

Bedti-Varada Interlinking Project

❖ Context

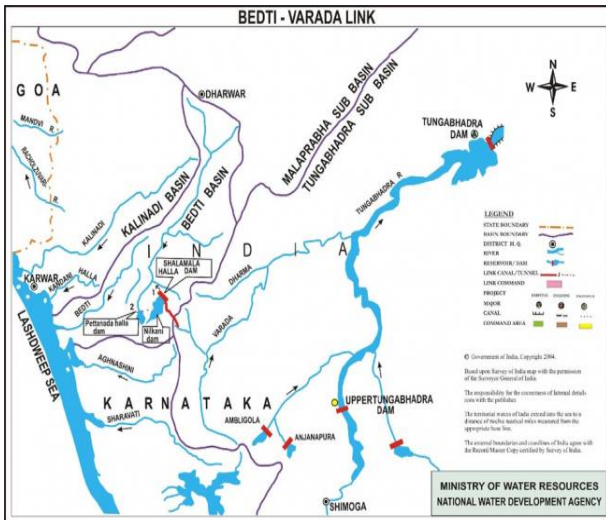
- Thousands of people had protested the project recently calling it 'unscientific'.

❖ About the Rivers

- **Varada River:**
 - Originates in Western Ghats in Shivamogga district, Karnataka.
 - Flowing eastward, it joins the Tungabhadra River.
- **Bedti River:**
 - Also known as Gangavalli River.
 - Originates in Western Ghats south of Dharwar, Karnataka.
 - Flowing westward it falls into the Arabian sea.

❖ About the Project

- Envisaged in **1992** as one to supply drinking water.
- Aims to divert **242 Mcum** of surplus water from the **Sirsi-Yellapura region of Uttara Kannada district** to the arid **Raichur, Gadag and Koppal districts**.



- Water will be lifted in total to **123.70 m.** in three stages.
- The head works of this project consists of two dams viz. **Pattanadahalla dam** on Pattanadahalla stream and **Shalamalahalla dam** on Shalamalahalla stream and interlinking systems between these two reservoirs.

❖ Criticism

- Difficult to redirect a westward-flowing river to flow eastward. **In early summer, both the rivers begin to dry up.**
- 1,005 ha of area in north Kanara district would come under **submergence** of which **787 ha** is **forest land**, **130 ha cultivable land** and 88 ha under non-agricultural use.
- Area is home to **1,741 types of flowering plants as well as 420 species of birds and animals.**
- The **nutrients** that the river carries with it are responsible for sustaining fish stocks, especially in the **Bedti's estuary in Dedi.**
- The river valley serves as a **corridor for around 35 different animal species.**
- Both rivers do not have so much water to feed three districts for both domestic and farming purposes.

India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy Report

❖ Context

- **NITI Aayog** recently released the report.

❖ About the Report

- The report is a **first-of-its-kind study** on the gig-platform economy in India.
- It provides a scientific methodological approach to estimate the **current size and job-generation potential** of the sector.

❖ Key Highlights of the Report

- In 2020–21, **77 lakh (7.7 million) workers** were engaged in the gig economy.
- They constituted **2.6% of the non-agricultural workforce** or 1.5% of the total workforce in India.
- The gig workforce is expected to expand to **2.35 crore (23.5 million) workers by 2029–30** which will form **6.7% of the non-agricultural workforce** or 4.1% of the total workforce.
- At present, about **47% of the gig work is in medium skilled jobs**, about 22% in high skilled, and about 31% in low skilled jobs.
- Trend shows the **concentration of workers in medium skills is gradually declining** and that of the **low skilled and high skilled is increasing.**

❖ Recommendations

- **Platform-led transformational and outcome-based skilling.**
- Enhancing **social inclusion** through gender sensitization and accessibility awareness programmes for workers and their families.
- Extending **social security measures in partnership mode** as envisaged in the Code on Social Security 2020.
- Undertaking a **separate enumeration exercise** to estimate the size of the gig and platform workforce.
- Collecting information during official enumerations (**Periodic Labour Force Survey**) to identify gig workers.
- Accelerating access to finance through products specifically designed for platform workers.
- **Linking self-employed individuals** engaged in the business of selling regional and rural cuisine, street food, etc., with **platforms** to enable them to sell their produce to wider markets in towns and cities.



Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

❖ Context

- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India is inviting **applications under the various sub-schemes of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)** to set up food processing related facilities / units.

❖ About PMKSY

- In May 2017, the Centre had launched **SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters)** with an allocation of Rs 6,000 crore.
- Later, it was renamed the '**Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana**' (PMKSY) to be implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- It's a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- **Objectives:** To create modern infrastructure for food processing, mega food parks/clusters & individual units:
 - To link farmers, processors and markets.
 - To create robust supply chain infrastructure for perishables.
- **Schemes under PMKSY:**
 - **Mega Food Parks.**
 - **Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure .**
 - **Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing/Preservation Capacities (Unit Scheme).**
 - **Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters .**
 - **Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages.**
 - **Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure.**
 - **Human Resources and Institutions.**
 - **Operation Green.**

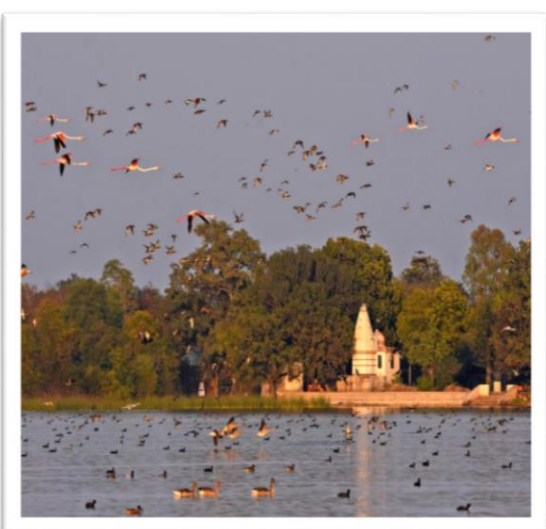
❖ Significance:

- The implementation of PMKSY will result in **creation of modern infrastructure** with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
- It will provide a **big boost to the growth of the food processing sector** in the country.
- It will help in providing **better prices to farmers** and is a big step towards **doubling farmers' income**.
- It will create **huge employment opportunities** especially in the rural areas.
- It will also help in **reducing wastage of agricultural produce**, increasing the processing level, availability of safe and convenient processed foods at affordable price to consumers.
- It will **enhance the export of processed foods**.



News in Between the Lines

Menar Bird Village



❖ Context

- Recognised as the “**bird village**” following community-driven conservation efforts, Menar in Udaipur district is **set to be notified as Rajasthan's new wetland**.

❖ Key Highlights

- This will pave the way for **getting the Ramsar site status** for this rural heartland of the Mewar region.
- It will recognise its role in the **storage of sediment and nutrients** and enable the local authorities to maintain the **Brahma and Dhandh lakes**.
- The two lakes in the village – the Brahma and Dhandh – **play host to a large number of migratory birds** in the winter season every year.
- With the status of wetlands, **the two lakes will be strengthened** for increasing the vegetation of aquatic plants and protecting biodiversity.
- More than **150 species of local and migratory birds inhabit the two lakes** in the winter season.
 - They include greater flamingo, white-tailed lapwing, pelican, marsh harrier, bar headed goose, common teal, greenshank, pintail, wagtail, green sandpiper and red-wattled lapwing.
- At present, **Rajasthan has two wetlands** recognised as **Ramsar sites** : (1) Keoladeo Ghana in Bharatpur district. & (2) Sambhar Salt Lake in Jaipur district.

Kihoto Hollohan Judgment

❖ Context

- In the context of **Maharashtra political crisis**, references have been made to the landmark judgment in '**Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu And Others**' (1992).

Face to Face Centres



❖ About Kihoto Hollohan Case

- **Background:**
 - The **anti-defection law** covers the disqualification of lawmakers.
 - The powers of the Speaker in deciding such matters became part of the statute book in 1985 when the **Tenth Schedule to the Constitution was adopted**.
 - A constitutional challenge to the Tenth Schedule was mounted, which was settled by the apex court in '**Kihoto Hollohan**'.
- **Issue:** The principal question before the Supreme Court in the case was -
 - Whether the powerful **role given to the Speaker violated the doctrine of basic structure** ?
 - The judicial principle that **certain basic features of the Constitution cannot be altered** by amendments by Parliament.
 - The Supreme Court (SC) laid down the doctrine of basic principle in its landmark judgment in '**Kesavananda Bharati vs State Of Kerala**' (1973).
- **SC's Ruling:** In this judgment the **SC upheld the sweeping discretion available to the Speaker** in deciding cases of disqualification of MLAs.

Partners in the Blue Pacific



❖ Context

- The **US** and its allies - **Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the United Kingdom** have launched a new initiative called '**Partners in the Blue Pacific**'.
- It has been initiated for "**effective and efficient cooperation**" with the region's small island nations.

❖ About Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP) Initiative

- It was **announced on June 24, 2022**.
- The PBP is a **five-nation "informal mechanism"** to support Pacific islands and to boost diplomatic, economic ties in the region.
- It speaks of **enhancing "prosperity, resilience, and security"** in the Pacific through closer cooperation.
- It simply means that through the PBP, these countries together and individually **will direct more resources here to counter China's aggressive outreach**.
- The initiative members have also declared that **they will "elevate Pacific regionalism"**, and forge stronger ties with the Pacific Islands Forum.
- The **areas where PBP aims to enhance cooperation** include-
 - Climate crisis, Connectivity and transportation, Maritime Security and Protection, Health, Prosperity, and Education.
- **Side Note:**
 - In recent months, China has stepped up its engagement with Pacific Island states, including by signing a security agreement with the Solomon Islands.

National Air Quality Resource Framework of India (NARFI)



[Daily Current Affairs](#)

❖ Context

- A brainstorming workshop to kick start an ambitious National Mission on "**NARFI**" was held recently in New Delhi.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is an **information mechanism** which aims to fill the vacuum of authenticated and integrated information on air quality in the country.
- It is being developed by the **National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru** with the support from the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (O/o PSA) to the Government of India**.
- It will evolve around the following five modules:
 - THEME-1: Emission Inventory, Air Shed, and Mitigation.
 - THEME-2: Impacts on Human Health and Agriculture.
 - THEME-3: Integrated Monitoring, Forecasting and Advisory Framework.
 - THEME-4: Outreach, Social Dimension, Transition Strategy and Policy.
 - THEME-5: Solutions, Public-Industry Partnership, Stubble Burning & New Technologies.

Face to Face Centres

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Living Lands Charter



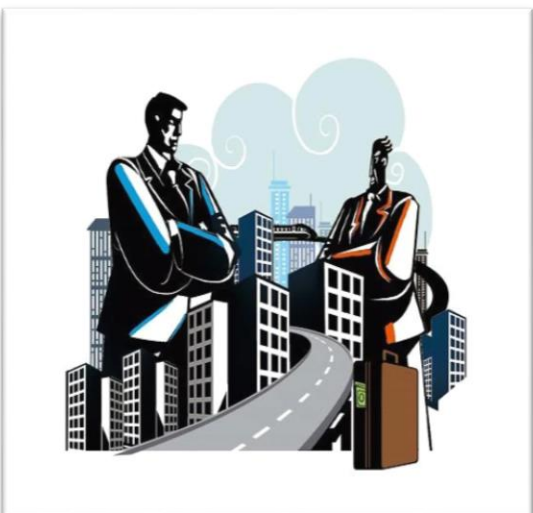
❖ Context

- 54 Commonwealth members have adopted the **non-binding charter** at the conclusion of the **2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)** in Kigali.

❖ Key Highlights

- All members have agreed to **voluntarily dedicate a 'living land' in their respective countries to future generations** in line with the strategy set for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- Leaders noted concern on the alarming decline in the health and productivity of global land resources. **More than a third of land has been degraded in the last two decades.**
- It will be implemented through multiple mechanisms and processes, including the **Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub.**
- Headquartered in **Mauritius**, the hub will help the countries secure funding for climate action by:
 - Developing projects and submitting proposals to international funds for support.
 - Providing human and institutional capacity building.
 - Assisting in the development of climate action policies.

Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)



❖ Context

- The government plans to launch a Railway **infrastructure investment trust.**

❖ Key Highlights

- These are **special purpose vehicles aimed to draw private investments** in the infrastructure sector.
- InvITs work like mutual funds or real estate investment trusts (REITs) in features.
- It enables direct investment of **small amounts of money** from possible **individual/institutional investors** in infrastructure to earn a small portion of the income as return.
- Sebi notified the **Sebi (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014** on September 26, 2014, providing for registration and regulation of InvITs in India.
- InvITs can be established as a trust and **registered with Sebi.**
- An InvIT consists of **four elements**: 1) Trustee, 2) Sponsor(s), 3) Investment Manager and 4) Project Manager.
- **National Highway Authority of India and PowerGrid Corp. of India have functioning InvITs.**
- Of the 4 year target of Rs. 6 trillions (TN) under National Monetization Pipeline, Railways has the target of Rs. 1.52 TN which is second highest after roads (Rs. 1.6 TN).

Delhi Airport Becomes India's First to Switch Entirely to Hydro & Solar Energy



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❖ Context

- Recently, **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)** has signed a long-term **power purchase agreement (PPA)** with a Himachal Pradesh-based hydropower producing company for the supply of hydroelectricity for the airport until **2036.**

❖ Key Highlights

- DIAL has been working relentlessly towards **environmental sustainability** and has set its target to make Delhi Airport a **Net Zero Carbon Emission** airport by 2030, way ahead of the global target of 2050.
- About **6%** of the electricity requirement of this airport is being met from onsite **solar power plants** and **94%** through **hydropower plants**, thus bringing an end to dependency on **non-renewable power.**
- **Aim: Switch to renewable energy** is aiding in the **reduction of energy emissions** by 2 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.
- To achieve this target, various initiatives have been taken by the airport authority including: **Green Buildings, Green Transportation Measures** such as electric vehicles, Improving operational efficiency to **reduce emissions, Management of Greenhouse Gasses** as part of the **Airport Council International's (ACI) Airport Carbon Accreditation.**

Face to Face Centres

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