

Excavation At Purana Qila Again

❖ Context

- Archaeological Survey of India all set to begin Excavation at Purana Qila again.

Key Highlights:

- The excavation would be the **third season of excavation** at Purana Qila after excavations in the year 2013-14 & 2017-18.

Objective of the latest excavation:

- **The objective** of the latest excavation is the exposure and preservation of the trenches that were excavated in previous years.
- During the closure of the previous season's excavation, evidence of layers predating the **Mauryan period was found**.
- During this season's excavation, the focus would also be to accomplish the traces of **Painted Grey Ware finding in strati graphical context**.
- Identified as ancient settlement of Indraprastha, a continuous habitation of 2500 years at **Purana Qila** was established in earlier excavations.

Findings Unearthed In Earlier Excavations:

- The findings and artefacts unearthed in earlier excavations comprises painted grey ware, belonging to 900BC, an earthen pottery sequence from **Maurya to Shunga, Kushana, Gupta, Rajput, Sultanates and Mughal periods**.
- Excavated Artefacts such as **sickles, terracotta toys, kiln-burnt bricks, beads, terracotta figurines, seals and dealings etc.** excavated earlier are now displayed at the Archaeological Museum inside the fort complex.

What About Purana Qila:

- Purana Qila, the 16th-century fort, was **built by Sher Shah Suri** and second Mughal emperor Humayun.
- Purana Qila is **roughly rectangular in shape** having a circuit of nearly two kilometers.
- The northern gate way, called the **Talaqui Darwaza** or the forbidden gateway, combines the typically Islamic pointed arch with Hindu Chhatris and brackets.
- Whereas the southern gateway called the **Humayun Darwaza** also had a similar plan.
- The massive gateway and walls of Purana Qila **were built by Humayun** and the foundation was laid for the new capital, **Dinpanah**.
- The work was **carried forward by Sher Shah Suri**, who displaced Humayun.

About ASI:

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), **under the Ministry of Culture**, is the premier organization for the archaeological **researches and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation**.
- Maintenance of ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of **national importance is the prime concern of the ASI**.
- It regulates all archaeological activities in the country as per the provisions of the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**.

Regulating The Online Gaming Industry in India

❖ Context

- Recently, **The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** held another round of public consultation on online gaming rules.
- All major industry bodies, policy advocacy groups and industry stakeholders deliberated on the recently released policy.

Key Highlights:

- The ministry earlier this month released **draft amendments to the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**, in relation to online gaming.

Draft Rules Proposal:

- It introduces set **procedures and norms** for verification and user engagement.
- **Defining Online Games**
 - The draft proposal defines what constitutes an 'online game'.
 - It is "a game that is offered on the internet and is accessible by a user through a computer resource if he makes a deposit with the expectation of earning winnings".
 - Winning constitutes any prize, in cash or kind.
 - This addresses the discourse in the sector about the definitions of a **'game of skill' & 'game of chance'**.
 - The term **'game of skill'** had been used in the **Public Gambling Act (1867)** but had not been defined.

- Operators would have to inform the user about the policy related to **withdrawal or refund** of their deposit, measures taken for its protection, the **risk of potential financial loss and addiction associated with the game**.
- The information gathered for verification cannot be used for any other purpose without the user's content.

• **The Self-regulating Body Framework**

- The draft rules propose a self-regulatory body to certify what is permitted as an 'online game' in India.
- They also prescribe a registration mark on all online games registered by the self-regulatory body.
- **MeitY** is entrusted with the responsibility of recognising and if required, unrecognising all self-regulated bodies under the proposed framework.
- Before hosting or publishing a game, the platform would have to verify it from the self-regulatory body it is associated with.

• **The Gaming Platform is expected to appoint-**

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- **Chief Compliance Officer**- To coordinate with law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance with their orders or requisitions.
- **Nodal Contact Person** - To facilitate the necessary coordination at any point of the day.
- An appropriate **mechanism for receipt and resolution of grievances**.

- **CAGR in India** - 38% between 2017-2020
 - 8% in China, 10% in the US.
 - It is expected to grow at a CAGR of 15% to reach Rs 153 billion in revenue by 2024.
- **New Paying Users (NPU) percentage in India**-
 - Fastest growing in the world for two consecutive years, at 40% in 2020 and reaching 50% in 2021.
- Transaction-based games' revenues grew 26% in India.

Online Gaming Market in India

- **Revenue** - \$1.5 billion in 2022 and estimated to reach \$5 billion in 2025.

News in Between the Lines

❖ **Context**

➤ Recently, Snow leopard spotted at an undisclosed location in Himalayas.

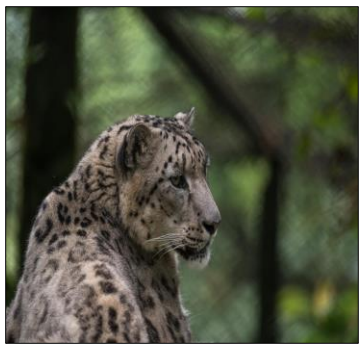
❖ **Key Highlights**

- Very rarely seen by humans, it has come to be known as '**ghost of the mountains**'.
- Indian government has designated it as **flagship species for high-altitude Himalayas**.

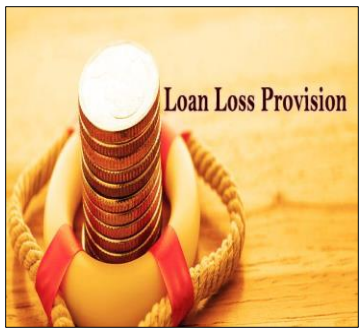
❖ **Snow Leopard**

- It is **native to the mountain ranges** of Central and South Asia.
- **Scientific Name**- Panthera uncia.
- **Distribution**
 - The snow leopard's habitat range extends across the mountainous regions of 12 countries across Asia: Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
 - In India, they are found in J&K, Ladakh, HP, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Food**
 - Carnivore.
 - Snow leopards prey upon the blue sheep (bharal) of Tibet and the Himalayas, as well as the mountain ibex found over most of the rest of their range.
- **Threats to survival**
 - Expansion of human settlement, livestock grazing, poaching, Vanishing habitat and the decline of the cats' large mammal prey.
- **Conservation**
 - **IUCN Red List** – Vulnerable.
 - **CITES**- Appendix I.
 - **WPA 1972** - Schedule I.

Snow Leopard



Loan-loss Provision



Context

➤ Recently, **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** published a discussion paper on "loan loss provision", proposing a framework for adopting an expected loss (EL)-based approach for provisioning by banks in case of loan defaults.

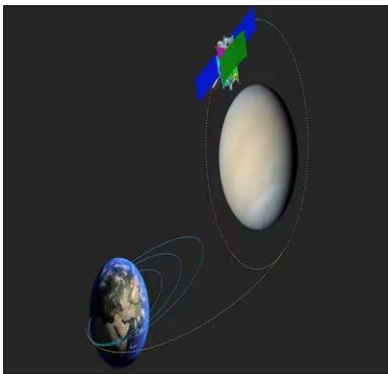
Loan-loss Provision:

- The RBI defines a **loan loss provision as an expense that banks set aside for defaulted loans**.
- Banks set aside a portion of the expected loan repayments from all loans in their portfolio to cover the losses either completely or partially.
- In the event of a loss, instead of taking a loss in its cash flows, the bank can use its loan loss reserves to cover the loss.
- Since the bank does not expect all loans to become impaired, there is usually enough in the loan loss reserves to cover the full loss for any one or a small number of loans when needed.
- An **increase in the balance of reserves** is called loan loss provision.
- The level of loan loss provision is determined based on the level expected to protect the safety and soundness of the bank.
- **Benefit of This Approach**
 - It will enhance the resilience of the banking system in line with globally accepted norms.

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Shukryaan I



❖ Context

- Recently, ISRO's advisor to its space science programme, said that the organisation is yet to receive approval from the Indian government for the Venus mission and that the mission could as a result be **postponed to 2031**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- It will be an orbiter mission.
- **Launch Vehicle**
 - 'Shukrayaan-I' will **most likely be launched on GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) Mk II**.
- **Launch Window**
 - The mission is **likely to be launched in December 2024** and the orbital maneuvers are planned for about a year later in mid-2026 (Earth and Venus will align).
 - The next similar window would be available in 2031.
- **Key Planned Experiments**
 - The mission is expected to study Venus's geological and volcanic activity, emissions on the ground, wind speed, cloud cover, and other planetary characteristics from an elliptical orbit.
 - A **Swedish-Indian instrument**, a Venusian Neutrals Analyser will be deployed with the orbiter.
 - It will help us understand **how charged particles from the Sun interact with the atmosphere of Venus**.
- U.S. and the European space agencies have Venus missions planned for 2031 — VERITAS and EnVision.

Grameen Udyami Scheme



❖ Context

- Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship will attend the felicitation programme of 200 tribal women under the Grameen Udyami Scheme today.
- These tribal women have successfully completed training under Phase 3 of the Grameen Udyami Scheme in Jharkhand.

❖ About Grameen Udyami Scheme:

- It was launched to **augment skill training in tribal communities for their inclusive and sustainable growth**.
- Under the programme, the endeavor is to multi skill India's youth and impart functional skills to them for enabling livelihoods.
- It is funded by **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**.
- Under the program, 49 ST clusters in 15 states of India have been selected by 40 tribal MPs of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- Under their leadership, the scheme in respective clusters is being implemented. One development associate is appointed by the MPs in each cluster.
- It is **implemented under the Sansadiya Sankul Pariyojana** with an aim to.
 - Expand the rural/local economy.
 - Enhance employment opportunities.
 - Reduce forced migration and also lead to the conservation of natural resources.
- It is being **implemented in six states** - Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Gujarat.

Artificial Southern Reef In Puducherry






❖ Context

- Detailed Project Report submitted for offshore artificial southern reef in Puducherry.

❖ Key Highlights:

- A Detailed Project Report (DPR) for construction of an offshore artificial southern reef as part of a **hybrid solution to address rampant erosion of Puducherry's coastline** and restore the city's pristine beach has been submitted to the Puducherry Government by the **National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)**.
- National Institute of Ocean Technology (**NIOT**) studied detailed coastal processes & constructed the first offshore artificial reef on the northern side of Puducherry's coastline.
- **The successful deployment** of the reef by NIOT helped in reducing wave activity and allowed sand to freely move towards the north to prevent erosion along the coastline.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, the objective is for the union territory's coastline to be more resilient as, without the southern reef in place, the beaches to the south may be unstable and may disappear once the nourishment is terminated.
<p>Sagar Parikrama'</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India (GoI) has launched the 'Sagar Parikrama' program on the occasion of 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. About Sagar Parikrama: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Sagar Parikrama' aims to. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitate interaction with fishermen, coastal communities and stakeholders so as to disseminate information of various fisheries related schemes and programs being implemented by the Government, such as 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana' (PMMSY). ▪ Demonstrating solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders as a spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. ▪ Promote responsible fisheries with focus on the sustainable balance between the utilization of marine fisheries resources for food security of nation and livelihoods of coastal fisher communities. ▪ Protection of marine ecosystems. • 'Sagar Parikrama' program envisages covering the maritime States/UTs in a phased manner. • The Sagar Parikrama program is being organized through a pre-decided sea route covering coastal States/Uts. • Phase III program of 'Sagar Parikrama' is being organized in the state of Maharashtra and a tentative plan has been proposed by the state officials.
<p>Resiliency & Sustainability Summit</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Resiliency & Sustainability Summit: Vision 2047 brought together experts from all over India and deliberated upon the key aspects of present and futuristic disaster risks and climate contexts as well as their changing scenarios. ❖ Key Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summit is co-organised by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) along with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and GIZ- India. • The summit deliberations are expected to identify key contexts of futuristic 'risk and resilience' along with a realistic roadmap for 'localization' agenda under an integrated strategic framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience. • It would also present recent, past, and proposed initiatives as well, including those relating to G-20 Summit, UN Decade for Eco-restoration, and UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), etc. • According to a recent report of ESCAP Asia Pacific Disaster report 2022, India needs an annual investment to the tune of US\$46.3 Billion for adaptation alone.
<p>Sainya Ranakshetram 2.0</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Indian Army under the aegis of HQ Army Training Command (ARTRAC) organised the second edition of Hackathon aptly named "SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0". ❖ Key Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event seeks solutions to operational cyber challenges and to jump start and telescope the development time for innovative solutions in the field of Cyber Security. • The event was aimed at providing a platform to identify indigenous talent in niche domains and enhance the standard of training in domains of. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cyber Deterrence. ▪ Security Software Coding. ▪ Electro Magnetic Spectrum Operations (EMSO). ▪ Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning (AI/ ML).