

East Asia Summit

❖ Context

- Recently, Vice President of India addressed the **East Asia Summit** on the last day of his visit to **Cambodia**, as the 3-day Association of South East Asian Nations (**ASEAN**) summit concluded.



❖ East Asia Summit

- **About :** It started in **2005**.
 - It is an **ASEAN initiative** and refers to the **annual Meeting of Heads of States/Governments** of the member countries, where they are able to discuss common concerns and interests.
- **Members :**
 - **16 participating countries** comprised this grouping.
 - These members were the **10 ASEAN countries, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea**.
 - ASEAN's 10 member countries are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
 - The **United States and the Russian Federation** joined at the 6th East Asia Summit in 2011.



- **Six priority areas of cooperation** were identified :
 - Environment and energy.
 - Education
 - Finance
 - Global health issues and pandemic diseases,
 - Natural disaster management.
 - ASEAN Connectivity.

• EAS Meetings :

- The EAS calendar culminates in the annual Leaders' Summit, which is **usually held alongside ASEAN Leaders' meetings** in the fourth quarter of every year.
- Meetings of EAS Foreign Ministers and Economic Ministers are also held annually.

❖ EAS's links with India

- India is one of the **founding members** of the East Asia Summit.
- This year marks the **30th anniversary** of ASEAN-India relations.
- The deep civilisational linkages, maritime connectivity, and cross-cultural exchanges between Southeast Asia and India which have grown stronger over the last 30 years.

India's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS)

❖ Context

- India has submitted its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), during the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27).

❖ Key Highlights

- According to **Article 4 of the Paris Agreement** - *All Parties should strive to formulate and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.*
- So far, 62 countries have submitted their long-term strategies, including the three largest emitters - China, the United States and the European Union.
- **Four key considerations underpin** India's long-term low-carbon development strategy:
 - India has **contributed little to global warming**, its historical contribution to cumulative global GHG emissions being minuscule despite having a share of ~17% of the world's population.
 - India has **significant energy needs** for development.
 - India is **committed to pursuing low-carbon strategies** for development and is actively pursuing them, as per national circumstances.
 - India **needs to build climate resilience**.
- India has submitted that the two themes of "**climate justice**" and "**sustainable lifestyles**", alongside the principles of CBDR-RC, India had emphasized at Paris, are at the heart of a low-carbon, low-emissions future.

❖ Why it is different from Nationally-determined Contributions (NDCs)

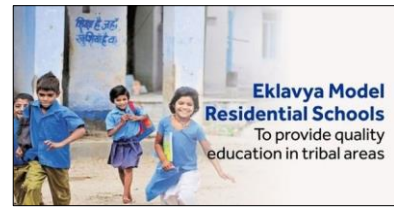
- NDCs contain **specific actions or targets** that have to be achieved by 2030.
- The long-term strategies reveal estimated low-carbon pathways that will lead to a country attaining the **net-zero status, in India's case, by 2070**.

❖ Salient Features of the Strategy

- Rapid expansion of green hydrogen production. The National Hydrogen Mission launched in 2021 aims to make India a green hydrogen hub.
- Increasing electrolyser manufacturing capacity.
- **Three-fold increase in nuclear capacity by 2032**.
- Increased use of biofuels, especially ethanol blending in petrol.
- Increase electric vehicle penetration.
- Strong modal shift to public transport for passenger and freight.
- Carbon sequestration through increased forest cover.



Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)



❖ Context

- The Tribal Affairs Ministry intends to go ahead with its plan to build new **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)**.

❖ Key Highlights

- EMRS will be **built on 15 acres** of land in all sub-districts.
- Sub-districts should have **Scheduled Tribe communities of more than 20,000 people**, who make up at least **50% of their total population**.
- However a Parliamentary panel is saying that this criteria is "impractical".

❖ About EMRS

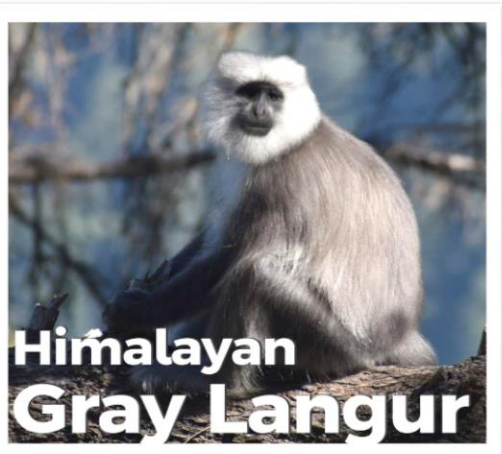
- EMRS are **set up in States/UTs with grants under Article 275(1)** of the Constitution of India.
- It started in the year **1997-98**.
- The scheme is being implemented by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India**.
- The EMR School follows the **CBSE curriculum**.
- **688 EMRSs** have been sanctioned so far, of which **392 are functional**.

• Objectives of EMRS :

- To provide quality middle and high level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas.
- To enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and as jobs in government and public and private sectors.
- To have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non ST population.
- Comprehensive **physical, mental and socially relevant development** of all students enrolled in each and every EMRS.
- Students will be empowered to be **change agent**, beginning in their school, in their homes, in their village and finally in a larger context.
- **Coverage of the Scheme** : As per the budget 2018-19, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an Eklavya Model Residential School by the year 2022.

News in Between the Lines

Himalayan Gray Langur



❖ Context

- Differences in altitude make a primate species in the same Himalayan habitat choose between flowers and fruits as food options beyond their staple menu of leaves, a new study has revealed.

❖ Himalayan Gray Langur

- **About :**
 - The Himalayan Gray Langur or the Chamba Sacred Langur (**Semnopithecus ajax**) is a colobine, meaning leaf-eating monkey.
 - They are Old World monkeys native to the Indian subcontinent.
- **Characteristics** : These langurs are largely gray (some more yellowish), with a black face and ears.
- **Habitat** :
 - Gray langurs are fairly terrestrial, inhabiting forest, open lightly wooded habitats, and urban areas on the Indian subcontinent.
 - Most species are found at low to moderate altitudes but the Nepal gray langur and Kashmir gray langur occur up to 4,000m in the Himalayas.
- **Distribution** : In the Indian Subcontinent, their distribution is reported from Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and from Pakistan and Nepal.
- **Conservation Status** : IUCN Red List- **Endangered**.
 - CITES- Appendix-I.
 - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972- Schedule-I.

Drug-Free Childhood



❖ Context

- The UN-backed conclave will open at Thiruvananthapuram on November 16, 2022 featuring **prominent voices against drug abuse from India and abroad**.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is organised by **Fourth Wave Foundation (FWF)** in partnership with **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** and **World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD)**.
- 'Children Matter-Right to a Drug-Free Childhood' is the central theme of the meet.

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- **Icelandic Model (IM) :**
 - It brings teenagers affected by drug use disorders back to normal life through alternative pursuits.
 - Around 30 years ago, Iceland was the hotspot of teenage drug consumption in Europe.
 - Today, the country stands first on the European list of de-addicted teenagers.
- Fourth Wave Foundation's initiative against substance abuse named '**VENDA**' (No to Drugs), strongly advocates the '**alternative pursuit**' model in Kerala on the lines of IM.
- '**VENDA**' is active in districts that have a very high number of drug-addicted teens found by the **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)** survey conducted by the Narcotic Control Bureau.

Sea Vigil-22



❖ Context

- The third edition of the 'Pan-India' Coastal Defence Exercise '**Sea Vigil-22**' will be conducted on **15-16 Nov 22**.

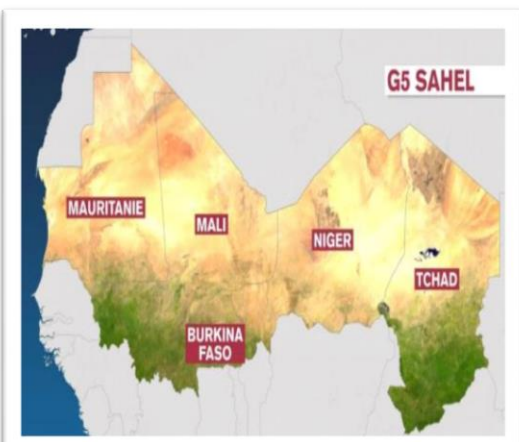
❖ Key Highlights

- The exercise will also take place in the **exclusive economic zone**.
- Sea Vigil will also help in preparing for the major **Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX)**, which the Indian Navy conducts every 2 years.
- The two exercises, Sea Vigil and TROPEX, will together cover the spectrum of maritime security challenges.

❖ About Sea Vigil-22

- The first edition of the Sea Vigil Exercise was held in **2019**.
- With the collaborative participation of the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Customs department, and other maritime agencies, Sea Vigil will help in validating the maritime security mechanism.

Operation Barkhane and G5 Sahel



❖ Context

- France recently announced the end of its decade-long Operation Barkhane in Africa.

❖ Key Highlights

- France began its military operations in Sahel in **January 2013** titled **Operation Serval**. It was limited to targeting extremists who took control of Northern Mali.
- Bolstered by the success, the mission was **scaled up in 2014** and renamed **Operation Barkhane** which aimed at **counter-terrorism** and thus assist local armed forces to prevent the resurgence of non-state armed groups across the **Sahel region - Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Chad**.
- However, the operation failed as the region witnessed the growth of new groups affiliated to terrorist organisations.
- It led to the humanitarian crisis and subsequent political uncertainties.

❖ About G5 Sahel (G5S)

- The Sahel is the vast semi-arid region of Africa separating the Sahara Desert to the north and tropical savannas to the south.
- In 2014, **Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger** set up the "G5 Sahel" group of countries to foster close cooperation in the region and tackle the major challenges that these countries face.
- It is headquartered in **Nouakchott, Mauritania**. Mali announced its withdrawal from the group in May-2022.

Shabd Shala

❖ Context

- The **Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT)** will soon launch 'Shabd Shala', a website.

❖ Key Highlights

- The website will invite suggestions for translation of words that are recent additions to the English language and are used widely in India.

Face to Face Centres





- People across India can log onto the website and provide suggestions for possible translations of these words or their most prevalent usages in their respective languages.

❖ About the Commission

- It functions under the **Department of Higher Education**, Ministry of Education.
- It was established on **October 01, 1961**, under **Article 344 (4)** of the Constitution, in pursuance of a Presidential Order dated April 27, 1960.
- It has the **mandate to evolve technical terminology** in all Indian languages, **propagate its use and distribute it widely**.
- It publishes quarterly Journals named '**Vigyan Garima Sindhu**' and '**Gyan Garima Sindhu**'.

Energy Observer



❖ Context

- The **first hydrogen-powered zero emission vessel**, has anchored on **Bolgatty Island**, Kochi for its 75th stopover of its round-the-world Odyssey.

❖ Key Highlights

- The vessel is powered by renewable energy and hydrogen.
- It is the **first French ambassador for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals** set by the United Nations.
- Energy Observer's port call in Kochi comes right after **France and India adopted a joint roadmap on de-carbonized hydrogen**.
- **Bolgatty island** is known for a palace built by Dutch in 1744 that was taken over by the British later.
- The **Kochi International Marina** is situated here. It is the only marina of its type in India and can host up to 34 yachts alongside water, electricity and sewage pump-out facilities.

Cartelisation by Debenture Trustees



❖ Context

- **SEBI** has filed an affidavit before the Bombay High Court **acknowledging the jurisdiction of CCI** in investigating the collusive conduct of debenture trustees.

❖ Key Highlights

- The regulations framed by SEBI mandate that **companies raising debt appoint a 'debenture trustee' to protect the interests of investors**.
- The trustees charge a fee from the companies issuing the debt and make due-diligence checks on them.
- A leading non-banking finance company from South India had complained to both SEBI and CCI, alleging that **leading debenture trustees were cartelising the debenture issuance market and charging exorbitant fees**.
- Earlier this year, CCI ordered a probe against debenture trustees and their association for suspected cartelisation on fees.

General Network Access (GNA) Regulations



❖ Context

- New draft connectivity regulations released by the electricity regulator CERC in December 2021, are being red-flagged by market players.

❖ Key Highlights

- The regulatory framework seeks to **do away with predetermined point-to-point transmission access**.
- Point-to-point transmission service is the transmission of capacity and energy from the point(s) of receipt to the point(s) of delivery.
- At present, a power generator has to work out how the electricity will be wheeled to the consumer under the point-to-point access concept.
- **GNA will enable both supply & drawal from any point** thus providing more flexibility in terms of scheduling, subject to grid constraints.
- It is being seen as a quantum leap in tiding over the problem of transmission constraints and fostering open access to help develop a seamlessly integrated electricity market.



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