

JUNE

2

CRUX 10

10 News. 10 Sources. One Place



MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

- 1 Gift Tax
- 2 AePS
- 3 NABH Accreditation
- 4 Mission Vatsalya
- 5 India-Nepal Power Agreement
- 6 India-EU TTC
- 7 US Sanctions in Sudan
- 8 Sal Tree
- 9 Kafue National Park
- 10 Agni-1 Missile

Buyers of PSU shares exempt from gift tax

SHRIMI CHOUDHARY
New Delhi, 1 June

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has exempted buyers from gift tax when they acquire equity shares in public-sector units (PSUs) through strategic disinvestment.

Earlier the exemption was applied only in the case of sale of a PSU. The change in the income-tax law has been made to make strategic divestment in PSUs attractive, said experts.

Strategic divestment in IDBI Bank, Concor, and Shipping Corporation of India is in various stages and is expected to be concluded this fiscal year.

The government has set a



Strategic divestment in IDBI Bank, Concor, and Shipping Corporation of India is in various stages and is expected to be concluded this fiscal year

target of ₹51,000 crore from disinvestment in FY24.

Expanding the non-applicability of Section 56(2)(x), also known as gift tax, it said this

would not apply to "any movable property, being equity shares, of a public sector company or a company, received by a person from a public sector company or the Central Government or any State Government under strategic disinvestment". (This is according to the CBDT notification on Thursday.)

Before the amendment, the difference in book value and fair market value was considered deemed income for the buyer under Section 56(2)(x). For the buyer, the difference is treated as deemed income, which gets taxed at the rate applicable to the individual.

Turn to Page 6 ▶

GIFT TAX

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Context: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has **exempted buyers from gift tax** when they acquire equity shares in public-sector units (PSUs) through strategic disinvestment.

- Earlier the exemption was applied only in the case of sale of a PSU.

Gift Tax

- **About:** The Parliament of India introduced the **Gift Tax Act in 1958**, and gift tax is essentially the tax charged on the receipt of gifts.
 - As per the Income tax act of 1961, if the **value of the gift exceeds Rs.50,000** then the gift is taxed as income in the hands of the person who receives the gift.
 - These gifts can be in any form including cash, jewellery, property, shares, vehicle, etc.
 - The gift tax is **also applicable on certain transfers that is not considered as a gift**.
 - The transfer of existing movable or immovable property in money or money's worth qualifies for gift tax.
- **Exemptions:** The gift is **exempted from tax if it was given by a relative**. The income tax rule specifies who can be considered as a relative and the list is mentioned below:
 - Parent
 - Spouse
 - Siblings
 - Spouse's siblings
 - Lineal descendants
 - Lineal descendants of the spouse
- **Other exemptions:** There are **several other situations where the gifts can be exempted** from tax. Listed below are other situations in which the gift will be exempted from tax.
 - **Gifts received during weddings** are usually exempted from tax.
 - **Gifts received as part of inheritance** is exempted from tax.
 - **Cash or rewards received by local authorities** or educational institutions on the basis of merit is exempted from tax.

AePS Users in a Fix as Banks Set up Guardrails to Reduce Fraud

Transaction failures rise 10-15% on Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems, say sources

Pratik.Bhakta@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The government's last-mile digital payment link, Aadhaar-based transactions, has run into rough weather. Multiple sources told ET that transaction failures have gone up to between 10% and 15% or even higher on Aadhaar-Enabled Payment Systems (AePS), after large banks set up additional guardrails to prevent fraud.

Two people told ET that State Bank of India, the largest bank, has made it mandatory for customers to have a mobile number seeded

A BANKER
with a private sector bank

We are talking about poor consumers... many of them do not own a mobile phone let alone getting them seeded with their bank account

Fraud Alert

SBI reported
19,622 charge-back claims in August 2022

15,350 claims reported in September



A chargeback is a situation where a customer's account has been wrongfully debited

with their account

for using AePS to withdraw funds. The bank feels this will ensure that customers are alerted about fraudulent transactions on the spot, they said. But the move has had a negative impact on the ecosystem.

"We are talking about poor consumers, some even below the poverty line, many of them do not own a mobile phone let alone getting them seeded with their bank account. They are facing major issues withdrawing funds through customer service points," said one of the people, a banker with a private

sector bank.

AePS allows bank customers to use biometric-enabled micro ATM terminals to withdraw cash from their bank accounts. These terminals are installed at small merchant outlets in villages and towns where bank branches or ATMs might not be present. These points are referred to as CSPs, or customer service points.

Since the new requirement was introduced, the overall transaction success rates have gone down around 15%, the banker said.

Banks have added the safeguards

because of multiple fraud attacks on their networks last year.

According to data from the National Payments Corporation of India, SBI reported 19,622 chargeback claims in August 2022. In September 15,350 such claims, where customers disputed transactions in their account, had been reported. On an average, SBI gets around 1,000 chargeback claims. If a bank finds that the claim is correct, it credits the money back to the account.

SBI did not respond to queries from ET.

Meanwhile, some banks are not allowing their customers to withdraw funds from the CSPs of other banks. Two sources in the know told ET that Bank of Baroda is declining a much higher number of such AePS transactions than usual.

The Mumbai-headquartered public sector lender denied it. "We have not stopped AePS transactions from customer service points of other banks, we are regularly processing AePS issuer transactions on a daily basis," a spokesperson told ET.

Context: The government's last-mile digital payment link, Aadhaar-based transactions, has run into rough weather.

- Transaction failures have gone up to between 10% and 15% or even higher on Aadhaar-Enabled Payment Systems (AePS), after large banks set up additional guardrails to prevent fraud.

Aadhaar enabled payment systems (AePS)

- About:** A payment service empowering a bank customer to use Aadhaar as his/her identity to access his/her respective Aadhaar enabled bank account and perform basic banking transactions like balance enquiry, cash deposit, cash withdrawal, remittances through a Business Correspondent.
- Nodal Agency:** This initiative has been taken up by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which is an umbrella organization for all retail payments system in India and was started by joint efforts of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- Significance:** This system adds another layer of security to financial transactions as bank details would no longer be required to be furnished while carrying out these transactions.
- Working Mechanism:** The AEPS system leverages Aadhaar online authentication and enables Aadhaar Enabled Bank Accounts (AEBA) to be operated in anytime-anywhere banking mode through Micro ATMs.
- Two forms of payment systems:**
 - The first facilitates crediting money into the beneficiary accounts.
 - The second enables account-holders to withdraw their cash.

PM congratulates the team of AIIMS Nagpur to receive the NABH accreditation

Context: The Prime Minister has congratulated the team of AIIMS Nagpur to become the 1st of all AIIMS to receive the **National Accreditation Board for Hospitals (NABH) accreditation**.

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Nagpur has become the **first of all AIIMS to receive NABH accreditation**.

NABH accreditation

- **About:** National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) is a part of the **Board of Quality Council of India**.
 - NABH was set up to establish and operate an accreditation programme **for healthcare and wellness centres in India**.
 - NABH accreditation is a way for hospitals in India to **implement standards and procedures** on par with global benchmarks.
- **International accreditation:** NABH is a member of the **International Society for Quality In Health Care (ISQUA)**, an international accreditation body in the areas of healthcare.
 - As a member of ISQUA, NABH has **joined a handful of countries** that match and authenticate healthcare services to global standards.
 - Thus, a hospital having NABH Accreditation **delivers services on par with global standard and serves** as a boost to medical tourism in India.
- **Criteria and Process:** To obtain NABH Accreditation, a hospital must be willing and able to demonstrate that the hospital functions as per the NABH standards.
 - If satisfied with the **self-assessment**, the hospital can make an application to NABH for Accreditation along with the necessary documents and fees.
 - **Based on the review and assessment report** of the final assessment team from NABH, a NABH Accreditation Committee will award NABH Accreditation.
 - The validity period for **accreditation is 3 years** subject to terms and conditions.
- **Benefits:**
 - For patients, having NABH accreditation results in **high-quality healthcare services** delivery and patient safety.
 - For the hospital, NABH accreditation **helps the hospital demonstrate the commitment to quality healthcare** thereby increasing revenue from foreign medical tourists and domestic patients, looking for quality healthcare service providers.
 - For the medical staff, the **Accreditation process serves as a way to have the continuous learning**, good working environment and strong clinical processes.
 - NABH accreditation serves to **improve the overall professional development** of Clinicians and Para Medical Staff.

NIPCCD organizes a Refresher Training Programme on Mission Vatsalya at NIPCCD Regional Centre, Mohali

Context: National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) organized a **Refresher Training Programme on Mission Vatsalya** at NIPCCD Regional Centre, Mohali.

- The programme involved **discussions on the themes:** improve functioning of statutory bodies, strengthen service delivery services, upscale institutional care/ services Encourage non-intuitional community based care, Training and Capacity building of duty holders.
- NIPCCD is an **Indian government agency in New Delhi under the Ministry of Women and Children Development** tasked with promotion of voluntary action research, training and documentation in the overall domain of women empowerment and child development in India.

Mission Vatsalya

- **About:** The ministry of women and child development is implementing a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Mission Vatsalya”** for the welfare and rehabilitation of children.
 - This, along with **Mission Shakti and Mission Poshan 2.0** forms a triad of schemes focussing on child protection and welfare services.
- **Origin:** Before 2009, three schemes were being **implemented under the WCD Ministry** for children in need of protection:
 - Programme for juvenile justice for children in need of care and protection, and children in conflict with law;
 - Integrated programme for street children; and
 - Scheme for assistance to homes for children.
 - These were clubbed in 2010 into a single scheme called the **Integrated Child Protection Scheme**.
 - It was then renamed **“Child Protection Services” Scheme** in 2017, and again as Mission Vatsalya in 2021-22.
- **Main components:** Executing a **round-the-clock helpline**, establishing cradle baby reception centres for the abandoned and promoting family-based non-institutional care for children in difficult situations.

India, Nepal sign pacts on energy, transport

India to import 10,000 MW of electricity from Nepal, says Modi, who highlights the close cultural link between the two countries; he calls for fast-tracking projects related to the Ramayana circuit

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

The border between India and Nepal should not become a barrier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday as the two sides signed a series of agreements on energy and transport, including export of Nepal's hydropower to Bangladesh through Indian territory.

Welcoming Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who is on a four-day visit to India, Mr. Modi said the two countries should fast-track projects related to the Ramayana circuit.

"I remember that nine years ago, in 2014, within three months of taking charge of office, I made my first visit to Nepal. I said at the time that we will establish ties between India and Nepal that would overcome the presence of borders. Today we signed the Transit Agreement. It will help Nepal's population access India's inland waterways," he said.

Mr. Modi said India would take forward the 2022 India-Nepal vision document for cooperation



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Nepal counterpart, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, in New Delhi on Thursday. R.V. MOORTHY

in the power sector that sets an ambitious goal in India-Nepal power trade and transmission. "Taking this forward, a long-term Power Trade Agreement has been signed between India and Nepal today. Under this agreement, we have set a target of importing 10,000 MW of electricity from Nepal in the coming years," Mr. Modi said. Focusing on energy cooperation, Mr. Modi said that a "new pipeline will be constructed from Siliguri to Jhapa in eastern Nepal".

The two sides signed a number of agreements, including an MoU between NHPC and VUCL (Vidyut Utpadan Company Ltd.) of Nepal, for the develop-

ment of Phukot Karnali Hydroelectric Project and a Project Development Agreement for Lower Arun Hydroelectric Project between SJVN (India) and Investment Board of Nepal. Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said the two PMs agreed to "achieve tangible and time-bound progress on the Pancheshwar multipurpose project".

The two Prime Ministers participated through a video link in the ground breaking ceremony of the Gorakhpur-Bhuthwal Transmission Line – on the Indian side. Mr. Kwatra announced that the two countries signed the revised Treaty of Transit un-

der which Nepal will get to access to India's inland waterways. He described it as a "once in a generation" pact.

"I appreciate India's willingness to facilitate export of hydropower from Nepal to Bangladesh through India. We have agreed that the transmission of up to 50 megawatts of power will commence soon," said Mr. Dahal. The two Prime Ministers jointly inaugurated a cargo train from Bathnaha in India to Nepal Customs Yard. The rail link was built with an Indian grant. They also inaugurated integrated checkposts (ICPs) at Nepalgunj in Nepal and Rupaidiha on the Indian side. They participated in the ground breaking ceremony of ICPs at Bhairahawa and Sonauli as well as Phase-II facilities as part of the Motihari-Amlekhgunj Petroleum Pipeline.

Prime Minister Dahal will proceed to Ujjain on Friday where he will visit the Mahakaleshwar temple. Mr. Modi highlighted India's cultural links with Nepal and said, "The religious and cultural ties between India and Nepal are very old and very strong."

Context: A long-term Power Trade Agreement has been signed between India and Nepal.

Key Points

- Under Power Trade Agreement, they have set a target of importing 10,000 MW of electricity from Nepal in the coming years.
- Focusing on energy cooperation, India mentioned that a "new pipeline will be constructed from Siliguri to Jhapa in eastern Nepal."
- The two sides signed a number of agreements including an MoU between NHPC and VUCL (Vidyut Utpadan Company Ltd), Nepal, for the development of Phukot Karnali Hydroelectric Project and a Project Development Agreement for Lower Arun Hydroelectric Project between SJVN (India) and Investment Board of Nepal.
- The two sides agreed to "achieve tangible and time-bound progress on the Pancheshwar multipurpose project".
- India also announced that India will cooperate with Kathmandu to set up a fertilizer plant in Nepal.
- The two sides jointly inaugurated the Indian Railway cargo train from Bathnaha in India to Nepal Customs Yard.
- The rail link was built with an Indian grant.
- They also inaugurated Integrated Checkposts (ICPs) at Nepalgunj in Nepal and Rupaidiha on the Indian side.
- They participated in the groundbreaking ceremony of ICPs at Bhairahawa and Sonauli as well as Phase II facilities as part of the Motihari-Amlekhgunj Petroleum Pipeline.

India, EU may strike amicable settlement on ICT import duty

WTO panel ruling on ICT tariff dispute spurs talks between India and the European Union

Ravi Dutta Mishra
ravi.dutta@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

High-level talks between New Delhi and Brussels during the first India-European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC) meeting last month have eased trade tensions between the two parties, indicating a possible out-of-court settlement in the ongoing information communications technology (ICT) dispute, a government official said.

A solution for the dispute could be found because both India and the European Union (EU) are on the same page as far as China is concerned, the official said, requesting anonymity. While the EU is using a tariff rate quota (TRQ) to protect its steel industry from Chinese imports, India has raised tariffs to boost the manufacturing of electronic items in the country.

This comes after the WTO panel upheld all EU claims against India and found that India's tariffs of up to 20% on certain ICT products, such as mobile phones, were not in line with its WTO commitments.

The EU had challenged India's tariffs in 2019 and was joined by other countries, including Japan, Taiwan, China and other countries.

The EU had claimed that up to €600 million of its technology exports to India were adversely impacted annually due to India's imposition of tariffs on ICT products. However, the Indian government estimates that the WTO panel's report will have little impact on India's ICT products as the EU's share of total Indian imports of ICT products in 2022 was



Losing the ICT dispute at the WTO could hamper India's electronic manufacturing sector and the flagship PLI scheme

3.03% or \$550 million.

"Europe is keen that we do not go to the appellate tribunal given that we are discussing several crucial issues in the TTC. Before filing for a deferment, Europe wanted some definitive understanding of what will be the line of discussion. India's argument is that we should talk about a solution and give more time to discuss the same. Since India does not have an FTA with the EU, we cannot give them a specific carve-out. So, the exact nature of the solution is not known yet, but there is intent to discuss a solution. 60-day time will end on 16 June," the official added.

A joint deferment allows disputing parties to find a solution within a stipulated time. In this case, if the talks fail during the period, the EU could adopt

minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar to attend the first-ever EU-India TTC meeting.

As far as appeals by other countries are concerned, since Japan unilaterally adopted the WTO panel ruling, India has taken the case with Japan to the appellate body. "Japan went for the adoption of the WTO ruling; so we filed an appeal in void, and that part was blocked. Taiwan asked for a joint deferment for 90 days," the official said.

Losing the ICT dispute at the WTO could hamper India's electronic manufacturing sector and the flagship PLI scheme as New Delhi would have to eliminate duty on a range of electronic products. India aims to achieve electronics manufacturing worth \$300 billion by FY26. As per Economic Survey 2022-23, the domestic electronics industry was valued at \$118 billion as of FY20 and the industry.

Besides, India's mobile phone exports are also on the rise and could get impacted due to the dispute. Mobile phone exports from India in FY23 crossed \$11 billion mark, with iPhone maker Apple accounting for around half of the total exports. On 20 April, *Mint* reported, citing a government official, that the domestic industry is unlikely to witness any immediate impact of the WTO ruling, as a protracted legal dispute might take years before a final order.

"In a scenario of India losing this dispute, we would only owe compensation. But in this case too, the amount is less than what we have claimed from the US and EU on other disputes," the official added.

Queries sent to the commerce ministry remained unanswered till press time.

the WTO panel report, and India could take the issue to the appellate body. Notably, the tribunal hasn't been functional for nearly two years due to America's blockage on the appointment of judges.

Meanwhile, India is also prepared for a retaliatory move by the EU. *Mint* earlier reported that India would retaliate against an EU law that allows it to suspend concessions and impose trade restrictions if the law is invoked in response to an Indian appeal against a ruling on ICT tariffs at the WTO's dispute settlement.

Last month, a high-powered Indian delegation went to the EU, including external affairs minister S. Jaishankar, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and information technology

\$550 mn
Share of total imports of ICT products in 2022

\$118 bn
Value of domestic electronics mfg as of FY20

Context: High-level talks between India and EU during the first India-European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC) meeting have eased trade tensions between the two parties, indicating a possible out-of-court settlement in the ongoing information communications technology (ICT) dispute.

India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC)

- About:** The EU and India have launched a **Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** in 2022, a bilateral forum to prioritise their partnership through cooperation in digital governance, green and clean energy technologies, and resilient value chains, trade and investment.
 - The **EU-India Trade and Technology Council** is the EU's second bilateral forum, and India's first with any partner.
 - In June 2021, the EU and the US began a **TTC**.
- Objective:** To create a **high-level coordination platform** between the EU and India to deal with strategic challenges arising in the domain of trade, trusted technology and security.
- 3 Working Groups:**
 - Strategic Technologies, Digital Governance, and Digital Connectivity
 - Green and Clean Energy Technologies
 - Trade, Investment, and Resilient Value Chains

US declares sanctions after Sudan ceasefire violations

Khartoum: The United States said on Thursday it was imposing economic sanctions and visa restrictions against actors "perpetuating the violence" in Sudan as clashes raged on in the capital Khartoum.

Saudi Arabia and the United States have been monitoring a ceasefire deal meant to run until Saturday evening that had raised hopes of an end to a war between Sudan's army and rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

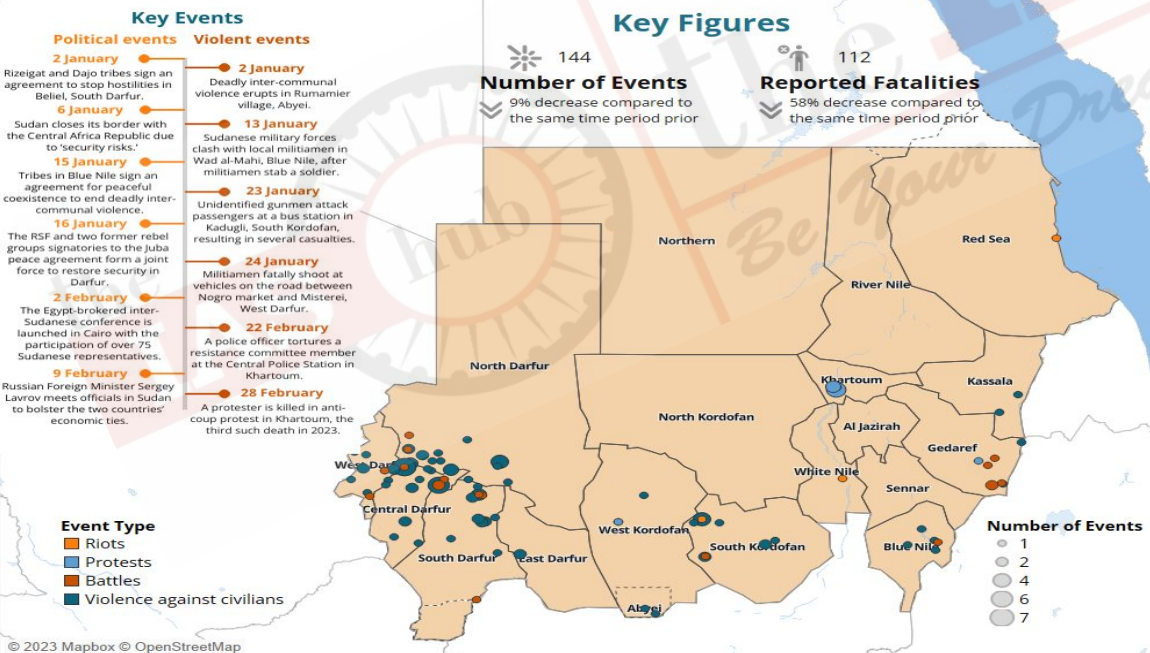
The truce brought some reduction in fighting and gave space for limited humanitarian relief, but clashes and air strikes have continued largely uninterrupted since the outbreak of the conflict on April 15.

Food & assets were being looted in El Obeid, a regional hub to Khartoum, World Food Programme said. "Food for 4.4 million people is at stake," chief Cindy McCain said. **REUTERS**

Context: The U.S. announced that it will levy sanctions against people "who are perpetuating the violence" in Sudan as warring sides fail to abide by a cease-fire agreement.

- The United States is imposing visa restrictions on specific people in Sudan, including officials from the warring Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces and leaders from the former regime, who are responsible for, or complicit in, undermining Sudan's democratic transition.

Political Violence in Sudan 1 January - 10 March 2023



Sudan Crisis

- It all revolves around **infighting between two rival groups:** the Sudanese army and a paramilitary group known as the RSF, or Rapid Support Forces.
- Since a **coup in the country in 2021**, which ended a transitional government put in place after the fall of longtime dictator Omar al-Bashir two years earlier, Sudan has been run by the army, with coup leader General Abdel-Fattah Burhan as de facto ruler.
- The RSF, led by General Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo - who is generally known by the name **Hemedti** - has worked alongside the Sudanese army to help keep the military in power.

Odisha to procure sal seeds from 9 districts; tribals say it's too late

Several tribal people, mainly seed collectors, will be deprived of the procurement scheme, as the corporation will not collect from other districts



NEXT NEWS >

By Hrusikesh Mohanty
Published: Thursday 01 June 2023



Sal Tree

- Sal, along with teak, is **one of the two main commercial timbers** of India.
- *S. robusta* is a **deciduous tree**.
- Sal is **indigenous to India** and occurs in two main regions separated by the Gangetic Plain, namely the northern and central Indian regions
- Shorea robusta seed oil is **an edible oil** extracted from the seeds of Shorea robusta.
- The oil is **used as cooking oil** after refining.
- The refined oil is **used as substitute for cocoa butter** in chocolate manufacturing.

Context: The government-owned Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation of Odisha Ltd (TDCCOL) decided to procure **sal seeds (*Shorea robusta*)** from nine Odisha districts.

- The move, which comes after a gap of three years, intends to arrest the distress sale of the **minor forest produce (MFP)**.

Key Points

- Odisha has **no major solvent extraction** plant that produces **oil from sal seeds**, due to which the intermediaries procure the seeds from the state at a lower rate and sell them at a higher rate to the oil companies of other states.
- Odisha has a **rich depository of sal seeds** accounting for 25 per cent of the country's production, which played a significant role in the economics of the tribal people in the state.
- Other major sal seeds producing states include **Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand**.

KAFUE NATIONAL PARK

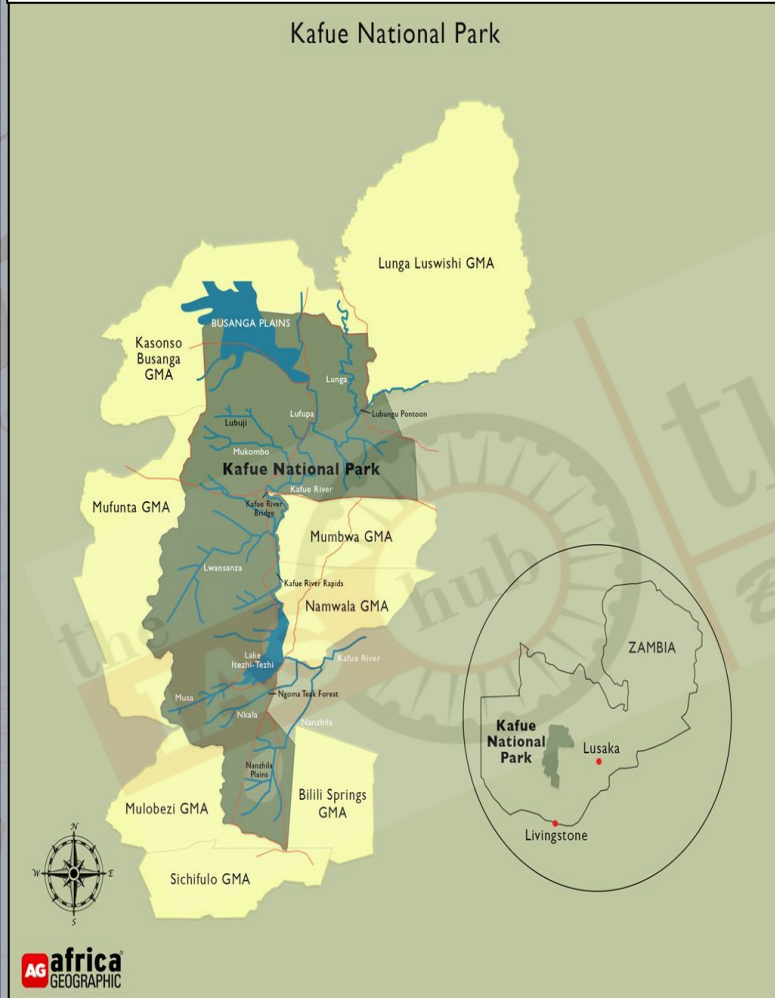
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Lions, leopards have made a comeback in Africa's 3rd-largest national park, says report

Rigorous anti-poaching measures including patrolling, effective prosecution and cultural sensitisation led to the rebound in populations, says report

By DTE Staff

Published: Thursday 01 June 2023



Context: Lion and leopard populations have begun rebounding in Africa's third-largest national park - **Zambia's Kafue National Park (KNP)** - after 50 years of poaching, according to a new report from Panthera, the global wild cat conservation organisation, and partners.

Factors that attributed the rise of populations

- **Rigorous counter-poaching operations:** Game-changing conservation technologies like **SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool)** and Earth Ranger were employed in these operations.
 - This **enabled rangers to surveil wide areas of KNP** more accurately and analyse data at a faster rate to stay one step ahead of poachers, including visually tracking patrol routes, poacher activity and collared wildlife.
- **Effective prosecution:** Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP) has aided Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and the National Prosecution Authority in **achieving an 85 percent conviction rate** for offenses involving lion or leopard parts.
- **Distribution of synthetic 'Heritage Furs'** replacing garments made of authentic leopard and lion skins.

Kafue National Park

- It is the **largest national park in Zambia**, covering an area of about 22,400 km² (similar in size to Wales or Massachusetts).
- It is **one of the largest parks in Africa** and is home to 152 different species of mammals.
- The park is named for the **Kafue River**.
- The Kafue River eventually flows into the **man-made Lake Itzhi-tezhi**, forming a reservoir partially within the park.
- It stretches over three provinces: **North Western, Central and Southern**.
- Most of the park is **covered in miombo woodlands**, which are open semi-deciduous forests of trees in the genera *Brachystegia*, *Julbernardia* and *Isoberlinia*, adapted to periodic wildfires.
- An important aquatic plant is the **grass *Vossia cuspidata***, which forms free-floating mats in the river.
- The **Busanga Plains** in the far north-west are a well-known attraction; these are seasonally flooded grasslands along the Lufupa river.

India conducts successful launch of Agni-1 missile

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India conducted a “successful launch” of the medium-range Agni-1 missile from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast on Thursday, in yet another test of a nuclear-capable ballistic missile amid the continuing military confrontation with China in eastern Ladakh.

The “training launch” of the Agni-1, which has a strike range of 700-km, was conducted by the tri-service Strategic Forces Command (SFC).

“The missile is a proven system already inducted into the SFC, and is capable of striking targets with a very high degree of precision. The user launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile,” a defence ministry official said.

The SFC, which was set up to han-

dle the country’s nuclear arsenal in 2003, currently has the Prithvi-II (350-km range), Agni-1 (700-km), Agni-2 (2,000-km), Agni-3 (3,000-km) and Agni-4 (4,000-km) ballistic missiles.

The country’s most formidable nuclear-capable missile, the over 5,000-km Agni-5, which brings even the northernmost part of China within its strike envelope, is in the stage of being inducted into the SFC. The Agni-5 was test-fired by the SFC in October 2021 and December 2022.

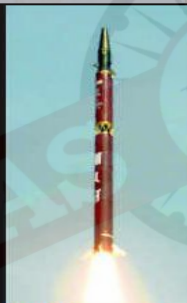
A new-generation missile with a strike range of 1,000 to 2,000-km called ‘Agni-Prime’ was also tested for the first time in June 2021. Developed with new propulsion systems and composite rocket motor casings as well as advanced navigation and guidance systems, the canister-launch Agni-Prime will gradually replace the Agni-I missiles in the SFC’s arsenal.

Context: India conducted a “successful launch” of the medium-range **Agni-1 missile** from the **APJ Abdul Kalam Island** off the **Odisha coast**, in yet another test of a nuclear-capable ballistic missile amid the continuing military confrontation with China in eastern Ladakh.

- The “training launch” of the Agni-1, which has a **strike range of 700 km**, was conducted by the tri-service Strategic Forces Command (SFC).
- The SFC, which was setup to handle the country’s nuclear arsenal in 2003, currently has the **Prithvi-II (350 km range)**, **Agni-1 (700-km)**, **Agni-2 (2,000-km)**, **Agni-3 (3,000-km)** and **Agni-4 (4,000-km)** ballistic missiles.

Agni-1 missile

- Agni-I is a **medium-range ballistic missile** that was developed by DRDO of India in the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program.
- It was developed after the Kargil War to fill the gap between the 250 km (160-mile) range of the Prithvi-II missile and the 2,500 km (1,600-mile) range of the Agni-II.
- Agni-I is a **single stage, solid fuel, road and rail mobile, Short-range ballistic missile (SRBM)**.

			
Agni-I	Agni-II	Agni-III	Agni-IV*
Class: SRBM	Class: IRBM	Class: IRBM	Class: Long-range
Length: 14.80 m	Length: 20 m	Length: 16.7 m	Length: 20m
Diameter: 1.30 m	Diameter: 1.30 m	Diameter: 2 m	Diameter: 1.20 m
Launch weight: 12,000 kg	Launch weight: 16,000 kg	Launch weight: 48,000 kg	Launch weight: 17,000 kg
Payload: 2,000 kg	Payload: 2,000 kg	Payload: 2,000 kg	Payload: 800-1,000 kg
Warhead: Nuclear capable	Warhead: Nuclear capable	Warhead: Nuclear capable	Warhead: Nuclear capable
Propulsion: Single-stage	Propulsion: Two-stage	Propulsion: Two-stage	Propulsion: Two-stage
Range: 700-1,200 km	Range: 2,000-3,500 km	Range: 3,500 km	Range: 2,500-3,500 km
Status: Operational	Status: Operational	Status: Operational	Status: Development
*earlier called Agni-II Prime			

Secure Top Rank with the **IAShub** Courses

Prelims 2023 Courses

01

Prelims Crash Course
Score Enhancement
Program (SEP)

02

INA Current Affairs
(Prelims)

03

TACKLE - Prelims
Test Series

04

Geography - Prelims
Crash Course

Quality Enrichment Courses (Mains 2023)

01

Quality Enrichment Program (QEP)

02

Science of Answer Writing (SAW)

Prelim Cum Mains 2024 Courses

01

NEEV GS Foundation 2024/25

02

INA Current Affairs Pre Cum Mains - 2024

FREE



Download PDF



Login to theiashub.com



**Aaj Ka
Quality Enrichment**
(Toppers' Favourite PDF)



News-CRUX-10
(10 News. 10 Sources. One Place)



Monthly Editorials
(The Hindu & Indian Express)



Daily Quiz (Prelims)



**Government Schemes &
Ministry Wise Year End
Review**



Free Enrichment PDFs
(Tailor Made Crisp Study Material)

FREE

India's Best Answer Writing Sessions

with

IAS OFFICERS



Ritika Jindal



Simi Karan



Gaurav Budania



Mridul Shivhare

Log On To Our Unique
Free Answer Writing Sessions with Toppers (FAST) Portal
& Start Practicing!



**SCAN
HERE**



9560082909



t.me/theiashub



www.theiashub.com



[/mkyadav](https://www.youtube.com/mkyadav)



www.theiashub.com