

SANJHI, GOND & ROGAN PAINTINGS

❖ Context

- At the Quad summit in Tokyo, the Indian PM presented gifts to the leaders of US, Australia & Japan, showcasing Indian cultural heritage and artforms.

❖ SANJHI PAINTINGS

- The art form originated out of the **Krishna cult**.
- According to Hindu mythology, **Radha used to paint Sanjhi patterns on the walls** for her beloved Krishna.
- Later, the form was used to make **ceremonial rangolis** in Krishna temples.



- It involves **creating stencils based on incidents from the life of deity** and then hand cutting them on thin sheets of paper using scissors.
- **Banana leaves** were used in olden days. Now, handmade and recycled paper is used.
- The paintings were popularised by Vaishnava temple priests in **15th and 16th centuries**. Mughals introduced contemporary themes.

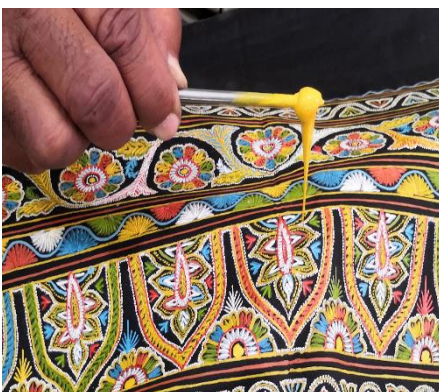
❖ GOND PAINTINGS

- The painting form practised by Gonds, is also commonly known as **'Pardhan painting'** or **'Jangarh Kalam'**.
- Its popularity is often traced to **Jangarh Shyam**.



- He began drawing **oral myths and legends** of the tribe in the 1970s on the **walls of homes in Madhya Pradesh's Patangarh village**.
- Pictorial art on walls and floors of house is done with **local colours and materials** like charcoal, coloured soil, plant sap, leaves, cow dung, lime stone powder, etc.

❖ ROGAN PAINTINGS



- It is a form of **cloth painting**, considered to be four centuries old and is primarily practised in **Kutch, Gujarat**. The word 'rogan' comes from Persian, meaning varnish or oil.
- The craft uses **paint made from boiled oil and vegetable dyes**, where castor seeds are hand pounded to extract the oil and turned into paste by boiling.

Transport & Marketing Assistance (TMA) Scheme

❖ Context

- Exporters of agricultural commodities have asked the central government to reinstate the **Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA)**.



❖ Background

- Amid the surge in demand for agricultural commodities, **India's agri exports crossed \$50 billion in FY22, the highest ever**.
- However, exporters said **high freight rates are affecting the profitability**. Often, air freight rates are higher than the cost of vegetables, and a 200-600% jump in freight rates in the last two years has worsened the situation.
- Federation of Indian **Export Organisations (FIEO)** has said that **withdrawal of TMA scheme has come as a "setback" for agri exporters** and the small businesses.
- **Many exporters had factored in the freight benefits while finalising the contracts.**

❖ About The Scheme

- It is a scheme of the **Department of Commerce** of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- The scheme aims to **provide assistance for the international component of freight and marketing of agricultural produce**.
- The scheme aims to mitigate the disadvantage of higher cost of transportation of export of specified agriculture products due to trans-shipment and to **promote brand recognition for Indian agricultural products** in the specified overseas markets.

Revised Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products Scheme

- The revised TMA scheme will be available for exports affected on or after 01.04.2021 up to 31.03.2022.
- Rates of assistance have been increased, by 50% for exports by sea and by 100% for exports by air.

Coverage	About	Significance
All exporters, duly registered with relevant Export Promotion Council as per Foreign Trade Policy, of eligible agriculture products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry in 2019. • The scheme aims to assist with the international component of freight and marketing of agricultural produce. 	The assistance will help mitigate the disadvantage of higher freight costs faced by the Indian exporters of agriculture products.

- **Assistance is provided in cash through direct bank transfer** as part reimbursement of freight paid.
- FOB supplies where no freight is paid by Indian exporters are not covered under this scheme.
- The scheme was beneficial for **low-value agri products, especially vegetables**.
- The scheme was available for exports on or after 01.04.2021 up to 31.03.2022. It has been stopped because of a shortage of funds.

Face to Face Centres

First Biotech Park In North India

❖ Context:

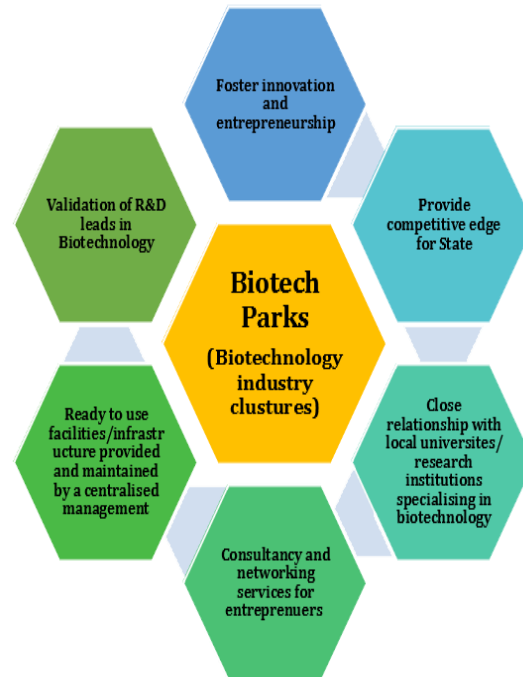
- Recently, Union Minister inaugurated north India's 1st **industrial Biotech Park** in Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir.

❖ Key Highlights

- The work on the two Industrial Biotech Parks, one at Ghatti, Kathua, Jammu and other in Handwara, Kashmir jointly funded by **department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, Ministry of Science & Technology and Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council** was started in February 2019.
- **CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine**, (CSIR-IIIM) Jammu has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of this project.
- The Biotech Parks of J&K are among **9 Biotechnology Parks** supported by the Department of Biotechnology in various States.

❖ About Biotech Park

- Biotechnology Parks offer facilities to **Scientists and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)** for technology incubation, technology demo and pilot plant studies for accelerated commercial development of Biotechnology.

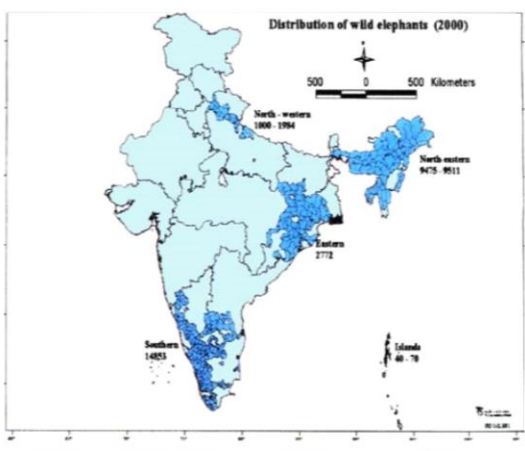


- "India is uniquely positioned to harness the immense potential that biotechnology offers for transforming all aspects of life globally.
- The Indian biotech industry is among the top **12 destinations** in the world and **ranks second in Asia after China**.

- It also helps new enterprises to **forge linkages with other stakeholders** of the biotechnology sector including academia and Government.

News in Between the Lines

DNA Profiling of Elephants for Census 2022



❖ Context:

- The government plans to conduct DNA profiling of elephants as part of the elephant census 2022 after previous counts threw up possibly inaccurate numbers.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, for the first time, is converging **elephant and tiger population estimation**.
- The DNA profiling of elephants will be done to **develop a scientific method of population estimation**.
- To ensure accuracy all DNA samples will be tested twice.
- The census will be conducted in three phases.
- First, **ground surveys** will be conducted for **indirect elephant** signs including broken branches, footprints and dung. Results from camera traps and **DNA analysis of dung samples will then be analysed**.
- The numbers will finally be extrapolated to give a range for each region.
- Elephants will be identified **for their herd, health and nutrition level**, and body characteristics such as ear and tusk size.
- According to the ministry data, **Karnataka has the highest number of elephants** (6,049), followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054). The total figures are lower than the previous census estimate from 2012 (between 29,391 and 30,711).
- A population size estimate conducted in 2018 showed a wild Asian elephant population of **48,323–51,680**. **More than 60%** of the population is in India.

❖ Key Concerns:

- There has been a rise in human-animal conflict.
- Asian elephants are listed as **endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List** of threatened species.
- Most of the countries except India, have lost their viable elephant populations due to loss of **habitats and poaching**.

Face to Face Centres

Community Forest Rights



❖ Context:

- The Chhattisgarh has become only the second state in the country (after Simlipal in Odisha) to recognize **Community Forest Resource (CFR)** rights of a village inside a national park.

❖ What is a Community Forest Resource?

- The community forest resource area is the **common forest land** that has been traditionally protected and conserved **for sustainable use** by a particular community.
- The community uses it to access resources available within the traditional and customary boundary of the village; and for seasonal use of landscape in case of **pastoralist communities**.
- Each CFR area has a customary boundary with identifiable landmarks recognised by the community and its neighboring villages.
- It may include forest of any category – **revenue forest, classified & unclassified forest, deemed forest, DLC land, reserve forest, protected forest, sanctuary and national parks etc.**
- **Kanger Ghati National Park** is the second national park, after Simlipal in Odisha, where CFR rights have been recognised.

❖ Significance:

- To undo the historical injustice occurred to the **forest dwelling communities**.
- To ensure land tenure, livelihood and food security of the forest **dwelling Scheduled Tribes** and other traditional forest dwellers
- To strengthen the conservation regime of the forests by including the **responsibilities and authority on Forest Rights holders** for sustainable use, conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological balance.

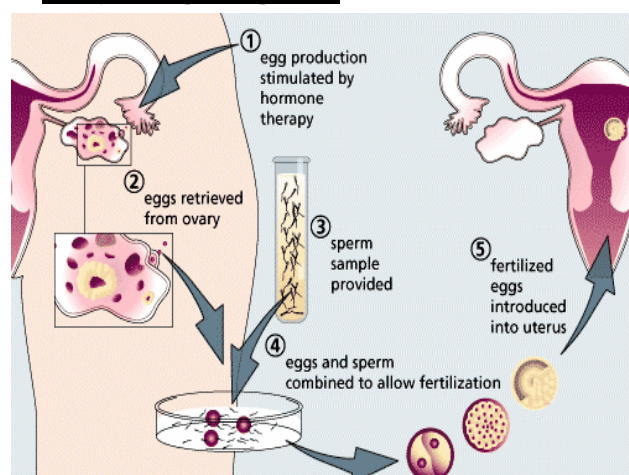
Surrogacy Law



❖ Context

- Recently, the Delhi High Court issued notice to the Centre on a petition challenging the validity of **the provisions of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021**, and the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021.

❖ Key Highlights



- A petition was filed before Delhi High Court, challenging the exclusion of a **single man and a woman having a child from surrogacy** and demanded the decriminalization of commercial surrogacy.
- The Petitioner argued that the personal decision of a single person about the birth of a baby through surrogacy, i.e., the right of reproductive autonomy is a facet of the right to privacy guaranteed under **Article 21 of the Constitution**.

- Thus, the right of privacy of every citizen or person **to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion** into matters fundamentally affecting a decision to bear or beget a child through surrogacy cannot be taken away.

❖ Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021:

- **Provisions:** Under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, a woman who is a widow or a divorcee between the age of **35 to 45 years or a couple**, defined as a legally married woman and man, can avail of surrogacy if they have a medical condition necessitating this option. It also bans commercial surrogacy, which is punishable with a jail term of **10 years and a fine of up to Rs 10 lakhs**.
- The law allows only altruistic surrogacy where no money exchanges hands and where a surrogate mother is genetically related to those seeking a child.
- **Eligibility criteria:** The intending couple should have a 'certificate of essentiality' And a '**certificate of eligibility**' issued by the appropriate authority **ex. District Medical Board**.

Face to Face Centres



National Centre For Gene Function in Health & Disease



❖ Context

➤ The centre was inaugurated at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is built by IISER Pune and supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) at a total cost of about Rs 45 crore.
- This will be one-of-its-kind large facilities providing a timely supply of animal models to researchers studying a range of diseases from cancer to diabetes.
- Rats, mice and rabbits will be housed here, doing away with the need to import them.
- The facility houses molecular biology laboratories and micro-injection setups.
- It will help to generate mouse models, in which scientists will knock out existing genes and replace them with external or artificial genes through CRISPR / Cas9 systems.

❖ Purpose

- With a growing zoonotic disease burden on human health, there is an increased urgency to perform disease studies based on physiological evidence and methods.
- Since human trials alone cannot suffice for such studies, the need for having experimental setups using animal models has become imperative.

JAN SAMARTH Portal



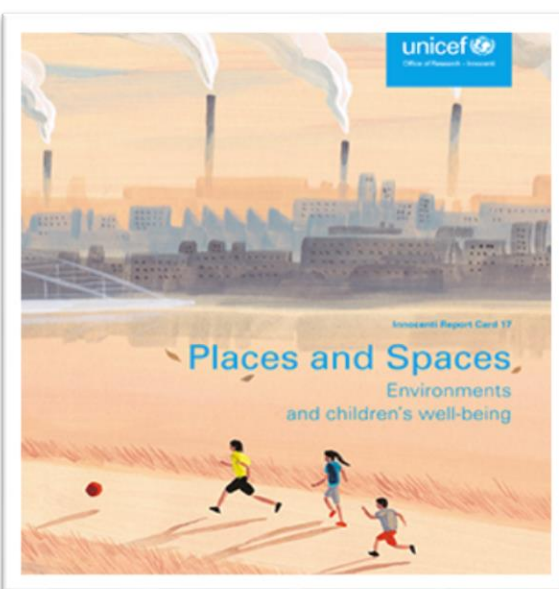
❖ Context

➤ The government will launch a new credit linked portal 'Jan Samarth' as part of the week-long 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)' celebrations.

❖ Key Highlights

- This would enable beneficiaries to have one view of 13 schemes of 8 government departments. At the same time, this portal enables banks to process these applications from end-to-end.
- The portal will have open architecture enabling state governments and other institutions to also onboard their schemes on this platform in the future.

Innocenti Report Card 17-places And Spaces: Environments And Children's Well-being



❖ Context

➤ UNICEF released a report assessing the effect on the body and mind of children due to the changes taking place in the environment in which children are exposed to.

❖ Key Highlights

- 1 in 4 deaths of children below five globally could be averted by improving environmental factors such as air, water, sanitation, hygiene or chemical use.
- Over-consumption in the world's richest countries is endangering children.
- Australia, Belgium, Canada and the United States are among other wealthy countries that ranked low on creating a healthy environment for children within and beyond their borders, based on CO2 emissions, e-waste and overall resource consumption per capita.
- Finland, Iceland and Norway were among those that provide healthier environments for their country's children but disproportionately contribute to destroying the global environment.
- Rich countries generated electronic waste 53.6 million tonnes in 2019 and this is expected to double by 2035.
- In nine of the world's richest countries, more than 1 in 20 children have elevated levels of lead.
- About 90 per cent of the world's children — two billion - live in places where outdoor air pollution far exceeds the World Health Organisation (WHO) limits.
- Colombia (3.7) and Mexico (3.7) have the highest number of years of healthy life lost (per 1,000 children under 15) due to air pollution.

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