

New India Literacy Programme

❖ Context

- Government approved a new scheme “**New India Literacy Programme (नव भारत साक्षरता कार्यक्रम)** for the period FYs **2022-2027** to cover all the aspects of **Adult Education**.

❖ Key Highlights

- As per **Census 2011**, the absolute number of **non-literates** of the country in **15 years and above** age group is **25.76 crore** (Male 9.08 crore, Female 16.68 crore).
- Under the **Saakshar Bharat programme** implemented during **2009-10 to 2017-18**, 7.64 crore had been certified as literates. It is estimated that currently **around 18.12 crore adults** are still **non-literate** in India.
- It has also been decided that from now onwards the term “**Education For All**” will be used in place of “**Adult Education**” by the Ministry to incorporate all non-literates of 15 years and above.

❖ About the Scheme

- The objectives are to impart :
 - Foundational literacy and numeracy.
 - Critical life skills, vocational skills development, and continuing education.
- The **target** for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for FYs 2022-27 is **5 crore learners @ 1.00 crore per year by using “Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS)”** in collaboration with National Informatics Centre, NCERT and NIOS in which a learner may register him/herself with essential information like name, date of birth, gender, Aadhaar number, mobile number etc.

- The scheme will **cover non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in all state/UTs** in the country, **priority** given to the age cohort of **15-35 first**.
- The training, orientation, workshops of volunteers, may be organised through face-to-face mode.
- All material and resources shall be provided digitally for easy access to registered volunteers through easily accessible digital modes, viz, TV, radio, cell phone-based free/open-source Apps/portals, etc. **School will be Unit for implementation of the scheme**. They will also be used for conducting surveys of beneficiaries and Voluntary Teachers (VTs).
- **Performance Grading Index (PGI)** for State/UT and district level will show the performance of States and UTs through the UDISE portal.
- **Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE)** initiated in 2012-13 is one of the largest Management Information Systems on School Education covering more than 1.5 million schools, more than 9.6 million teachers and more than 264 million children.
- It provides the necessary data for planning and managing school education.

SVAMITVA Scheme

❖ Context

- Recently, the Union Science Minister said India plans to **prepare digital maps of all its 6,00,000 villages** under the ‘**Svmitva**’ scheme and pan-India 3D maps will be prepared for 100 cities.

❖ Key Highlights

- He said the **trinity of geospatial Systems, drone Policy and unlocked Space Sector** will be the hallmark of India’s future economic progress.
- The **updated guidelines** help private companies to prepare a variety of maps without needing approvals from a host of ministries.
 - It makes it **easier to use drones and develop applications** via location mapping.
- The complete geospatial policy would be announced soon as the liberalization of guidelines had yielded very **positive outcomes within a year’s time**.
- The geographical information based system mapping would also be **useful in forest management, disaster management, electrical utilities, land records, water distribution, and property taxation**.

❖ About SVAMITVA (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas) Scheme

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- **Implemented by-** Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- It was launched by the Hon’ble Prime Minister on National Panchayati Raj Day, 24th April 2021 after successful completion of pilot phase of scheme (2020-2021) in 9 states.
- **Aims:**
 - To provide rural people with the **right to document their residential properties** so that they can use their property for economic purposes.
 - It is a scheme for **mapping the land parcels in rural inhabited areas using drone technology** and Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS).

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Benefits

- The outcome from the scheme would include updating the **'record-of-rights' in the revenue/property registers** and issuance of property cards to the property owners.
- This would facilitate **monetization of rural residential assets** for credit and other financial services.
- Further, this would also **pave the way for clear determination of property tax**, which would accrue to the GPs leading to better civic amenities.

Surveying villages

The SVAMITVA scheme seeks to map land parcels using drone technology and providing 'record of rights' to those who own property

- Maps of 77,716 villages given to States
- 84,14,055 land parcels digitised
- Ownership cards prepared for 26,472 villages

Drone survey completed for **1,08,337** villages



Scheme for economic empowerment of DNTs(SEED)

Context

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** launched the **Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)** for the welfare of **Denotified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities**.

Key Highlights

- The **four component** of the SEED scheme are:
 - Educational empowerment**- Free coaching to students from these communities for Civil Services, entry to professional courses like medicine, engineering, MBA, etc.
 - Health Insurance** through **PMJAY** of National Health Authority.
 - Livelihoods** to support income generation, and
 - Housing** (through PMAY/IAY).
- The scheme will ensure **expenditure of Rs.200 crore** to be spent **over five years** beginning 2021-22.
- The **DWBDNCs** has been tasked with the **implementation** of this scheme.
- A user-friendly **portal** for seamless **registration** was also launched. It will also act as a **repository** of the data on these communities. It will be easily **accessible** on mobile phones with its mobile application. It will provide **real time status of the application** to the applicant.
- The **payment** to the beneficiaries will be made **directly into their accounts**.

About the DNTs,NTs,SNTs

- DNTs, NTs, SNTs are the **one of the most deprived and economically weaker communities** in India
- They are a **heterogenous group** engaged in various occupations such as transport, key-making, salt trading, entertaining — acrobats, dancers, snake charmers, jugglers — and pastoralists.
- They are not enumerated separately in the census but subsumed under **SC, ST, OBC** categories.

- These communities were **branded 'born criminals' under the colonial-era Criminal Tribes Act, 1871** following the 1857 mutiny.
- This led to the **forcible alienation from their traditional occupations and habitations**. They remained hunter gatherers and pastoral/peripatetic.
- They were **'denotified' in 1952** when independent India repealed this act.
- There are nearly **1,500 nomadic** and semi-nomadic tribes and **198 denotified tribes, comprising 15 crore Indians**, according to the **Renke Commission, 2008**.
- To give impetus for planned development** of these communities, the **National Commission** was constituted in **2015** under the chairmanship of **Shri Bhiku Ramji Idate**. This commission was tasked among others to identify and proper listing of these communities in different states, to evaluate the progress of development of these communities in the states so that a systematic approach can be developed for the development of these communities.
- Based on the recommendation of this commission, the **Government of India set up the Development and Welfare Board for DNTs, SNTs &NTs (DWBDNCs) in 2019**.

Anti-mob Lynching Bills

Context

- Bills passed against mob lynching in the past four years by at least three States ruled by BJP rivals and one governed by the party itself have not been implemented with the Union government taking a view that **lynching is not defined as a crime under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)**.
- These states include **Jharkhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Manipur**.

Key Highlights

- The Union Home Ministry informed Parliament in 2019 that there was **"no separate" definition for lynching under the IPC**.
 - Also added that such incidents could be **dealt with under Sections 300 and 302 of the IPC** which pertain to murder.

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- In 2017, the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** collected data on mob lynching, hate crimes and cow vigilantism.
 - However, the figures were not published and the work was discontinued as these crimes are not defined and the data were found to be unreliable.
- In 2018, the **Supreme Court asked Parliament to make lynching a separate offence.**
- Union Home Minister had informed Parliament that the government has decided to overhaul the IPC framed in 1860 and the **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)** and mob-lynching would also be examined by the committee.
- The suggestions received by the Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws would be examined by the Ministry before the changes are adopted.

Stalled crackdown

A brief look at anti-lynching Bills passed by four States that are caught in a question of definition

JHARKHAND

The Prevention of Mob Violence and Mob Lynching Bill, 2021, provides for punishment ranging from three years in prison to life imprisonment, in case of death of the victim. Those convicted may be fined between ₹3 lakh and ₹25 lakh depending on the severity of the crime



RAJASTHAN

The Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019, provides for life imprisonment and a fine from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh to those convicted in cases of mob lynching leading to the victim's death



WEST BENGAL

The West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019, has a provision for death sentence. It proposes a jail term from three years to life imprisonment for those involved in assaulting and injuring a person. The Bill, while defining terms such as "lynching" and "mob", says the West Bengal Lynching Compensation Scheme may be framed under it



MANIPUR

The Manipur Protection from Mob Violence Bill, 2018, proposes rigorous life imprisonment for those involved in mob violence, if it results in the death of a victim



❖ About Lynching

- Any act or series of acts of violence or aiding, abetting (encouraging) such act/acts thereof, whether spontaneous or planned, by a mob on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, language, dietary practices, sexual orientation, political affiliation, ethnicity or any other related grounds.
- There is **"no separate"** definition for such incidents under the existing IPC.
- Lynching incidents can be dealt with under **Section 300 and 302 of IPC.**

❖ Section 302

- Section 302 states that Whoever commits murder shall be punished with **death or imprisonment for life**, and shall also be liable to fine.

News in Between the Lines

World Sustainable Development Summit



❖ Context

- Recently, PM Modi addressed the **TERI's 21s World Sustainable Development Summit.**

❖ Key Highlights

- Theme-** Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future.
- He said that:
 - Energy requirements** of the people of India are expected to **double in the next 20 years.**
 - Successful **climate action also needs adequate financing.** For this, developed countries need to fulfill their commitments on finance and technology transfer.
 - Environmental sustainability can only be achieved through **climate justice.**

❖ About World Sustainable Development Summit

- It was **instituted in 2001.**
- The Summit series has marked 20 years in its journey of making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal.
- Over the years, the **Summit platform has brought together thought leaders, heads of state and government, scholars, corporates, youth groups, and civil society representatives** from across the world.
- The Summit series has established itself as a responsible and an effective platform for **mobilizing opinion-makers** to identify and advance pioneering actions to address some of the most relevant issues concerning sustainable development.

INDIA's G20 Presidency

❖ Context

- Recently, The Union cabinet approved the **setting up of a G20 Secretariat** and related structures.

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➤ It will **implement policy decisions** and be responsible for arrangements for India's forthcoming presidency of the group in 2023.

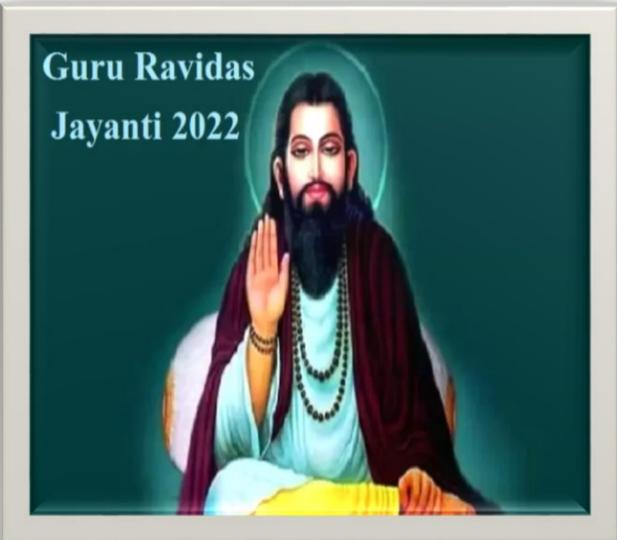
❖ **Key Highlights**

- In 2021, the **G20 Summit was held in Rome, Italy.**
- India will hold the presidency of the G20 from **December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023**, culminating with the G20 Summit in India next year.
- The secretariat will be manned by officers and staff from the external affairs and finance ministries, and other relevant line ministries and departments and domain knowledge experts.
- It will be **functional till February 2024.**

❖ **About G20**

- **Founded in 1999.**
- It is an **intergovernmental forum** comprising 19 countries and the **European Union (EU).**
- Its members account for **85% of the world's GDP**, and **two-thirds of its population.**
- It works to address major issues related to the **global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development.**
- The group has no permanent staff of its own, so every year in December, a **G20 country** from a rotating region takes on the presidency.
 - That country is then responsible for organizing the next summit, as well as smaller meetings for the coming year.

Guru Ravidas



❖ **Context**

➤ The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind has greeted fellow citizens on the eve of the birthday of Guru Ravidas.

❖ **About Guru Ravidas**

- He was a **mystic poet saint, Philosopher, and social reformer** of the **Bhakti Movement** from the 15th and 16th centuries.
- He **founded the Ravidassia religion.**
- It is believed that he was born in Varanasi in a cobbler's family in **1377 A.D.**
- He gained prominence due to his belief in one God and his unbiased religious poems.
- He is known for **making efforts in eradicating the caste system** and openly despised the notion of a Brahminical society.
- His devotional songs made an instant impact on the **Bhakti Movement** and around 41 of his poems were included in '**Guru Granth Sahib**', the religious text of the Sikhs.
- He was **contemporary of Kabir and Gurunanak Dev** and **Mirabai** was a disciple of Ravidas.

Energy Compacts



❖ **Context**

➤ At the "**New Frontiers**" programme, organised by Ministry of New & Renewable Energy to celebrate **AKAM**, a compilation of all energy compacts submitted from India during the **UN High Level Dialogue on Energy 2021 (Sep,21)** was launched.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- Energy Compacts are **voluntary commitments** of action, with **specific targets and timelines** to drive the progress on the achievement of **SDG7**, to accelerate action for **clean, affordable energy for all.**
- Submission of energy compacts is **open to all relevant stakeholders including member states and non-state actors**, such as companies, regional/local governments, NGOs and others.
- **Twenty two compacts were submitted from India** by PSUs, corporates and smart cities in addition to the national compact submitted by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.**





- UN High Level Dialogue on Energy 2021 was the **first leader-level meeting** on energy under the auspices of the **UN General Assembly in 40 years**.
- The Dialogue aimed to boost efforts to provide energy access by 2030 to the nearly **760 million people still lacking electricity** and the **2.6 billion without clean cooking fuels and technology**, while setting the world on a trajectory towards net-zero emissions by 2050.

Climate Change & Tree Growth



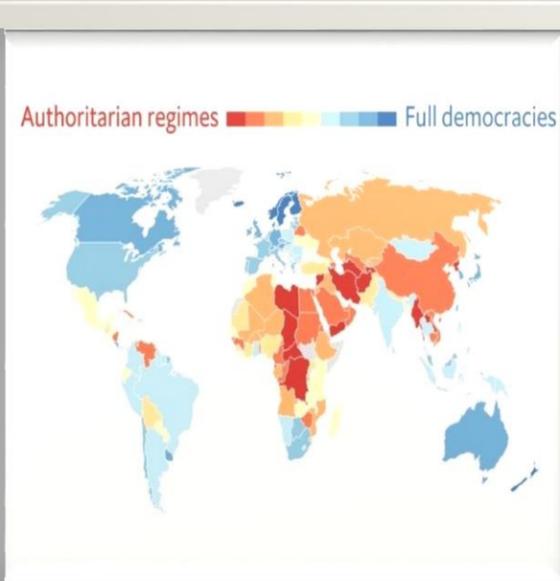
❖ Context

- Finding of a study led by **University of Arizona** conducted on ponderosa pines in Arizona, US.

❖ Key Highlights

- The researchers combined tree ring data with census data from the **United States Forest Service**. This helped them assess the size of trees in a given year.
- A **strong negative effect** of fall–spring **maximum temperature** and a **positive effect of water-year precipitation** on tree growth was found.
- Taller trees were found vulnerable to droughts driven by high temperatures. The smaller trees were vulnerable to drought driven by lack of water. Their smaller roots, which covered a smaller area than the roots of larger trees, struggled to extract moisture from the soil.
- According to the forecast of the report, the **tree growth will decline 22-117 per cent** under future climatic conditions, the researchers forecast.

EUI's Economic Index 2021



❖ Context

- The **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** released its report on the **state of democracy in 2021 across 165 independent countries and two territories**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The **Democracy Index** is based on **60 indicators, grouped into five categories: electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, functioning of government, political participation and political culture**.
- Countries are given a **rating on a zero to ten scale**, and the overall index is the average of the **five total category scores**.
- Each country is then grouped into **four types of regime**, based on their average score : **full democracies, flawed democracies, hybrid regimes and authoritarian regimes**.
- **One - third** of the world population is living under authoritarian rule. **6.4%** is having full democracy. The current global democracy score is 5.28 out of 10. **Norway, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, and Iceland are the top five nations** while the **Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, North Korea, Myanmar, and Afghanistan are the bottom five nations** in the Democracy Index.
- **India Ranked 46th** on the global index in the flawed democracy category with an overall score of 6.91. It has the lowest score of 5 on political culture and the highest score of 8.67 on electoral process and pluralism.
- The country scores 6.18 on civil liberties, 7.22 on political participation, and 7.50 on the functioning of government.
- If we look at the ranking of India's neighbouring countries then **China (148), Myanmar (166), and Afghanistan (167)** are placed in the Authoritarian category, **Bangladesh (75), Bhutan (81), Nepal (101), Pakistan (104)** in Hybrid Regime, while **Sri Lanka (67)** is placed in the Flawed Democracy category.

❖ About Economist Intelligence Unit

- **Establishment-1946.**
- **Headquarters- London. Managing Director-Robin Bew.**

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