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## World Bank's Toolkit for support during Natural Disaster

**Context:** The World Bank Group has unveiled an extensive set of resources to aid nations in their efforts to address natural disasters and other emergencies.

### Need of tool kit

- The toolkit is essential in enabling countries to respond effectively to the growing occurrence and magnitude of natural disasters and crises.
- It facilitates the development of resilience in nations, empowering them to better withstand and recover from such events.
- The toolkit promotes the sharing of knowledge and best practices, allowing countries to learn from each other's experiences and enhance their disaster response capabilities.
- It ensures a swift and efficient response to disasters and crises, minimizing the impact on affected populations and infrastructure.
- By supporting rapid recovery, the toolkit contributes to poverty reduction efforts, helping affected communities rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

### Toolkit Features and Their Impact on Disaster-Facing Countries:

- **Pause in debt repayments:**
  - Provides relief to countries by allowing them to focus on urgent needs instead of loan repayments during crises or catastrophes.
  - World Bank Group launching Climate Resilient Debt Clauses to facilitate this pause in debt repayments.
- **Redirecting financing:**
  - Offers countries the flexibility to quickly redirect funds for emergency response.
  - Ensures immediate access to cash for disaster management and recovery efforts.
- **Linking crisis preparedness and financing:**
  - Helps governments build advanced emergency systems.
  - Enhances preparedness to respond to crises effectively from day one.
- **Backstopping development projects with private-sector support:**
  - Supports development projects by providing private sector support in crisis preparedness and response.
  - Enables businesses to sustain operations, protect jobs, and promote long-term sustainability in disaster-struck areas.
- **Building enhanced catastrophe insurance without debt:**
  - Enhances catastrophe insurance options, such as Cat Bonds.
  - Integrates catastrophe insurance into lending products.
  - Provides resources for disaster-struck countries without adding to their debt burden.

### World Bank:

- International financial institution for development projects and programs.
- Established in 1944, headquartered in Washington, D.C.
- Aims to reduce poverty and promote shared prosperity.
- Consists of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA).
- Focuses on sectors like education, health, agriculture, infrastructure, and governance.

### World Bank Group:

- Collection of five international organizations.
- Includes IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA, and ICSID.

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- Works together to achieve development goals.
- Promotes private sector investment, provides risk insurance, settles investment disputes.
- Addresses challenges like poverty, job creation, climate change, and sustainable development.

## India Egypt Relations

**Context:** During talks between Prime Minister Modi and President El-Sisi, India and Egypt have signed an agreement on a strategic partnership.

- India and Egypt signed a strategic partnership agreement during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.
- The agreement is a result of their decision to elevate the bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership during El-Sisi's visit to India in January this year.
- Prime Minister Modi was honoured with Egypt's highest civilian honour, the Order of the Nile, by President El-Sisi.
- The Order of the Nile has been awarded to notable figures such as Nelson Mandela, Jimmy Carter, and Queen Elizabeth II in the past.

## India-Egypt Relations

### Historical:

- Contacts between India and Egypt date back to the time of Emperor Asoka, showcasing their ancient civilizations.
- Mahatma Gandhi and Egyptian revolutionary Saad Zaghloul shared common goals in their fight for independence from British colonial rule.

### Geostrategic:

- Egypt occupies a crucial geostrategic location, with 12% of global trade passing through the Suez Canal.
- It serves as a major market for India and acts as a gateway to both Europe and Africa.
- Egypt has bilateral trade pacts with important nations in West Asia and Africa.

### Political:

- Diplomatic relations between India and Egypt were established in 1947 at the ambassadorial level.
- The friendship treaty was signed by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and President Gamal Abdel Nasser in 1955, playing a role in the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
- High-level exchanges continued after the 2011 Egyptian Revolution.
- Egypt is viewed by India as a moderate Islamic voice, actively participating in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

### Economic:

- The India-Egypt bilateral trade agreement has been in operation since 1978.
- Bilateral trade has increased significantly in the past decade.
- Agriculture cooperation is crucial as Egypt faces a food grain shortage due to the Ukraine-Russia war.
- Egypt aims to boost tourism from India for increased foreign exchange inflow.
- Plans are underway to establish an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Egypt.
- Egypt is interested in procuring defence equipment from India, including LCA Tejas, missiles, and radars.
- Egypt has been invited to participate in Aero-India 2023.

### Recent Strategic Partnership:

- The India-Egypt bilateral relationship was elevated to a "Strategic Partnership."
- Four main elements of the partnership are
  - political, defence and security,
  - economic engagement,
  - scientific and academic collaboration, and
  - cultural and people-to-people contacts.

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## New Assistive Reproduction Technology (ART) Regulations, 2023

**Context:** The Health Ministry has introduced the Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulations (ART), 2023, with the objective of enhancing medical care and security for donors and patients involved in assisted reproductive procedures.

### New Regulations:

- The new Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) provisions restrict the number of donations a donor can make in their lifetime and set age limits for donors.
- Oocyte donors should be married and have at least one living child of their own, and they can donate oocyte only once, with a maximum of seven oocytes retrieved.
- ART banks cannot supply reproductive cells from a single donor to more than one commissioning couple.
- Insurance coverage for oocyte donors is required, protecting against any loss, damage, or death.
- Offering a child of predetermined sex is prohibited, and genetic disease screening before embryo implantation is necessary.
- The restrictions in the new ART laws limit opportunities for ART couples to find suitable donors.
- The laws may increase costs and pose challenges for couples relying on assisted reproductive techniques.
- The decline in fertility rates in India and globally, coupled with limited donors, will bring further challenges.

### Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART)

- Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) encompasses various medical procedures and technologies used to facilitate conception and pregnancy.
- **Methods of ART:**
  - In Vitro Fertilization (IVF): The most common ART method where eggs are retrieved from the ovaries, fertilized with sperm in a laboratory, and then transferred to the uterus.
  - Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI): A technique where a single sperm is directly injected into an egg to facilitate fertilization.
  - Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer (GIFT): In this method, eggs and sperm are transferred into the fallopian tubes to allow fertilization to occur inside the woman's body.
  - Zygote Intrafallopian Transfer (ZIFT): Similar to GIFT, but the fertilized eggs (zygotes) are transferred to the fallopian tubes.
  - Artificial Insemination (AI): The process of directly placing sperm into a woman's reproductive tract to facilitate fertilization.
- **Types of ART:**
  - Intrauterine Insemination (IUI): A method where prepared sperm is placed directly into the uterus during ovulation to increase the chances of fertilization.
  - Donor Egg or Sperm: When eggs or sperm from a donor are used in the ART process.
  - Surrogacy: A process where another woman carries and gives birth to a baby for individuals or couples who are unable to conceive or carry a pregnancy themselves.

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## NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

### INS Sunayna



**Context:** INS Sunayna, a Saryu class Offshore Patrol Vessel of the Indian Navy, recently visited Mombasa, Kenya from 20-23 June 2023.

**INS Sunayna:**

- INS Sunayna is a Saryu class Offshore Patrol Vessel that was commissioned at Kochi.
- It operates under the Southern Naval Command and was built at the Goa Shipyard Limited.
- It is capable of achieving speeds of up to 25 knots and is equipped with advanced navigation, communication and electronic support systems.
- It is fitted with the latest Navigation, Communication and Electronic Support Systems.
- The ship is named after the mythological character Sumitra, who was the wife of King Dasharatha and the mother of Lakshmana in the Indian epic, Ramayana.
- Other Sarayu class includes the INS Sumitra and INS Sumedha.

**Passage Exercise (PASSEX):**

- During the visit, a Maritime Partnership Exercise, commonly known as PASSEX, was conducted between the Indian Navy and the Kenyan Navy.
- This exercise aimed to enhance interoperability and operational coordination between the two naval forces.

### Kedarnath Temple



**Context:** Recently, the Uttarakhand government has formed a high-level committee to investigate allegations of a Rs.1.25 billion scam related to the gold plating of the sanctum sanctorum at the Kedarnath Temple.

**Kedarnath Temple:**

- Kedarnath Temple is a revered Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- It is situated at an elevation of 3,584 meters in the Garhwal Himalayan range near the Mandakini River, the temple is located in the Rudraprayag District of Uttarakhand.

**Chota Char Dham:**

Kedarnath forms one of the four pilgrimage sites known as Chota Char Dham which includes Yamunotri Dham, Gangotri Dham, Badrinath Dham and Kedarnath Dham.

**Construction and Architecture:**

- Legend has it that the Pandavas built the original Kedarnath Temple which was later reconstructed by Adi Shankaracharya in the 8th century A.D.
- The temple boasts remarkable architecture with large and evenly shaped grey stone slabs, interlocked with iron clamps. Notably, no mortar was used in its construction.

**Jyotirlingas:**

- Kedarnath Temple is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas in India, which are shrines where Lord Shiva is worshipped in the form of a Jyotirlingam.
- Each Jyotirlinga represents a different manifestation of Lord Shiva.

### Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary

**Context:** The Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary recently conducted a pre-monsoon sign survey, revealing a prey density of 46 animals per square kilometer within the sanctuary.

**The Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary:**

- The Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the state of Odisha, is a significant protected area known for its diverse flora and fauna.
- The sanctuary was established in 1985 and is situated between the Hirakud Dam and Reservoir.
- The area holds historical importance as it was a base for the renowned freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai during his rebellion against the British.

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**Prey density survey:**

- A recent pre-monsoon survey conducted in the Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary recorded a prey density of 46 animals per square kilometer.
- This indicates the presence of a healthy ecosystem supporting a diverse range of wildlife within the sanctuary.

**Flora and Fauna:**

- The sanctuary is known for its diverse wildlife. Some notable species found in the sanctuary include the Indian Bison, Wild Boars and Sambhar.
- The dry deciduous forest supports a rich variety of plant life, attracting numerous bird species during the winter months.

**Debrigarh 48 Initiative:**

- The 'Debrigarh 48' initiative was launched by the wildlife division to address various concerns.
- One of the objectives of this initiative is to prevent villagers from harming wildlife.
- Its aims to gather intelligence about the sanctuary's periphery landscape by engaging with the local community.

**Hirakud Dam:**

- The Hirakud Dam is a notable structure located near the Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It is a composite dam constructed using earth, concrete and masonry.
- The dam holds the distinction of being the longest major earthen dam in India.
- It is one of the first multipurpose river valley projects initiated after India gained independence and started functioning in 1957.
- The dam serves various purposes including irrigation, hydroelectric power generation and flood control in the Mahanadi River basin.

## Guwahati (Assam)

**Context:** Recently, the Ambubachi Mela, a significant festival lasting four days, commenced at the Kamakhya temple in Guwahati, Assam.

**Ambubachi Mela:**

- The Ambubachi Mela is a religious festival observed at the Kamakhya temple in Guwahati.
- The Kamakhya Temple is one of the 51 Shakti Peethas, representing a body part of Sati, the companion of Lord Shiva.

**Geographical Location:**

**Guwahati:**

- Guwahati is the largest city in the state of Assam, situated in northeastern India.
- It serves as the gateway to the region and is known for its cultural heritage, ancient temples and natural beauty.
- It is located on the banks of the Brahmaputra River and is surrounded by hills.

**Assam:**

- Assam is a state in northeastern India known for its diverse natural landscapes, including wildlife, archaeological sites and tea plantations.
- It is bordered by Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh to the north, Nagaland and Manipur to the east, Meghalaya and Bangladesh to the south and West Bengal to the west.

**Umananda Temple:**

- Umananda Temple is a significant shrine located on Peacock Island in the Brahmaputra River.
- It is dedicated to Lord Shiva and attracts devotees and tourists alike.

**Hajo:**

- Hajo is an ancient pilgrimage site near the capital city of Dispur.
- It holds religious significance for Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists with various temples, mosques and Buddhist monasteries located in the area.

**Madan Kamdev:**

- Madan Kamdev is a historical site near Dispur known for its ruins of a temple complex.
- It is an important archaeological site and a place of interest for history enthusiasts.



## Places in News

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