Competition Commission of India (CCI) & National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

❖ Context

➢ Recently, US tech giant **Google** has legally challenged the order of the **CCI**, terming the decision as a "major setback" for Android's Indian users as well as businesses, which use the ubiquitous operating system.

Key Highlights

- Google was slapped with a fine of Rs 1,338 crore by CCI.
- It was found guilty of **anti-competitive behaviour** in the Android mobile app ecosystem.
- Google has approached the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** against the action.

NCLAT

- It was **formed on 1 June 2016** under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- **Objectives**
  - It hears appeals against the orders of-
    - NCLT under Section 61 of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)**.
    - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
    - The Competition Commission of India (**CCI**).
    - The National Financial Reporting Authority.
  - The decisions of the NCLAT can be appealed to the Supreme Court on a point of law.
- **Composition**
  - The NCLAT includes **a Chairperson, 3 judicial members, and 2 technical members.**
  - It consists of a total of **not more than eleven members.**

CCI

- **About**
  - It **was established in 2003** as a statutory authority.
  - It became **fully functional by 2009.**
  - The CCI **acts as the competition regulator** in India.
- **Aim**
  - **To establish a competitive environment** in the Indian economy through proactive engagement with all the stakeholders, the government, and international jurisdiction.
- **Objectives**
  - To **prevent practices that harm the competition.**
  - To **promote and sustain competition** in markets.
  - To **protect the interests of consumers** and ensure freedom of trade.
- **Composition**
  - **A Chairperson and 6 Members** appointed by the Central Government.
- **Competition Appellate Tribunal**
  - The Competition Act, 2007, was enacted after amending Competition Act, 2002, which led to the **establishment of the Competition Appellate Tribunal (which was replaced with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** in 2017).

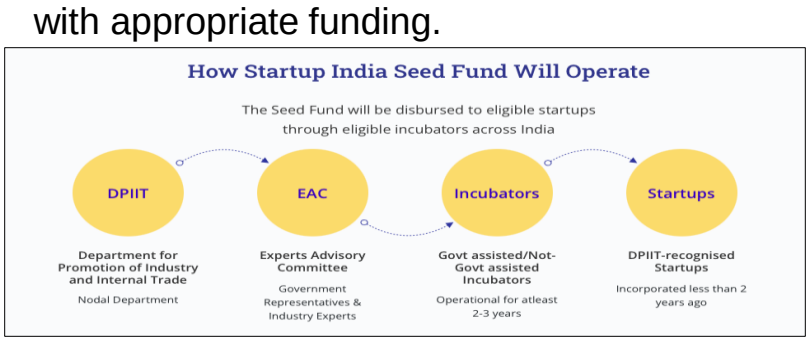
Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)

❖ Context

➢ Recently, Minister of State (MoS) for Commerce and Industry informed the Parliament that **The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) incubated 656 startups** over the course of the last two years.

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)

- The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) implemented with effect from 1st April 2021 with a corpus of Rs. 945 crores.
- It was **launched by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).**
- **Aim**
  - To provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization.
- **Time Period**
  - It has been approved for the period of 4 years starting from 2021-22.
- **EAC**
  - An Experts Advisory Committee (EAC) has been **constituted by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).**
  - It will be responsible for the overall execution and monitoring of the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme.
  - The EAC evaluates and selects incubators for funds under the Scheme.
  - These incubators thereon select the startups based on certain parameters outlined in Scheme guidelines.
- **Significance**
  - The Indian startup ecosystem suffers from capital inadequacy in the seed and 'Proof of Concept' development stage.
  - The capital required at this stage often presents a make or break situation for startups with good business ideas.
  - This would **enable these startups to graduate to a level where they will be able to raise investments from angel investors** or venture capitalists or seek loans from commercial banks or financial institutions.
  - It will **help in creating a robust startup ecosystem** in Tier 2 and 3 regions, as the smaller towns in India are often not provided with appropriate funding.



News in Between the Lines

GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment)

❖ Context

- Recently, The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** Headquarters in New Delhi (Delhi) has won the prestigious **GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022,** a top national level Green Building Award.

❖ Key Highlights

- UIDAI HQ has been declared a winner among the existing highest rated building category.
- UIDAI believes and **promotes the idea of recycle and reuse to reduce carbon footprint.**
- It has been harnessing solar power to meet a portion of its energy consumption.
- It is recycling and reusing water and has been adhering to sustainable waste management practices.

❖ GRIHA

- It is a **system for evaluating green buildings.**
- It facilitates the assessment of a building's performance based on nationally accepted standards or benchmarks.
- The rating system aims to achieve efficient resource utilisation, increased resource efficiency, and improved building quality of life.
- This national rating system has been **developed by TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).**
- GRIHA was adopted as a national standard for green buildings by the Indian Government in 2007.
- GRIHA has been recognised as India's own green building rating system in India's Intended **Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)** submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Streptococcus (Strep A)

❖ Context

- Recently, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA warned of an increase in severe infections involving the Group A streptococcus bacteria, also known as Strep A, among children.

❖ Strep A

- Strep A is **highly contagious** but not generally life-threatening.
- The bacteria is commonly carried by many people in their nose, throat and skin.
- **Symptoms**
  - It causes a rash and flu-like symptoms, including a temperature, sore throat and swollen neck glands.
  - Most people with Strep A recover without any complications.
  - Very rarely, strep A can also cause something called invasive group A streptococcal infection or **iGAS**. This can be deadly.
- **Transmission**
  - The Streptococcal bacteria is spread through coughing, kissing, sneezing and touching, from someone with an infection or a carrier.
  - Outbreaks are more frequent in facilities like schools and care homes where close contact is common.
- **Treatment**
  - There is no Strep A vaccine available. Most cases are treated with a course of antibiotics.

Avian Influenza

❖ Context

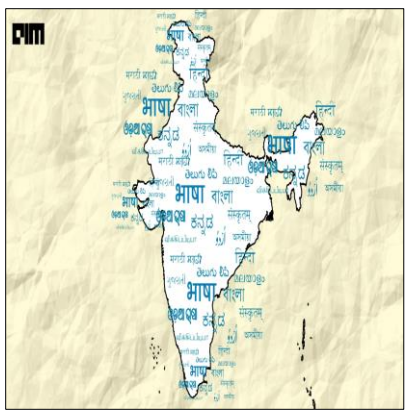
- Recently, Over **6,000 birds were culled** in three separate panchayats of Kerala's Kottayam district where a bird flu outbreak has been confirmed.

❖ Key Highlights

- Avian influenza or bird flu refers to the **disease caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses.**
- These viruses naturally spread among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species.
- It is a **highly contagious zoonotic disease**.

- Bird flu viruses do not normally infect humans. However, sporadic human infections with bird flu viruses have occurred.
- There is no vaccine to prevent avian influenza and the virus outbreak has turned into an annual affair in the region.

Project Vaani



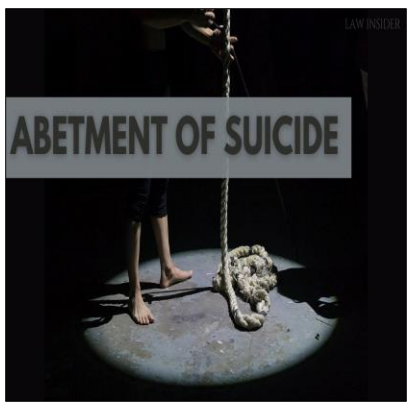
❖ Context

➢ Recently, ARTPARK (AI and Robotics Technology Park) Launched AI-Powered Project Vaani to Make Internet Language-Inclusive.

❖ Key Highlights

- **About**
  - It is a collaborative project of **IISc, Google and ARTPark.**
  - It is **mapping the language diversity of India** by collecting speech sets of about a million people across 773 districts over three years.
  - It intends to record over 150,000 hours of speech, part of which will be transcribed in local scripts.
- **Aim**
  - To boost the development of technologies such as automatic speech recognition, speech to speech translation and natural language understanding.
- **Significance**
  - It will capture diversity of spoken Indian languages by capturing the speech of a million Indians.
  - It will create a technological solution that will eliminate the linguistic barriers that currently exist in technology and increase accessibility for a wider range of people.

Abetment of Suicide



❖ Context

➢ After a TV star allegedly killed herself on the set of a TV show, her co-actor, has been booked for abetment to suicide.

❖ Abetment of Suicide

- Abetment is defined as including **instigating, engaging in a conspiracy or assisting in committing the offence.**
- If any person commits suicide, whoever abets the commission of such suicide shall be punished with imprisonment and shall also be liable to fine.
- The Indian Penal Code, 1860 makes abetment of suicide a punishable offence.
- **Section 306 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC**) prescribes either a jail term of up to 10 years or a fine or both.
- Abetment of suicide is a serious offence that is tried in a Sessions court and is cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable.
- **Cognizable Offense**
  - In such offences a police officer can make an arrest without a warrant from a court.
- **Non-bailable Offense**
  - It means bail is granted to the accused at the discretion of the court and not as a matter of right.
- **Non-Compoundable Offense**
  - Such offense is one in which the case cannot be withdrawn by the complainant even when the complainant and the accused have reached a compromise.

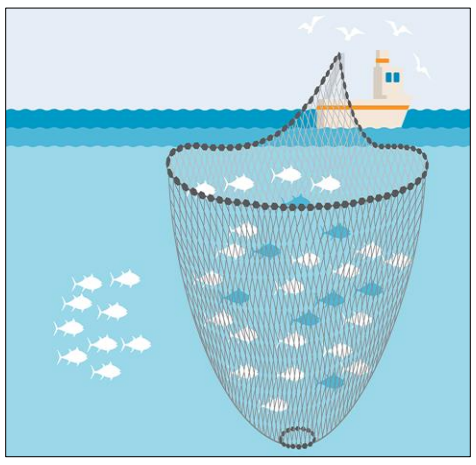
Purse Seine Fishing

❖ Context

➢ Recently, certain Indian coastal states have imposed a ban on purse seine fishing method.

❖ Purse Seine Fishing

- Purse seines are used in the open ocean to target dense schools of single-species pelagic (midwater) fish like tuna and mackerel.
- A vertical net ‘curtain’ is used to surround the school of fish, the bottom of which is then drawn together to enclose the fish, rather like tightening the cords of a drawstring purse.
- Purse-seine fishing in open water is generally considered to be an efficient form of fishing.
- It has no contact with the seabed and can have low levels of bycatch (accidental catch of unwanted species).



- Purse seine fishing, deployed widely on India's western coasts.
- **Reason for Banning**
  - This fishing method uses a wide net to draw in not only the targeted fish but also at-risk varieties, including turtles.
  - In some States, it is linked to concerns about the decreasing stock of small, pelagic shoaling fish such as sardines, mackerel, anchovies and trevally on the western coasts.
- **Status**
  - Currently, bans on purse seine fishing are implemented in the territorial waters of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Odisha, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands up to 12 nautical miles.
  - States such as Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, West Bengal have not imposed any such ban.

Losar

❖ **Context**

- Recently, Prime Minister of India extended his greetings and best wishes on the occasion of Losar, the **Ladakhi New Year.**

❖ **Key highlights**

- Losar Festival is one of the most significant celebrations in the **Tibetan calendar.**
- The religious event is marked with ancient ceremonies that represent the struggle between good and evil.
- The term 'Losar' means New year in the Tibetan language. 'Lo' means year and 'Sar' means new.
- It begins on the day of a new moon that marks the first day of the first month on the Tibetan calendar. This is called Gyalpo Losar in Tibetan which means "King's New Year".
- It is that time of the year when Tibetans and their homes are filled with the spirit of joy and jubilation.
- That time when one could witness and taste the best of the Tibetan cuisines and culture.
- Losar festival is **celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Sikkim.**

Polar Bears

❖ **Context**

- The latest survey shows Western Hudson Bay has 618 polar bears, down from 842 in 2016.

❖ **Polar Bear**

- Polar bear, also called white bear, sea bear, or ice bear, great white northern bear (family Ursidae) found throughout the Arctic region.
- **Scientific Name:** Ursus maritimus
- **Type**: Mammals
- **Diet**: Carnivore
- Over **forty percent of polar bears** live in the north of **Canada**.
- Polar bear's whitish fur is extremely dense, oil coated and water repellent, so much so that water does not reach the skin even when they are swimming in sea.
- Polar bears are **strong swimmers** and divers which enables them to swim from one iceberg to another and to hunt seals in sea. They can also swim underneath ice sheet in search of food.
- Polar bears **do not hibernate** in true sense in dens like the brown and black bears do. Instead they remain active throughout winter in spite of freezing cold.
- The polar bear is the largest and most powerful carnivore on land, a title it shares with a subspecies of brown bear called the Kodiak bear.
- There is **no Polar Bear in Antarctica** because of evolution, location and climate.
- **IUCN Red List Status**: Vulnerable.