

Himachal's Trans-giri Region and Hatti Community

❖ Context

- The Centre is reported to be considering **tribal status** to the Trans-giri region of Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh.

❖ Key Highlights

- The **Hatti community** had been demanding the status since 1967 when the communities in the neighbouring **Jaunsar Bawar area** of Uttarakhand (then UP) were granted the status in 1967.
- Communities of both the regions have **common customs, language and dress code** since both were under the same Simrauli kingdom.
- The HP government had submitted the proposal for declaring the area as a scheduled area.
- If the proposal is actually implemented, ST status would be granted to all - dominant castes, SCs and OBCs living in the region.

❖ Tribal Status

- The scheduled Area is designated under Article 244 (1) in terms of the fifth schedule while the tribal area is designated under Article 244 (2) in terms of the sixth schedule of the constitution.

- The **criteria** followed by the government to declare a scheduled area are :

- Preponderance of tribal population.
- Compactness and reasonable size of the area.
- A viable administrative entity such as a district, block or taluk.
- Economic backwardness of the area as compared to neighbouring areas.

❖ About Hatti Community

- The community, which has over three lakh people, is named after their **age-old professional practice** of selling their home grown crops at small markets called '**Haat**' in nearby cities.
- They live around HP-Uttarakhand border in the basin of **Giri and Tons rivers**, both tributaries of Yamuna. **Tons marks the boundary between the two states.** Till date, the members of this community haven't been mainstreamed and most are dependent on animal rearing and agriculture.
- They even still follow the **Khumbli** - the traditional council despite the establishment of the panchayat system.

Four- Tier Regulatory Framework for Urban Cooperative Banks

❖ Context

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to adopt a simple four-tiered regulatory framework with differentiated regulatory prescriptions for the existing urban cooperative banks (UCBs).

❖ Key Highlights

- The RBI decision is based on the report submitted by **NS Viswanathan Committee** on UCBs.
- The committee had recommended a four-tiered regulatory framework based on size of deposits of the banks and their area of operations.

❖ Major Recommendations Accepted

- **Minimum net worth of ₹2 crore** for Tier 1 UCBs operating in a single district and **₹5 crore** for all other UCBs (of all tiers).
- The UCBs which do not meet the requirement, will be provided a glide path of five years with intermediate milestones to facilitate smooth transition to revised norms.

- The **minimum CRAR requirement** for Tier 1 banks is **9%** under current capital adequacy framework based on Basel I.
- For Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4 UCBs, the minimum CRAR will be revised to **12%** so as to strengthen their capital structure.
- Introduce **automatic route for branch expansion** to UCBs which meet the revised Financially Sound and Well Managed (FSWM) criteria.
- Permit them to open new branches up to 10% of the number of branches as at the end of the previous financial year.

EIA Rules Amended

❖ Context

- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has notified amendments to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) rules exempting certain categories of projects from prior environment clearance.



❖ New Exempted Type of Projects

- **Highway projects of strategic and defence importance**, which are 100 km from the Line of Control, among other locations.
- **Thermal Power Plants up to 15 MW** based on biomass or non-hazardous municipal solid waste using auxiliary fuel such as coal, lignite or petroleum products up to 15%

- **Toll plazas** that need more width for installation of toll collection booths to cater to a large number of vehicles.
- **Expansion activities in existing airports** related to terminal building expansion without increase in the airport's existing area.
- **Increasing the threshold of ports** which exclusively deals in fish handling, and caters to small fishermen.

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People Giving Up Their Indian Citizenship

❖ Context

➤ The Ministry of Home Affairs stated that over 1.6 lakh Indians relinquished their Indian citizenship in 2021.

❖ Key Highlights

- In 2021, 1,63,370 Indians gave up their Indian passports. This number was 1,44,017 and 85,256 in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

INDIANS WHO GAVE UP THEIR CITIZENSHIP FOR		
USA	Canada	United Kingdom
2019 - 61,683	2019 - 25,381	2019 - 14,309
2020 - 30,828	2020 - 17,093	2020 - 6,489
2021 - 78,284	2021 - 21,597	2021 - 14,637
Australia	Germany	Italy
2019 - 21,340	2019 - 2,157	2019 - 3,833
2020 - 13,518	2020 - 2,152	2020 - 2,312
2021 - 23,533	2021 - 2,381	2021 - 5,986
TOTAL (2019 - 1,44,017, 2020 - 85,256, 2021 - 1,63,370)		

- The reasons for these Indians renouncing their home country citizenship, which also means they have to surrender their Indian passports, was "personal".
- **Law on Citizenship:** The Indian Constitution and citizenship laws don't allow dual citizenship.

- Overall, **932,276 Indians** renounced their citizenships in favour of other countries between 2015 and 2021, according to data shared with Parliament in February last year and on Tuesday.
- Data shared by the home ministry in November 2021 stated **10,645** foreign nationals applied for Indian citizenship between 2016 and 2020, with the maximum (**7,782**) from **Pakistan** and **795** from Afghanistan. Of these, **4,177** persons were granted Indian citizenship.
- 13,383,718 (13 million) Indian nationals are currently living in foreign countries.
- A total of **452 "stateless"** persons applied for Indian citizenship between 2016 and 2020, but it was not known how many were given citizenship and which territory they applied the citizenship from.
- **Stateless persons** are categorised as those who are not identified by any country, even their home country.

Rural Power Supply

❖ Context

➤ According to the data, the power supplied to villages in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka has been well below the national average during the first two months of Q1 FY23.



❖ Key Highlights

- On all India basis, duration of power supplied to villages stands at 21.48 hours in April-May of FY23 against 20.61 hours in entire FY22.
- **Power Supplied in FY22**
- Among the top performing states, Maharashtra provided power to its villages for **23.16 hours during FY22**. Similarly, Gujarat provided electricity for **23.50 hours**, West Bengal (23.38 hours), Andhra Pradesh (23.62 hours) and Madhya Pradesh (19.35 hours).
- Among the least performing states, Haryana provided electricity in rural areas for **16.26 hours in FY22**, Himachal.

Pradesh for **13.26 hours**, Karnataka (17.56 hours), Tripura (19.93 hours) and Bihar (**20.39 hours**).

- **Peak summer demand:** On April 29, India's peak power demand met during the day was recorded at 207 gigawatts (GW), which is higher by 13 per cent on an annual basis, and the energy met stood at 4578 million units (MU).
- Government has started various scheme achieve 24x7 power supply.
 - Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).
 - Integrated Power Distribution Scheme (IPDS).
 - Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

News in Between the Lines

Judicial Cooperation between India and Maldives



❖ Context

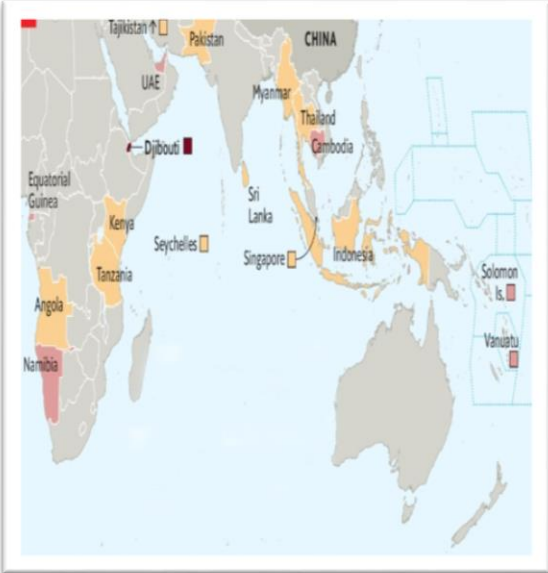
➤ Union Cabinet approves signing of MoU in field of **Judicial Cooperation** between India and Maldives.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Judicial Cooperation between India and Judicial Service Commission of Maldives.
- This is **the eighth MoU** signed between India and other countries in the field of Judicial Cooperation. This MoU will provide a platform to tap the benefits of **Information Technology** for court digitization and can be a potential growth area for the IT companies and start-ups in both countries.
- With the signing of this agreement on cooperation in the field of law and justice, the good relations between the two countries will receive further impetus.

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India-Namibia Sign an MoU



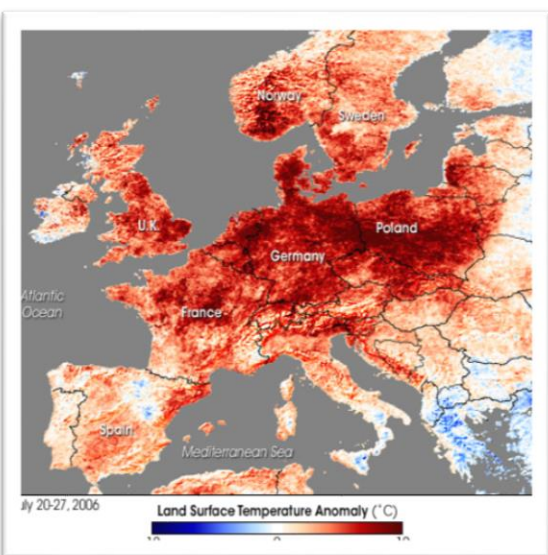
❖ Context

➤ Government of India and Government of the Republic of Namibia have entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on wildlife conservation and sustainable biodiversity utilization, for establishing the cheetah into the historical range in India.

❖ The Main Thrust Areas of MoU are:

- Biodiversity conservation with specific focus on conservation and restoration of cheetah in their former range areas from which they went extinct.
- Sharing and exchange of expertise and capacities aimed at promoting cheetah conservation in two countries,
- Wildlife conservation and sustainable biodiversity utilization by sharing good practices in :
 - Technological applications,
 - mechanisms of livelihood generation for local communities living in wildlife habitats,
 - and sustainable management of biodiversity.
- Collaboration in areas of climate change, environmental governance, environmental impact assessments, pollution and waste management and other areas of mutual interest.
- Exchange of personnel for training and education in wildlife management.
- IUCN status of Cheetah: **Vulnerable**.

Record Breaking Heatwaves in Europe



❖ Context

➤ Temperatures across Europe are soaring from Spain to the British Isles and spreading east.

❖ Key Highlights

- Wildfires stoked by the heat are burning in many countries, and much of the continent is in the throes of a lengthy drought.
- On July 19 2022, the UK recorded its highest temperature ever, going past 40 degrees Celsius for the first time, at London's Heathrow airport.
- **Global warming** is playing an important role as temperatures are on average about **1.1 degrees Celsius** higher than they were in the late 19th century.
- There are other factors, some involving the **circulation of the atmosphere** and the ocean, which makes Europe a heat wave hot spot.
- **Warming in the Arctic**, which is occurring much faster than other parts of the world, is also playing a role.
- As the Arctic warms at a faster rate, the temperature differential between it and the equator decreases.
- This leads to a **decrease in summertime winds**, which has the effect of making weather systems linger for longer.

Vegan Product



❖ Context

➤ APEDA sets up panel to draft standards for manufacture of vegan product.

❖ Key Highlights

- Move will help tap emerging plant-based alternatives markets overseas.
- **Uptick in demand:** Post-Covid, the demand for plant-based meat alternatives has picked up in the overseas markets as consumers have turned health conscious.
- There is a big demand in the international market for vegan and plant-based meat protein products in the **United States, Europe, Japan, Korea and Australia among other countries**.
- India has a great potential for vegan or plant-based protein products as we have good availability of raw materials in the country, which are used as enzymes, additives and colours for vegan products.
- **Vegan Product:** Vegan food excludes the consumption of eggs, meat, dairy products, and all other animal-derived ingredients.

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Special Debt Recovery Tribunals



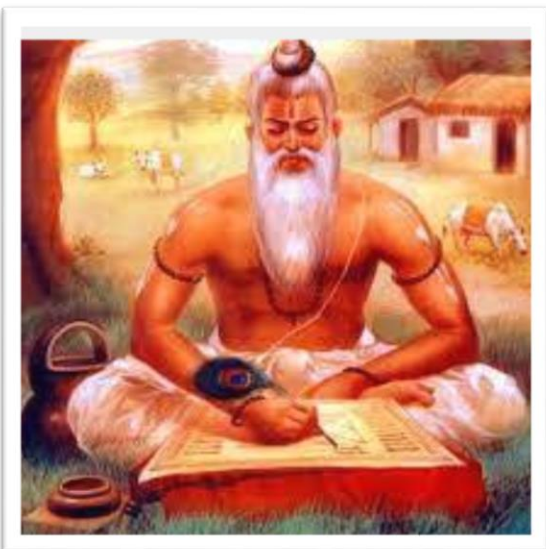
❖ Context

- Banks have petitioned the finance ministry to set up special debt recovery tribunals (DRTs) and debt recovery appellate tribunals (DRATs) for speedy adjudication and recovery in **high-value cases (₹100 crore and above)**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The request comes in the backdrop of **more than 1.5 lakh pending cases** in existing tribunals - **39 DRTs and five DRATs** - countrywide.
- This high pendency is even after the central government had in **2018** doubled the **pecuniary limit to ₹20 lakh** for debt recovery applications at DRTs.
- The tribunal and appellate tribunals are established under the **Recovery of Debts Due To Banks And Financial Institutions Act, 1993**.
- According to the provisions, application should be dealt as expeditiously as possible and **every effort should be made** to complete the proceedings in **two hearings**, and dispose of the **application within 180 days** from receipt.
- The tribunals have power of civil court, under Civil Procedure Code, 1908 but they are not bound by it. As per the act, they shall be guided by principles of natural justice and have powers to regulate their own procedures.

Baudhayana Sulbasutra



❖ Context

- A position paper by the Karnataka government on National Education Policy has revived discussion on Pythagoras theorem.

❖ Key Highlights

- The *Baudhayana Sulbasutra*, is the **oldest of the sutras pertaining to fire rituals (yajnas) performed by Vedic Indians**.
- In its first chapter, it refers to the mathematical relation as expressed by the theorem, in a specific shloka in its first chapter.
- It says - *A rope stretched along the length of the diagonal produces an area which the vertical and horizontal sides make together.*
- The equation came into play while **construction of altars (vedi)** in a variety of shapes - isosceles triangles, rectangles, symmetric trapezia.
- Without any direct evidence available, the sutras is taken to be of around 800 BCE, on the basis of linguistic and other secondary historical considerations.

❖ Other Mathematical Works of Baudhayana

- Calculating the **length of the diagonal of a square** in terms of its sides, which is equivalent to a formula for the square root of 2.
- **Constructing a circle almost equal in area to a square** and vice versa.

Aragalaya



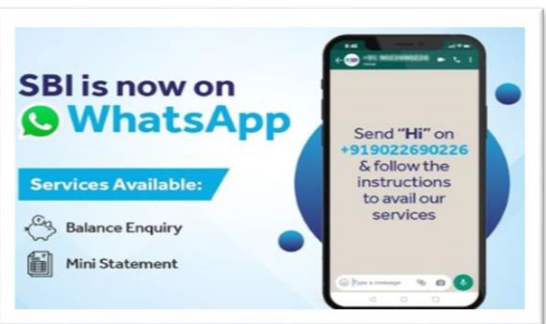
❖ Context

- The term is being used synonymously with the public movement that led to the fall of the Srilankan government.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Sinhales term means **struggle**.
- It is being widely used to describe the daily gatherings of the people.

WhatsApp Banking Services



❖ Context

- India's largest public sector lender, State Bank of India has launched its WhatsApp Banking services to make banking easier for its customers.

❖ Key Highlights

- SBI customers can avail certain banking services using WhatsApp, which may come in handy for many as they do not have to download the app or go to the ATM anymore. SBI customers can get their Account Balance and view Mini Statement on WhatsApp.
- State Bank of India will also offers WhatsApp-based services to its credit card holders through the platform under the name of SBI Card WhatsApp connect.
- Through this, SBI credit card customers can check their account summary, reward points, outstanding balance and make card payments.

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