



Decline in Counterfeit Notes

❖ Context

- Recently, the Ministry of finance has informed Lok Sabha that the value of counterfeit currency in the banking system reduced from Rs 43.47 crore in 2016-17 to about Rs 8.26 crore in 2021-22.

❖ What is Counterfeiting Money?

- **Counterfeiting**, manufacture of false money for gain, a kind of forgery in that something is copied so as to defraud by passing it for the original or genuine article.
- Because of the value conferred on money and the high level of technical skill required to imitate it, counterfeiting is singled out from other acts of forgery and is treated as a separate crime.

❖ Measures Taken

- A **Terror Funding and Fake Currency Cell** in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been constituted to conduct a focused investigation of terror funding & fake currency cases.

- The government has set up a **Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) Coordination Group** to share intelligence and information with the security agencies in the States and the Centre.
- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** has been signed between India and Bangladesh to prevent and counter smuggling and circulation of fake currency notes. **Training programmes** are held for the police officers of Nepal & Bangladesh to sensitise them about the smuggling/counterfeiting of Indian currency.

Ex Vajra Prahar 2022

❖ Context

- The 13th Edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise **“Ex Vajra Prahar 2022”** commenced at the Special Forces Training School at Bakloh of Himachal Pradesh recently.



India, US Carry Out Joint Military Drill Vajra Prahar in Himachal Pradesh

❖ Key Highlights

- It aims to share best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics as also to improve inter-operability between the Special Forces of both the Nations.
- This annual exercise is hosted alternatively between India and the United States.

- During the exercise, teams of both armies would jointly train,
 - plan and execute a series of Special Operations,
 - Counter Terrorist Operations,
 - Air Borne operations in simulated conventional and unconventional scenarios in mountainous terrain.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

❖ Context

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has, for the first time in its 80-year-old history, appointed a woman Director-General.



❖ About CSIR

- Established in 1942, CSIR is an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Science and Technology** and the largest research and development (R&D) organization in India.
- CSIR has a dynamic network of 37 national laboratories, 39 outreach centres, 3 Innovation Complexes, and five units with a pan-India presence.
- CSIR has a patent portfolio of 1,132 unique patents in force, out of which 140 patents have been commercialized.

- CSIR covers a wide spectrum of science and technology - from oceanography, geophysics, chemicals, drugs, genomics, biotechnology and nanotechnology to mining, aeronautics, instrumentation, environmental engineering and information technology.
- CSIR is ranked **37th among 1587** government institutions worldwide and is the only Indian organization among the top **100 global government institutions**.
- CSIR holds the **7th rank** in Asia and leads the country at the first position.
- **CSIR's mission** is “to build a new CSIR for a new India”.

Peninsular Rock Agama

❖ Context

- Habitat loss and rapid urbanisation have affected the presence of the animal in urban centres.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Peninsular Rock Agama (*Psammophilus dorsalis*) which is a type of garden lizard has a strong presence in southern India.
- They are found mainly in rocky places and warm spots.

- This lizard is a large animal, strikingly coloured in orange and black.
- They do not generate their own body heat, so they need to seek warmth from external sources like a warm rock or a sunny spot on the wall.

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❖ Ecological Importance

- They are important in ecology from different aspects - they can indicate which parts of the city are warming, and their numbers show how the food web is changing.
- **IUCN Status: Least Concern.**

Porcupine Strategy

❖ Context

- China has extended its aggressive and unprecedented military exercises near Taiwan.

❖ Key Highlights

- Porcupine strategy is the strategy of **asymmetric warfare** to be adopted by Taiwan in case China attempts to occupy it by force.
- The doctrine was proposed in 2008 by US Naval War College research professor **William S Murray**.
- It is about building defences that would ensure that Taiwan could be attacked and damaged but not defeated, at least without unacceptably high costs and risks.

- The approach has three defensive layers :

- **Outer layer:** Intelligence and Reconnaissance.
- **Middle layer:** Guerilla warfare at sea with aerial support from sophisticated aircraft provided by the US.
- **Inner layer:** Islands mountainous topography and urbanised environment that will give advantage to defenders.

RBI's Surveys

❖ Context

- RBI recently released seven surveys which are conducted regularly to understand the status of working of different components of the economy .

❖ Consumer Confidence Survey

- 6000 people across 19 cities are asked about their current perceptions and one-year ahead expectations on general economic situations like income, price, income, spending etc.

❖ Inflation Expectations Survey

- It tracks people's expectations of inflation.
- If inflation is controlled quickly, it can lead people into the habit of expecting high inflation.

❖ OBICUS Survey

- OBICUS stands for Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey.
- It covers 765 manufacturing companies to provide a snapshot of demand conditions in the manufacturing sector.

- A low level of capacity utilisation implies that firms can meet existing demand without needing to boost production.

❖ Industrial Outlook Survey

- It tries to track the sentiments of businesses.

❖ Services and Infrastructure Outlook Survey

- It tracks expectations of 750 Indian companies in the services and infrastructure sector related to demand conditions, price situation & other business conditions.

❖ Bank Lending Survey

- It captures qualitative assessment & expectation of major scheduled commercial banks on credit parameters

❖ Survey of Professional Forecasters

- 42 professionals outside RBI give opinions on key macroeconomic indicators.

Beach Nourishment

❖ Context

- The process is being suggested by experts as a long term permanent solution for coastal conservation at **Chellanam** which is a coastal village in Kerala's Ernakulam district.



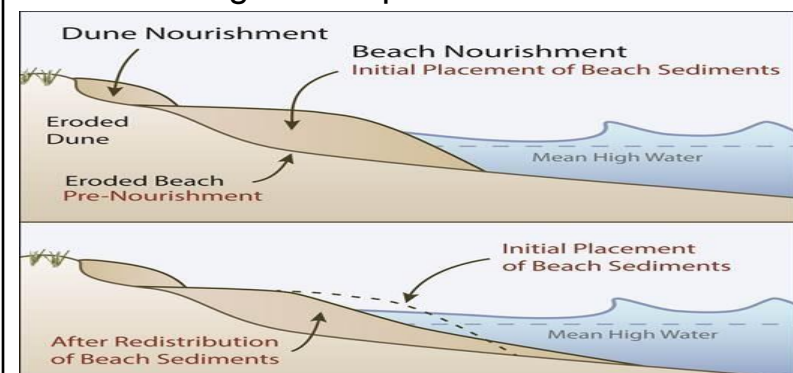
❖ Background

- The conventional sea wall had failed to check **sea ingress** during monsoon and cyclones resulting in massive ruin, destruction and displacement of people.
- **Coastal erosion** intensifies after occurrence of every cyclone.
- The state government initiated a project to construct a **tetrapod-based seawall**, to check sea ingress and provide relief to the inhabitants.

❖ What is Beach nourishment?

- Beach nourishment, or **beach filling**, is the practice of adding large quantities of sand or sediment to beaches to combat erosion and increase beach width.

- It is also referred to as a "**soft armoring**" technique, in contrast with hard armoring techniques like seawalls.

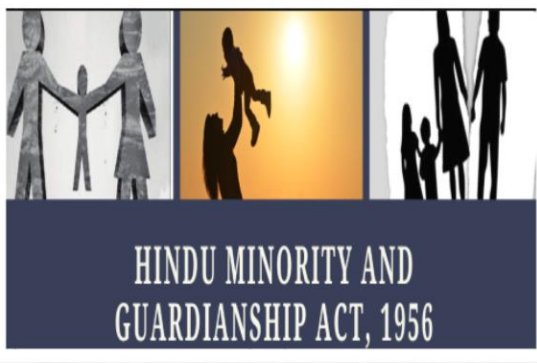


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News in Between the Lines

Hindu Minority & Guardianship Act, 1956



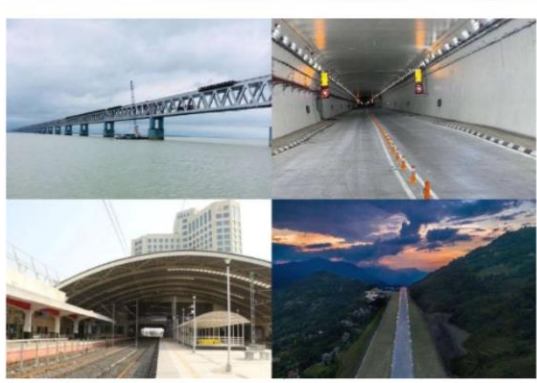
❖ Context

➤ The department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, in its report 'Review of Guardianship and Adoption Laws' has recommended that the Act should be amended.

❖ Key Highlights

Current provisions	What did the committee say?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 6 : In the case of a Hindu minor boy and a Hindu minor unmarried girl, the father is the natural guardian and 'after' him the mother. Section 7 : The natural guardianship of an adopted son, who is a minor, passes on adoption to the adopted father and 'after' him to the adoptive mother. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Act gives preference to father over mother. It does not recognise the mother as the guardian of the minor legitimate child unless the father is deceased or is found unfit. It goes against the right to equality and right against discrimination envisaged under Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution. The Act does not provide for joint guardianship. A mother and father should have equal rights as guardians of their children.

Indicative Value



❖ Context

➤ In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance has said that the indicative value of assets envisaged to be monetised under NMP during FY22-23 is ₹1,62,422 crore.

❖ Key Highlights

- The indicative value refers to the value expected to be realised via the monetisation process, either in the form of accruals or by way of private sector investment.
- The Centre had last year announced a ₹6 lakh-crore **National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** to unlock value in infrastructure assets across sectors such as power to road and railways in four years till 2025.
- The sectors identified under the NMP include roads, ports, airports, railways, warehousing, gas & product pipelines, power generation and transmission, mining, telecom, stadium and urban real estate.

Housing scheme for Transpersons



❖ Context

➤ In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, **Maharashtra** is planning to reserve some flats for the transgender community in a housing project in Nagpur.

❖ Key Highlights

- A housing scheme reserved for transpersons will also mean that in case of resale of the flat, it will have to be sold to another transgender individual.
- Accommodation is one of the major problems faced by transpersons as nobody gives them a home or rents a place.

NRC



❖ Context

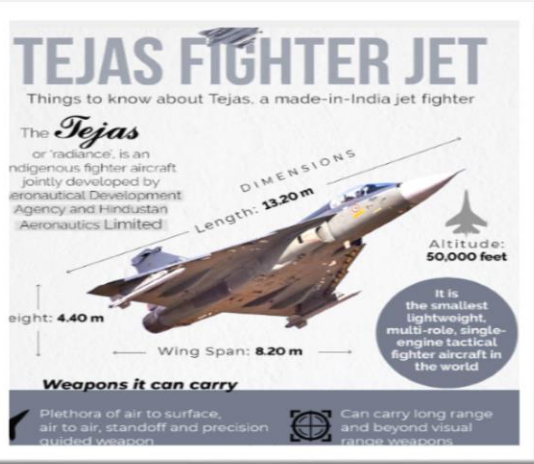
➤ The **Manipur Assembly** resolved to implement the **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** and establish a **State Population Commission (SPC)**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Meiteis and the Nagas of Manipur claim that an NRC is necessary because the political crisis in neighbouring Myanmar has forced hundreds of people into the State from across its 398-km international border.
- According to the pro-NRC groups, following communities are outsiders:
 - Kuki-Chin communities**, ethnically related to the Kuki-Zomi people.
 - Bangladeshis** and Muslims from Myanmar who have occupied the constituency of Jiribam and scattered in the valley areas
 - Nepalis** (Gurkhas).

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Tejas Jets



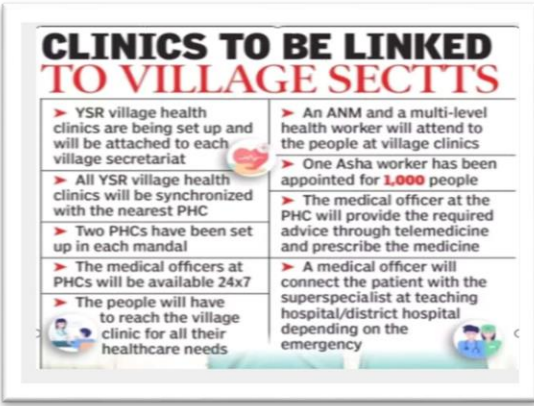
❖ Context

- Recently India has offered to sell 18 light-combat aircraft (LCA) "Tejas" to Malaysia.
- Other countries which have shown interest in the LCA aircraft are: Argentina, Australia, Egypt, USA, Indonesia, and Philippines.

❖ About Tejas

- In 1984, the Government of India established Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under the aegis of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to manage the LCA programme.
- It is being manufactured by State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Tejas is the smallest lightweight, multi-role, single-engine tactical fighter aircraft in the world. It replaced the ageing MIG 21 fighter planes.
- Designed to carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided, weapons.

AP Government to Launch Family Physician at PHCs



❖ Context

- The **Andhra Pradesh** government will launch 'Family Physicians' programme in government hospitals from August 15, 2022.

❖ Key Highlights

- As per the guidelines framed by the State govt, Primary Health Centres (PHCs) will work in synergy with the village secretariats & the doctors working at PHCs will act as family doctors.
- The two doctors, who are available at each PHC will take turns to make themselves available at the village secretariats in the afternoon at a specified time. They will also be provided with dedicated mobile phones the numbers of which will be displayed at the village secretariats for emergencies.
- A mobile team of doctors will also be made available in the villages with the help of **104** vehicles, as per the guidelines.

Seekho Aur Kamao Scheme



❖ Context

- Recently the 'Seekho Aur Kamao' scheme has met its target of earmarking **thirty three percent** of the total trained beneficiaries for female beneficiaries.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is a placement-linked skill development scheme for minorities which aims to upgrade the skills of minority youth (in the age group of 14-45 years) in various modern/ traditional skills. The training is implemented in various trades including those on computer and information technology related courses.
- The minimum qualification of trainee should be at least Class V.
- Post placement support of Rs. 2000/- per month is provided to placed trainees for two months as placement assistance.
- **Implementing Agency:** This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) through selected **Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs)**.

HIM- DRONE-A-THON



❖ Context

- The Indian Army in collaboration with **the Drone Federation of India** has launched the 'Him Drone-a-thon' programme recently.

❖ Key Highlights

- This initiative is in line with Atmanirbharta in defence manufacturing.
- Its main aim is to **catalyse and provide focused opportunities** to the Indian drone ecosystem to develop path-breaking drone capabilities for meeting requirements of frontline troops.
- The '**Him Drone-a-thon**' programme is pan India sustained connect between all stake holders including industry, academia, software developers and drone product manufacturers.
- It will be conducted in stages with quantifiable parameters (like altitude, weight, range, endurance etc) being progressively enhanced based on demonstrated capabilities.



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