

Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)

❖ **Context**

- Recently, the **Steering Committee of the Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)** held its third meeting in New Delhi.
- It was chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Water Resources, in the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)

- In **December 2021**, the Union Cabinet approved KBLP at a total cost of Rs 44,605 crore.
- In this project, the national and the Madhya Pradesh governments will link the Ken river with the Betwa river.
- The link will be in the form of a **canal** that will be fed by the new **Daudhan Dam on the Ken**, to be **built within Panna Tiger Reserve**.
- The linking canal will **flow through Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh and Jhansi districts**.
- Work is likely to be completed in a span of **eight years**.

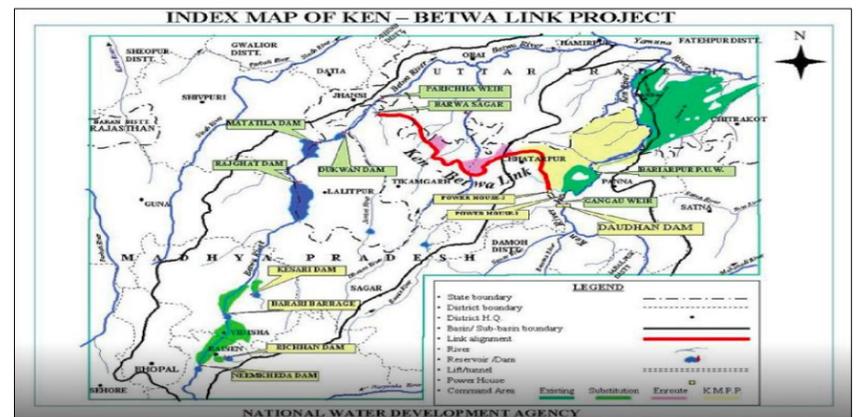
Benefits

- The dam will generate **103 MW of hydroelectric power and 27 Megawatt solar power**.
- The project expected to **irrigate 6.3 lakh hectares** of land every year.
- It will Provide **drinking water supply** to a population of about 62L.
- The Ken Betwa project will **benefit the drought prone Bundelkhand region** spread across 13 districts.
- It will **Boost socio-economic prosperity** in the backward Bundelkhand region.

Concerns

- Hydrological and ecological experts are concerned that the project **will endanger the water security of Panna**.
- **Panna** is exceptional tiger habitat because of its deep gorges, which will be **drowned if the new dam is built**.
- The project is also expected to result in the **submergence of 6,017 hectares of forest land** under the Daudhan dam of the KBLP.

- The **environmental clearance was challenged** and the project was pending at the National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh could not agree on how water would be shared, particularly in the non-monsoonal months.
- **Social costs** will be incurred as a consequence of reconstruction and rehabilitation due to displacement induced by the project's implementation.



Ken River

- **Origin**- Kaimur hills of Katni district in Madhya Pradesh
- It joins the river Yamuna near Chilla village in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh.
- Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve.

Betwa River

- **Origin**- Vindhya Range just north of Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh.
- It flows northeast through Madhya Pradesh and Orchha to Uttar Pradesh.
- Nearly half of its course, which is not navigable, runs over the Malwa Plateau.
- The Indian navy named one of its frigates INS Betwa in honour of the river.

India's Ties With Egypt

❖ **Context**

- **Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi**, was the chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations this year.

Key Highlights:

- **This is the first time** that an Egyptian President has been invited as chief guest for the event.
- El-Sisi will have a meeting and delegation-level talks with the Prime Minister on **bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest**.
- The External Affairs Minister will also call on President Sisi. The visiting dignitary will **interact with the Indian business** community at an event.

What is the significance of a Republic Day invite?

- The selection of a chief guest for the Republic Day celebration in India is a **highly symbolic decision** made by the government.
- The invitation is used as a tool for diplomacy, **business interests, and international relations**.

- The choice of chief guest is determined by a combination of strategic and diplomatic considerations, as well as **current global political dynamics**.

History Of India-Egypt Relations:

- The joint announcement of the establishment of diplomatic relations at the Ambassadorial level was **made in August 1947**.
- India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser signed the **Friendship Treaty between the two countries**.
- They were key to forming the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** along with Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito.
- **High-level exchanges** with Egypt continued after the 2011 **Egyptian Revolution** and then President Mohamed Morsi visited India.



State Of Bilateral Trade Relations:

- Egypt has traditionally been one of **India's most important** trading partners in the African continent.
- The India-Egypt **bilateral trade agreement** has been in operation since March 1978 and is based on the **Most-Favoured Nation clause**.
- **The bilateral trade** has increased more than five times in the past 10 years. In 2018-19, it reached USD 4.55 billion.

Other Areas Of Cooperation:

- **Agriculture** will be one of the key areas of cooperation. Egypt, which is facing a **shortage of food grains** as its major sources were Ukraine and Russia, **wants to buy wheat from India**.

- Egypt's President is also coming at a time when the country is facing a massive economic crisis due to **depleted forex reserves**.
- Egypt is also keen to **push for more tourism from India**, and ease the movement of people so that there is more forex inflow into their tourism-dependent economy.
- Egypt is interested in procuring defence equipment from India, which includes **LCA Tejas, missiles like Akash, DRDO's Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon, and radars**.
- The two countries will also look at the **education sector**, where Indian higher educational institutions can set up campuses in Egypt.
- A proposal for establishing an IIT in Egypt is in the works.

News in Between the Lines

AMPHEX 2023



❖ Context

- **Tri-services Amphibious Exercise, AMPHEX 2023 Concludes.**

❖ About AMPHEX 2023:

- **The biennial Tri-Services Amphibious Exercise, AMPHEX 2023** was conducted at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
- AMPHEX is aimed at **joint training of elements of all three services** in various facets of amphibious operations to enhance interoperability and synergy.
- AMPHEX 23 is the **first time that the exercise** was undertaken at Kakinada, and it was the largest ever AMPHEX conducted till date.
- AMPHEX 2023 **successfully demonstrated the amphibious** capabilities and validated the excellent coordination that exists between the three Services to undertake the full spectrum of amphibious operations.

Doomsday Clock



❖ Context

- The Doomsday Clock for this year **has been moved just 90 seconds to midnight**, which makes us nearer to global catastrophe than ever before.

❖ About Doomsday Clock:

- **In the world of science**, the Doomsday Clock is a symbolic timepiece showing how close the world is to ending.
- **It was created in 1947** by a group of atomic scientists, including Albert Einstein.
- **A Chicago-based non-profit organization** called the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists updates the time annually based on information regarding catastrophic risks to the planet and humanity.
- **The world events are discussed by a board** of scientists and other experts in various fields, including 13 Nobel Laureates, who determine where to place the hands of the clock each year.
- **This is the first time** it has moved since it was set at 100 seconds to midnight in 2020.

CERVAVAC



❖ Context

- SII Launches **India's First Indigenously Made Cervical Cancer Vaccine 'CERVAVAC'**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- **In India, the second most frequent cancer** among women aged 15 to 44 years is cervical cancer.
- Most cervical cancers are caused by the **human papillomavirus**, and are sexually transmitted.
- CERVAVAC has demonstrated a robust antibody **response against all targeted HPV types and in all dose and age groups**.
- **HPV vaccines protect** against infection caused by human papillomaviruses (HPV), which represent a **group of more than 200 related viruses**.
- **HPV types can cause certain types of cancer**, namely cervical, oropharyngeal, vulvar, vaginal, penile, and anal cancers.

Face to Face Centres



Jal Jeevan Mission



❖ Context

➤ PM lauded the achievement of 11 Crore Tap water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission.

❖ Components under Jal Jeevan Mission:

- **Development of in-village piped** water supply infrastructure to provide tap water connection to every rural household.
- Development of reliable drinking water sources and **augmentation of existing sources** to provide long-term sustainability of water supply system.
- **Technological interventions** for removal of contaminants where water quality is an issue.
- Retrofitting of completed and ongoing schemes to provide Functional Tap Connection at minimum service level of **55 litre per capita per day**.
- **Greywater management.**
- Support activities, i.e. IEC, HRD, training, development of utilities, water quality laboratories, water quality testing & surveillance, R&D, knowledge centre, capacity building of communities, etc.

Olive Ridley Turtles



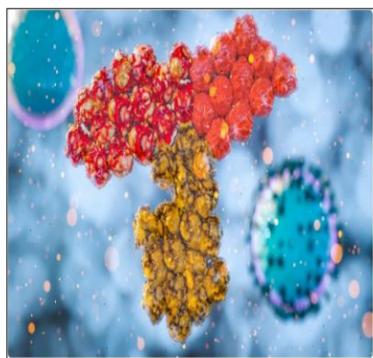
❖ Context

➤ Hundreds of vulnerable Olive Ridley Turtles have washed ashore along the coastline between **Kakinada and Antarvedi in the Godavari region** during the ongoing annual breeding season on the east coast.

❖ About Olive Ridley Turtles:

- **Scientific Name-** Lepidochelys Olivacea.
- They are the **smallest and most abundant** of all sea turtles found in the world.
- They are **carnivores and get their name from their olive colored carapace.**
- They are best **known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada**, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.
- They can be **found in warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans and the Odisha's Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary** is known as the world's largest rookery (colony of breeding animals) of sea turtles.
- **Conservation Status.**
 - **Wildlife Protection Act,1972- Schedule 1.**
 - **CITES- Appendix I.**

Immune Imprinting



❖ Context

➤ Recently, Studies found that 'immune imprinting' might be making bivalent boosters less effective.

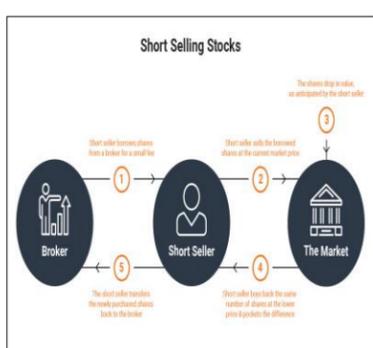
❖ Key Highlights:

- Countries like the UK and the US have rolled out variant-specific or bivalent boosters.
- They hoped that they would provide better protection against the coronavirus infection in comparison to the original vaccine.

❖ Immune Imprinting:

- Immune imprinting is a **tendency of the body to repeat its immune response based on the first variant it encountered** — through infection or vaccination — when it comes across a newer or slightly different variant of the same pathogen.
- Over the years, scientists have realised that imprinting acts as a database for the immune system, helping it put up a better response to repeat infections.

Short Selling



❖ Context

➤ Short seller Hindenburg Research on January 25 disclosed short positions in Adani Group, alleging stock manipulation and accounting fraud in its latest investigative report.

❖ Short Selling:

- Short selling or shorting, is a **trading strategy based on the expectation that the price of the security will fall.**
- While fundamentally it is based on the **“buy low, sell high”** approach, the sequence of transactions is reversed in short selling — to sell high first and buy low later.
- Also, in short selling, the **trader usually does not own the securities** he sells, but merely borrows them.

Face to Face Centres



Prohibiting Lawyers from Advertising their Work in India



❖ Context

- Recently, The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) condemned business magazine Forbes India's decision to publish a 'Legal Powerlist' of the top 25 Advocates-on-Record.

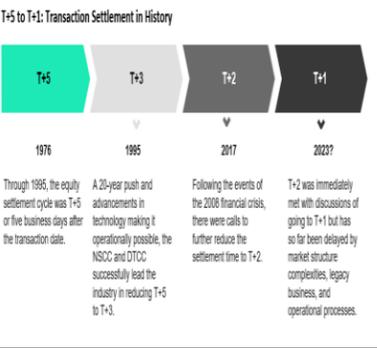
❖ Key Highlights:

- The SCAORA unanimously passed a resolution denouncing the list as "misleading" and "unauthorized information".
- SCAORA said the list was a "clear case of misrepresentation", and undermined the interests of Supreme Court AORs.

❖ Law on Lawyers Advertising their Work:

- In India, lawyers and legal practitioners are not allowed to advertise their work.
- **Section 49(1)(c) of the Advocates Act, 1961.**
 - It empowers the Bar Council of India (BCI) to make rules with respect to "the standard of professional conduct and etiquette to be observed by advocates".
- **Rule 36 in Chapter II** ("Standards of Professional Conduct and Etiquette") of **Part VI** ("Rules Governing Advocates") of the BCI Rules published in 1975 prohibits lawyers from advertising their work.
- An advocate who violates this rule can face punishment for professional or other misconduct under Section 35 of the Advocates Act.

T+1 Settlement Cycle



❖ Context

- After China, India will become the second country in the world to start the 'trade-plus-one' (T+1) settlement cycle in top listed securities from January 27, 2023.

❖ Key Highlights:

- As many as 256 large cap and top mid-cap stocks, including Nifty and Sensex stocks, will come under the T+1 settlement from 27 Jan.
- The United States, United Kingdom and Eurozone markets are yet to move to the T+1 system.

❖ About T+1 Settlement Cycle:

- T+1 means that **trade-related settlements must be done within one day** of the transaction's completion.
- Trades on Indian stock exchanges are **currently settled in two working days** after the transaction is completed (T+2).
- For example, if you buy shares on Wednesday, they will be credited to your Demat account by the next day, which is Thursday.
 - Till now they were getting settled on Friday.
- **Benefits**
 - **T+1 settlement system will shorten the settlement cycle** which will reduce the risk of default and will **increase the liquidity** in the market with availability of funds.
 - It brings **operational efficiency, faster fund remittances, share delivery, and ease for stock market participants.**

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