

Natural Resource Accounts

❖ Context

- The **Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board (GASAB)** chairman has said that it will by mid-November publish a national report that would capture the asset accounts for mineral and energy resources across 28 states and one union territory.

❖ Key Highlights

- The asset accounts will capture details of **34 major minerals, 58 minor minerals and all four fossil fuels**.
- The report will give a complete picture of mineral and energy resources in the country and help policymakers take informed policy decisions and make appropriate interventions.
- India is preparing national level asset accounts for **four type of resources** :
 - Mineral and energy resources.
 - Water resources.
 - Land resources.
 - Forestry and wildlife resources.
- The UN had adopted (2012) the **System of Economic and Environmental Accounting (SEEA)** - which is the latest internationally accepted framework for NRA.

❖ Link with SDGs

- India is a signatory to the September 2016 UN General Assembly Resolution - "Transforming the World, the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development".
- It requires the preparation of Natural Resource Accounts (NRA).
- Four out of the 17 goals directly relate to management of natural resources and their accounting.

❖ About GASAB

- It was **constituted in 2002 and is part of CAG**.
- It is hand holding the state governments in preparation of Asset Accounts and helping them conform to the international obligations around NRA.

Pilot Green Hydrogen Technologies

❖ Context

- National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Private Limited (NHPC) signed two MoUs for the development of **"Pilot Green Hydrogen Technologies"**.



❖ Key Highlights

- It is in line with the country's resolve to reduce the carbon footprint in the Power Sector in Leh and Kargil districts of Union Territory of Ladakh. According to the MOU signed for the Kargil district, the hydrogen generated in Kargil will be used in **fuel cells** for mobility which will be capable to run two buses for up to 8 hrs in the local area of Kargil.
- NHPC shall upscale hydrogen production on a commercial scale to supply the hydrogen need of the Ladakh region in different sectors like mobility, transportation, heating, and Micro-grid & subsequent MoU shall be signed separately.

- **Significance:** These two Pilot projects will create a roadmap for future development of Green Hydrogen & subsequent reduction of carbon emission in the transportation/heating sector and
- It will attract long-term investment in the Hydrogen economy creating different revenue streams & job opportunities for the youth of UT of Ladakh.
- **Green Hydrogen:** It is hydrogen generated by renewable energy or from low-carbon power. Green hydrogen has significantly lower carbon emissions than grey hydrogen.

India's First Private Rocket Engine Opens

❖ Context

- Recently Homegrown space startup, Agnikul Cosmos opened the country's first private factory dedicated to building rocket engines.



❖ Key Highlights

- The new facility will use additive manufacturing technology to build 3D printed rocket engines & will develop engines for its in-house rockets.
- The facility can currently build up to two rocket engines every week.
- This will allow it to build sufficient engines for the launch of Agnibaan, its two-stage launch vehicle, which is expected to happen by this year-end.
- **Agniban:** It is an ultra-light launch vehicle, which is even lighter than ISRO's upcoming small, light commercial rocket, **the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)**.

- While the SSLV can carry payloads of around 300kg, Agnibaan will be able to carry payloads of up to 100kg to low Earth orbits (LEOs) of up to 700km above Earth.
- **Significance:** Since companies and organizations looking to launch satellites no longer have access to Russian facilities, and launching aboard heavy rockets could be expensive, small orbital launch vehicles can help India win a large chunk of satellite launch orders in the near future.

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Bail Law Reform

❖ Context

- The Supreme Court, recently, urged the Centre to bring a new law to simplify and streamline the process of bail, referring to the Bail Act of the U.K.

❖ SC's Observations

- Arrest should be used sparingly. Bail continues to be the rule and jail an exception, that is the touchstone of **Article 21**.
- Principle of **presumption of innocence until proven guilty** should be followed.
- Unwarranted arrests are carried out in violation of **Section 41** (empowers police to arrest without a warrant) and **Section 41A** (deals with the procedure for appearance before police) of the CrPC.
- Need to ensure due procedure for arrests and a **time limit for disposal of bail pleas**.
- Bail pleas have to be disposed of within **two weeks** except when provisions mandate otherwise.
- A plea for anticipatory bail has to be decided within **six weeks**.
- The accused can be granted bail on the court's own discretion in some situations.

❖ Current Provisions

- Bail is governed by provisions in the CrPC.
- Offences are categorised as **bailable and non-bailable**.
- Under **section 436**, **bail is a right in bailable offences** and the police or court is bound to release the accused following the furnishing of a bail bond, with or without surety.
- For a non-bailable offence, an accused cannot claim bail as a right. The discretion lies with the courts.
- **Section 437** sets out the circumstances in which courts can grant bail for non-bailable offences. Provision mandates the court to consider granting bail to an accused below 16 years, someone who is sick, or is a woman.
- **Section 41** deals with arrest in a cognisable offence where punishment is imprisonment for a term which may be less than seven years.
- **Section 41A** relates to a notice of appearance before a policeman in cases where the arrest is not required.
- A police officer is required to record reasons for arresting or not arresting the person.

Namsai Declaration

❖ Context

- Assam and Arunachal Pradesh Chief Ministers signed the Namsai Declaration for minimising the inter-State boundary dispute involving 123 villages.

❖ Key Highlights

- Assam Shares a length of **804.10 km inter-state boundary** with Arunachal Pradesh.
- The **boundary line** shown on 29 topo-sheets by a high-powered committee in **1960** will be taken as the basis for the realignment of the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam boundary.
- The model for resolving the Assam-Meghalaya boundary dispute is to be followed.
- The States decided to constitute **12 regional committees** each covering the districts on either side of the boundary for **joint verification** of the 123 villages.
- These committees will make recommendations to the respective state government keeping in view the historical perspective, administrative convenience, contiguity and people's will, to delineate the inter-State boundary.
- **Namsai is a district in southern Arunachal Pradesh.**

❖ Brief Political History of Arunachal Pradesh

- In 1912-1913, the British government was able to work with the indigenous people to carve out the **North-East Frontier Tracts (NEFT)**.
- When India became independent, NEFT fell under the jurisdiction of the Government of Assam till January 26, 1950.
- The Government of India, then, decided to govern it as an **"Excluded Area"**, with the Governor of Assam acting as an agent of the President of India.
- In 1954, the area was designated as the **North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA)**. First, it was brought under the Ministry of External Affairs, and in August 1965, the administration was transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It attained the status of **UT** on 20 Jan 1972 and the **statehood** on 20 Feb 1987.

News in Between the Lines

Intensified Mission Indradhanush

❖ Context

- According to the UN, an estimated 30 lakh children could not receive the first dose of DTP vaccine in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

❖ Key Highlights

- The **Intensified Mission Indradhanush - 3.0**, launched in Feb-21, not only prevented further backslide but reduced the number of such children to 27 lakh in 2021.

Face to Face Centres





- The government has launched **IMI 4.0** in February 2022.
- It has been planned to reach out to unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children and pregnant women to catch up on gaps that might have emerged due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- India vaccinates 3 crore pregnant women and 2.7 crore children through **Universal Immunisation Programme** which is the largest vaccination drive globally.

CAATSA



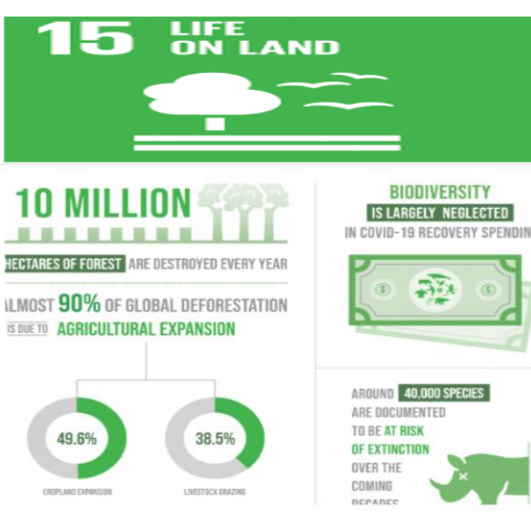
❖ Context

- The US House of Representatives passed a legislative amendment to National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA), that approved an India-specific waiver for punitive CAATSA sanctions.

❖ Key Highlights

- The house vote is a step forward for India. **Only the US President can grant a waiver under CAATSA.**
- **Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)** authorises US administration to impose sanctions on countries that purchase major defence hardware from Russia in response to Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its alleged meddling in 2016 US presidential elections.
- It was brought in **2017**.
- Following US sanctions on Turkey over procurement of S-400 missile systems from Russia, it has been apprehended that the same may be imposed on India over its \$ 5 BN deal with Russia signed in Oct-2018 to purchase the same.

SDG 15



❖ Context

- According to the **Sustainable Development Report, 2022** of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network**, the overall progress on SDG-15 in at least 12 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa has reversed.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Global forest cover continues to shrink globally**, with high losses in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa in particular.
- This shrinking is called reverse progress in sustainable forest management.
- **SDG-15** is an ambitious goal to protect life on land **by 2030**.
- **SDG 15.2** targets implementation of **sustainable management of all types of forests**, halting of deforestation, restoration of degraded forests and substantial increase in afforestation and reforestation globally **by 2020**.
- Under **SDG target 15.5**, the world was supposed to halt, protect and prevent the **extinction of threatened species by 2020**.

Centre amends the Legal Metrology



❖ Context

- Recently Centre amends the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011 for ease of doing business and reducing the compliance burden for the electronic industries.

❖ Key Highlights

- The amendment to allow the industry to declare the information in the digital form through the **QR Code**.
- The **Department of Consumer Affairs** vide the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities), (Second Amendment) Rules 2022 has allowed the electronic products to declare certain mandatory declarations through the QR Code for a period of one year, if not declared in the package itself.
- It will allow important declarations to be declared effectively on the label in the package while the other descriptive information can be conveyed to the Consumer through the QR Code.
- Earlier, all the prepackaged commodities including the electronic products were required to declare all the mandatory declarations as per the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities), Rules 2011 on the package.

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RBI and Bank Indonesia sign MOU



❖ Context

- Recently The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank Indonesia (BI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Bali, Indonesia.

❖ Significance

- With this MoU, RBI and BI committed to deepening relations between the two central banks.
- Strengthening the exchange of information and cooperation in the area of central banking, including payment systems, digital innovation in payments services.
- Regulatory and supervisory framework for Anti Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML-CFT).
- MoU will be implemented through policy dialogue, technical cooperation, exchange of information, and joint work.
- The MoU will also provide a good basis for promoting mutual understanding, developing efficient payment systems, and achieving cross-border payment connectivity.

NIRF India Rankings 2022

Report card
A look at the top 10 educational institutions in India, according to Ministry of Education's National Institutional Ranking Framework 2022

Rank	Institution	Score
1	Indian Institute of Technology-Madras	87.59
2	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru	83.57
3	Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay	82.35
4	Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi	82.22
5	Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur	77.83
6	Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur	75.94
7	Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee	71.48
8	Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati	69.75
9	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi	69.57
10	Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi	67.25

❖ Context

- Recently NIRF India Ranking 2022 was released.

❖ Key Highlights

- NIRF framework was prepared by **the Union Ministry of Education** rank Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) across India in various categories & subject domains.
- Continuing with the old record, IIT Madras has once again topped the NIRF rankings.
- 5 major parameters – Teaching, Learning and Resources, Research and Professional Practice, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach and Inclusivity and Peer Perception are considered for NIRF rankings 2022.

The New NSE Head



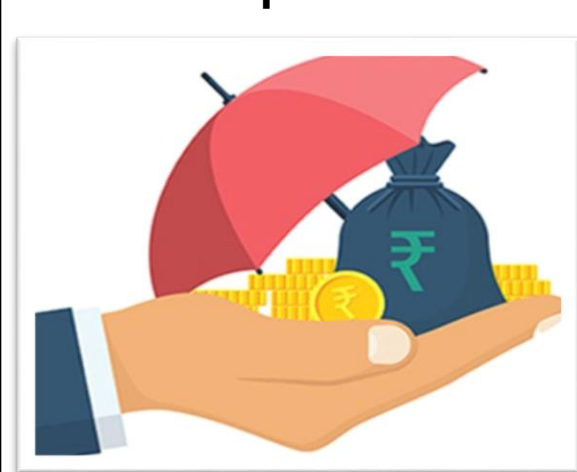
❖ Context

- Market regulator SEBI has finally cleared the way for new NSE head to take over as the new MD and CEO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

❖ About National Stock Exchange:

- It is the leading stock exchange of India, located in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- NSE is ranked **4th** in the world in cash equities by number of trades as per the statistics maintained by the **World Federation of Exchanges (WFE)** for the calendar year 2021.
- NSE's flagship index, the NIFTY 50, a **50 stock index** is used extensively by investors in India and around the world as a barometer of the Indian capital market. The NIFTY 50 index was launched in **1996 by NSE**.

Zero Coupon Zero Principal Bond



❖ Context

- The Finance Ministry recently has declared zero coupon zero principal instruments (ZCZP) as securities.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Zero Coupon-Zero Principal:** It is an instrument issued by a not-for-profit organisation which shall be registered with the social stock exchange (SSE) segment of a recognised stock exchange in accordance with the regulations made by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)."
- It has been proposed that the minimum issue size of ZCZP will be ₹1 crore while the minimum application size shall be ₹2 lakh.
- **Significance:** It will help many organisations including corporates to utilise their fund marked for social responsibility and also help non-profit organisations to get funds in a more transparent manner.
- In simple words, neither any interest is paid nor principal is repaid under ZCZP.

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