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MK Yadav Sir

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ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 1

CHINA-PLUS-ONE STRATEGY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

INDIA MORE RESILIENT THAN OTHERS: BANGA

India has 3-5 Year China+1 Window: World Bank Prez

Says he's more optimistic than before as country focusing on growth and jobs

Our Bureau

New Delhi: World Bank president Ajay Banga said India has a three-to-five-year window to cash in on the China+1 opportunity as companies seek alternative manufacturing sites to diversify supply chains.

India has proven more resilient and emerged from the pandemic relatively stronger than others, Banga said, adding that he is more optimistic than before as the country is focusing on growth and jobs, the two things crucial to reducing poverty.

Banga, 63, former Mastercard CEO, was appointed World Bank chief last month.

"India's opportunity currently is to cash in on the China+1 opportunity," Banga said. "This opportunity will not stay open for 10 years. This is a three-to-five-year opportunity when the supply chains start relocating or... let's say not relocating but adding on in another location."

Indian Economy ▸▸ 9



Context: World Bank president said India has a three-to-five-year window to cash in on the **China+1 opportunity** as companies seek alternative manufacturing sites to diversify supply chains.

- India has proven more **resilient and emerged from the pandemic** relatively stronger than others.

China-plus-one strategy

- **Origin**: Coined way back in 2013, it is a global business strategy.
- **China-Plus-One, or just Plus One**: It refers to a strategy in which companies avoid investing only in China and diversify their businesses to alternative destinations.
  - The "China, plus one" strategy is **about still using the resources allocated in China, but adding lower wages to the mix.**
  - **Due to rising labour cost in India, manufacturing firms are diverting some of the resources to low cost economies** while still using their facilities in China as shifting entire production at once is not possible.
- **Measures taken by the government:**
  - **Amalgamation of Labour laws:** into four codes will help expand manufacturing and attract investments
  - **Promotion of a culture of resolution:** with the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019.**
  - **Sector level manufacturing:** The government has launched **Production-Linked Incentive scheme** which proposes a financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the White Goods manufacturing value chain.

DTE July 20

FAME INDIA
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)



Wrongful FAME subsidy claims drive EV makers into trouble

Seven manufacturers were fined over not complying with local sourcing norms; government is planning to take legal action against them

NEXT NEWS >

By Rohit Garg
Published: Wednesday 19 July 2023



Context: The Ministry of Heavy Industries is tightening its stance on the long-standing issue of violations of the **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME 2) scheme** by electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers, signalling a rocky road for the EV industry.

- Moreover, a recent amendment has reduced the subsidies under **FAME 2 from Rs 15000/kWh to Rs 10000/kWh.**
- The maximum subsidy has been capped at 15 percent of the vehicle price, a drastic cut from the former limit of 40 per cent.
- These recent developments have dented the electric two-wheeler sales momentum. They can also trigger banks to withdraw working capital, rating agencies to downgrade businesses to risky categories and put the survival of many EV startups at stake.

FAME India

- **About**: **FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles)** India is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan.
  - Main thrust of FAME is to **encourage electric vehicles** by providing subsidies.
- **Implementing agency:** The **Department of Heavy Industry** is administering the scheme "Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles in India", popularly known as FAME India scheme since **01st April 2015..**
- **Objective**: Promotion of Electric and hybrid vehicle in the country by offering upfront **Incentive on purchase of Electric vehicles** and by establishing charging Infrastructure for electric vehicles.
- **Salient features of the FAME scheme - 2:**
  - The scheme with total outlay of Rs 10,000 Crores over the period of three years (2019-20 to 2021-22) will be implemented with effect from 1st April 2019.
  - This scheme is the expanded version of the present scheme titled **'FAME India-1** which was launched on 1st April 2015, with total outlay of Rs. 895 crores.
  - **Target** is to support 10 Lakhs e-2Wheeler, 5 Lakhs e-3 Wheelers, 55000 4Wheelers and 7000 Buses.
  - Under the scheme of FAME-II, the **demand incentive** for e-2W has been increased to Rs. 15,000/KWh from Rs. 10,000/KWh with an increase in cap from 20% to almost 40% of the cost of the vehicle to increase the adoption of e-2W.
  - The phase II of FAME-India Scheme has been **extended for a period of two years after 31st March 2022.**
- **Benefits**: The scheme will help in **addressing the issue of environmental pollution** and fuel security.

PIB

July 20

STEEL SLAG ROAD TECHNOLOGY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

Steel slag road technology fulfilling the Prime Minister's 'Waste to Wealth' mission: Sh. Faggan Singh Kulaste

Context: Union Minister of State for Steel said that the Steel Slag Road technology of CSIR-CRRI is playing an important role in realising the Prime Minister mission of '**Waste to Wealth'.**

Key Points

- India is the **second largest steel producing country** in the world and about 19 million tonnes of steel slag is generated in the country as a solid waste, which will increase to 60 million tonnes by the year 2030. (About 200 kg of steel slag is generated in one tonne of steel production).
- The **1st road made with steel slag road interpretation technology** in Surat, Gujarat, has become famous for its technological excellence at national and national level.
- **Border Roads Organization** has also constructed a steel slag road in Arunachal Pradesh along with CRRI and Tata Steel on India-China border, having a much longer life than conventional road.
- Similarly, the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has also successfully used this technology in road construction on National Highway-66 (Mumbai-Goa) in collaboration with JSW Steel, under the technical guidance of CRRI.

Steel Slag Road Technology

- The technology has been developed by the Central Road Research Institute under a research project in collaboration with the Ministry of Steel, Government of India and four major steel manufacturing companies of the country, viz.**, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel, JSW Steel, Tata Steel and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam.**
- This **technology facilitates the large-scale utilization of waste steel slag of steel plants** and has proved very useful in effective disposal of about 19 million tonnes of steel slag generated in the country.
- The slag is generated from a steel furnace burning at around **1,500-1,600 degree centigrade** in the form of molten flux material as an impurity.
- The **molten material** is poured into the slag pits for cooling as per the customised procedure and further processed to develop stable steel slag aggregates, with **"better material properties** in place of the natural aggregate commonly used in road constructions.
- This technique has been successfully tested in road construction in four major states of the country including Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Arunachal Pradesh.

BUSINESS STANDARD

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JUTE PRODUCTION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Agriculture)

Jute goods exports get the sack on global slump

ISHITA AYAN DUTT
Kolkata, 19 July

A slowdown in global markets since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war has taken the sheen off jute or the 'golden fibre' as it's often referred to as.

Jute, which is 100 per cent biodegradable and therefore environment-friendly, has been reaping the benefits of a global push for sustainable packaging material.

Foreign retailers — including UK supermarket Tesco and Japanese minimalist retailer MUJI — have been embracing it in their bid to move away from plastic, as have producers of coffee and cocoa across the world.

Environmental, social, and corporate governance concerns have been giving other forms of jute goods a leg-up, too.

A CareEdge report in March mentioned that the overall export of jute products has seen traction over 2015-16 through 2021-22, witnessing a compound average growth rate of 12 per cent.

But the momentum appears to have hit a speed bump in 2022-23 (FY23), with major economies tapering off buying.

Data sourced from the Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) shows that the value of jute goods exports has seen a decline after eight-odd years. It is compiled from the data from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S).

The drop in FY23, however, came on the back of a nearly 37.8 per cent jump in exports in 2021-22 (FY22).

Overall, the export of jute goods by value stood at ₹3,510.63 crore in FY23, a drop of 13.11 per cent from ₹4,040.43 crore in the previous year. The sharpest decline is in floor covering at 23 per cent and yarn at 37 per cent. Shopping bags, which accounted for about 20 per cent of total exports in FY22, saw a dip of 4 per cent. It's not as if all export items have witnessed a drop.

Aniket Dani, director-research, CRISIL Market Intelligence & Analytics, said nine jute commodities under bags and sacks maintained a growth of 7 per cent, notwithstanding overall exports being fraught. These nine commodities accounted for 53 per cent of total jute exports in FY23.

Six commodities under fabric had shown a high growth of 36 per cent over the last fiscal year. "However, this accounts for only 0.7 per cent of total jute exports," said Dani.

IJMA Chairman Raghavendra Gupta said there is a glut in jute goods.

"Global recession in Europe and America has taken a toll on export demand — whether it's hessian (also termed as burlap), shopping bags or jute yarn." "We are expecting the trend to continue through the current year," he added.

Hemant Bangur, executive chairman, Gloster, said that exports were down due to reduction in demand on account of destocking.

"After the pandemic, things have normalised, leading to contraction in demand," he said.

The bigger problem, said Bangur, was a collapse in prices.

"It's a double whammy for jute mills — we are exporting less in volume and value," he said.

Utkarsh Kanoria, executive director, Cheviot Company, said that its exports to Russia and Ukraine had stopped. "But the larger impact was due to Europe," he clarified.

Cheviot makes interim products for shopping bags.

"The segment has been badly hit and our exports are down by about 20 per cent since the war. Floor coverings have also seen a drop of 20-30 per cent as consumers are not spending on discretionary items like rugs and carpets," said Kanoria.

"Last year, Europe was impacted by high energy prices. Now, it's just a general slowdown and absence of demand," he added.

In the domestic market, private orders have slumped, even though government buying is robust.

The Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987, mandates that 100 per cent of foodgrain and 20 per cent of sugar production are packed in jute bags. For this reason, the ₹10,000-12,000 crore industry is heavily dependent on government indents.

More on business-standard.com

THE GOLDEN FIBRE



₹10,000–12,000 cr Size of jute industry

Over **65%** procurement by govt agencies for food packaging

15% of production is exported and is catered to by modernised mills

13.11% Drop in export of jute goods in FY23. Reasons: Market lethargy, particularly Europe

37.8% Jump in jute exports in FY22

Context: A slowdown in global markets since the outbreak of the Russia Ukraine war has taken the **sheen off jute or the ´golden fibre´** as it´s often referred to as.

- Jute, which is **100 percent biodegradable** and therefore environment friendly, has been reaping the benefits of a global push for sustainable packaging material.
- Data sourced from the **Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA)** shows that the value of jute goods exports has seen a decline after eight odd years.

India's Jute Industry

- India is the **world's biggest producer of jute,** followed by Bangladesh. Jute is primarily grown in West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh.
- The jute industry in India is 150 years old. There are **about 79 jute mills in the country**, of which about 60 are in West Bengal along both the banks of river Hooghly.
- **Jute production is a** labour intensive industry. It employs about two lakh workers in the West Bengal alone and 4 lakh workers across the country.

LIVEMINT

Page 4

India's sunflower oil imports may decline

Reuters
feedback@livemint.com



Sunflower oil shipments could fall by around 30%. MINT

India's imports of sunflower oil are likely to fall in the coming months as it becomes uncompetitive against rival oils due to rising prices after Russia withdrew from the Black Sea grain deal, industry officials told Reuters.

The drop in sunflower oil imports would force the world's biggest buyer of vegetable oils to increase purchases of palm oil and soyoil to compensate.

A year-long deal allowing the safe Black Sea export of Ukraine's grain expired on Monday after Russia quit and warned it could not guarantee the safety of ships, in a move the United Nations said would "strike a blow to people in need everywhere".

Sunflower oil shipments to India could fall by around 30% from current levels, said Pradeep Chowdhry, managing director of Gemini Edibles and Fats India Pvt. Ltd, a leading Indian importer.

The Black Sea region accounts for 60% of world sunflower oil output and 76% of exports.

Spot prices have risen from $850 to $965 per tonne in the past five weeks on expectations that the grains deal would lapse and on a rally in rival oils.

India typically imports around 250,000 tonnes of sunflower oil per month, mainly from Russia, Ukraine, Argentina and Turkey.

Earlier this year, Black Sea exporters were aggressively selling sunflower oil at competitive prices, which helped bring down inventories, said Rajesh Patel, managing partner at GGN Research, an edible oil trader and broker.

India could import around 275,000 tonnes of sunflower oil in July but from August imports could fall to around 200,000 tonnes, Patel said.

Ukraine traditionally accounted for more than half of India's sunflower oil imports, but Russia has been its biggest supplier in the marketing year ending on 31 October, Solvent Extractors' Association of India data shows.

Loading of big vessels at Ukrainian ports is not possible without the grain deal, said Sandeep Bajoria, CEO of Sunvin Group, a vegetable oil brokerage and consultancy.

"The deal's expiry would force Ukrainians to ship sunoil from Romania, Bulgaria and other European countries but re-routing would bring down the volume," Bajoria said.

SUNFLOWER OIL PRODUCTION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Agriculture)

Context: India's imports of **sunflower oil** are likely to fall in the coming months as it becomes uncompetitive against rival oils due to rising prices after Russia withdrew from the **Black Sea grain deal.**

- The **Black Sea region accounts** for 60% of world sunflower oil output and 76% of exports.
- Ukraine traditionally accounted for more than half of India's sunflower oil imports, but **Russia has been its biggest supplier** in the marketing year ending on 31 October.

Status of Sunflower Oil in India

- Sunflower oil is th**e fourth most consumed edible oil in India**, following mustard, soybean, and palm oil.
- **Domestic production of sunflower oil** has significantly declined over the past decade, unlike soybean oil, which has expanded its cultivated area.
- India imports a substantial amount of sunflower oil due to limited domestic production.
- **Major producers:** Karnataka (highest producer in India); Telangana and Maharashtra
- **Major Consumer**: Karnataka, Telangana, and Maharashtra.

Status of Sunflower Oil globally

- Ukraine (the highest producer) and Russia account for 60% of the world's sunflower oil production.
- Other top producers of sunflower oil globally include Ukraine, Russia, Argentina, Romania, and Bulgaria.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 13

MARITAL RAPE IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - issue related to Women)

Do husbands enjoy immunity in marital rape cases? Issue in SC

New Delhi: Does a husband enjoy immunity from prosecution for the offence of rape if he forces his wife, who is not a minor, to have sex?

A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court will examine this after constitution benches conclude hearing some listed pleas, said Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud when senior lawyer Indira Jaising mentioned the matter for urgent listing.

The constitutional validity of an exception clause of Section 375 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is under challenge as it exempts a husband from being prosecuted for rape for having non-consensual sexual intercourse with the spouse if she happens to be an adult.

"We have to resolve the matters concerning marital rape," said the bench, which also comprised Justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra.

"My case deals with the child sexual abuse," Jaising told the court. The CJI said these matters are to be heard by a three-judge bench and will be listed for hearing after the five-judge constitution benches conclude hearing some listed cases.

A five-judge constitution bench led by the CJI is currently hearing petitions related to regimes on grant of driving licence for different kind of vehicles under the Motor Vehicle Act. The petitions on abrogation of Article 370 are also scheduled for hearing.

The SC had on January 16 sought the Centre's response to the petitions pertaining to criminalisation of marital rape and the IPC provision which provides protection to a husband against prosecution for forcible sexual intercourse if the wife is an adult. The Centre had said the issue has legal and social implications, and that it would like to file response to the petitions. PTI

Context: A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court will examine **marital rape case after constitution** benches conclude hearing some listed pleas.

- SC will examine that does a husband enjoy immunity from prosecution for the offence of rape if he forces his wife, who is not a minor, to have sex?
- The constitutional validity of an exception clause of **Section 375 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)** is under challenge as it exempts a husband from being prosecuted for rape for having non-consensual sexual intercourse with the spouse if she happens to be an adult.

Marital rape in India

- Marital rape (or spousal rape) is an act in which one of the **spouses indulges in sexual intercourse** without the consent of the other.
- In India, **marital rape is not defined** in any statute or law.
- **Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)** defines rape as a criminal offence and states that a man commits rape if he has sexual intercourse with a woman without her consent or if she is a minor.
- However, according to **Exception 2 to Section 375** "sexual intercourse by a man with his wife, the wife not being under fifteen years of age, is not rape
- However, in a **landmark judgment in 2018**, the Supreme Court of India held that it will be considered rape if a man has sexual intercourse with his wife if she is aged between 15 and 18
- The only recourse against **non-consensual sex for married women** are civil provisions under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act or **Section 498-A of the IPC** on cruelty against a wife by the husband or a husband's relatives.
- Today, more than 100 countries have criminalized marital rape but, unfortunately**, India is one of the only 36 countries where marital rape is still not criminalized.**

THE HINDU Page 10

BLACK SEA GRAIN INITIATIVE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - IR)

India supports U.N. on Black Sea initiative

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India voiced support for the UN's efforts in continuing the Black Sea Grain initiative, and expressed hope for an early resolution to the impasse.

Russia on Monday had said it was terminating the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative – a UN-brokered deal that allowed food exports and fertilizers from Ukraine amid the ongoing conflict with Russia.

Context: India has voiced support for the U.N.'s efforts in continuing the **Black Sea Grain initiative,** a day after Russia announced it was terminating implementation of the U.N.-brokered deal that allowed export of grain and related foodstuffs and fertilisers from Ukrainian ports.

Black Sea Grain Initiative

- **About**: The Initiative on the S**afe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian ports**, also called the Black Sea Grain Initiative, was an agreement between Russia and Ukraine with Turkey and the United Nations (UN) made during the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- **Origin**: The deal, b**rokered by the United Nations and Turkey,** was signed in Istanbul in July 2022.
    - Initially it was stipulated for a period of 120 days with an option to extend or terminate after November.
- **Mirror agreement:** It was **not a direct agreement between Russia and Ukraine**.
    - Instead, **Ukraine signed an agreement with Turkey and the UN**, and **Russia signed a separate** "mirror" agreement with Turkey and the UN.
- **Objectives**: The deal was to provide for a **safe maritime humanitarian corridor** for Ukrainian exports (particularly for food grains) from three of its key ports: **Chornomorsk, Odessa and Yuzhny/Pivdennyi.**
    - Ukraine is among the largest exporters of wheat, maize, rapeseed, sunflower seeds and sunflower oil, globally.
    - Its **access to the deep-sea ports in the Black Sea** enables it to directly approach Russia and Europe along with grain importers from West Asia and North Africa.
    - Russia's actions in the East European country had disturbed this route which earlier used to **ship 75% of its agricultural exports** - precisely what the initiative sought to address.
- **Achievements**: As per the **UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**, approximately 10.1 million tonnes of grains, which include corn, wheat, rapeseed, and sunflower oil among others, have been shipped since the initiative commenced.
    - About 44% of the shipments reached **high-income countries** (including Spain, Netherlands and Italy among others),
    - About 28% reached **low and lower-middle-income countries** (Egypt, Iran, Sudan and Kenya among others).
    - About 27% reached u**pper-middle income countries** (China and Bulgaria among others).

PIB July 20

TANKAI METHOD

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

The Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy sign an MoU to revive the "ancient stitched shipbuilding method (Tankai method)"

Context: In a remarkable initiative to revive and preserve the 2000-year-old technique of shipbuilding known as the **'stitched shipbuilding method (Tankai method)', t**he Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Key Points

- The stitched ship holds significant cultural value in India, given its **historical importance and the preservation of traditional craftsmanship.**
- Throughout history, India has had a strong maritime tradition, and the use of stitched ships played a vital role in **trade, cultural exchange, and exploration.**
- These ships, constructed by **stitching wooden planks** together rather than using nails, offered flexibility and durability, making them less susceptible to damage from shoals and sandbars.
- Although the **arrival of European ships** led to a shift in shipbuilding techniques, the art of stitching ships has survived in a few coastal regions of India, primarily for small local fishing boats.
- The project aims to **leverage the expertise of the remaining traditional shipwrights** in India and showcase their exceptional craftsmanship.
- It aims to **revive the maritime memory** and instill a sense of pride in India's rich maritime heritage among its citizens.
- Additionally, it aims to **promote cultural memories** among the Indian Ocean littoral countries.

DST

July 20

MASTITIS AILMENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

New tech transfer arrangement for scaling up indigenous knowledge system can help integrate sustainable practices in livestock production system

Context: The National Innovation Foundation (NIF) - India, an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India has recently entered into a Technology Transfer arrangement for these indigenous technologies with **Indian Genomix,** a Hyderabad-based company which has W.H.O.G.M.P. certification ensuring quality assurance for medicinal products.

- A **technology transfer arrangement** can help to scale two environment-friendly technologies - an indigenous herbal formulation with the potential to control **Mastitis**, an ailment common among dairy animals, and an indigenous herbal supplement with positive influence on growth performance of broiler chicks, for end users.

Mastitis Ailment

- Mastitis is an **ailment** causing huge losses to dairy farmers.
- The ailment is primarily caused by bacteria which need to b**e diagnosed and treated at the earliest.**
- Indian farming system faces **challenges in early diagnosis, availability of onsite treatment, and drug resistance.**
- Further, **lack of effective technology** in field situation calls for alternative technologies.
- This indigenous herbal formulation was found to control major causative bacterial organisms like **Staphylococcus aureus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa.**
- This herbal formulation has multiple **phyto-constituents** which produce effective results against field bacterial strains.
- The unique formulation of the Knowledge holders was evaluated for its efficacy in **clinical bacterial mastitis** among dairy animals.

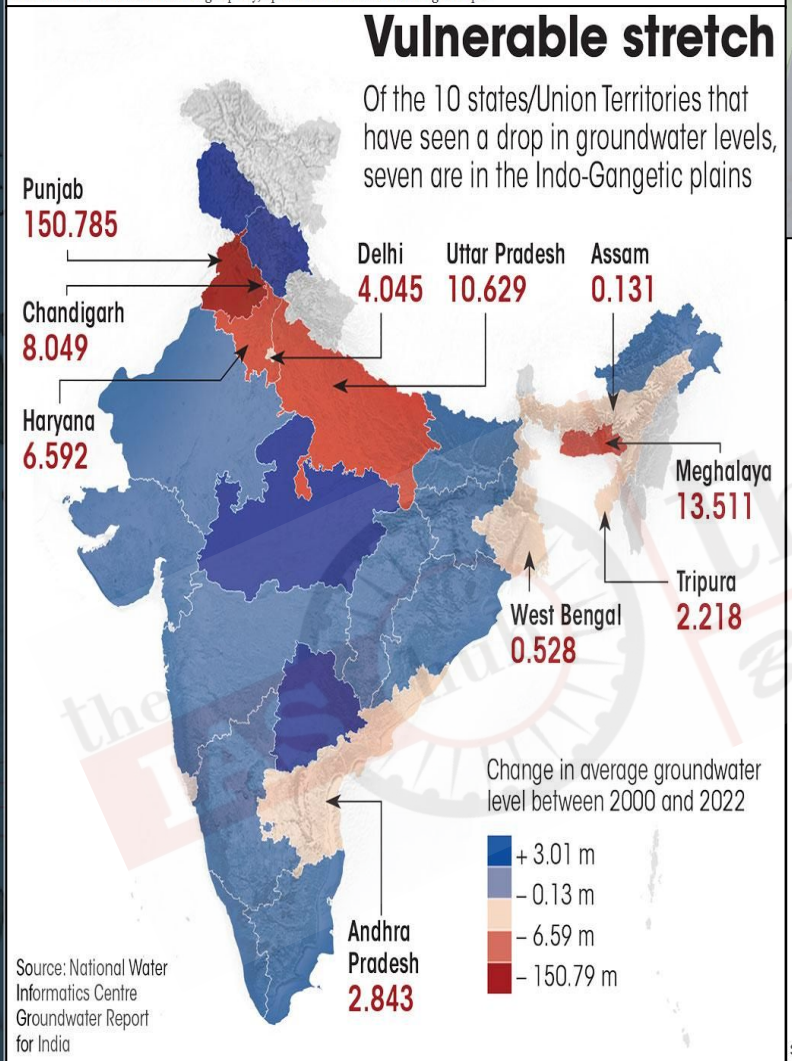
DTE July 20

GROUNDWATER EXPLOITATION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Water Resources)

Writing on the wall: Groundwater exploitation is triggering subsidence in Indo-Gangetic plain

Groundwater levels are declining rapidly, apart from threat of building collapse

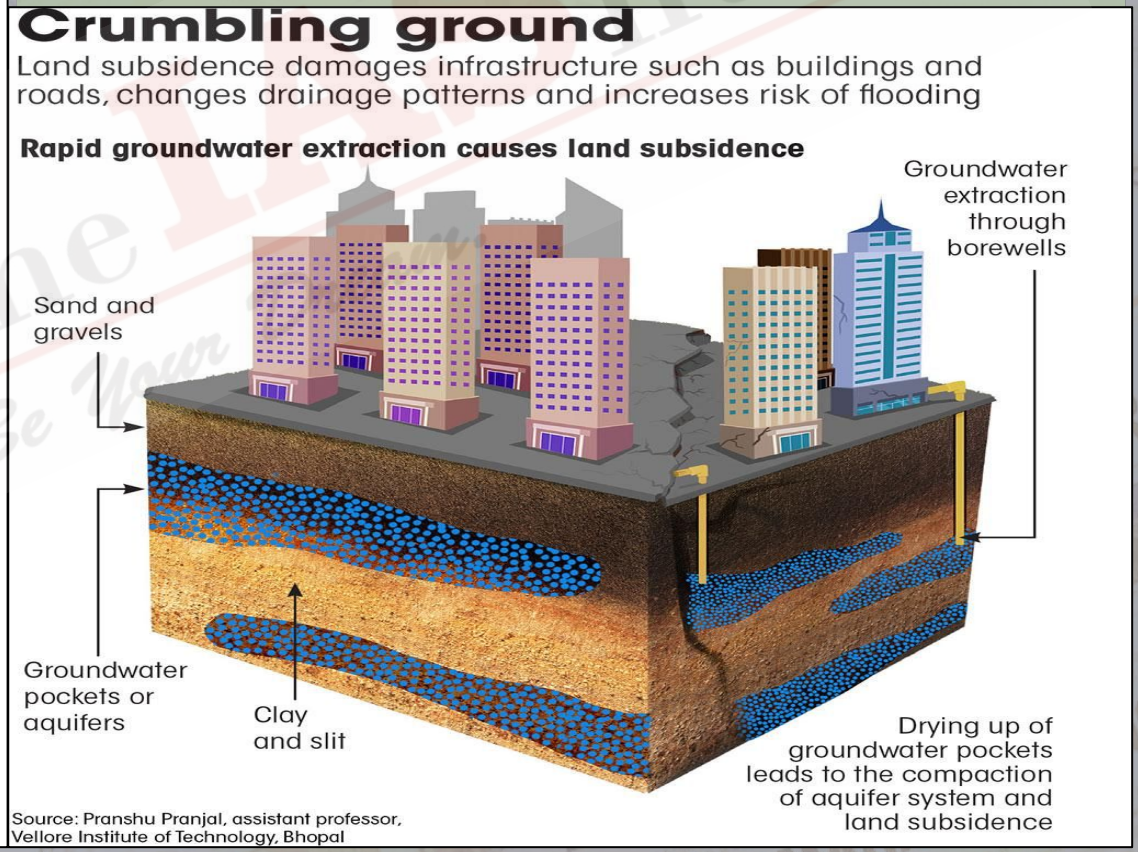


Context: Groundwater levels are declining rapidly, apart from threat of building collapse.

- Almost all houses in Mohali's Landarn village have developed cracks due to subsidence caused by incessant **groundwater extraction for irrigation.**

Ground water status in India

- India is the **largest user of groundwater** with a fourth of the total global withdrawal.
- Indian cities cater to **about 48 per cent of its water supply** from groundwater.



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