

National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change

❖ Context

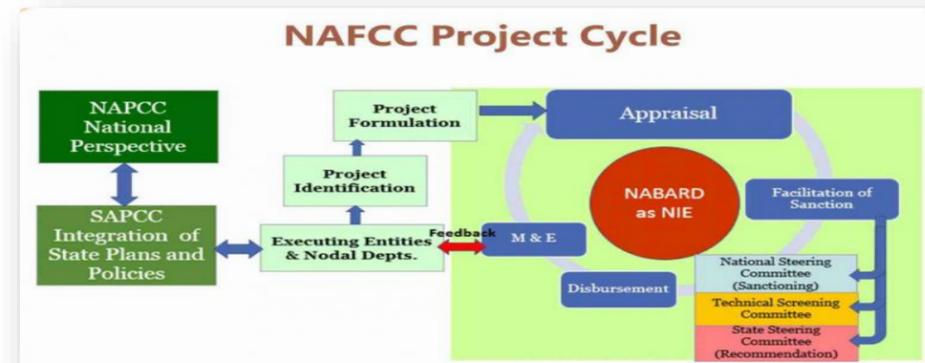
- It was recently informed in the Lok Sabha that under NAFCC, till date, 30 projects are sanctioned in 27 States and UTs.

❖ About NAFCC

- Established in **August, 2015**
- **Objective-**
 - To meet the cost of adaptation to climate change for the State and Union Territories of India that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
- **National Implementing Entity (NIE)-**
 - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**)
- The projects under NAFCC prioritizes the needs that build climate resilience in the areas identified under the **SAPCC** (State Action Plan on Climate Change) and the relevant Missions under **NAPCC** (National Action Plan on Climate Change).
- The projects related to adaptation in sectors such as agriculture, animal husbandry, water, forestry, tourism etc. are eligible for funding under **NAFCC**.
- The NAFCC projects implemented in the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh include activities relating to coastal areas.

NAFCC Outcome Framework-

- Fund level outcome parameters will consist of the following:
 - **Reduced key risks and adverse impacts** of climate change in water and agriculture sectors.
 - **Maximized multi-sectoral, cross-sectoral benefits/co-benefits** to meet the challenges of water and food security.
 - **Human development, poverty alleviation, livelihood security and enhanced awareness of community.**
 - **Strengthened institutional & individual capacity** to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses.
 - **Diversified and strengthened livelihoods** and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas



❖ Adaptation Fund

- Established in **2001**.
- **Objective-**
 - To finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries Parties to the **Kyoto Protocol** that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
- It is financed with a share of proceeds from the **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** project activities and other sources of funding.
- The Adaptation Fund is supervised and managed by the **Adaptation Fund Board (AFB)**.
 - The AFB is **composed of 16 members** and 16 alternates and meets at least twice a year.

Janardhana and Vishnu Temples

❖ Context

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has begun restoration work on the historical Janardhana (**Janardhanagudi**) and Vishnu temples (**Vishnugudi**) at Punchavayal, close to Panamaram, in Wayanad district.

❖ Key Highlights

- Vishnu, Janardhana temples declared **national monuments** in 2015, 2016 respectively
- A portion of the 'Gopuram' of the Janardhana Temple had **collapsed in rain in 2014**, and sculptures on the stone walls were destroyed.
- They are located at a **distance of nearly 700 meters** from one another.

❖ About Janardhana Temple

- The style of **sculptures and a stone edict on a wall** of the Janardhana Temple in old Kannada script show that the temples might have been built during the reign of the **Hoysala or Vijayanagar dynasties in the Deccan plateau** from the 12th to 14th centuries.
- The temple's huge stone pillars have nearly **300 intricate and elaborate carvings**, sculpture of a fishing man, a primitive war scene **featuring tuskers**, a **stone edict** in old Kannada script, figures of Jain deities and sculptures of the 'Dashavathara'.

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❖ About Vishnu Temples

- The temple is dated to between the **12th and 14th centuries**, built in a style similar to those found in Hoysala Empire in South Karnataka and near Hampi of the Vijayanagara Empire.
- The old temple was built by Thazheveena Visnugudi Jain Basti of Kerala.
- The temple was **damaged by Tipu Sultan's army** during its invasion of Wayanad.
- There's a sanctum through an attached porch with four pillars.
- These pillars are carved with **various figures, including Girija-Narasimha**, dancing figures, floral motifs and a monkey.

❖ About ASI

- The ASI is the **premier organization** for the archeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the country.
- The prime objection of ASI is to maintain the archeological sites, ancient monuments and remains of national importance.
- **Headquarters: New Delhi.**
- **Established:** 1861 by Alexander Cunningham.
- It **regulates all archeological activities** as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and **Archeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.**
- It functions under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Culture. It also regulates the Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972.



Commercial Whaling

❖ Context

- Iceland plans to end whaling from 2024 as the demand for the whale meat sinks dramatically since Japan, Iceland's main market (especially for fin whale meat), returned to commercial whaling in 2019

❖ Key Highlights

- The existence of a no-fishing coastal zone, requiring whalers to go further off-shore also makes the hunting costly
- Annual quotas to Iceland allows it to hunt 209 fin whales & 217 minke whales in 2019-2023 but only 1 whale -minke whale-has been killed in past three years
- Commercial whaling is banned by the **International whaling commission (IWC)** wef **1985** which was set up under **International convention for the Regulation of whaling (ICRW)** signed in Washington DC in 1946
- **IWC** was originally formed to set up catch limits for countries in order to make the hunting sustainable for the future. It set the limits for members to zero wef 1985/86 season after substantial reduction of whale population occurred despite the assigned quotas
- **Norway, Iceland & Japan** are the only countries that authorize commercial whaling. **Japan is not a member of IWC since 2019**
- Norway & Iceland establish their own catch limits. Norway takes North Atlantic common minke whales while Iceland takes North Atlantic common minke and fin whales in their Exclusive Economic Zone
- **India joined IWC in 1981**
- Other types of whaling allowed under ICRW are
 - **Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling** conducted by the indigenous communities of 4 countries - **Denmark(Greenland), Russia (Chukotka), USA (Alaska) & St. Vincent & Grenadines (Bequia)**
 - **Special Permit whaling (Scientific Whaling)** - Article VIII of the convention allows killing for scientific purposes regulated by individual countries (not IWC). However, countries are mandated to report such data to IWC
- **Blue whale** - Largest animal to ever live on the planet (surpassing even dinosaurs). Occur in all oceans **except Arctic and Mediterranean, Okhotsk & Bering seas**
 - IUCN status: **Endangered**; **Antarctic subspecies** (less than 1% of its original pre-whaling size) - **Critically endangered**
- **Fin whale** - **second** largest species of whales
 - IUCN status: **Vulnerable**
- **Minke whale** - widely distributed throughout tropical, temperate & polar regions
 - IUCN status: **Least concern**

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Flagging off of vessel MV Lal Bahadur Shastri

❖ Context

- Inland vessel MV Lal Bahadur Shastri carrying **200 Metric Ton of food grains** belonging to Food Corporation of India was flagged off from Inland Water Terminal **Gaighat Patna to Pandu (Guwahati)**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The 25-30 days voyage will be an integrated IWT movement via **National Waterway-1 (river Ganga), NW-97 (Sunderbans), Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route and NW-2 (river Brahmaputra)**.
- The **2350 km long route** movement is expected to establish the technical and commercial viability of IWT mode using these multiple waterways.
- This is the **first food grain movement on this** Inland Water Transport (IWT) **route**.
- The IWT movement is also aimed at providing a fillip to **North East Region's industrial development** by opening up an alternate route for transportation of goods.



❖ Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route

- An Inland water transit and trade protocol exists between India and Bangladesh under which inland vessels of one country can transit through the specified routes of the other country.
- The existing protocol routes are
 - Kolkata-Pandu-Kolkata,
 - Kolkata-Karimganj - Kolkata,
 - Rajshahi-Dhulian-Rajshahi and
 - Pandu-Karimganj-Pandu.
- For inter-country trade, four ports of call have been designated in each country namely; Haldia, Kolkata, Pandu and Karimganj in India and Narayanganj, Khulna, Mongla and Sirajganj in Bangladesh.
- Under the Protocol, **50:50 cargo sharing** by Indian and Bangladeshi vessels is permitted both for transit and inter country trade.

News in Between the Lines

Infrastructure status



❖ Context

- Union budget has proposed grant of 'Infrastructure status' to Data centres. It will be included in the harmonized master list of sub-sectors maintained by Department of Economic Affairs

❖ Key Highlights

- It is estimated that more than 2.5 trillion bytes of data is created each day
- Data generated can be categorized into three sources: **machine, transactional and social**.
- To store, compute and share and monetize this data, enterprises need to partner with data centre service provider
- Infrastructure status would allow **easy and increased access to long term credit** from national and international lenders and financing as RBI allows **relaxation of capital adequacy norms** for such sector
- However, the status **would not entails any tax breaks**

❖ The harmonized Master List of sub-sectors

- **Approved by Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure in 2012** to grant uniformity in definition of infrastructure for giving coordinated policy impetus
- The list includes master list of sub-sectors under different categories - Transport, Energy, Water sanitation, Communication and Social & Commercial infrastructure
- The sectors must fulfill **six characteristics** for inclusion - natural monopoly, non-rivalness in consumption, high sunk costs and asset specificity, possibility of price exclusion, non-tradability of output, presence of externalities
- The **institutional mechanism** established in 2012 to update the Master List and for revisiting the sub-sectors outside the Master List, is a **Committee chaired by Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs** with Member-Secretary, Planning Commission, Secretary, Department of Revenue, Chief Economic Adviser, and one representative each of RBI, SEBI, IRDA, PFRDA and the Secretary of the



concerned Administrative Ministry/Department, as members. The Committee will be serviced by DEA and will **make recommendations to the Finance Minister for decision.**

CPEC 2.0



❖ Context

- China and Pakistan signed a new agreement on industrial cooperation as part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) plan during the Pakistan Prime Minister visit to Beijing.

❖ Key Highlights

- The industrial cooperation agreement is a key part of what is being called “phase two” of CPEC.
- The first phase primarily involved Chinese investments in energy projects as well as road infrastructure. China has described CPEC as a “flagship project” of the Belt and Road Initiative.
- The 3,000 km long corridor links China’s northwest Xinjiang with Gwadar port in Balochistan, also passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) where China is investing in a number of projects.
- India has protested to China over CPEC as it is being laid through PoK
- Pakistan media have also been critical about CPEC saying that 40% of the Chinese loans had been disbursed in a way that blurred distinction between private and public debt, doing away with the need for its disclosure as public debt

Sri Ramanujacharya



❖ Context

- Recently, the Prime Minister inaugurated the 216-foot tall 'Statue of Equality', honoring the **11th-century Hindu saint Ramanujacharya.**

❖ About Sri Ramanujacharya

- Sri Ramanujacharya was **born in 1017 in SriPerumbudur, Tamil Nadu.**
- He was one of the most important **exponents of the Sri Vaishnavism tradition** within Hinduism. He is famous as the **chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita**, a subschool of Vedanta.
- He was **also referred to as Ilaya Perumal**, which means the radiant one.
- He wrote **influential texts, such as the Brahma Sutras and the Bhagavad Gita**, all in Sanskrit. **Bhakti movement was greatly influenced by Sri Ramanujacharya’s philosophical teachings of devotionism.**
- He **worked against casteism** and social hierarchies.

UNDP Youth Climate Champion



❖ Context

- Recently, Content creator and actress **Prajakta Koli** has become India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion under her partnership with the organization.

❖ Key Highlights

- Koli is a **YouTuber** known for her channel MostlySane featuring comedy videos.
- She is a **youth icon**, becoming the perfect candidate for the title, given her long-standing **contribution towards mental health, women rights and girl child education** through various global social campaigns.
- She will be entrusted with the **responsibility of interacting with young minds to create awareness on the adverse impacts of climate change, global warming and biodiversity loss.**
 - Because tremors of these issues are being felt by all sections of the society, including poor and marginalized communities.
- She is also the **global ambassador for YouTube’s ‘Creators For Change’ initiative.**

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