

Ahilyabai Holkar

❖ Context

- Recently, Maharashtra Education Minister told the state Legislative Council that he has sought a **proposal** from the district administration to **rename the Western Maharashtra city of Ahmednagar as 'Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Nagar'**, after the 18th century Malwa queen, Ahilyabai Holkar.

❖ About Ahilyabai Holkar



- Born in Chondi village of Ahmednagar to the village head Mankoji Shinde, **on May 31, 1725.**
- Ahilyabai was one of the few women rulers of Medieval India.
- While the education of girls and women was rare at that time, Mankoji insisted on it for his daughter.

- When she was eight years old, Malhar Rao Holkar, the army commander to Peshwa Bajirao, is believed to have spotted her at **a temple service in Chondi.**
- Impressed by her devotion and character, he decided to get his son, Khande Rao, married to her.
- **Ahilyabai took control of Malwa** after her husband's death in the Battle of Kumbher against the king of Bharatpur in 1754.
- She **excelled at administrative and military strategies** under the guidance of her father-in-law, who believed she should lead her people, and not die by Sati after Khande Rao passed away.
- After the death of her father-in-law and son a few years later, she petitioned the Peshwa to become the ruler, backed by the support of her army.

• Contribution

- Her rule **lasted for thirty years (1765-1795)**, as "almost legendary as a period during which perfect order and good government prevailed and the people prospered.
- She was a **very able ruler and organizer**, highly respected during her lifetime.
- Under Holkar, **the city of Maheshwar became a literary, musical, artistic and industrial centre.**
- She helped **establish a textile industry there**, which is now home to the famous Maheshwari saris.
- Her role in the **restoration of Hindu temples** is often emphasised.
 - In 1780, she had the **Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi rebuilt**, nearly a century after Mughal king Aurangzeb ordered its destruction.
 - Apart from holy sites like Badrinath, Dwarka, Omkareshwari, Gaya, and Rameswaram, Holkar also **supported the construction of resting lodges for travellers, and of public ghats.**

Mega Dairy Inaugurated at Mandya:

❖ Context

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister inaugurated **Mega Dairy at Mandya in Karnataka.**

❖ Key Highlights:

- The mega dairy inaugurated recently at a cost of Rs 260 crore would **process 10 lakh liters of milk per day.**
- They will have the capacity to **increase it up to 14 lakh liters** per day.

❖ Status of Cooperative Dairy in Karnataka:

- Currently there are **15,210 village level cooperative dairies** in Karnataka, in which about 26.22 lakh farmers deliver their milk daily and through 16 district level dairies.
- Around 66,000 kg milk used to be processed daily in Karnataka in 1975 while today **over 82 lakh kg milk** is processed daily and **80% of the total turnover** goes to the farmer.

❖ Government Initiative:

- Government has decided that **NDDB** (National Dairy Development Board) and **the Ministry of Cooperation** will establish a primary dairy in every panchayat of the country in the **next three years.**
- **Also two lakh primary dairies** will be established at the village level across the country in three years.

❖ What is White Revolution?

- **Operation Flood**, launched in 1970, has helped dairy farmers direct their own development, placing control of the resources they create in their own hands.
- **A National Milk Grid** links milk producers throughout India with consumers in over 700 towns & cities, reducing seasonal & regional price variations.
- **It also ensures that** the producer gets fair market prices in a transparent manner on a regular basis.
- **The bedrock of Operation Flood** has been village milk producers' cooperatives, which procure milk and provide inputs and services, making modern management and technology available to members.
- Operation Flood's **objectives included.**
 - Increase milk production ("a flood of milk").
 - Augment rural incomes.
 - Reasonable prices for consumers.

❖ Operation Flood was Implemented In Three Phases:

- **Phase I (1970-1980)** was financed by the sale of skimmed milk powder & butter oil gifted by the European Union then EEC through the World Food Programme.



- During its first phase, Operation Flood linked 18 of India's premier milk sheds with consumers in India's four major metropolitan cities: **Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.**
- **Phase II (1981-85)** increased the **milk sheds from 18 to 136**, 290 urban markets expanded the outlets for milk. By the end of 1985.
 - Domestic milk powder production increased from 22,000 tons in the pre-project year to 140,000 tons by 1989.
- **Phase III (1985-1996)** enabled dairy cooperatives to **expand and strengthen** the infrastructure required to procure and market increasing volumes of milk.
- Veterinary first-aid health care services, feed and artificial insemination services for cooperative members were extended, along with intensified member education.
- **Operation Flood** was conceived and implemented as much more than a dairy programme.
- Dairying was seen as **an instrument of development**, generating employment and regular incomes for millions of rural people.
- "Operation Flood can be viewed as a twenty year experiment confirming the Rural Development Vision" (World Bank Report 1997c.)

News in Between the Lines

Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centers



❖ Context

- India has surpassed a **notable landmark- 150,000 Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)** have been operationalised before 31st December 2022.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) were launched under the **Ayushman Bharat Programme.**
- In February 2018, the Government of India **announced the creation of 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs).**
- It was created by **transforming existing Sub Centers and Primary Health Centers** as the base pillar of Ayushman Bharat.
- These centers would deliver **Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC).**
- It would bring **healthcare closer to the homes** of people covering both maternal & child health services & non-communicable diseases, including free essential drugs and diagnostic services.
- Primary healthcare plays a vital role in preventing many disease conditions.
- Providing **CPHC decreases morbidity and mortality at a lower cost** and greatly reduces the requirement for secondary and tertiary care.

Pralay Missile



❖ Context

- Recently, The defense ministry cleared a proposal to purchase **120 Pralay missiles for the Indian Air Force and Army.**

❖ Key Highlights

- Pralay' is **India's first conventional quasi-ballistic (Largely ballistic+Low trajectory)** missile and is an answer to any conventional missile attack from northern or western borders.
- It is developed by the DRDO.
- The '**Pralay**' missile was **tested for heavier payload and different range** to prove the **precision and lethality** of the weapon.
- Pralay is powered with a **solid propellant rocket motor** and other new technologies.
- The missile guidance system includes **state-of-the-art navigation and integrated avionics.**
- **Range: 150KM to 500KM.**
- It is capable of carrying a conventional warhead of about **350 kg to 700 kg**, which gives it a deadly punitive capability.
- It is a **derivative of the Prahaar missile programme**, which was first tested in 2011.
- The missile has been developed in a way that it is able to **defeat the interceptor missiles** and also has the **ability to change its path** after covering a certain range mid-air.
- India's Pralay missile **can be compared to China's Dong Feng 12** and the **Russian Iskander missile** that has been used in the ongoing war with Ukraine.

❖ Context

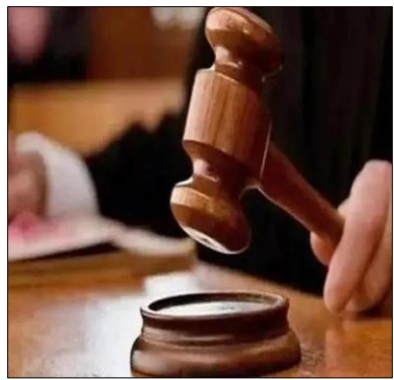
- Recently, The Allahabad HC ordered the Uttar Pradesh government to hold urban local body elections without reservation for OBCs as the 'triple test' requirement for it had not been met.

❖ Key Highlights

Face to Face Centres



Triple Test Survey



- The state set up a commission for this purpose.
- The five-member commission will conduct a survey to ensure that the OBCs are provided reservation on the basis of the triple test, as mandated by the Supreme Court.
- This is the **first time that the triple test exercise will be carried out in Uttar Pradesh.**

❖ About Triple Test

- The triple test requires the government to complete three tasks for finalisation of reservation to OBCs in the local bodies. These include:
 - To set up a dedicated commission to conduct a rigorous empirical inquiry into the nature and implications of the backwardness in local bodies;
 - To specify the proportion of reservation required in local bodies in light of recommendations of the commission, so as not to fall foul of overbreadth;
 - To ensure reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs taken together does not exceed an aggregate of 50 per cent of the total seats.
- These triple test/conditions were outlined by the Supreme Court in the case of *Vikas Kishanrao Gawali vs. State of Maharashtra and others*, decided on March 4, 2021.

International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)



❖ Context

- Recently, The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** proposed a regulatory framework for index providers.

❖ Key Highlights

- The proposed framework will require index providers to follow the principles of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).
- The proposed regulations will include provisions for ensuring eligibility criteria, compliance, disclosures, periodic audits, and penalties for noncompliance and inaccurate disclosures.

❖ International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)

- IOSCO is an association of organizations that **regulate the world's securities and futures markets.**
- It was **established in 1983.**
- **Memberships**
 - Members are typically primary securities and/or futures regulators in a national jurisdiction or the main financial regulator from each country.
 - IOSCO has members from over 100 countries, who regulate more than 95% of the world's securities markets.
 - As of March 2022, IOSCO had 231 members.
- **Its mandate is to:**
 - Develop, implement, and promote high standards of regulation to enhance investor protection and reduce systemic risk.
 - Share information with exchanges and assist them with technical and operational issues.
 - Establish standards toward monitoring global investment transactions across borders and markets.
- It has a permanent **secretariat in Madrid, Spain.**

Coal Ministry to develop Eco-Parks

❖ Context

- **Coal Sector** Constructs Eight Eco-Parks to promote, **mine tourism.**

❖ Key Highlights

- As part of the ongoing **efforts of the Coal Ministry** to develop Eco-Parks on reclaimed land and to promote mine tourism.
- **Eight eco-parks** have been constructed recently in different parts of the country and **two more such parks will be completed in 2022-23.**

❖ Eco Tourism

- Ecotourism is **defined as "responsible travel** to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education.
- Ecotourism **provides effective economic incentives** for conserving and enhancing bio-cultural diversity and helps protect the natural and cultural heritage of our beautiful planet.

Face to Face Centres



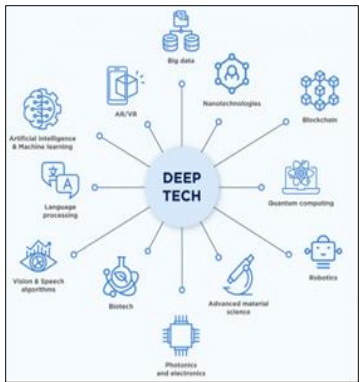


- **The Ministry of Tourism** has recognized the immense potential of sustainable tourism in becoming a source of sustainable livelihoods and achieving the SDGs.
- The Ministry of Tourism has accordingly formulated a **Draft National Strategy** and Roadmap for Sustainable Tourism with focus on eco-tourism.

❖ Eco - Tourism In Mining Area

- Mining areas, **after exhaustion of coal reserves**, offer good potential for promoting tourism by developing eco-parks, sites for water sports, underground visits, golf grounds, avenues for recreation, adventure, bird watching etc.
- Over the years, **coal companies have developed more than 17 eco-parks** by undertaking sustainable mine closure practices.
- **These mining sites are now stable**, environmentally sustainable and present a very beautiful site aesthetically.
 - **Ex-Mudwani Dam Eco-park** of NCL in Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh.

Digital India Innovation Fund for Catalyzing Deep Tech Start-Ups



❖ Context

- Government of India is going to launch a **Digital India Innovation Fund** that will support **Deep-tech Startups**.

❖ What is Deep Tech?

- **Deep Tech or Hard Tech** is a classification of organization, or a startup company, with the expressed objective of providing technology solutions based on substantial scientific or engineering challenges.
- Deep technology is **based on tangible engineering innovation** or scientific advances and discoveries.
- According to NASSCOM, Active tech start-ups that create, deploy or use advanced technology in their product or service **are considered as deep-tech start-ups**.
- **The most prominent deep tech fields are:**
 - Advanced materials.
 - Advanced manufacturing
 - Artificial intelligence.
 - Biotechnology.
 - Quantum computing.
 - Block chain, robotics,

❖ What are the unique challenges faced by them?

- **Funding is one challenge** wherein less than 20% of startups received funding. the number is lower for deep-tech startups.
- **Low utilisation of government funds** as well as a lack of domestic capital for such startups.
- Talent and market access, research guidance, investors' understanding of deep-tech, customer acquisition and cost for talent are **the major challenges faced by them**.

❖ Context

- **The Forum for Good Governance (FGG)** has requested the political parties in Telangana and the advocates of '**podu**' cultivation not to make it an election issue in the larger interests of the environment and the State.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The forum suggested the State government to take up **afforestation on about 12 lakh acres** of forest land that is in illegal occupation, including for podu cultivation.
- And suggested to grant **the rights to collect the produce & market it** to the people evicted.

❖ Podu Cultivation:

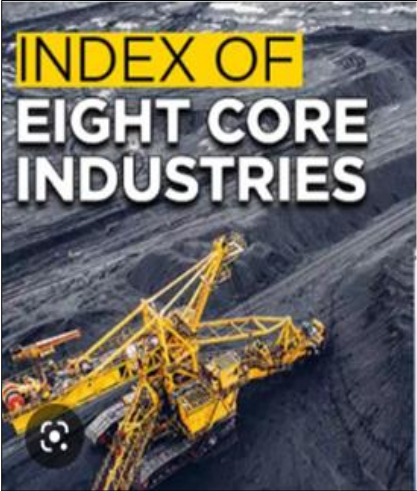
- The **tribal people in the areas of Eastern Ghats** have been practicing podu, or the slash and burn, or the shifting form of agriculture for subsistence since ages.
- It is believed that the **slash and burn form of agriculture**, wherein huge trees are slashed or felled and burnt on the hills slopes, has been in practice by the hill tribes across the **globe since the Neolithic times**.

❖ Adverse Effect

- It has a **direct impact on global warming and climate change**, the soil erosion is very heavy that not only reduces the scope of regeneration on the slopes but also silts up the rivers downstream, which at times **lead to floods**.
- Tribals in the hill ranges depend on perennial streams for drinking water and soil erosion is one of the **major reasons for water pollution.**"

Podu Farming



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To stem the degradation, the state governments have taken up many programmes such as the Joint Forest Management (JFM), Community Forest Management (CFM) and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). |
| <p>Index Of Eight Core Industries</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Combined Index of Eight Core Industries increased by 5.4 per cent (provisional) in November 2022 compared to November 2021. ❖ Key Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final growth rate of Index of Eight Core Industries for August 2022 is revised to 4.2% from its provisional level 3.3%. • Cumulative growth rate of ICI during April-November 2022 was 8.0% (provisional) as compared to corresponding period last year. ❖ Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monthly Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is a production volume index. • ICI measures collective and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity. • It is compiled and released by Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), and Ministry of Commerce & Industry. • The weights of these eight industries are largely in alignment with the respective weight of these industries in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). • The base year of the ICI has been revised to 2011-12 from 2004-05 in alignment with the new series of IIP. • Combined weight of these eight core industries is 40.27 percent of IIP with base 2011-12. The ICI with base 2004-05 had a weight of 37.90 percent in the IIP (2004-05). • It is an important lead indicator for overall industrial performance and general economic activities in the economy. • ICI for a reference month is released with a time lag of one month on last day of the next month, which is about twelve days prior to the release of IIP for the reference month. |

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