



## Executive Action Plan of Early Warnings for All

### ❖ Context

- The WMO released the Executive Action Plan of Early Warnings for All during a roundtable meeting at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27).

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The plan is to develop a **global early warning system** for extreme weather events intensified by climate change.
- The **initial investment** for delivering early warning systems for all **by 2027 will be nearly \$3.1 billion.**
- It is equivalent to a comparatively modest 50 cents (approximately Rs 41) per person per year.
- Initial investments of \$3.1 billion will be required in the **four pillars of the early warning system** :
  - Disaster risk knowledge.
  - Observations and forecasting.
  - Preparedness and response.
  - Communication of early warnings.

<p><b>Disaster risk knowledge</b> Systematically collect data and undertake risk assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the hazards and the vulnerabilities well known by the communities?</li> <li>• What are the patterns and trends in these factors?</li> <li>• Are risk maps and data widely available?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Detection, observations, monitoring, analysis and forecasting of hazards</b> Develop hazard monitoring and early warning services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the right parameters being monitored?</li> <li>• Is there a sound scientific basis for making forecasts?</li> <li>• Can accurate and timely warnings be generated?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Preparedness and response capabilities</b> Build national and community response capabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are response plans up to date and tested?</li> <li>• Are local capacities and knowledge made use of?</li> <li>• Are people prepared and ready to react to warnings?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Warning dissemination and communication</b> Communicate risk information and early warnings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do warnings reach all of those at risk?</li> <li>• Are the risks and warnings understood?</li> <li>• Is the warning information clear and usable?</li> </ul>

- Currently, Early warning systems have still not reached 33 percent of the global population, mainly in the least developed countries and small island developing states.
- Last year, CDRI, an international organisation formed three years ago with India's backing, had come up with a similar plan called **IRIS, or Infrastructure for Resilient Indian states.**
- ❖ **About WMO**
  - The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** is an **intergovernmental organisation** with a membership of 193 Member States and Territories.
  - It originated from the **International Meteorological Organization (IMO)**, the roots of which were planted at the 1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress.
  - It was **established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23 March 1950.**
  - It is the international standardisation organisation in the fields of meteorology, hydrology, climatology and related environmental disciplines.
  - WMO became the **specialised agency of the United Nations** for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences a year later.
  - The **Secretariat, headquartered in Geneva**, is headed by the Secretary-General.
  - Its supreme body is the World Meteorological Congress.

## International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA)

### ❖ Context

- IDRA has been launched at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27).



### ❖ Key Highlights

- The IDRA was first announced by **Spain** at the **77th session of the UN General Assembly** in September 2022, to be officially launched at the UNFCCC.
- **The 30 nations alliance is led by Spain and Senegal.**
- It aims to shift drought management from emergency response to resilience against climate change impacts.
- The mission of the alliance is to give political impetus to **make the land's resilience to drought and climate change a reality by 2030.**

### ❖ Significance of the Alliance

- The alliance is significant as **there is no global convention for land, other than UNCCD**, which mostly focuses on desertification.
- The alliance is now being seen as a **'specific solution'** for the United Nations to the impacts of climate change.
- According to the latest 'Drought in Numbers' report compiled by the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**, Droughts have increased in frequency by 29 per cent since 2000, with around 55 million people affected every year.
- Europe, the United States, Australia, Chile, the Horn and southern Africa faced drought conditions in 2022.

## National Company Law Tribunal

### ❖ Context

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of nine Judicial Members and six Technical Members to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).



### Face to Face Centres



## ❖ Key Highlights

- The Central Government had constituted National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under **section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013** (18 of 2013) w.e.f. 01st June 2016.
- It is a **quasi-judicial authority** incorporated for dealing with **corporate disputes** that are of **civil nature** arising under the Companies Act.
- It had been set up based on the recommendation of the **V. Balakrishna Eradi committee** on law relating to the insolvency and the winding up of companies.
- Currently, there are **sixteen benches** of NCLT across the country with the principal bench at New Delhi.

## ❖ Composition

- These Benches are headed by the President and as many Judicial & Technical members as deemed necessary.
- As per provisions of the Act, each bench should compose of one Judicial and one technical member.
- Currently, there are sixteen Judicial Members and nine Technical Members at different locations.

- **The President of the Tribunal is appointed by the Central Government after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.**
- The Members are to be appointed by the Central Government on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.
- **Members are appointed for a period of five years or until they attain the age of 65 years.**

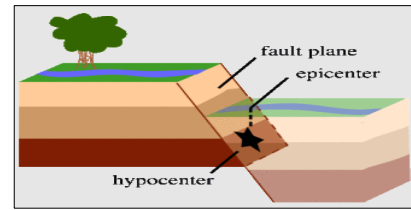
## ❖ Powers & Functions

- It adjudicates proceedings which are :
  - Initiated before the **Company Law Board** under the previous act (the Companies Act 1956).
  - Pending before the **Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)**, including those pending under the **Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985**.
  - Pending before the **Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction**.
  - Pertaining to claims of **oppression and mismanagement of a company**, winding up of companies and all other powers prescribed under the Companies Act.

## Earthquake

### ❖ Context

- Recently, severe tremors induced by a strong **magnitude-6.2 earthquake** in Nepal were felt in and around Delhi.



### ❖ Earthquakes

#### • About :

- An earthquake is the **shaking of the surface of the Earth**.
- It results from the sudden release of energy in the Earth's lithosphere that creates seismic waves.
- Earthquake is the **form of energy** of wave motion transmitted through the surface layer of the earth.

#### • Cause :

- According to the **theory of plate tectonics**, the Earth's crust and upper mantle are made of large rigid plates that can move relative to one another.
- **Slips on faults** near the plate boundaries can result in earthquakes.

#### • Focus and Epicenter :

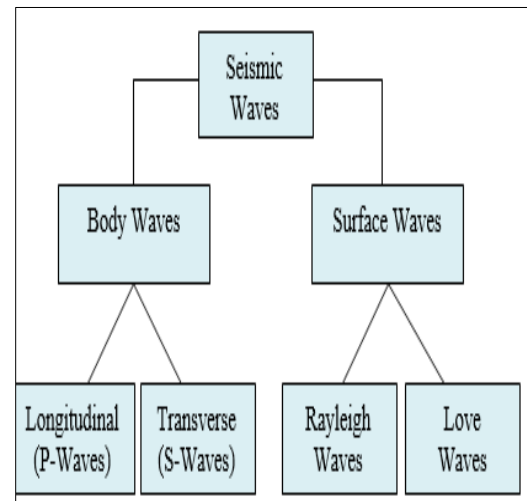
- The point inside the Earth where the **earthquake rupture starts** is called the focus or hypocentre.
- The point **directly above it** on the surface of the Earth is the epicenter.

#### • Seismic Waves :

- Seismic waves are the waves of energy **caused by the sudden breaking of rock within the earth**.
- They are the energy that **travels through the earth** and is recorded on seismographs.
- The **two main types** of waves are body waves and surface waves.

#### • Body Waves : These waves **travel into the body of the earth**.

- These waves are somewhat like **sound waves**.
- These are **faster than surface waves**.
- **P-waves :** **Move faster** and are first to arrive at the surface.
  - Travel through **gaseous, liquid, and solid materials**.
  - High frequency and are the **least destructive**.
- **S-waves :** Arrive at the surface with some lag.
  - Travel only through **solid materials**.



#### • Surface Waves :

- When the body waves interact with surface rocks, a **new set of waves is generated called surface waves**.
- These waves **move along the earth's surface**.
- Surface waves are also **transverse waves** in which particle movement is perpendicular to the wave propagation.
- They are similar to waves on the **water surface**.
- They are **last to report on seismographs**.
- These waves are **more destructive**.

## Face to Face Centres





## G20

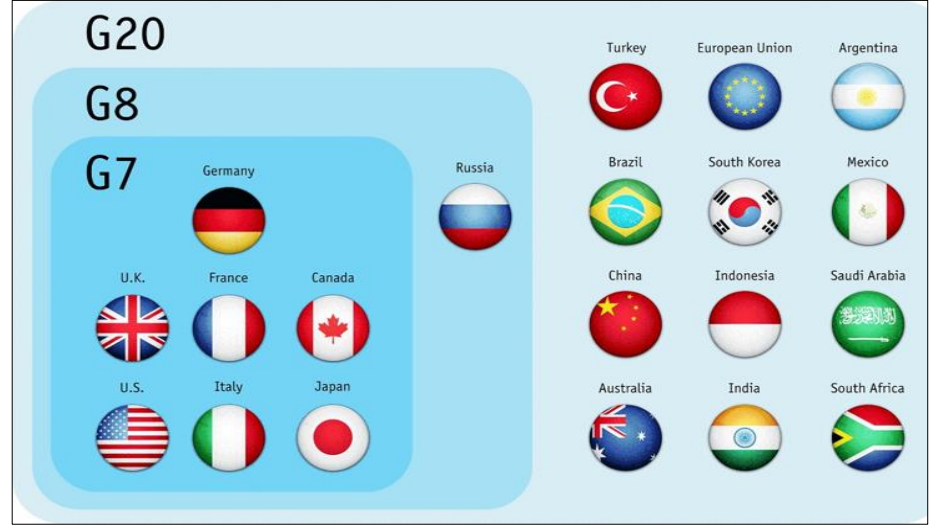
### Context

Recently, Prime Minister of India unveiled the logo, theme and website of India's G20 presidency.

### Key Highlights

- The logo bears a lotus and the message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - One Earth, One Family, One Future'.
- India will assume the presidency of the powerful G20 grouping from the current chair, Indonesia, on December 1, and hold the post for a year.
- About G20 :**
  - The G20 is a **strategic multilateral platform** connecting the world's major developed and emerging economies.
  - The G20 holds a strategic role in **securing future global economic growth and prosperity**.
  - It **started in 1999** as a meeting for the finance minister and central bank governors.
  - Together, the G20 members represent more than **80 percent of world GDP, 75% of international trade and 60 percent of the world population**.
- Meetings :**
  - The G20 has evolved into a **yearly summit involving the Head of State and Government**.
  - The group has **no permanent staff of its own**, so every year in December, a G20 country from a rotating region takes on the presidency.

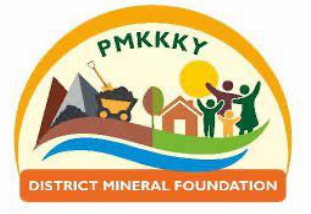
- Functions :** It works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development.
- Membership :** It comprises **19 countries** and the **European Union (EU)**.
  - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.



## Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)

### Context

Out of the 2,52,995 projects sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY), the government has completed 1,33,144 projects so far.



### About PMKKKY

- The Ministry of Mines **launched** Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana in **2015**.
- It was introduced for the **welfare of areas and people affected by mining-related operations**.
- Implementation :**
  - The PMKKKY has been **allied to the District Mineral Foundations (DMF)**, to facilitate the implementation of the scheme.
  - It will be implemented by the DMFs of the respective districts using the funds accruing to the DMF.

- District Mineral Foundation (DMF) has been **constituted in 622 Districts spread across 23 States of India**.
- The **concept of DMF** was introduced through amendment in **Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) MMDR Act, 1957**.
- The Central Government has notified the rates of contribution payable by miners to the DMFs.
- Utilisation of Fund :**
  - High Priority Areas** – at least **60%** of PMKKKY funds to be utilized under these heads i.e. Drinking water supply, Health care, Education, Environment preservation
  - Other Priority Areas** – Up to **40%** i.e. Physical infrastructure, Irrigation, Energy & Watershed Development

## News in Between the Lines

### NASAMS and Apside



### Context

The Ukrainian Defense Minister said that the country had received its first NASAMS (National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System) and Apside air defence systems.

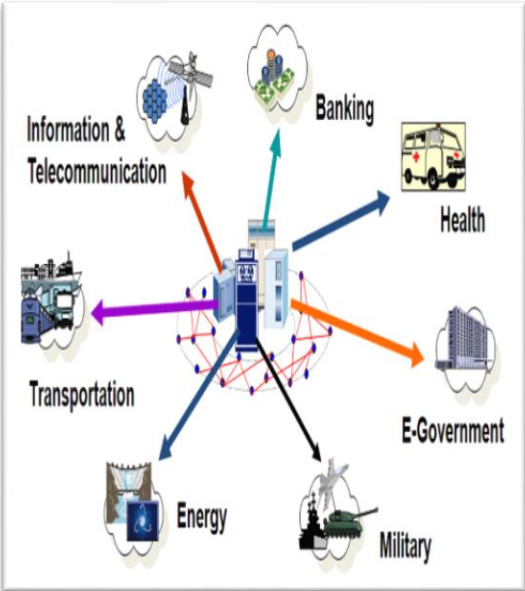
### Key Highlights

- NASAMS is a **short- to medium-range ground-based air defence system developed by Norwegian company Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace (KDA) and American conglomerate Raytheon Technologies**.
- Aspside is an **Italian medium-range anti-aircraft missile system**.

### Face to Face Centres



## Protected Systems



### ❖ Context

- The **websites and applications** related to the decennial Census exercise and the **National Population Register (NPR)** were notified as “protected system” or “Critical Information Infrastructure” under the Information Technology Act.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The notification means that **any tampering or unauthorised access** to the data associated with Census applications, NPR database or the data centres of the Registrar General of India (RGI) **will be punishable by 10 years imprisonment**.
- According to the **Section 70 (1) of the IT Act 2000**, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare any computer resource which directly or indirectly affects the facility of Critical Information Infrastructure, to be a protected system.
- The same section defines **Critical Information Infrastructure** as the computer resource, the incapacitation or destruction of which, shall have debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety.
- The **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)**, created in January 2014, is the nodal agency for taking all measures to protect the nation’s critical information infrastructure.
- NCIIPC is under the administrative control of **National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)** which works under NSA.

## Amended Electoral Bond Scheme



### ❖ Context

- The Finance Ministry amended the electoral bond scheme to grant itself the power to provide an **extra fortnight of bond sales**.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The Finance Ministry introduced a new para that stated: **“An additional period of 15 days shall be specified by the Central government in the year of general elections to the Legislative Assembly of States and Union territories with Legislature.”**
- The scheme was introduced in **2018** as an alternative to cash donations to political parties, issued and encashed solely by the State Bank of India (SBI).
- The government had notified a 10-day window in October for the 22nd tranche of such bonds. Using the new power, the Centre opened a fresh one-week window for issuing such bonds ahead of Gujarat and HP polls.
- The **Electoral Bonds shall be valid for 15 calendar days** from the date of issue and no payment shall be made to any payee political party if the Electoral Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period. **The Electoral Bond deposited by an eligible political party shall be credited on the same day.**

## Mother Tongue Survey of India (MTSI)



### ❖ Context

- Recently, The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** completed the **Mother Tongue Survey of India (MTSI)** with field videography of the country’s 576 languages.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The Mother Tongue Survey of India is a project that **“surveys the mother tongues, which are returned consistently across 2 & more Census decades”**.
- It also **documents the linguistic features** of the selected languages.
- **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** and the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** will be documenting and preserving the linguistic data of the surveyed mother tongues in audio-video files.
- Video-graphed speech data of Mother Tongues will also be uploaded on the NIC survey for archiving purposes.

### ❖ Mother Tongues in India

- As per an analysis of 2011 linguistic census data in 2018, **more than 19,500 languages or dialects are spoken in India** as mother tongues.
- **Hindi** is the most widely spoken mother tongue, with 52.8 crore people or 43.6 per cent of the population.
- The next highest is **Bengali**, 9.7 crore individuals (8 % of the population).

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## Law Commission



### ❖ Context

- Recently, Retired **High Court Chief Justice Rituraj Awasthi** has been **appointed** as the **chairperson of the Law Commission**.

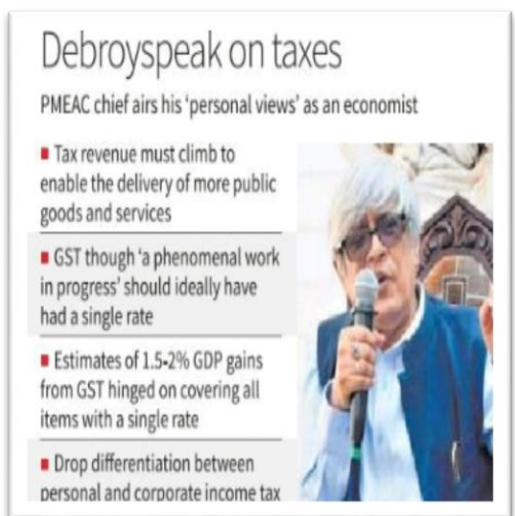
### ❖ Key Highlights

- The appointment comes after more than two years after the **22nd Law Commission** was notified on February 24, 2020.
- The **Law Commission is constituted for three years**.

### ❖ Law Commission

- **About** : The **Law Commission was first constituted in 1955**, and has so far submitted 277 reports.
  - It is a **non-statutory body** that is constituted by a notification of the Government of India.
- **Function** : It carries out research in the field of law.
  - Law Commission of India **provides excellent thought provoking and vital review of the laws in India**
  - The Commission makes recommendations to the Government (in the form of Reports) as per its terms of reference.
- **Composition** : The Commission comprises legal and judicial experts.
  - There is a Chairperson (A retired SC judge or Chief Justice of HC) and other members in the Commission.
  - The Law Secretary and the Secretary (Legislative) under the Law Ministry are ex-officio members.

## Single GST Rate



### ❖ Context

- The Chairman of the **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC)** has called for debate on implementation of **Single GST rate**.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- He highlighted that the **total tax-GDP ratio (Centre and States combined)** comes to **15 per cent** even as the **demands for government spending** on physical and social infrastructure are estimated at about **23% of GDP**.
- There are demands that the government spend 6 per cent on education, 4 per cent on health, 10 per cent on infrastructure, and 3 per cent on defence.
- The Department of Economic Affairs, before the GST rollout, had estimated the **GST revenue neutral rate (RNR)** as **17%**, but the **average GST rate at present is 11.5%**.
- He also suggested that India must at some point agree to move to a completely **exemption-less tax system**, noting that exemptions are making the system complex. The **revenue foregone** by the government because of exemptions is currently about **5 % - 5.5% of GDP**.

## India's First Private Rocket Vikram - S



### ❖ Context

- India's **first private rocket, Vikram-S**, developed by Hyderabad-based **Skyroot Aerospace**, is scheduled to take off from the Indian Space Research Organization's (**ISRO**) **Sriharikota launchpad** between November 12 & 16, 2022.

### ❖ What is Vikram-S?

- Vikram-S, named after **Vikram Sarabhai**, the **Father of the Indian Space Programme**, is a **small-lift launch vehicle** being developed by **Skyroot Aerospace**, an **Indian startup in the aerospace business**.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The mission named '**Prarambh**' (**the beginning**) - since it is the **first mission for Skyroot** - was unveiled by **ISRO Chairman S. Somanath** in Bengaluru after the technical launch clearance from the **space regulator** Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (**IN-SPACe**)
- Skyroot is set to become the **first private space company in India to launch a rocket** into space, **Skyroot CEO and co-founder Pawan Kumar Chandana**.
- Skyroot, a two-time national award winner, is the **first start-up to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **ISRO** in this regard.

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