



Global Programme to End Child Marriage

❖ Context

- A team of the steering committee of the UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme to end child marriage is presently visiting the country.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is a joint initiative of the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** and the **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)** launched in 2016.
- Its aim is to tackle child marriage in 12 of the most high-prevalence or high-burden countries: **Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.**
- It is designed with a focus on promoting the rights of adolescents to delay marriage.
- The programme is currently in its second phase (2020-2023).

❖ About UNFPA

- It is a **subsidiary organ** of the United Nations General Assembly.
- It receives overall policy guidance from the General Assembly and Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC).
- **Founded in 1969**, its headquarter is in New York.

❖ About UNICEF

- **Founded in 1946**, its headquarter is in New York.
- Its parent organisations are the UN General Assembly and UN Economic & Social Council.
- It is governed by a 36-member executive board made up of government representatives elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council, usually for three-year terms.
- ❖ **Status of Child marriages in India and fall out of COVID**
 - **India has seen a steady decline** in the prevalence of child marriage, from 47.4% in 2005 to 23.3% in 2021.
 - The progress in India has led to a 50% decline in child marriage in South Asia.
 - However, the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to roll back the gains made so far.
 - The health, social, political and economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have worsened existing systemic gender inequalities.
 - Estimates indicate up to 10 million more girls could become child brides globally as a result of the pandemic.

Ethanol Blended Programme

❖ Context

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved higher ethanol prices derived from different sugarcane based raw materials under the EBP Programme for the forthcoming sugar season 2022-23 from **1st December 2022 to 31st October, 2023.**



❖ Key Highlights

- It has also been decided to redefine Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) as a period of ethanol supply from 1st November of a year to 31st October of the following year from 1st November, 2023 onwards.
- Additionally, Goods and Services Tax (GST) and transportation charges are also payable.

❖ About the programme

- It is administered by the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.**
- The programme was launched in **2003.**
- The government has notified the administered price of ethanol since 2014.
- Under the programme, OMCs sell petrol blended with ethanol up to 10%.
- This programme has been extended to the **whole of India except Union Territories of Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands** with effect from 01st April, 2019.

- For the first time during 2018, the differential price of ethanol based on feedstock utilised for ethanol production was announced by the Government.



- The government had slashed the GST rate on ethanol meant for blending to **5 %** from 18% in 2021.
- **The target of 10% ethanol blended petrol has been achieved in June 2022, ahead of the original schedule of November 2022.**
- The government has, thus, advanced the target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol from earlier 2030 to ESY 2025-26.

Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR)

❖ Context

- Recently, Secretary of Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) said **e-NWR are going to play a critical role in the transformation of India** and rural India in particular.



Face to Face Centres



❖ e-NWR

- **About :** NWR system was launched in 2011.
 - It allows the **transfer of ownership of a commodity** stored in a warehouse without having to deliver it physically.
 - These receipts are **issued in negotiable form**, making them **eligible as collateral**.
 - This has been enabled by enabling the **financing of warehouse receipts** through the **Warehouse (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007**.
 - The Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) regulates the entire operation under NWR.
- **Salient Features :**
 - An e-NWR is **available only in electronic form**.
 - The single source of information for the e-NWR is the **repository system** where e-NWR is issued by registered warehouses.
 - **Confidentiality, integrity and availability** of the e-NWR information is provided by the Repository system.
 - An e-NWR has **time validity**.
 - All e-NWRs can be **traded through off-market or on-market** in Commodity Exchanges platforms.
 - An e-NWR can be **auctioned under certain conditions** such as loan not repaid, on expiry and delivery not taken, and on likely damage or spoilage of the commodity in the warehouse.
 - e-NWR can be transferred fully or in part.
- **Benefits :** Avoidance of forgery/loss/tamper/mutilation of a physical NWR.
 - Avoidance of **multiple financing** against the same NWR.



- **Reduction of monitoring costs** and building credibility amongst market participants.
- **Market participants** to have secured accessibility to view and manage their warehouse receipts via online portal.
- **Easy access to finance** by enabling multiple transfers without physical movement of goods.
- **Splitting of NWRs** for partial sale/pledge/withdrawal.
- **Significance :** It will **help farmers/FPOs** to have **access to a large number of buyers** across the country.
 - It will help them get **better bargaining powers** and realise **higher prices** by selling graded produce.
 - It will provide them with the **facility to get their prices quoted** and **receive immediate payment**, besides avoiding distress sales by helping them get loans from banks against warehouse receipts.

One Nation, One ITR Form

❖ Context

- Recently, The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has proposed a **single income tax return (ITR)** form for all taxpayers.



❖ Existing Types of Form

- **ITR Form 1 (Sahaj) :**
 - It is for small and medium taxpayers.
 - Sahaj forms can be filed by individuals who have an income up to Rs 50 lakh, with earnings from salary, one house property/ other sources (interest etc).
- **ITR-2 :** It is filed by people with income from residential property.
- **ITR-3 :** It is intended for people who have income as profits from business/profession.
- **ITR-4 (Sugam) :** It is, like ITR-1 (Sahaj), a simple forms, and can be filed by individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and firms with total income up to Rs 50 lakh from business and profession.

- **ITR-5 and 6** are for **limited liability partnerships (LLPs)** and businesses respectively.
- **ITR-7** is filed by trusts and non-profit organisations.
- **Significance of the Proposal :**
 - The proposed draft ITR takes a relook at the return filing system **in tandem with international best practices**.
 - The draft form make it **easier to file returns**, and **considerably reduce the time taken** for the job by individuals and non-business-type taxpayers.
- ❖ **About CBDT**
 - It is a **statutory authority** functioning under the **Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963**.
 - It is a part of the **Department of Revenue** in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
 - CBDT consists of a **Chairman and six Members**.
 - It is India's official **Financial Action Task Force unit**.
 - It provides essential **inputs for policy** and planning of direct taxes in India and is also responsible for administration of the direct tax laws through Income Tax Department.

Face to Face Centres



Kashmir Saffron

❖ Context

- Recently, the **tourism department of Kashmir** had invited students and local farmers to join the saffron festival organized in Ladoo area to highlight the whole process of saffron cultivation.



❖ Kashmir Saffron

- **About** : Kashmir saffron is **cultivated and harvested in the Karewa** (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - It was given the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2020**.
 - **Iran is the largest producer** of saffron and India is a close competitor. It is the **only saffron in the world grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m AMSL** (above mean sea level).
 - The **National Mission on Saffron** is focused on several measures to improve its farming.
 - The saffron available in Kashmir is of three types-
 - Lachha Saffron, Mongra Saffron, Guchhi Saffron.

- **Characteristics** : Longer and thicker stigmas, natural deep-red color, high aroma, bitter flavor, chemical-free processing, and high quantity of crocin (coloring strength), safranal (flavor) and picrocrocin (bitterness).
- **Usage** : Kashmir saffron is renowned globally as a **spice**.
 - It rejuvenates **health** and is used in **cosmetics** and for **medicinal** purposes.

Lab Grown Diamonds

❖ Context

- Recently, the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry **appreciated the Gujarat Government** for spearheading several wide-ranging initiatives to promote the **Lab Grown Diamonds Sector**.



❖ About Lab Grown Diamond

- Lab-made diamonds are **developed from a carbon seed placed in a microwave chamber** and superheated into a glowing plasma ball.
- The **process creates particles that crystallize into diamonds** in weeks.
- The only difference between lab-grown diamond and natural diamond is that instead of digging the earth, **it is created in a lab under a machine**.
- There are **two types** of lab-grown diamonds - **CVD and HPHT**.

- **India particularly specializes** and leads in the chemical vapour decomposition (**CVD**) technology that is certified as the **purest type of diamonds**.
- **Significance** : This tech-based manufacturing directly **cuts down the capital and labour-intensive factors** of the mined diamond chain.
- **Govt Efforts** : **100% foreign direct investment (FDI)** allowed in the sector under the automatic route.
 - Further, according to Budget 2019-20, the **GST rate has been reduced** from 18% to 5%.
- **Side Note** : **Nine out of 10 diamonds** in the world are estimated to be polished in **Surat**.

News in Between the Lines

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)



❖ Context

- Recently, The **SCO Member States** confirmed their commitment to the formation of a more representative, democratic, just and multipolar world order based on universally recognized principles of international law and multilateralism.

❖ About SCO

- It is a Eurasian **political, economic and military organization**.
- It was preceded by the **Shanghai Five mechanism (1996)** formed by the leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.
- It was rechristened as the SCO in 2001.
- The SCO **entered into force on 19 September 2003**.
- SCO **covers 40 percent of the global population**.
- The SCO's **official languages are Russian and Chinese**.
- **Aims** :
 - Security-related concerns, Resolving border issues, Military cooperation, Intelligence sharing, Countering terrorism and Countering American influence in Central Asia.
- **Members** : China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Face to Face Centres

Senna Spectabilis



❖ Context

- An invasive species, *Senna spectabilis*, has taken over between 800 hectares and 1,200 hectares of the buffer zones of the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The species is an exotic tree introduced as an **ornamental species** and for use as firewood.
- It is a **medium to large tree from tropical America**, listed in the Global Compendium of Weeds as an 'environmental weed', 'garden thug', and 'naturalised weed'. The species has become highly invasive in the **Sigur plateau** in both the core and buffer zones of the MTR.
- The species, along with **Lantana camara**, is among five major invasive weeds that had taken over vast swathes of the Nilgiris, with **wattle** being the other major invasive species.
- **Eucalyptus and pine**, though exotic, do not spread as quickly as the other species and are considered easier to manage by the forest officials.

❖ About MTR

- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is located in the **Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu** state at the tri-junction of three states, viz, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- It forms **part of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve**.
- The name Mudumalai means " **the ancient hill range**" as it is as old as 65 million years when Western Ghats were formed.

Women Friendly Tourism Project



❖ Context

- In a first such initiative among states, **Kerala** launched the project.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is launched under the state's **Responsible Tourism (RT) Mission**.
- It aims to become a women friendly tourism destination.
- The project aims to ensure safe and hygienic places for women tourists. **UN Women** will sign an MoU with the RT Mission regarding gender-inclusive tourism.

Niveshak Didi



❖ Context

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** conducted **India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp** with an initiative called '**Niveshak Didi**' in **Srinagar, J&K**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The initiative to promote Financial Literacy "**By the women, for the women**" concept has been launched by IPPB in collaboration with **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)**. Established in 2016, IEPFA works under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

❖ About IPPB

- It was launched on **1 Sept 2018**. The pilot project was launched in 2017 in Ranchi (Jharkhand) and Raipur (Chhattisgarh).
- It is a payment bank that has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with **100% equity owned by the Government of India**. It has been included under the **Second Schedule of RBI Act 1934**.

Donyi Polo Airport



❖ Context

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the naming of the new Greenfield Airport at **Hollongi, Itanagar**, as "**Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar**".

❖ Key Highlights

- The resolution was passed by the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh to name the airport '**Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar**'.
- The Donyi Polo Airport will be the third operational airport for Arunachal Pradesh, taking the total airport count in the North-East region to 16.
- **Other 15 airports in the northeast region are** : Guwahati, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Tezpur, Rupsi and Lilalabari (Assam), Tezu and Pasighat (Arunachal Pradesh), Agartala (Tripura), Imphal (Manipur), Shillong (Meghalaya), Dimapur (Nagaland), Lengpui (Mizoram) and Pakyong (Sikkim).

[Daily Current Affairs](#)

[Daily Pre PARE](#) [Daily MCQ Quiz](#)

Face to Face Centres

DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | **LAXMI NAGAR:** 9205212500, 9205962002 | **RAJENDRA NAGAR:** 9205274743 | **UTTAR PRADESH PRAYAGRAJ:** 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | **LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ):** 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | **LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR):** 7234000501, 7234000502 | **GREATER NOIDA:** 9205336037, 38 | **KANPUR:** 7887003962, 7897003962 | **GORAKHPUR:** 7080847474, 9161947474 | **ODISHA BHUBANESWAR:** 9818244644/7656949029

