

Mangarh Dham

❖ Context

- Recently, Rajasthan Chief Minister wrote a letter to Prime Minister of India reiterating his **demand for Mangarh Dham** in Rajasthan's Banswara district **to be declared a "National Monument"**.

❖ Key Highlights

- This came ahead of the **PM's scheduled visit** to Mangarh on November 1, 2022.
- Tribals from Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh revere the site as a sacred place. It is a **key element of tribal identity**.

❖ Mangarh Dham

- Mangarh Dham is **known for the massacre of tribals** that took place six years before Jallianwalla Bagh.
- It is sometimes referred to as the **"Adivasi Jallianwala"**.
- Mangarh is **located in the district on the Gujarat-Rajasthan border**, a region with a large tribal population.
- Social reformer **Govind Guru** led the gathering of tribals and forest dwellers in **1913** in Mangarh against the British Raj.
- About **1,500 Bhil tribals and forest dwellers were killed** at Mangarh on **November 17, 1913**, when the British Indian Army opened fire on the protesters.
- The people were gathered to **demand abolition of bonded labour system and relaxation in heavy agricultural taxes** imposed by the rulers of princely states.

❖ Bhil Tribal Group

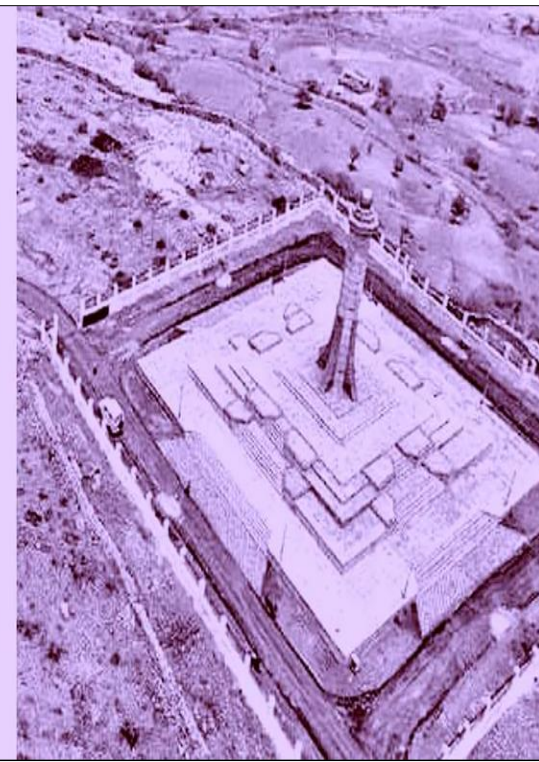
- Bhil or Bheel is an **ethnic group in western India**.
- **They** speak the Bhil languages, a subgroup of the Western Zone of the Indo-Aryan languages. The Bhil tribe is called **"Dhanush Purush of India"** because they are highly adept at learning Dhanush.

- As of 2013, Bhils were the **largest tribal group** also known as Adivasi in India.
- Bhils are listed as tribal people of the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra Rajasthan, and Tripura.
- **Population-** 12.7 Million according to the 2001 Census of India
- Bhils are divided into numerous tribes and subtribes, including the Barela, Bhilala, Garasia, Gameta, Mina, Tadvi, and Vasave.

Mangarh Massacre: Sacrifice of 1500 Bhils Against British in 1913



Bharat seems to have forgotten the Mangarh massacre, which took place on November 17, 1913, about six years prior to the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of Amritsar. The British PM Theresa May expressed regret for Jallianwala Bagh massacre, but no word of regret for the equally heinous massacre of 1500 Bhils in Mangarh.



Terai Elephant Reserve (TER)

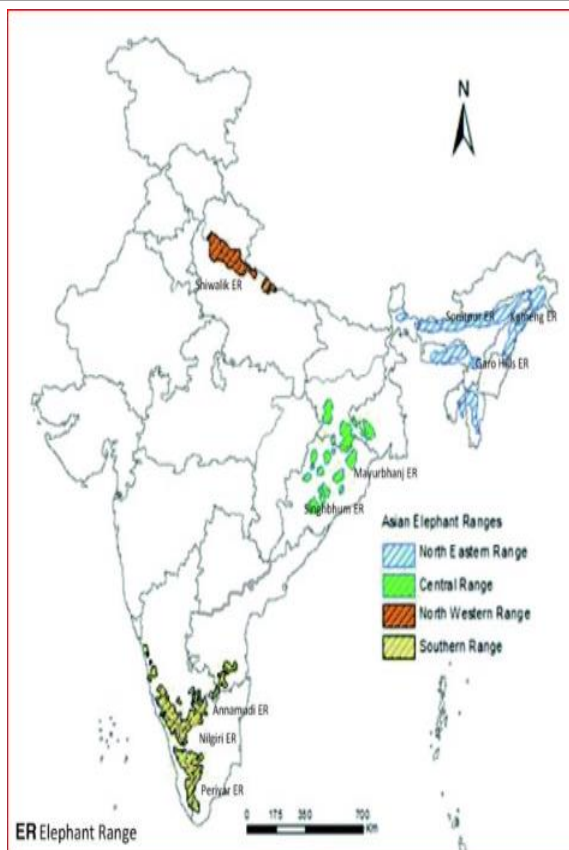
❖ Context

- The Union Forest and Environment Ministry has given its approval to the Terai Elephant Reserve (TER).



❖ Key Highlights

- With the Terai Elephant Reserve coming into existence, the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve would be the **lone national park in Uttar Pradesh** that would protect and conserve four iconic wild species - tiger, one-horned rhinoceros, the Asian elephant and swamp deer.
- Besides the Dudhwa and Pilibhit tiger reserves, the elephant reserve would comprise forest areas of the Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary, the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, the Dudhwa buffer zone and parts of the south Kheri forest division.
- The establishment of the Terai Elephant Reserve will be a milestone in terms of wildlife conservation, particularly of the Asian elephants, as it is located on the India-Nepal border, where trans-border movement of elephants is a routine.
- The Terai Elephant Reserve under the Project Elephant would help revive or restore these corridors, which have been disturbed.



- The establishment of the elephant reserve in Dudhwa would help adopt an **elephant-centric approach** towards their conservation.
- **Financial Contribution:** The Centre would provide all financial and technical assistance under the Project Elephant, which would help handle human-elephant conflicts.

Face to Face Centres



Kalanamak Rice

❖ Context

- Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) has successfully tested two new dwarf varieties - Pusa Narendra Kalanamak 1638 and Pusa Narendra Kalanamak 1652 - in Uttar Pradesh that give double the yield.



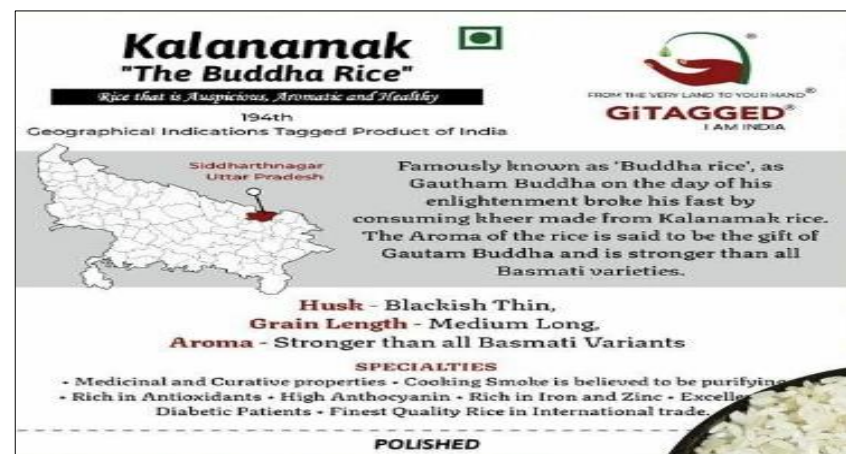
❖ Key Highlights

- Also known as Buddha Rice, Kalanamak is a scented, one of the finest and short grain rice with an unusual black husk (kala = black; namak means salt).
- It is currently grown in 11 districts of the Terai region of northeastern Uttar Pradesh and in Nepal (specifically Kapilvastu).
- This rare rice has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2013 which recognised Siddharthnagar and the adjacent districts for the tag.
- Under the **One District One Product (ODOP)** Scheme, it has earned the Prime Minister's award for Excellence in Public Administration 2021.
- It was featured in the book 'Speciality Rices of the World' by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

❖ Benefits

- Kalanamak rice is rich in micronutrients such as Iron & Zinc.
- Therefore, this rice is said to prevent diseases borne out of nutrient deficiencies. Regular intake of Kalanamak rice is said to prevent Alzheimer's disease.

- It has 11% protein, almost double that of common rice varieties.
- It has low Glycemic Index (49% to 52%) making it relatively sugar Free and suitable for diabetics.
- **Note:** The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), commonly known as the Pusa Institute, is India's national institute for agricultural research, education and extension.



Uniform Civil Code

❖ Context

- Recently, **Gujarat Home Minister** announced the **formation of a committee to implement a uniform civil code (UCC) in the state.**



❖ Key Highlights

- In May this year, **Uttarakhand** announced a committee led by retired Supreme Court judge Justice **Ranjana Desai** to carry out a similar exercise.
- **Assam and Himachal Pradesh** too have supported the idea of a UCC.

❖ Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

- A UCC would provide for **one law for the entire country.**
- It would **applicable to all religious communities** in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, etc.

• Constitutional Provision :

- **Article 44** - The state shall endeavour to secure a UCC for the citizens throughout the territory of India.
- The Constitution lists the UCC among the **Directive Principles of State Policy**, which makes it a desirable objective, but it is **not justiciable.**

- **Origin of Uniform Civil Code** : It dates back to **colonial India** when the British government submitted its report in **1835** stressing the need for uniformity in the codification of Indian law.

- **B N Rau Committee** to codify Hindu law in 1941. **The Hindu code Bill** – Lapsed.

- **Succession Act** : It codify the law relating to **intestate or unwilled succession**, among Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs.
 - It **gave women property rights** in their father's estate.
- Courts have also often said in their judgements that the government should move towards a uniform civil code including the judgement in the **Shah Bano case.**
- **Indian laws do follow a uniform code in most civil matters** :
 - Indian Contract Act, Civil Procedure Code, Sale of Goods Act, Transfer of Property Act, Partnership Act, Evidence Act etc.
 - States, however, have made hundreds of amendments and therefore in certain matters, there is diversity even under these secular civil laws.

❖ Significance

- The UCC aims to provide **protection to vulnerable sections** including women and religious minorities.
- It **promote nationalistic fervour** through unity.
- When enacted the code will work to **simplify laws** that are segregated at present on the basis of religious beliefs like the Hindu code bill, Shariat law, and others.
- The code **will simplify the complex laws** around marriage ceremonies, inheritance, succession, adoptions making them one for all.
- The same civil law will then be applicable to all citizens irrespective of their faith.

Delhi Declaration

❖ Context

- Recently UN Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting adopted Delhi Declaration.



❖ Key Highlights

- In the Delhi Declaration, the Committee has urged all Member States to ensure zero tolerance towards terrorism,
 - consistent with their obligations under international laws,
 - including human rights law,
 - international humanitarian law and international refugees law.
- It has called for taking urgent action to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations through the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolutions and other relevant international instruments relating to terrorism.

- The Declaration reaffirms that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.
- It has also called upon Member States to fulfill their obligations enshrined in relevant international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols to which they are a party.
- It has also underscored the obligation of Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and to refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts.

Gilgit-Baltistan

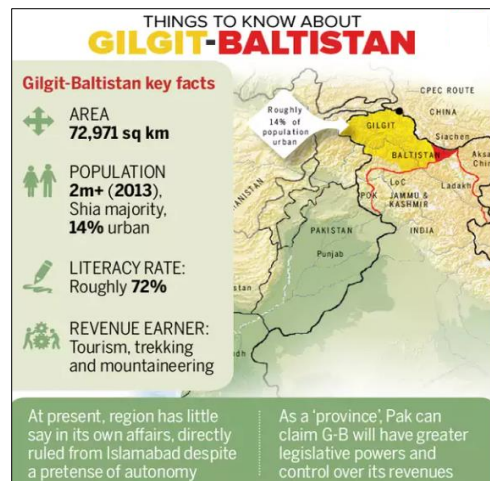
❖ Context

- Union Defence Minister recently said that the dream of Acharya Shankar and Sardar Patel would be fulfilled when Gilgit-Baltistan & other areas would be joined with J&K.



❖ Key Highlights

- Gilgit-Baltistan formerly known as the Northern Areas, is a region administered by Pakistan as an administrative territory, and constituting the northern portion of the larger Kashmir region.
- It has been the subject of a dispute between India & Pakistan since 1947, and between India & China from somewhat later.



- It borders Azad Kashmir to the south, the province of **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** to the west, the **Wakhan Corridor** of Afghanistan to the north, the **Xinjiang region** of China, to the east and northeast, and the Indian-administered union territories Jammu and Kashmir and **Ladakh** to the southeast.
- The region, together with Azad Kashmir in the southwest, is grouped and referred to by the United Nations & other international organisations as "Pakistan-administered Kashmir".

UDAN Scheme

❖ Context

- In a major boost to air connectivity, three flights connecting five cities of **Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur and Mizoram** has been inaugurated by union civil aviation minister.



❖ Key Highlights

- **Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik** known by its acronym UDAN (Hindi for "flight") is a regional airport development program of the Government of India and part of the **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** of upgrading under-serviced air routes.
- Its goal is to make air travel affordable and improve economic development in India.
- The scheme is being jointly funded by the central government and state governments.

- A Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) has been created to fund the scheme via a levy on certain flights. States are expected to contribute 20 per cent to the fund.
- For balanced regional growth, allocations has been spread equitably across 5 regions - North, West, South, East and North East.
- The scheme is applicable on route length between **200 to 800 km** with no lower limit set for hilly, remote, island and security sensitive regions.

News in Between the Lines

IT Amendment Rules, 2022

❖ Context

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2022.

Face to Face Centres





❖ Key Highlights

- It will pave the way for **setting up grievance appellate panels**.
- The central government shall, by notification, establish one or more **Grievance Appellate Committees (GAC) within three months** from the date of commencement of the rules.
- **Composition of GAC** : Each Grievance Appellate Committee will comprise a **chairperson and two whole-time members** appointed by the central government.
- **Function** :
 - The committee will **decide complaints against intermediaries** including Twitter or Facebook for displaying obscene, pornographic content besides the content that threatens unity and integrity of India.
 - Any user aggrieved by a decision of an intermediary's own grievance officer can appeal to the government-appointed Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) within a period of 30 days.
 - The **GACs shall try to resolve the issue within 30 days** and may also seek assistance from experts.
- **Significance** : It will give social media users a chance to **settle the complaints at the earliest** instead of approaching the courts.

Jangi Thopan Powari Hydroelectric Project Plant



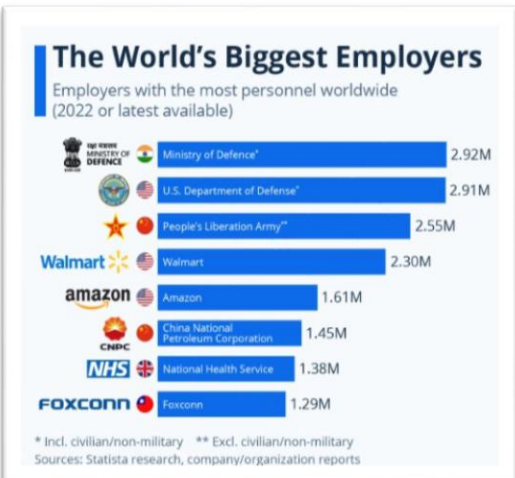
❖ Context

- A group of youngsters has been asking candidates of the various political parties to give an affidavit, citing their proposed steps to **deal with stopping construction of new hydel projects in Kinnaur**.
- The youngsters almost a year ago launched the campaign **“No Means No”** against setting up of new hydel projects in Kinnaur (Himachal Pradesh).

❖ Key Highlights

- The residents of the valley have been protesting against the proposed **804-megawatt Jangi Thopan Powari hydroelectricity project (JTP HEP)** over the **Satluj** since April 2021.
- **The run-of-the-river (ROR) project envisages-**
 - Construction of a concrete gravity dam of ±88 metre high above the deepest foundation level across river Satluj near Jangi village.
 - Underground powerhouse on the right bank upstream of Tehsil boundary (Kashang Nallah).
 - The diversion of water will involve construction of a 12-km-long tunnel.
- **It threatens life, livelihood and ecology in the basin.**

India's Defense Ministry is World's Biggest Employer



❖ Context

- According to a report in 'Statista', **India's Ministry of Defense is the world's biggest employer with 2.92 million people**, which includes combined active service personnel, reservists and civilian staff.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Statista** is a Germany-based private organization that provides data and statistics about various issues worldwide.
- The US Department of Defense and the People's Liberation Army of China ranked Second and Third respectively.
- According to the report, no company in the world has more employees than **Walmart**.
- **Side Note : According to SIPRI report-**
 - US military spending amounted to **USD 801 billion in 2021**.
 - **China**, the world's second-largest spender, allocated an estimated USD 293 billion to its military.
 - **India's** military spending of USD 76.6 billion ranked third highest in the world.
 - **United States, China, India, the United Kingdom and Russia**, together accounting for **62 per cent of expenditure in Defense**.

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