

National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

❖ Context

- Recently, **The Supreme Court upheld a National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) decision to wind up Devas (Digitally Enhanced Video and Audio Services)**, once touted as a move to revolutionize digital media and broadcasting services via satellite.
- Though, It ended up as a case of fraud and corruption under CBI investigation.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Issue- A 2005 satellite deal between Antrix Corporation — the commercial arm of the ISRO – and Devas Multimedia Pvt Ltd**, a start-up headquartered in Bengaluru, is at the heart of a global legal tussle between the Indian government and foreign investors in Devas.
- The tussle is a fallout of the **cancellation of the deal in 2011 by the then UPA government** citing requirement of satellite spectrum allotted to Devas for security purposes.
- The Supreme Court upheld a May 25, 2021 order of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to **liquidate Devas on the ground that the firm was created under fraudulent circumstances.**

HOW IT UNFOLDED		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Jan 2005: Agreement between Antrix and Devas for former to launch two satellites and lease 90% of S-band to Devas ▶ 2011: UPA govt cancels deal on 'security' grounds after allegations of corruption ▶ Aug 2016: CBI charge-sheets former ISRO chief G Madhavan Nair and other officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sept 2017: International Chamber of Commerce awards Devas compensation worth \$1.3 billion ▶ Oct 2020: A United States Federal Court confirms ICC's award ▶ Jan 2021: Govt approaches NCLT to begin liquidation proceedings of Devas. NCLT admits case and appoints liquidator ▶ Sept 2021: NCLAT upholds NCLT order to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> liquidate Devas ▶ Dec 2021-Jan 2022: A Canadian court allows seizing of Air India assets by Devas after latter alleges that India breached bilateral treaty with Mauritius. Antrix-Devas deal was signed under this treaty ▶ Jan 2022: Supreme Court upholds NCLT decision, orders liquidation of Devas. Liquidator takes over Devas

❖ About NCLT

- It is a **successor body to the Company Law Board.**
- It is a **quasi-judicial body** in India that adjudicates issues relating to companies in India.
- **Established on 1st June, 2016** (Companies Act, 2013).
- Formed based on the **recommendations of the Justice Eradi Committee.**
- It **deals with matters mainly related to companies law and the insolvency law.**
- **Term of members:** Appointments will be for **five years** from the date of assumption of charge or till attaining the **age of 65** or until further orders.
- **Powers of NCLT, 2013**
 - Revival of Sick companies
 - Winding up of Companies
 - Power of High Court in the matters of mergers, demergers, amalgamations, winding up, etc.
 - Power to Review its own orders
- Decisions taken by the NCLT **can be appealed to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).**
- The decisions of the NCLAT can be **appealed to the Supreme Court on a point of law.**

Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022

❖ Context

- Recently, **The World Economic Forum's 'Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022'**, released during its online Davos Agenda summit.

❖ Key Highlights of the Study

- In 2021, **ransomware attacks** increased by 151%.
- Each organization faced **270 cyber-attacks on an average.**
- A successful organization that breached cyber-attacks spent 3.6 million USD.
- Cyber incidents are **becoming costly and damaging, sometimes even paralyzing critical services and infrastructure.**

❖ Cyber security solutions suggested by WEF

- The **following factors should be considered** while creating cyber security solutions:
 - Percentage of **digital transformation** made by an organization.
 - A **considerable amount** greater than the transformation should be spent on cyber security.
 - **Third-party software attacks**
 - **Malicious attacks**
 - **Regulatory requirements**
 - **Board direction Media attention**
 - **Shift towards remote working**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide availability of sophisticated tools and methods of cyberattacks to threat actors at relatively low or no cost. • According to the report, the following two factors have the highest influence on cyber security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Automation and machine learning: 48% ○ Remote and hybrid work environment: 28% • The increase in cyber-crimes was mainly because of increase in global digital economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize cybersecurity in all domains of society and the economy. • Anticipate, recover and adapt quickly to cyber incidents • Shift from a cyber-defensive posture to a stronger cyber-resilience position, i.e. to anticipate attacks and be prepared for likely digital shocks. • Mobilize a global response to address systemic cybersecurity challenges and ensure no communication or coordination gaps between cybersecurity and business leaders. |
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Rural Area Development Plan Formulation & Implementation Guidelines (RADPFI)

❖ Context

- The guidelines formulated in 2017 have been revised by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj

❖ Key Highlights

❖ Background

- In India, **rural areas cover 94% of land** and **69% of population** while urban area hold 6% of land and 31% of population.
- Although many spatial development initiatives have been implemented in urban areas, there has been **no comprehensive exercise for rural spatial planning** of panchayats/villages.
- The **unplanned growth** of rural areas has led to **inefficient utilization** of geospatial potential in rural areas.
- As per census 2011, the **Indo Gangetic plains holds higher density** of rural settlements as well as rural population except **Kerala** which has **12,808 rural population per village** as compared to national average of 1300

❖ Constitutional Provisions

- According to **Article 243ZD** in 74th CAA - There shall be constituted, in every State at the district level a **District Planning Committee** to consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the district and to prepare a Draft Development Plan for the district as a whole
- It thus tries to facilitates integrated district planning through consolidation of rural and urban plans
- But there is **no mandate or constitutional provision for preparation of Gram Panchayat Spatial Development Plans**
- MoHUA had brought out **Urban and Regional Development Plan Formulation and Implementation Guidelines** in 2014, for the guidance of the Urban Local Bodies and Urban Development Authorities to **prepare Master Plans/Development Plans** for cities and towns
- **RAPDPFI** aims to perform the **similar function** by providing norms for **planned spatial development** for overall integrated development of villages
- There are 2,38,617 Gram Panchayats in India and RADPFI suggests the **Gram Panchayat Boundary** as a **planning boundary** for Gram Panchayat Spatial planning and constitution of **Village Planning Committee** for the purpose.
- The Plan so prepared will be **approved by the Gram Panchayat** and **submitted for District Planning Committee** who will in turn **recommend state government** for final notification

News in Between the Lines

Eastern Swamp Deer

❖ Context

- The population of eastern swamp deer, **extinct elsewhere in South Asia**, has dipped in the **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (Assam)**

❖ Key Highlights

- This reduction in population can be attributed to **high floods in 2019 and 2020**.
- On the brighter side, **the animal is now distributed to areas beyond the park** known as the world's best address of the one-horned rhinoceros (i.e. **Orang National Park and Laokhowa-Burachapori wildlife sanctuaries in Assam**).

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- In the last survey, the **female eastern swamp deer outnumbered the males** by more than three times.
- The eastern swamp deer is **endemic to Kaziranga**.

❖ About Eastern Swamp Deer

- The swamp deer **also called as barasingha** is a deer species distributed in the Indian subcontinent.
- Populations in northern and central India are fragmented, and **two isolated populations occur in southwestern Nepal**.
- It has been **locally extinct in Pakistan and Bangladesh**, and its presence is uncertain in Bhutan.
- In Assamese, barasingha is called **dolhorina**; dol meaning swamp.
- **Protection Status-**
 - **IUCN Red List: Vulnerable**
 - **CITES: Appendix I**
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I**

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Factors responsible

Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change and become resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause.



Over-prescribing of antibiotics



Patients not finishing their treatment



Over-use of antibiotics in livestock and fish farming



Poor infection control in hospitals and clinics



Lack of hygiene and poor sanitation



Lack of new antibiotics being developed

❖ Context

- A comprehensive estimate of the **global impact of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**, covering 204 countries and published in **The Lancet**, has found that **1.27 million people died in 2019 as a direct result of AMR**.
- This is now a leading cause of death worldwide, **higher than HIV/AIDS or malaria**.

❖ Key Highlights

- Another **49.5 lakh deaths were indirectly caused by AMR** (a drug-resistant infection was implicated, but resistance itself may or may not have been the direct cause of death).
- Of the **23 pathogens studied**, drug resistance in six (**E coli, S aureus, K pneumoniae, S pneumoniae, A baumannii, and P aeruginosa**) led directly to 9.29 lakh deaths and was associated with 3.57 million.
- One pathogen-drug combination – **methicillin-resistant S aureus, or MRSA** – directly caused more than 1 lakh deaths.
- Resistance to two classes of antibiotics often considered the first line of defense against severe infections – **fluoroquinolones and beta-lactam antibiotics** – accounted for more than **70% of deaths caused by AMR**.

❖ About Antimicrobial Resistance

- **Antimicrobials** – including antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiparasitics – are medicines used to prevent and treat infections in humans, animals and plants.
- **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and **no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat** and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.
 - As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines become ineffective and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)



❖ Context

- Recently, The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, approved the **equity infusion of Rs.1500 crore** in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA).

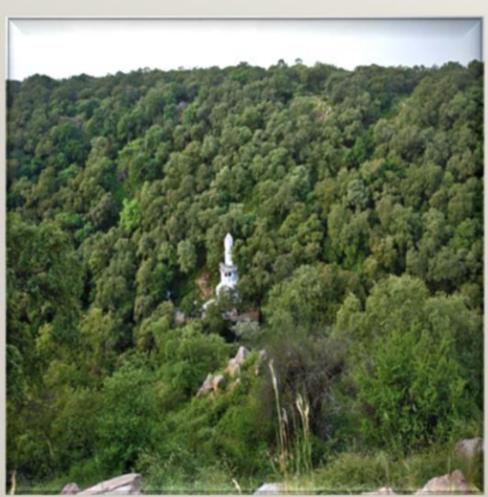
❖ Key Highlights

- This equity infusion will help in employment generation of approximately **10200 jobs-year**.
- It will also help in **CO2 equivalent emission reduction** of approximately 7.49 Million Tonnes CO2/year.

❖ About IREDA

- IREDA, a **mini ratna (Category-1) company** under the administrative control of MNRE
- It was **set up in 1987** to work as a **specialized non-banking finance agency for the Renewable Energy (RE) sector**.
- IREDA with **more than 34 years of techno-commercial expertise**, plays a **catalytic role** in the RE project financing which gives confidence to the FIs/banks to lend in the sector.
- **IREDA headquarters are located in New Delhi.**

Mangar Bani



❖ Context

- The environmentalists want the NCR Regional Plan 2041 to declare 500 m buffer zone around the Mangar Bani as 'no construction zone'

❖ Key Highlights

- It is a **community managed sacred grove** spread over nearly 500 acre located at **South Delhi Ridge** of Aravalli Range at Delhi Haryana border
- It is considered sacred because of Gudiya baba's (a saint) shrine located inside
- It is also a **paleolithic archeological site**. **Cave paintings** belonging to **Upper Paleolithic age (40,000 - 1,00,000 years)** had been discovered in July 2021
- It is ecologically significant for the region due to genetic pool conservation, carbon sink, excellent groundwater recharge, regulating climate & monsoon, part of interstate wildlife corridor
- **Dhau**, a slow growing tree species constitute 95% of the grove. Its ability to form a well connected colony, exchanging nutrients, sunlight & water, helps it survive in extreme dry conditions. Plantation of **vilayati kikar** may lead to its loss
- The grove is not a legally protected forest

e-Advance Ruling Scheme 2022



❖ Context

- It has been notified by Central Board of Direct Taxes

❖ Key Highlights

- Advance rulings are written opinions or authoritative decisions by an authority empowered to give it regarding tax consequences of a transaction, including proposed ones
- Business can now seek the same from the **Board for Advance Ruling** by email
- The request will be assigned randomly to the boards through an automated allocation system. Hearing will be conducted through video conferencing
- In Finance Act 2021, the provisions had been made to set up such board replacing the **Authority for Advance Ruling** for quick disposal of cases

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International Counter Terrorism Conference 2022



- Every such board will consist of two members not below the rank of Chief Commissioner. Appeals against the ruling can be filed in High court.
- **Non-residents, residents planning transaction with non-residents and notified public sector firms** are among the entities eligible
- Advance Ruling mechanism is provided under IT Act

❖ Context

- India envoy to UN has said in the conference that in respect of Afghanistan's recent developments, **Al Qaida's linkages with UNSC proscribed groups like LeT & JeM have strengthened**

❖ Key Highlights

- The conference was organized by **Global Counter Terrorism Council**
- **India envoy to UN has also recently assumed chair of the Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee, in Jan 2022** for the year 2022.
- India's current non-permanent membership of the SC will end in Dec 2022
- The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), a **subsidiary body of SC**, was established in **2001** in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, by **UNSC resolution 1373**.

❖ UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy

- The **UN General Assembly** in **2006** adopted the strategy which is a unique global instrument to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism. It is **reviewed every two years** by the GA
- In order to strengthen a common UN action approach to support Member States, at their request, in the balanced implementation of the Strategy and other relevant United Nations resolutions and mandates, **UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact** was formed by Secretary General in 2018. **UNOCT** serves as **Secretariat** of the Counter-Terrorism Compact.
- The **UN office of Counter Terrorism** was established in **June 2017** through adoption of UN General Assembly resolution

Mustard: The Yellow Revolution



❖ Context

- A new yellow revolution has finally taken off, as farmers expand the area under the crop by a quarter, conjuring up visions of endless mustard fields — a popular Bollywood staple.

❖ What is Yellow Revolution?

- The revolution launched in **1986- 1987** to **increase the production of edible oil**, especially **mustard and sesame seeds** to **achieve self-reliance** is known as the Yellow Revolution.
- **Sam Pitroda** is known as the **father of the Yellow Revolution in India**. Yellow Revolution targets **nine oilseeds** that are **groundnut, mustard, soybean, safflower, sesame, sunflower, niger, linseed, and castor**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The yellow revolution included **incentives to farmers** who were also provided processing facilities that included **irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. transportation facility, minimum support price, warehousing, etc.**
- Under the revolution, many boards such as the **National Dairy Board** were entrusted with responsibilities to promote oilseed production. The **NDB has the responsibility to increase groundnut oil production in Gujarat**.
- Similarly, the **National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board** were responsible for the production enhancement of oilseeds in **non-traditional areas**. **Oilseeds Production Thrust** was established to popularize the four major oilseeds that are **mustard, groundnut, soybean, and sunflower**.
- Also, there were about **3000 oilseed societies** established with **13 lakh farmers and 25 hectares of cultivable land** in a different state of the country.

