Hornbill Festival

❖ Context

➢ The **Hornbill festival in Nagaland** became the venue for the launch of **India's G20 presidency.**

Hornbill Festival

- The Hornbill Festival is an **annual festival celebrated from 1 to 10 December** in the Northeastern Indian state of Nagaland.
- The festival was **first organised in 2000** as a mixture of cultural exhibitions and it will be its **23rd edition this year.**
- It's **named after the Indian Hornbill**–a common bird in Nagaland's folklore and often seen in the state's forests
- This festival is **organised by the government of Nagaland** to encourage inter-tribal interaction.
- It **showcases a mélange of cultural displays** and it aims at protecting and reviving the culture.
- The festival comprises dance performances, crafts, parades, sports, food fairs, religious ceremonies and much more.
- The highlights also include Traditional Naga Morungs Exhibition and sale of Arts and Crafts, Herbal Medicine Stalls, Flower shows and sales, Cultural Medley, Naga wrestling etc.

Great Hornbill Bird

- Hornbills (Bucerotidae) are a family of birds found in tropical and subtropical Africa, Asia and Melanesia.
- **India is home to nine species of hornbills.**
- The northeastern region has the highest diversity of hornbill species within India.
- The Great hornbill is a **large colorful bird** found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
- They are characterized by a long, down-curved bill which is frequently brightly coloured and sometimes has a casque on the upper mandible.
- The great hornbill is the **state bird of Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala.**
- **Diet**- Herbivore, Frugivore.
- **Threat**
  - The great hornbill is threatened mainly by habitat loss due to deforestation.
  - It is hunted for its meat, fat and body parts like casque and tail feathers, which are used as adornments.
- **Conservation Status**
  - **IUCN Red List**- Vulnerable
  - **WPA 1972**- Schedule I

Personality Rights

❖ Context

➢ The Delhi High Court recently passed an **interim order to prevent the unlawful use of a Bollywood actor's name, image & voice.**

What are Personality Rights?

- It refers to the **right of a person to protect his/her personality** under the **right to privacy or property**.
- A large list of unique personal attributes contribute to making a celebrity.
- All of these attributes need to be protected, such as name, nickname, stage name, picture, likeness, image, and any identifiable personal property.
- These **rights are important** to celebrities as their names, photographs or even voices can **easily be misused in various advertisements** by different companies to boost their sales.
- Therefore, it is necessary for renowned personalities/celebrities to register their names to save their personality rights.

Personality Rights vs. Publicity Rights

- Personality rights consist of two types of rights
  - **Right to Privacy -**
    - It is the right not to have one's personality represented publicly without permission.

Tort of Passing Off

- Under common law jurisdictions, publicity rights fall into the realm of the **'tort of passing off'.**
- **Passing off** takes place when someone intentionally or unintentionally passes off their goods or services as belonging to another party.
- Often, this type of misrepresentation damages the goodwill of a person or

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- **Right to Publicity** -
  - It is the right to keep one's image and likeness from being commercially exploited without permission or contractual compensation.
  - **It is similar but not identical to the trademark.**

business, resulting in financial or reputational damage.
- **Publicity Rights are governed by statutes like the Trademarks Act 1999 and the Copyrights Act 1957**.

Four Tiered Framework for UCBs

❖ Context

➢ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a four-tiered regulatory framework for categorisation of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) that comes into force with immediate effect.

Key Highlights

- The extant regulatory framework classifies UCBs into two tiers – Tier I and Tier II.
- The new framework is based on the **size of deposits** of the UCBs.

Categorisation

Tier I	• All unit UCBs. • Salary earners' UCBs (irrespective of deposit size). • All other UCBs that have deposits up to ₹100 crore.
Tier II	UCBs with deposits more than ₹100 crore and up to ₹1,000 crore.
Tier III	UCBs with deposits more than ₹1,000 crore and up to ₹10,000 crore.
Tier IV	UCBs with deposits more than ₹10,000 crore.

- If a UCB transits to a higher Tier on account of increase in deposits in any year, it may be provided a **glide path of up to a maximum of three years**, to comply with higher regulatory requirements.
- The RBI has also come out with norms pertaining to the net worth and capital adequacy of these banks.

Minimum Net Worth Requirement

Tier I	₹2 crores
Tier II, Tier III, Tier IV	₹5 crores

Minimum Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio Requirement

Tier I	9%
Tier II, Tier III, Tier IV	12%

Regenerative Agriculture

❖ Context

➢ The term has recently received much attention from all stakeholders, including producers, policymakers, scientists and consumers.

Background

- The importance of regenerative agriculture was also emphasised in the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on "Climate Change and Land."**
- The report listed it as a 'sustainable land management practice'.
- According to international scientists, **there may not be enough soil to feed the world in the next 50 years.**
- The current intensive agriculture system has led to soil degradation and constant losses.
- It is necessary to regenerate soil on more than **four billion acres of cultivated farmland** to
- It works on the premise that **healthy soils are the foundation** which in turn enables the symbiotic relationship between plants and soil microorganisms living in the soil.
- Plants, through photosynthesis, provide liquid carbon that feeds the soil microbes.
- Microbes provide plants with nutrients like potassium, iron, calcium, and others that help them grow and stay healthy.
- It also **protects land from floods and drought** and provides crops with higher nutrient density.

Regenerative vs. Conservation Agriculture

- Conservation agriculture supports **sustainable land management, environmental protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation.**

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feed the world, keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius and stop biodiversity loss.

About the Practice

- Regenerative agriculture can be practised under many names and is often also referred to as — agroecological farming, alternative agriculture, biodynamic agriculture, carbon farming, inclusive nature farming, conservation agriculture, green agriculture, organic regenerative agriculture and sustainable agriculture.
- Regenerative agriculture adopts a **holistic systems approach** that includes the **health of the animals, farmers and community** to improve the ecosystem's health, beginning with soil fertility.
- It builds resilience and mitigates the effects of extreme weather caused by a changing climate.
- It is **20 to 50 % less labour-intensive** and contributes to **reducing greenhouse gas emissions** through lower energy inputs and improved nutrient use efficiency.
- It also **stabilises and protects soil** from breaking down and releasing carbon into the atmosphere.
- It adheres to **three principles** -
  - Minimise soil distribution through conservation tillage.
  - Diversify crops to replenish nutrients and disrupt pest and disease lifecycle.
  - Retain soil cover using cover crops.
- Regenerative agriculture adds one more principle:
  - Integrate livestock, which adds manure to the soil and serves as a source of carbon sinks.

Regenerative vs. Sustainable Agriculture

- Sustainable practices, by definition, seek to maintain the same, whereas regenerative practices recognize that natural systems are currently impacted.
- It, thus, applies management techniques to restore the system to improved productivity.

News in Between the Lines

DigiYatra

❖ Context

➢ Recently, the government has introduced **paperless entry at select airports** to make air travel hassle-free.

❖ Key Highlights

➢ Under this initiative, airports will use facial recognition software called **'DigiYatra'** for entry.

➢ This means, **passengers won't need to carry their ID card and boarding pass.**

➢ DigiYatra envisages that travellers pass through various checkpoints at the airport through paperless and contactless processing, **using facial features** to establish their identity, which would be linked to the boarding pass.

➢ With this technology, the entry of passengers would be automatically processed based on the facial recognition system at all checkpoints – including entry into the airport, security check areas, aircraft boarding, etc.

➢ The facility will be available for passengers taking domestic flights at Delhi's Terminal 3, Bengaluru and Varanasi airports.

➢ Later, DigiYatra will be rapidly rolled out across all other airports.

➢ The project is being **implemented by the DigiYatra Foundation.**

- It is a joint-venture company whose shareholders are the Airports **Authority of India (26% stake)** and Bengaluru Airport, Delhi Airport, Hyderabad Airport, Mumbai Airport and Cochin International Airport.
- These five shareholders equally hold the remaining 74% of the shares.

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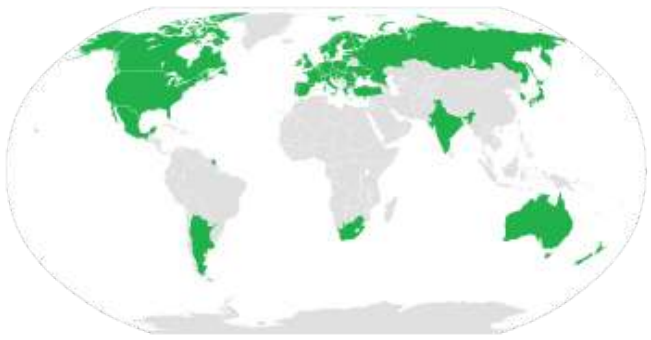
Wassenaar Arrangement



❖ Context

➢ Recently, External Affairs Ministry has said that **India will assume the chairmanship of the Wassenaar arrangement** on the 1st of next month (1 January 2023).

❖ Wassenaar Arrangement

➢ The **Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies** is a multilateral export control regime (MECR).

➢ The body works to promote transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies through regular exchanges of information among its members.

➢ The name comes from Wassenaar, a suburb of The Hague, where the agreement to start such a multi-lateral cooperation was reached in 1995.

➢ **Established** in 1996.

➢ **Participating States**- 42

➢ India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement in December 2017 as its 42nd participating state.

➢ The plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement is the main decision-making body that operates on consensus.

Security Exchange Board of India

भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड
Securities and Exchange Board of India

❖ Context

➢ Recently, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) **banned five commodity brokers** from obtaining fresh registrations as commodity brokers for their alleged involvement in the National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL) scam.

❖ Key Highlights

➢ It is the **regulator of the securities and commodity market** in India owned by the Government of India.

➢ It was **established in 1988 and given statutory status through the SEBI Act, 1992.**

➢ SEBI is responsible for the **needs of three groups**:
- **Issuers** of securities.
- **Investors**.
- Market **intermediaries.**

➢ **Functions:**
- **Quasi-legislative** – Drafts regulations.
- **Quasi-judicial** – Passes rulings and orders.
- **Quasi-executive** – Conducts investigation and enforcement action.

❖ Powers

➢ To **approve by–laws of Securities exchanges.**

➢ To **require the Securities Exchange to amend its by–laws**.

➢ **Inspect the books of accounts** and **call for periodical returns** from recognised Securities exchanges.

➢ Inspect the books of **accounts of financial intermediaries.**

➢ **Compel certain companies** to list their shares in one or more Securities exchanges.

➢ **Registration** of Brokers and sub-brokers.

❖ Context

➢ Cities across China have been witnessing waves of protests against the country's tough zero-Covid policy in recent weeks.

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White Paper Protests

❖ **Key highlights**

- The movement, which is no longer limited to China alone, is widely being dubbed the 'white paper revolution'.
- This is because of the **blank sheets of white A4-sized pape**r many of the demonstrators have been seen holding during these protests.
- It has come to **symbolise the lack of free speech** in the country.
- White papers as a sign of protest were previously used in **Hong Kong in 2020**, to **avoid slogans banned** under the city's new national security law.
- White is a common funeral colour in China and demonstrators are also using it to mourn those lost in the protests.
- Demonstrators in Moscow have also used them this year to protest Russia's war with Ukraine.
- The revolution is trending on social media sites by the name hashtag **"A4Revolution".**

'Five S' Approach

❖ **Context**

- India has assumed the monthly rotating presidency of the UN Security Council (UNSC) on December 1.

❖ **Key highlights**

- This is the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the Council in 2021-22.
- India's priority issues have been guided by the "Five S" Approach -
  - **Samman (Respect)**
  - **Samvad (Dialogue)**
  - **Sahyog (Cooperation)**
  - **Shanti (Peace)**
  - **Samridhi (Prosperity)**
- Under India's December presidency of UNSC, there are two signature events at the ministerial level -
  - India will hold a "high-level open debate" on "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: **New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism" (NORMS)**. It envisages reforms in the current multilateral architecture, with the UN at its centre, to make it more representative and fit for purpose.
  - High-level briefing on the theme **"Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts: Global Approach to Counter Terrorism — Challenges and Way Forward".** This briefing intends to underscore the necessity of collective and coordinated efforts to combat the menace of terrorism.

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