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MK Yadav Sir

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BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 4

LETTER OF INTENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

'Dharavi LoI only after Adani proves financial capability'

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said the Adani group which has won the tender for Dharavi redevelopment will get the Letter of Intent (LoI) only after it establishes that it has the financial capability to execute the project.

He was replying after Congress MLA Varsha Gaikwad, whose constituency includes Dharavi, raised concerns about the project in the wake of Hindenburg Research's allegations of stock manipulation against the Adani group.

Gaikwad also asked if a fresh tender will be floated for the project. Fadnavis asserted that the tendering process was transparent.

There was a global tender and three parties responded to it. The bids of two parties were proper and the highest bidder among them was awarded the contract, he said.

"So it is incorrect to say that the process was flawed. The LoI has not been issued yet. This is because it is issued only after all the departments take that decision.

"There is one decision (yet to be made) from the Urban Development department after which the LoI will be awarded," Fadnavis said.

In November 2021, the Adani group emerged as the highest bidder for the 259-hectare Dharavi Redevelopment Project.

The group's bid of ₹5,069 crore beat DLF's offer of ₹2,025 crore. PTI

Context: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister said the Adani group which has won the tender for Dharavi redevelopment will get the **Letter of Intent (LoI)** only after it establishes that it has the financial capability to execute the project.

Letter of Intent

- **About**: A letter of intent is defined as a piece of paper that declares the **preliminary commitment** of one party to do business with the other.
  - It is a document, often used in areas like **mergers and acquisitions,** as it records the preliminary terms of any agreement.
  - Although the letter of intent is **not binding,** it outlines the key terms that the parties that are involved in a transaction have agreed upon.
  - The information recorded in a letter of intent is a part of the purchase agreement, which **legally sets out the transactions.**
  - It outlines the points that can be **discussed outside of that negotiation,** and it provides a roadmap that describes how things will proceed.
- **Difference between Memorandum of Understanding and Letter of Intent:**
  - A memorandum of understanding is defined as a document that describes the broad outlines of the **agreement between two parties** while a letter of intent is defined as a piece of paper that declares the **preliminary commitment of two parties** to do business together.
  - A memorandum of understanding is considered as **binding**, and it carries weight in a court of law while a letter of intent is **not considered as binding,** and it does not carry weight in the court of law.

ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 9

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Govt. Budgeting)

2ND & FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND FOR GRANTS

LS OKs Centre's Extra Net Spend of ₹1.48 L cr

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha on Tuesday approved the central government's second and final batch of supplementary demands for grants for the current fiscal year, which entails a net cash outgo of ₹1.48 lakh crore. The supplementary demands were passed without a discussion in the lower house amid uproar by opposition parties on the Adani issue.

While the additional gross spending for FY23 is estimated at over ₹2.70 lakh crore, as much as ₹1.22 lakh crore of this will be met through savings or enhanced receipts of ministries and departments, according to the supplementary demands.

The latest expenditure plans came on top of first batch of supplementary demands for grants for FY23, which was presented in December and entailed a net cash outgo of ₹3.26 lakh crore.

Despite the requirement of additional spending in FY23, finance ministry officials have exuded confidence that the fiscal deficit target of 6.4% of GDP for the current financial year will be realised, thanks to greater-than-expected savings in certain heads.



The first batch of demands entailed a net cash outgo of ₹3.26 lakh cr

The latest supplementary demands include 73 grants and three appropriations. They were tabled in the Lok Sabha on March 13 by minister of state for finance Pankaj Chaudhary.

The bulk of the additional spending is driven by four heads—fertiliser subsidy (₹36,325 crore); defence pensions (₹33,718 crore); extra transfer to the GST compensation fund and additional release of such compensation to states and Union Territories (₹33,506 crore); and greater transfer to the Universal Service Obligation Fund under the department of telecommunications (₹25,000 crore).

Context: The Lok Sabha approved the central government's second and final batch of **supplementary demands for grants** for the current fiscal year, which entails a net cash outgo of ₹1. 48 lakh crore.

- The supplementary demands were **passed without a discussion** in the lower house amid uproar by opposition parties on the Adani issue.

Supplementary Demands for Grants

- **About**: It is needed for government **expenditure over and above the amount** for which Parliamentary approval was already obtained during the Budget session.
- **Constitutional provisions: Supplementary, additional or excess grants** and Votes on account, votes of credit and exceptional grants are mentioned in the Constitution of India 1949.
  - **Article 115**: Supplementary, additional or excess grants.
  - **Article 116**: Votes on account, votes of credit and exceptional grants.
- **Procedure**:
  - When grants, authorised by the Parliament, fall short of the required expenditure, an **estimate is presented before the Parliament** for Supplementary or Additional grants.
  - These grants are **presented and passed by the Parliament** before the end of the financial year.
  - When actual expenditure incurred exceeds the approved grants of the Parliament, the **Ministry of Finance presents a Demand for Excess Grant.**
  - The **Comptroller and Auditor General of India** bring such excesses to the notice of the Parliament.
  - The **Public Accounts Committee** examines these excesses and gives recommendations to the Parliament.
  - The **Demand for Excess Grants** is made after the actual expenditure is incurred and is presented to the Parliament after the end of the financial year in which the expenses were made.

THE HINDU Page 6

DEATH PENALTY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

SC Bench seeks data on alternatives to hanging

See if there is a more 'humane' method of execution that would render the present practice unconstitutional, a Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice P.S. Narasimha asks govt.

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to provide data that may point to a more dignified, less painful and socially acceptable method of executing prisoners other than death by hanging.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice P.S. Narasimha even mooted the setting up of an expert committee to relook India's method of putting to death its criminals.

The Chief Justice said such a committee would have experts from the national law universities, professors of law, doctors and scientific persons.

The court indicated to the Centre, represented by Attorney General R. Venkataramani, that it needed some underlying data based on which it could examine if there was a more "humane" method of execution, which would render death by hanging unconstitutional.

"If we have to relook death by hanging, we need better data... We want to know the impact of the sentence of death by hanging, the pain caused, the period of actual death and the availability of resources for hanging a person," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed.

The Bench explained that it also needed to know what strides the fields of science and technology have made in suggesting "any other method of execution consistent with human dignity".

> If we have to relook death by hanging, we need better data... We want to know the impact of the sentence of death by hanging, the pain caused, the period of actual death and the availability of resources for hanging a person
>
> D.Y. CHANDRACHUD
> Chief Justice of India



The court was hearing a petition filed by advocate Rishi Malhotra challenging the constitutionality of death by hanging as a mode of execution. Section 354 (5) of the Code of Criminal Procedure mandates that a person sentenced to death shall "be hanged by the neck till he is dead".

Mr. Malhotra said there is a need to evolve a "humane, quick and decent alternative". He termed hanging as "cruel and barbarous" compared to lethal injection, as used in the United States.

Justice Narasimha, however, noted that there was literature to suggest that "hanging is closest to painless".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Context: The Supreme Court asked the Centre to provide data which may point to a more dignified, less painful and socially acceptable method of **executing prisoners other than death by hanging.**

- **Section 354 (5) of the Code of Criminal Procedure** mandates that a person sentenced to death shall "be hanged by the neck till he is dead".
- In 2018, the **Centre filed an affidavit supporting death by hanging**. It had not found the method of execution "barbaric, inhuman and cruel" compared to firing squads and lethal injections.

Death Penalty

- **About:** It is the highest penalty awardable to an accused.
  - Capital punishment in India has been limited to the rarest of rare cases- like **Section 121 (taking up arms against the state) and Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code 1860.**
- **Legal aspects:** As per **Section 354 (3) of the CrPC, 1973**, the courts are required to state reasons in writing for awarding the maximum penalty.
  - **Capital punishment o**nce delivered by the court of sessions ("sentencing court") is required under law (CrPC) to be confirmed by the jurisdictional High Court ("confirming court").
  - **No death sentence imposed by a trial court** can be executed unless the punishment is confirmed by the High Court too.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 13

RIGHT TO HEALTH

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)



Raj becomes first state to guarantee right to health

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: Rajasthan on Tuesday passed a landmark Right to Health (RTH) Bill under which private hospitals will not be able to charge emergency patients and will be compensated by the state — a "controversial" provision according to such hospitals and doctors who continued protests against the move for the second day and were later joined by government doctors.

As the stir crippled access to treatment in the Congress-governed state and fuelled fears of worse to come, they cast a shadow on a standout feature of the bill: once signed into law by the governor, it will make Rajasthan the first state in the country to guarantee such a right to health to its residents through a statute. Assembly polls are due later this year.

CM Ashok Gehlot expressed surprise at the protests. "I do not know why they have taken to the roads. We agreed on their demands and made the changes they wanted in the bill," Gehlot said in Jodhpur.

On the contentious emergency treatment clause, the minister contended that the category was not open-ended. "We have kept only three emergency categories -- animal bite, snake bite and accident emergency," health minister Parsadi Lal Meena said, highlighting the provision of state reimbursements for emergency treatments.

But the private hospitals and doctors did not appear convinced. Their representatives clashed with the police amid water cannons as they urged governor Kalraj Mishra not to clear the bill.

Times View: Right to health is fundamental to a modern welfare state. But often there are financial considerations that prevent it from happening. Rajasthan has taken a bold step. But the scheme's success will depend on how it is implemented on the ground. Other states will be closely watching.

Bill to remove unfit councillors

Rajasthan has passed a bill that allows the government to remove heads of urban local bodies and councillors if they are deemed unfit for the post after investigations, obviating the need for a court challenge and ending a legal time bar. The provision till now was to remove councillors and heads of urban local bodies only by filing an election petition in court for disqualification within a month of such individuals being elected. TNN

Context: Rajasthan passed a landmark Right to Health (RTH) Bill under which private hospitals will not be able to charge emergency patients and will be compensated by the state - a "controversial" provision according to such hospitals and doctors who continued protests against the move for the second day and were later joined by government doctors.

Provisions related to Right to Health

- **Constitutional provisions:**
  - **Fundamental Rights**: **Article 21 of the Constitution** of India guarantees a fundamental right to life & personal liberty.
    - The right to health is inherent to a life with dignity.
  - **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**: **Articles 38, 39, 42, 43, & 47 (DPSP)** put the obligation on the state in order to ensure the effective realization of the right to health.
- **SC's Judgements:**
  - **Paschim Bangal Khet Mazdoor Samity case (1996):** The SC held that in a welfare state, the primary duty of the government is to **secure the welfare of the people** and moreover it is the obligation of the government to provide adequate medical facilities for its people.
  - **Parmanand Katara Vs Union Of India (1989):** The apex Court had ruled that every doctor whether at a government hospital or otherwise has the **professional obligation** to extend his services with due expertise for protecting life.
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)**: **India is a signatory** of the Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) by the United Nations that **grants the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being t**o humans including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.

PIB MARCH 22

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Shri Bhupender Yadav releases 14 guidelines for Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation promoting harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife

Context: Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change released **14 guidelines to address Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC),** which aim to facilitate a common understanding among key stakeholders, on what constitutes effective and efficient mitigation of HWC in India.

Key Points

- **About**: The guidelines are **advisory in nature,** and will facilitate in further development of site-specific HWC mitigation measures.
- **Development and Implementation**: These guidelines are developed under the **Indo-German cooperation project** on HWC Mitigation, which is being **implemented by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** together with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusannenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and state forest departments of Karnataka, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.
- **14 guidelines released include:**
  - **10 species-specific guidelines**: Guidelines for Mitigating Human -Elephant, -Gaur, -Leopard, -Snake, -Crocodile, -Rhesus Macaque, -Wild Pig, -Bear, -Blue Bull and -Blackbuck Conflict; and
  - **4 guidelines on cross-cutting issues**:
    - Guidelines for **Cooperation between the Forest and Media sector** in India: Towards effective communication on Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation
    - **Occupational Health and Safety** in the Context of Human–Wildlife Conflict Mitigation
    - **Crowd Management** in Human-Wildlife Conflict Related Situations
    - **Addressing Health Emergencies** and Potential Health Risks Arising Out of Human—Wildlife Conflict Situations: Taking a One Health Approach.

Steps Taken

- **Advisory for Management of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC):** Issued by the Standing Committee of the **National Board of Wildlife (SC-NBWL).**
  - **Empower Gram Panchayats**: In dealing with problematic wild animals as per the **WildLife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
  - **Provide Insurance**: Utilising add-on coverage under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** for crop compensation against crop damage due to HWC.
  - **Augmenting Fodder**: Envisages augmenting **fodder and water sources** within the forest areas.
  - **Take Proactive Measures**: Prescribes **inter-departmental committees** at the local/state level, adoption of early warning systems, creation of barriers, dedicated circle-wise Control Rooms with toll-free hotline numbers, Identification of hotspots, etc.
  - **Provide Instant Relief**: Payment of a portion of **ex-gratia as interim relief** within 24 hours of the incident to the victim/family.

DTE

MARCH 22

RIVER KOTHARI

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

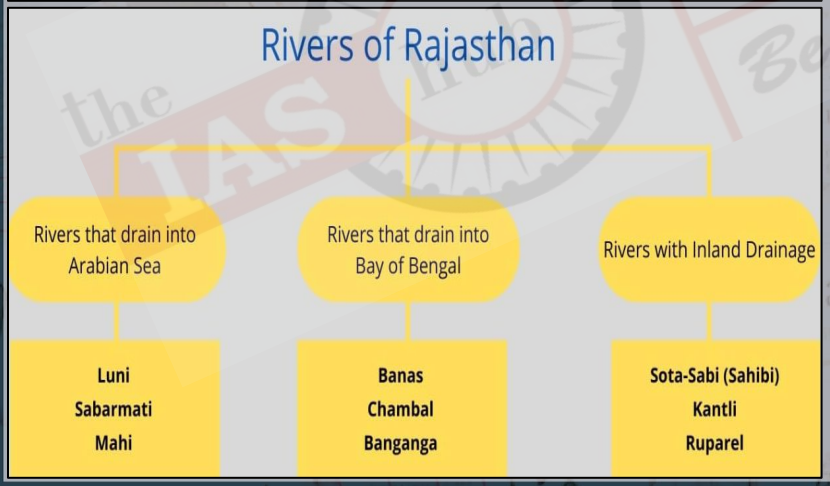


Bhilwara: NGT calls local body's inaction to control pollution of Kothari river 'tragic'; RSPCB to recover compensation

Open wells in villages near River Kothari were found with toxic levels of chromium, lead, iron, zinc, sodium

By Susan Chacko

Published: Tuesday 21 March 2023



Context: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Rajasthan **State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB)** to recover environmental compensation from Bhilwara municipal council for its failure to take action to remedy pollution of **River Kothari.**

- Even though Rs 400 crore has been granted to the state for mitigation of the problem, projects have been delayed for more than two years.

Kothari River

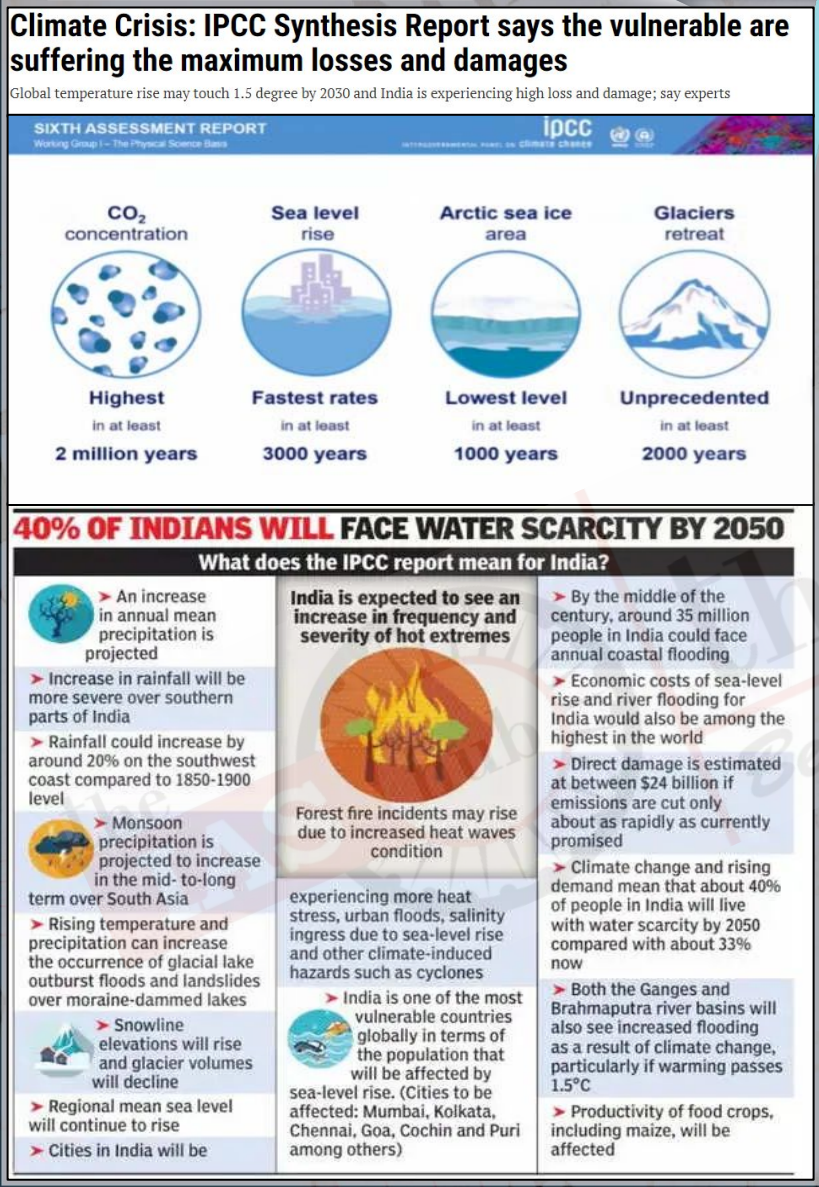
- **About**: The Kothari River rises from the **Aravalli hills near Devgarh i**n the Rajsamand district.
- **Flows**: It flows through the tehsils (districts) of Raipur, Mandal, Bhilwara and Kotri and ultimately **joins the river Banas** at Nandrai in Kotri tehsil.
    - **Other tributaries of Banas:** Major right bank tributaries include **Berach and Menali** whereas the left bank tributaries are **Khari, Dai, Dheel, Sohadra, Morel and Kalisel.**
- **Dam**: The **Meja dam** on the Kothari river provides drinking water to the Bhilwara district.
- **Pollution**: The most open wells in villages near the Kothari river, which flows along the industrial belt, had **chromium, lead, iron, zinc and sodium above the norms** set by the Bureau of Indian Standards, Poisoned Water, a 2004 paper by the state public health engineering department found.

DTE

MARCH 22

IPCC AR6 SYNTHESIS REPORT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



Context: The **United Nations IPCC Synthesis Report** on global climate change released recently, has accepted that the current plans are insufficient to tackle climate change and trains a sharp focus on **loss and damage (L&D)**, which refers to the climate change consequences that go beyond what people can manage.

- The **AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023** concludes a five-year report on global temperature rise, greenhouse gas emissions and climate impacts.

Key Points

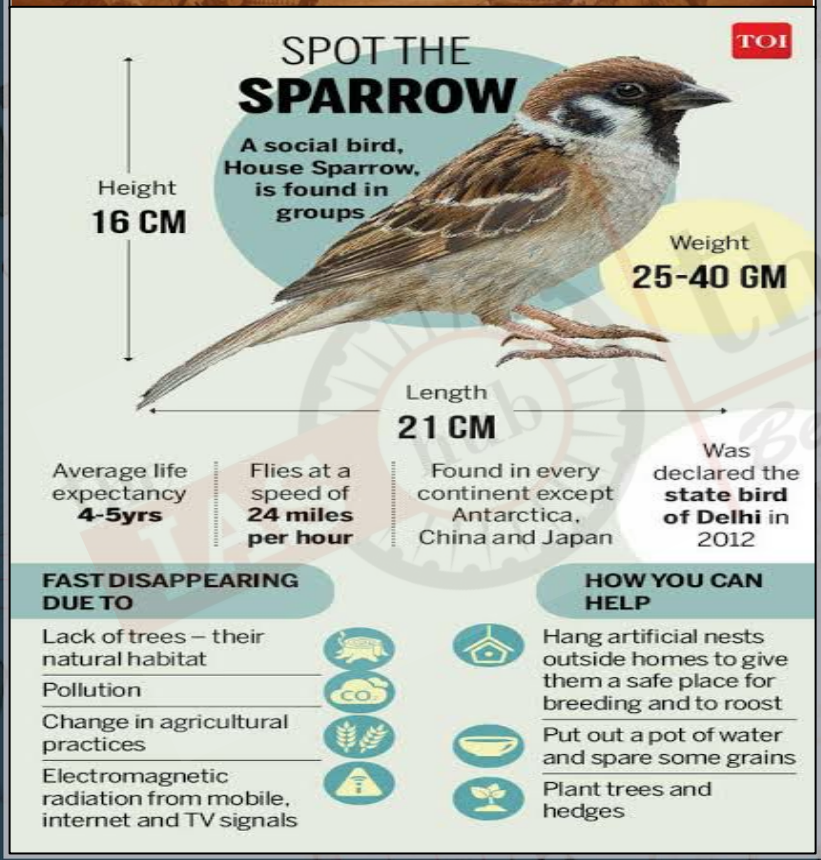
- L&D came into the prominence during the **27th Conference of Parties (COP27)** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt.
- There, an **L&D finance facility** was agreed upon by close to 200 countries after a prolonged and bitter negotiation. Incidentally, the agenda of L&D as a negotiating item, was also included at the beginning of COP27.
- The report has pointed out that most vulnerable populations are greatly affected by **L&D linked to burgeoning climatic impacts;** and experts contended that almost the whole of India, particularly its coastal and mountain regions, qualify under the category.
- The report warns that a sharp **cut in emission within all sectors** is required urgently and unless almost half of global emission gets cut by 2030, it will be difficult to limit global warming rise within 1.5°C, compared to the pre-industrialisation period.
- The **2015 Paris Agreement,** and subsequent COP decisions, vouched to keep the global temperature rise around 1.5°C.
- The present report too refers to **widespread climate change** triggered damages that have already taken place even with a 1.1 degree rise recorded till now.

SANSAD TV MARCH 22

WORLD SPARROW DAY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)





Context: Every year on March 20, people celebrate World Sparrow Day.

- **Theme for World Sparrow Day 2023**: The theme of World Sparrow Day 2023 is "I Love Sparrows", with the goal of encouraging more people to appreciate the relationship between humans and sparrows.

World Sparrow Day

- **About**: It is designated to **raise awareness about sparrow conservation** and protection, as their numbers are declining globally. The first commemoration of the day occurred in 2010.
  - World Sparrow Day is an **initiative started by the Nature Forever Society of India** along with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation of France.
- **Species**: The **humble house sparrow** is one of the world's most common and widespread species.
  - Apart from the house sparrow, there are **other twenty-six distinct species of Sparrow.**
  - All these species are spread across three continents namely Asia, Africa and Europe.
  - The **House Sparrow (Passer domesticus)** has been transported all over the world by European settlers and can now be found on two-thirds of the landmasses of the world including New Zealand, Australia, North America, India and Europe.
    - It is **only absent from areas like China, Indochina, Japan and areas of Siberia and Australia** to east and tropical Africa.
- **Significance**: Sparrows are known to be an **indicator of a region's environmental health,** and their decreasing numbers are cause for concern.

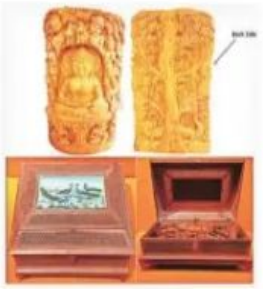
INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 12

SANDALWOOD BUDDHA STATUE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

PM gifts Kishida sandalwood Buddha statue



The Buddha figure has been hand-carved with traditional designs. *Express*

DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday presented a sandalwood Buddha statue to his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, who is on a two-day visit to India. The two leaders also spent some time at the Buddha Jayanti Park in New Delhi a day earlier.

The Buddha figure, sitting in "dhyana mudra" under the Bodhi tree, is made of pure sandalwood and has been hand-carved with traditional designs and natural scenes, officials said.

It is believed that the Buddha was sitting in this posture while meditating under the Bodhi tree before his enlightenment.

The "kadamwood jail" box, in which the statue was encased, has imprints of birds and animals, officials said.

The art of sandalwood carving has been practised in Karnataka for centuries. This craft involves carving intricate designs into blocks of fragrant sandalwood, creating intricate sculptures, figurines and other decorative items.

Sandalwood tree, a species native to India, has been an important part of Indian culture for centuries and it is widely regarded as one of the most valuable and prized woods in the world.

Indian sandalwood is one of the most sacred herbs of Ayurveda. Karnataka is also called gandhadagudi – the land of sandalwood. The earliest origins of sandalwood carving can be traced back to the 3rd century BC, when sandalwood was used to make wooden idols and carvings for temples and other religious sites.

Buddhism is among the most dominant religions in Japan.

Context: Prime Minister presented a **sandalwood Buddha statue** to Japanese Prime Minister during the latter's two-day state visit.

- **Buddhism** is among the most dominant religions in Japan.
- The **image of Buddha holds great significance** in Indian culture and religion, and sandalwood carving has long been used to create intricate representations of this revered figure.
- **India has been building on Buddhist ties** with several South Asian countries through spiritual tourism offerings and craft traditions, including Nepal, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Cambodia, besides Japan and China.

Key Points

- The Buddha figure, **made of pure sandalwood,** has hand carvings along with traditional designs and natural scenes.
- In this posture, Buddha is sitting in **'dhyana mudra'** under the Bodhi tree.
  - The 'dhyana mudra' is the **mudra of meditation** and the attainment of spiritual perfection.
  - According to tradition, this mudra derives from the one assumed by the Buddha when **meditating under the Bodhi tree** before his enlightenment.
  - The obverse of the image has an **intricate carving of the Bodhi tree.**
- The **Kadamwood Jali Box** in which the statue was encased is also considered auspicious in Indian culture.
  - **Imprints of birds and animals,** the leitmotif of Indian art for countless generations, add a special quality to the final product, officials said.
  - The art of sandalwood carving is an exquisite and ancient craft that has been **practised in Karnataka for centuries.**
  - It involves carving intricate designs into blocks of fragrant sandalwood and creating **intricate sculptures, figurines, and other decorative items.**
- The **sandalwood tree,** a species native to India, has been an important part of Indian culture for centuries and is widely regarded as one of the most valuable and prized woods in the world.
- Indian Sandalwood is one of the most **sacred herbs of Ayurveda.**
- Karnataka is sometimes also called **'gandhada gudi' or the land of sandalwood.** The art of sandalwood carving has been an integral part of **Karnataka's cultural heritage for centuries**. Its earliest origins can be traced back to the 3rd century B.C. when sandalwood was used to make wooden idols and carvings for temples and other religious sites.
- The state has also set up a **Sandalwood Development Board** to ensure that the resources are sustainably managed. The art has been passed down from generation to generation, and it continues to thrive in Karnataka today.

PIB

MARCH 22

INDIAN NEW YEAR FESTIVALS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS ON THE EVE OF CHAITRA SUKLADI, UGADI, GUDI PADWA, CHETI CHAND, NAVREH AND SAJIBU CHEIRAOBA

Context: The President of India has conveyed her greetings to her fellow citizens on the eve of **Chaitra Sukladi, Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, Cheti Chand, Navreh and Sajibu Cheiraoba.**

Key Points

- **Chaitra Sukladi:** It marks the beginning of the **new year of the Vikram Samvat** also known as the Vedic/ Hindu calendar.
  - It is the first day during the **waxing phase** (in which the visible side of the moon is getting bigger every night) of the moon in the **Chaitra** (first month of Hindu calendar).
- **Gudi Padwa and Ugadi:** Celebrated by the people in the **Deccan region** including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.
  - **Gudi** is a doll prepared in Maharashtrian homes.
  - For **Ugadi**, doors in homes are adorned with mango leaf decorations called toranalu or Torana in Kannada.
- **Cheti Chand**: **Sindhis** celebrate the new year as Cheti Chand.
  - **Chaitra** month is called 'Chet' in Sindhi.
  - The day commemorates the birth anniversary of **Uderolal/Jhulelal,** the patron saint of Sindhis.
- **Navreh**: It is the **lunar new year** that is celebrated in Kashmir.
  - It is the Sanskrit word **'Nav-Varsha'** from which the word 'Navreh' has been derived.
  - It falls on the first day of the **Chaitra Navratri.**
- **Sajibu Cheiraoba**: It is the great ritual **festival of Meiteis**, an ethnic group in Manipur.
  - It is observed on the **first day of Manipur lunar month Shajibu,** which falls in the month of April every year.

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