chips because the design process is simple and scalable.

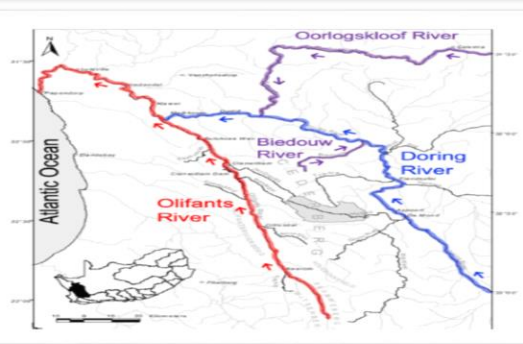
❖ Context

- The S&P Global Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for services rose to **59.2 in June**—the highest level since April 2011—compared with 58.9 in May.
- The data highlights a **strong recovery in services**, which is also reflected in robust GST collections.

❖ About PMI

- The PMI **measures survey responses from businesses** and is used to gauge economic activity.
 - It is an **indicator of the economic health** of the manufacturing and services sector.
- The PMI is a **number from 0 to 100**.
 - A print **above 50 means expansion**, while a score **below that denotes contraction**.
 - A reading **at 50 indicates no change**.
- It is usually **released at the start of every month**. It is, therefore, considered a good leading indicator of economic activity.
- **IHS Markit compiles the index**.

Sandfish



❖ Context

- Recently, it has been noticed that South Africa's sandfish are on the brink of extinction.

❖ About Sandfish

- Sandfish are migratory freshwater fish found only in South Africa.
- They are one of the largest grazers in **South Africa's Doring River system**. They keep the rivers clean and the food web balanced.
- They also act as an umbrella species therefore protecting them indirectly protects river ecosystems and other species that inhabit them.
- **Threats** : Migratory life cycle of the species that protects river systems makes them **vulnerable** to human-linked impacts.
- The construction of dams that block upstream spawning migrations, extreme climatic events, and rivers that are drying due to climate change, thirsty alien plants, and the excessive withdrawal of water to supply agriculture and towns in arid regions.
- The biggest worry is the lack of juvenile & subadult sandfish in the Doring River.

Pasmanda Community



[Daily Current Affairs](#)

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❖ Context

- Pasmanda Community has gained attention of many **political parties** for **inclusive growth and eradication of intra caste discrimination**.

❖ About Pasmanda

- 'Pasmanda', a Persian term meaning **"those who have fallen behind"** refers to Muslims belonging to the **shudra (backward) and ati-shudra (Dalit) castes**.
- It was adopted as an oppositional identity to that of the **dominant ashraf Muslims (forward castes) in 1998** by the **Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz**, a group which **mainly worked in Bihar**.
- Pasmandas encompass those who are **socially, educationally and economically backward** and make up the majority of the Muslim community in the country to define themselves as Muslim communities historically and socially oppressed by caste.
- Backward, **Dalit and tribal Muslim communities** are now organising under the identity of Pasmanda. These communities includes: **Kunjre (Raeen), Julahe (Ansari), Dhunia (Mansuri), Kasai (Qureishi), Fakir (Alvi), Hajjam (Salmani), Mehtar (Halalkhor), Gwala (Ghosi), Dhobi (Hawari), Lohar-Badhai (Saifi), Manihar (Siddiqui), Darzi (Idrisi), Vangujjar, etc.**

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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



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