

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

❖ Context

- Recently, the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** has directed the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Arunachal Pradesh government to submit an action taken report against the **racial profiling and relocation of people belonging to the Chakma and Hajong communities.**

❖ Key Highlights

- The NHRC's order, based on a **complaint filed by the New Delhi-based Chakma Development Foundation of India**, has given the government six weeks to ensure the protection of human rights.

❖ About NHRC

- It serves as a **watchdog for the country's human rights**, guaranteed by the Indian Constitution or embodied in international accords and enforceable by Indian courts.
- **Established on 12 October 1993** in accordance with the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.
- **Revised by the Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006** and the **Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019.**
- Founded in accordance with the **Paris Principles** (endorsed by UNGA).
- **Status-** Statutory organization.
- **Composition:**
 - Chairperson, four full-time Members and four deemed Members.
 - A Chairperson, should be **retired Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court.**
- **Appointment:**
 - The **President appoints the chairman and members** based on the recommendations of a six-member committee.
 - **Committee** is composed of
 - The Prime Minister as chairman,
 - The Speaker of the Lok Sabha,
 - The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha,
 - Opposition leaders in both Houses of Parliament, and
 - The Union Home Minister.

❖ Tenure:

- They hold office for a term of **three years or until they attain the age of 70 years**, whichever is earlier.
- The **President can remove them** from the office under specific circumstances.

❖ The Role And Functions Of NHRC

- It **possesses all of the authorities of a civil court** and conducts judicial proceedings.
- It **investigate the violation of human rights/** the failures of the states/other to prevent a human rights violation
- The commissions **may also take on research about human rights, create awareness campaigns** through various mediums, and encourage the work of NGOs.
- It has a **limited function, authority, and jurisdiction in cases involving human rights violations committed by members of the armed forces, private parties.**

❖ About Chakma and Hajong communities

- They are **ethnic people who lived in the Chittagong Hill Tracts**, most of which are located in Bangladesh.
 - **Chakmas** are predominantly **Buddhists**, while **Hajongs are Hindus.**
 - They are found in northeast India, West Bengal, Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- They fled erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in 1964-65 and came to India and settled in Arunachal Pradesh.
 - Chakmas lost their land to the development of the Kaptai Dam on the Karnaphuli River, Bangladesh.
 - Hajongs faced religious persecution as they were non-Muslims and did not speak Bengali.

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

❖ Context

- Recently, the details of the recently released draft environment impact assessment (EIA) report for the **mega development project in the Great Nicobar Island** have raised serious questions

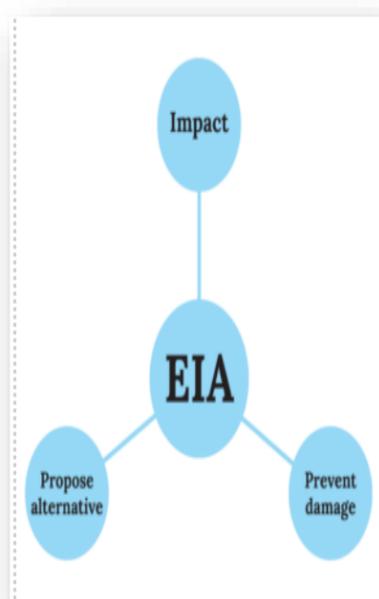
❖ Key Highlights

- Concerns are related to **submission of incorrect or incomplete information, scientific inaccuracy and failure to follow appropriate procedure.**
- The matter is related to the **NITI Aayog-piloted Rs. 72,000-crore integrated project** in Great Nicobar that includes
 - Construction of a mega port,
 - An airport complex,
 - A township spread over 130 sq. km of pristine forest and
 - A solar and gas-based power plant.
- **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Ltd. (ANIIDCO)** is the project proponent.
- Ecologists and researchers have been raising concerns about this project for over a year.

Face to Face Centres

❖ About Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

- EIA is a **tool used to assess the positive and negative environmental, economic, and social impacts** of a project.
- In India, Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is **notified under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986**.
- The EIA Notification, 2006 has categorized the projects into two categories namely; Category 'A' and Category 'B' based on their impact potential.
 - Category 'A' projects will be appraised at the Central level while Category 'B' project at the State level
- Category A projects** – They require mandatory environmental clearance and thus they do not undergo the screening process.
- Category B Projects**– They undergo screening process and they are classified into two types:
 - Category B1 projects** (Mandatorily require EIA).
 - Category B2 projects** (Do not require EIA).



News in Between the Lines

Lithium Mining



❖ Context

- Recently, The **Serbian government has revoked the licenses for lithium mining to Rio Tinto**, an Anglo-Australian multinational mining organization, following protests for nearly two months.

❖ Key Highlights

- Rio Tinto had **discovered lithium deposits in the country in 2006**.
- The company had been planning to invest \$2.4 billion in the project.
 - which if completed would be one of the **biggest investment projects** in the country.
- The mine would have produced enough lithium to operate **one million electric vehicles** along with boric acid and sodium sulfate.
- Environmentalists in Serbia have said that while the country has already been ridden with industrial pollution, a new mine would only make it worse, polluting the land and water in the area.

❖ About Lithium

- It is a **chemical element** which is a soft, **silvery-white metal**. Under standard conditions, it is the **lightest metal** and the lightest solid element.
- It is **highly reactive and flammable**, and must be stored in mineral oil.
- The most important use of lithium is in **rechargeable batteries for mobile phones, laptops, digital cameras and electric vehicles**.
- Australia, Chile, China and Argentina** are the world's top four lithium-producing countries.
- As of now, **India currently imports all its lithium needs**.
 - The Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India has discovered 1600kg Lithium in Mandla district of Karnataka.

Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)



❖ Context

- Recently, the **Govt launched the revamped CGHS** (Central Government Health Scheme) **website** (www.cghs.gov.in) and mobile app, "MyCGHS".

❖ Key Highlights

- The Website has been **developed in accordance with GIGW** (Guidelines for Indian Government Websites).
- These standards and guidelines make the website 3U compliant i.e., **Usable, User-Centric and Universally Accessible**.
- With the newly provided feature of tele-consultation, **CGHS beneficiaries can seek expert advice directly through teleconsultation**.

❖ About CGHS

- CGHS is a **comprehensive health scheme to serve pensioners, employees, ex-MPs, Members of Parliament and dependent family members**.

Face to Face Centres



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme has been extended across 72 cities and about 38 lakh beneficiaries are availing benefits under it within the last 7 years. • CGHS provides health care through following systems of Medicine:- Allopathic, Homeopathic, Indian system of medicine Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Yoga
<p>Ganoderma</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently, researchers from Kerala have identified two new species of fungi from the genus Ganoderma that are associated with coconut stem rot. ❖ Key Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers genotyped the two fungi species, named Ganoderma keralense and G. pseudoapplanatum and identified genetic biomarkers. • The butt rot or basal stem rot of coconut is known by several names in different parts of India: Ganoderma wilt (Andhra Pradesh), Anaberoga (Karnataka) and Thanjavur wilt (Tamil Nadu). • The infection begins at the roots, but symptoms include discolouration and rotting of stem and leaves. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the later stages, flowering and nut set decreases and finally the coconut palm (Cocos nucifera) dies. • A reddish brown oozing is seen. This oozing has been reported only in India. • Once infected, recovery of the plants is not likely. • In India, around 12 million people are said to depend on coconut farming.
<p>State Environmental Impact Assessment Agencies (SEIAA)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently, A proposal by the Union Environment Ministry to “rank” and “incentivise” States on how quickly they could give environmental clearances to proposed infrastructure projects has drawn fire from environmentalists on the grounds that it contravenes basic principles of environmental regulation. ❖ Key Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A note to States by the Union Environment Ministry spells out seven criteria to rate State Environmental Impact Assessment Agencies (SEIAA) on “transparency, efficiency and accountability”. • On a scale of seven, a SEIAA, for instance, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gets two marks for granting a clearance in less than 80 days, ▪ One mark for within 105 days and ▪ No marks for more. • If less than 10% of the projects for scrutiny prompted a site visit by committee members, to examine ground conditions, a SEIAA would get one mark. • More than 20%, on the other hand, would be a demerit or zero marks. • SEIAA with a score of seven or more would be rated ‘five star.’ • Ministry officials said that the ranking criteria was not intended to accelerate the speed with which clearances were accorded but to encourage the SEIAA to take quicker decisions on approving or rejecting a project, and adhere to timelines already specified by the provisions of the Act. • The project appraisal process is an online process where aspirant companies must upload documents on a portal called Parivesh. ❖ About SEIAA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) are constituted to provide clearance to Category B process. • Category A projects are appraised at national level by Impact Assessment Agency (IAA) and the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC).
<p>Environmental Emergency in Peru</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently, The Peruvian government declared a 90-day “environmental emergency” in damaged coastal territories, after an oil spill that saw 6,000 barrels of crude oil pour into the sea.



❖ **Key Highlights**

- The **oil spill** came out of a tanker belonging to the Spanish energy firm **Repsol**.
- According to the refinery, the **spill was caused by freak waves**, which resulted from the eruption of a volcano in Tonga.
- The spill has **caused the death of marine wildlife** and raised concerns around the livelihood of local fishermen and the economic consequences from the loss of tourism.

❖ **About Environment Emergency**

- It is defined as a “**sudden-onset disaster or accident** resulting from natural, technological or human-induced factors, or a combination of these, that **causes or threatens to cause severe environmental damage as well as loss of human lives and property**”.
- **According to UNEP**, Countries facing an environmental emergency often require **technical support and specialized expertise to respond effectively**, minimize adverse impacts, and recover rapidly.



National Single window System

❖ **Context**

- Recently, The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has said simplicity of operations and transparency should be the focus of the **National Single Window System (NSWS)**.

❖ **About NSWS**

- It is a **one-stop digital platform** that aims at allowing investors to **apply for various pre-operations approvals** required for commencing a business in the country.
- Currently, the platform **hosts approvals across 32 Central Departments & 14 States**.
- This portal will help in bringing **Transparency, Accountability & Responsiveness** in the ecosystem.
- All information will be **available on a single dashboard**.
- It will also provide strength to other schemes like **Make in India, Startup India, PLI scheme etc.**



Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2022

❖ **Context**

- Recently, the Prime Minister interacted with the winners of **Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2022** and presented digital certificates to them in a virtual event.

❖ **About PMRBP**

- This award is given as **recognition to children residing in India, above the age of 5 years and not exceeding 18 years**.
- Any child with exceptional achievement in the six fields of **innovation, scholastic achievements, sports, art and culture, social service and bravery** can apply for the award.
- Also, any person who knows about a meritorious achievement by a child can **recommend** this child for the award.
- A **high-level committee selects the winners of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar** after careful consideration of each application.
- It is **conferred by Hon'ble President in a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan**.
- **Organizing Ministry** - Associated Ministry: Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Each awardee of PMRBP is given a medal, a **cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000/- and a certificate**.
- Formerly known as the National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement, it is **India's highest civilian honour for exceptional achievers under the age of 18**.
- It has **two categories** - Bal Shakti Puraskar and Bal Kalyan Puraskar.

