

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)



❖ Context

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is meeting in Switzerland this week to finalise the last report of its sixth assessment cycle, which is expected to set up the tempo for a string of climate change-focused discussions over the next fortnight.

❖ Key Highlights:

- IPCC is set to finalise what is known as the **Synthesis Report**.
- It will incorporate the findings of the five reports that it has released in the 6th assessment cycle since 2018.
- The Synthesis Report is supposed to be a **relatively non-technical summary** of the previous reports, aimed largely at policymakers around the world.
- It is meant to address a **wide range of policy-relevant scientific questions** related to climate change, but, like all IPCC reports, in a non-prescriptive manner.
- This will bring an **end to the Sixth Assessment Report**, a collective work of thousands of scientists over a period of eight years, starting in February 2015.
- As part of the sixth assessment cycle, the IPCC published **three comprehensive reports** :
 - One on scientific evidence for climate change.
 - The other on impacts and vulnerabilities, and
 - The third exploring mitigation options available.
- Special reports on the feasibility of keeping global temperature rise within the **1.5 degree Celsius limit**, and the connections between land, ocean and cryosphere, were also released.
- **Significance of the Reports** : Together, these form the most comprehensive understanding of :
 - The earth's climate system.
 - The changes it is undergoing.
 - The repercussions of these changes, and
 - The actions that should be taken to avoid the worst impacts.

❖ Assessment Reports (ARs)

- **About** : The IPCC's Assessment Reports (ARs), are the **most comprehensive & widely accepted** scientific evaluations of the state of the Earth's climate.
- **Role** :
 - They form the **basis for government policies** to tackle climate change.
 - They **provide the scientific foundation** for the international climate change negotiations.
- **Previous AR Reports** :
 - **Six Assessment Reports** have been published so far.
 - The previous ones were in **1990, 1995, 2001, 2007 and 2013**.
 - In **2018**, the IPCC released a **Special Report** on Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C.

❖ IPCC

- IPCC is the **United Nations body** for assessing the science related to climate change.
- **Established in 1988** by the **WMO and UNEP**.
- IPCC assessments **provide a scientific basis for governments** at all levels to **develop climate related policies**.
- Its main activity is to prepare **Assessment Reports, special reports, and methodology reports** assessing the state of knowledge of climate change.
- The IPCC **does not itself engage in scientific research**.
- It asks scientists from around the world to go through all the relevant scientific literature related to climate change and draw up the logical conclusions.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

❖ Context

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) wants to convert itself into a **universal bank** in order to serve larger goals such as financial inclusion and social upliftment.



❖ Key Highlights:

- The **vast network of post office** branches would help in achieving these goals.
- As a payment bank under the RBI, IPPB can extend services of deposits, remittances, internet banking & other specified services, but they cannot give loans or issue credit cards.
- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**
- IPPB was incorporated on August 17, 2016 under **Companies Act, 2013** as a public limited company with 100 per cent government of India equity under the Department of Posts.
- **Payment Banks:**
- Based on the recommendations of the **Nachiket Mor Committee**, Payments Bank was set up to operate on a smaller scale with minimal credit risk.

- They are **registered under the Companies Act 2013** but are governed by a host of legislations such as Banking Regulation Act, 1949; RBI Act, 1934; Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007 & the like.
- India currently has **6 Payment Banks** namely : Airtel Payment Bank, India Post Payment Bank, Fino, Paytm Payment Bank, NSDL Payment Bank and Jio Payment Bank.
- **Function** :
 - Payment banks can take **deposits up to Rs. 2,00,000**.
 - It can **accept demand deposits** in the form of savings and current accounts.

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- The money received as deposits can be invested in secure government securities only in the form of Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR).
- This must amount to 75% of the demand deposit balance. It can also **issue debit cards**.

• **Restrictions :**

- Payment banks cannot issue credit cards & loans.
- It cannot accept time deposits or NRI deposits.
- It cannot set up subsidiaries to undertake non-banking financial activities.

Smart Cities Mission

❖ **Context:**

- As the June 2023 deadline for completing the Smart Cities Mission approaches, the government has asked 20 of the worst-performing cities to buck up.



❖ **Key Highlights:**

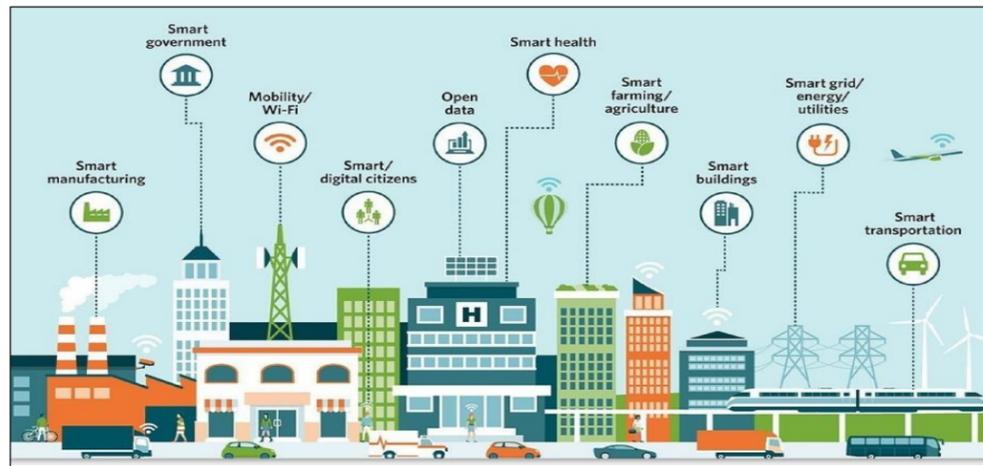
- The Smart Cities Mission is an initiative of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry that was launched on June 25, 2015.
- Cities across the country were asked to submit proposals for projects to improve municipal services and to make their jurisdictions more liveable.
- Between January 2016 and June 2018 (when the last city, Shillong, was chosen), the Ministry selected 100 cities for the Mission over five rounds.
- The projects were supposed to be completed within five years of the selection of the city, but in 2021 the Ministry changed the deadline for all cities to June 2023, which was earlier the deadline for Shillong alone.

❖ **Projects Proposed:**

- The project proposals ranged from making certain stretches of roads more accessible and pedestrian-friendly to more capital-intensive ones like laying water pipelines and constructing sewage treatment plants.
- All 100 cities have also constructed Integrated Command & Control Centres to monitor all security, emergency, & civic services.

❖ **Status Of the Projects:**

- As of March 3, the 100 cities have issued work orders for 7,799 projects worth Rs 1.80 lakh crore.
 - Out of these, 5,399 projects worth Rs.1.02 lakh crore have been completed, and the rest are ongoing.
 - Only around 20 cities are likely to meet the June deadline;
 - The rest will need more time.
 - Cities selected in January & June 2018 have achieved 44% of their targets,
 - While those selected in 2016 in the second round are not much farther ahead with 46% completion.



News in Between the Lines

❖ **Context**

- Karnataka BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa has been granted pre-arrest bail by the High Court, a decision challenged in Supreme Court by the state Lokayukta.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- Black's Law dictionary describes 'bail' as procuring "the release of a person from legal custody, by undertaking that he shall appear at the time and place designated and submit himself to the jurisdiction and judgment of the court."
- Although "bail" has not been expressly defined in Indian statutes, the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) differentiates between "bailable" and "non-bailable" offenses.
- It also defines three kinds of bail that can be granted -
 - regular bail under Sections 437 and 439;
 - interim bail or short-term bail which is given when regular or anticipatory bail application is pending before the court;
 - and anticipatory or pre-arrest bail.

❖ **What is pre-arrest bail?**

- Pre-arrest bail, also known as anticipatory bail, is a legal provision that allows a person to seek bail before they are actually arrested for a non-bailable offense.
- It is granted by a court of law to a person who has reason to believe that they may be arrested on false or frivolous charges, with the aim of preventing unnecessary harassment, detention, or incarceration.

Pre-Arrest Bail



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision for anticipatory bail is included in Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in India. • The court may impose certain conditions on the grant of anticipatory bail, such as requiring the accused to cooperate with the investigation or not leave the country without permission.
<p>Silicon Valley Bank (SVB)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) collapsed on March 10, 2023, becoming the largest bank to fail since the 2008 financial crisis. ❖ Key Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SVB Financial Group, a startup-focused lender based in Santa Clara, California, was ranked 16th biggest in the US, with about \$209 billion in assets at the end of last year. • The roots of SVB's collapse stem from dislocations spurred by higher rates. • Following the bank's collapse, US authorities launched emergency measures to ensure the safety of the banking system and to restore confidence in the system. • The collapse of SVB triggered a broader financial crisis, with bank stocks worldwide plunging. • The collapse of SVB also affected commodities such as gold and copper, with the price of gold racing above the key \$1,900 level as investors sought safe havens.
<p>Willow oil drilling project in Alaska</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently US President Joe Biden's administration approved a scaled-down version of the controversial Willow oil drilling project in Alaska. ❖ Key Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has drawn fierce criticism from environmentalists and climate change activists. • The project, led by oil giant ConocoPhillips, is an \$8 billion proposal to drill oil and gas in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve. • Environmentalists are concerned about the health and environmental impact of the drilling plan, as it would be constructed on the country's largest swath of undisturbed, undeveloped land. • Moreover, the project is expected to create about 260 million tons of greenhouse gases over its lifespan, equivalent to developing around 70 new coal-fired power plants. • Environmentalists and climate change activists claim that the approval is in conflict with President Biden's campaign pledge of not allowing new oil, gas, and coal projects and working towards fighting climate change. • Reasons For Approval : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The global energy crisis aggravated by the Russia-Ukraine war, ▪ Pressure from Alaskan lawmakers who saw the project as an opportunity to usher in prosperity in the state, ▪ Upcoming Presidential elections, and legal complexities.
<p>Foreign Lawyers and Law Firms to Practise in India</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently, the Bar Council of India (BCI) has allowed foreign lawyers and law firms to practise in India. ❖ Key Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BCI notified the Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022. • The notification essentially allows foreign lawyers and law firms to register with BCI to practise in India if they are entitled to practise law in their home countries. • Although they cannot appear in court, they can advise clients on foreign law and work on corporate transactions. • Indian lawyers working with foreign law firms will also be subject to the same restriction of engaging only in "non-litigious practice." • Significance : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This move will address concerns about the flow of Foreign Direct Investment in the country and make India a hub of International Commercial Arbitration. ▪ The rules bring legal clarity to foreign law firms that currently operate in a very limited way in India.

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	<p>❖ About BCI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BCI is a statutory body established under the Advocates Act, 1961. It regulates legal practice and legal education in India. Advocates enrolled with the Bar Council alone are entitled to practise law in India.
<p>GPT4</p> 	<p>❖ Context</p> <p>➤ Recently, AI powerhouse OpenAI announced GPT-4, the next big update to the technology that powers ChatGPT and Microsoft Bing.</p> <p>❖ Key Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GPT-4 is a large multimodal model created by OpenAI & announced on March 14, 2023. Multimodal models can encompass more than just text - GPT-4 also accepts images as input. Meanwhile, GPT-3 and GPT-3.5 only operated in one modality, text, meaning users could only ask questions by typing them out. GPT-4 also “exhibits human-level performance on various professional and academic benchmarks. It can “answer tax-related questions, schedule a meeting among three busy people, or learn a user’s creative writing style.” GPT-4 is also capable of handling over 25,000 words of text, opening up a greater number of use cases that now also include long-form content creation, document search and analysis, and extended conversations.
<p>AUKUS</p> 	<p>❖ Context</p> <p>➤ Recently, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States unveiled plans to provide Australia with conventionally armed, nuclear-powered attack submarines in the early 2030s to counter China’s ambitions in the Indo-Pacific</p> <p>❖ Key Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The arrangement was made through the Australia-United Kingdom-United States (AUKUS) enhanced security partnership. Significance of Nuclear Powered Submarines : Nuclear-powered submarines have an internal nuclear reactor, giving them near infinite endurance to operate & stay submerged. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically, nuclear subs are also faster than conventional submarines. This allows them to reach far out into the ocean and launch attacks on the enemy, an important capability for blue water navies. <p>❖ About AUKUS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AUKUS is a 2021 defence deal between Australia, the UK and the US, which was struck to help Australia deploy nuclear-powered submarines in the Pacific region. Officially, the deal was made to emphasise upon the countries’ “shared commitment to a free-and-open Indo-Pacific region”. In effect, it seeks to combat China’s ambitions in the region.
<p>Eurasian Otter</p>  <p>MCQ Quiz Daily Current Affairs Daily Pre PARE Daily</p>	<p>❖ Context</p> <p>➤ A trio of scientists from the University of Jammu’s Institute of Mountain Environment (IME) at Bhaderwah camera-trapped three Eurasian otters – two adults and one sub-adult – in the Neeru stream of the Chenab catchment.</p> <p>❖ Flagship Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the Eurasian otter - classified as ‘near threatened’ on the IUCN Red List — is regarded as a flagship species and indicator of high-quality aquatic habitats, its presence is encouraging for the health of the Neeru stream. Mammals of the family Mustelidae with seven genera and 13 species, otters are found in every continent except Australia and Antarctica. The Eurasian otter covers the largest range of any Palearctic mammal, covering parts of three continents – Europe, Asia, and Africa. The species is persecuted as a pest in countries such as India, China and Nepal, and its populations in Europe and Asia have declined in recent years due to hunting for food and pelt, habitat loss, pollution and climate change. <div data-bbox="1512 2362 1995 2797"> <p>About Neeru/Neeru River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Neeru is a tributary of the Chenab river. ✓ It is a 30-km perennial stream that originates in the Kailash Lake at 3,900 metres above mean sea level and drains into the Chenab at Pul-Doda. ✓ Fed by 13 major tributaries, the stream flows through several small villages, semi-urban and urbanised areas, with Bhaderwah being the largest settlement.  </div>

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