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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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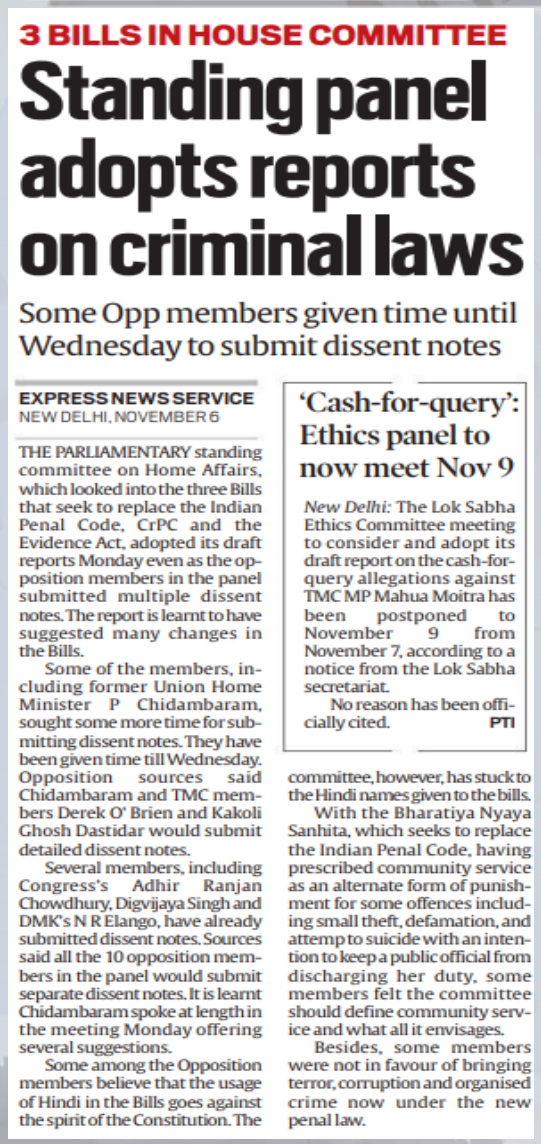
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INDIAN EXPRESS

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REVAMP OF BILLS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Governance)



3 BILLS IN HOUSE COMMITTEE

Standing panel adopts reports on criminal laws

Some Opp members given time until Wednesday to submit dissent notes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

THE PARLIAMENTARY standing committee on Home Affairs, which looked into the three Bills that seek to replace the Indian Penal Code, CrPC and the Evidence Act, adopted its draft reports Monday even as the opposition members in the panel submitted multiple dissent notes. The report is learnt to have suggested many changes in the Bills.

Some of the members, including former Union Home Minister P Chidambaram, sought some more time for submitting dissent notes. They have been given time till Wednesday. Opposition sources said Chidambaram and TMC members Derek O' Brien and Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar would submit detailed dissent notes.

Several members, including Congress's Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Digvijaya Singh and DMK's N R Elango, have already submitted dissent notes. Sources said all the 10 opposition members in the panel would submit separate dissent notes. It is learnt Chidambaram spoke at length in the meeting Monday offering several suggestions.

Some among the Opposition members believe that the usage of Hindi in the Bills goes against the spirit of the Constitution. The committee, however, has stuck to the Hindi names given to the bills.

With the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which seeks to replace the Indian Penal Code, having prescribed community service as an alternate form of punishment for some offences including small theft, defamation, and attemp to suicide with an intention to keep a public official from discharging her duty, some members felt the committee should define community service and what all it envisages.

Besides, some members were not in favour of bringing terror, corruption and organised crime now under the new penal law.

'Cash-for-query': Ethics panel to now meet Nov 9

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha Ethics Committee meeting to consider and adopt its draft report on the cash-for-query allegations against TMC MP Mahua Moitra has been postponed to November 9 from November 7, according to a notice from the Lok Sabha secretariat.

No reason has been officially cited. PTI

Context: Recently, the **Parliamentary Standing Committee** on Home Affairs examined three Bills **aimed at replacing the Indian Penal Code, CrPC, and the Evidence Act,** and it approved its draft reports, despite multiple dissent notes from opposition members on the panel.

Key Changes and Provisions

- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, **replaces** the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860.
- Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, **replaces** The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973 (originally enacted in 1898).
- Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) Bill, 2023, **replaces** the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

New provisions in Bills

- Mob lynching is subject to **penalties of seven years imprisonment**, life imprisonment, or the death penalty.
- **Fast-track justice is facilitated through video trials** and electronic filing of First Information Reports (FIRs).
- The **definition of sedition has been broadened,** and provisions against corruption, terrorism, and organized crime have been strengthened.
- New forms of punishment, such as **community service and solitary confinement**, have been introduced.
- **Trials can take place even in the absence of the accused**.
- The scope of **offenses related to sexual intercourse** through "deceitful means" involving women has been extended.

THE HINDU

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SOUTH LOHNAK LAKE DISASTER

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Disaster Management)



In the Sikkim flood's wake, a trail of hazards lie in wait

The South Lhonak Lake is one of the largest and fastest growing glacial lakes in Sikkim, and has been a potential hazard for several years. Dan Shugar, a geomorphologist from the University of Calgary, said that as a result of the flood, the lake's area shrank by 16 hectares

Kavita Upadhyay

The South Lhonak lake in the Himalayan state of Sikkim breached on the night of October 3, resulting in a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) that ravaged four districts. At least 42 people died as a result and 77 more are still missing. More than a month after the disaster, the lake remains a potential hazard, say scientists.

The South Lhonak lake is located in North Sikkim, at an altitude of 5,200 m. According to scientists, the current interpretation of the flood – which relies heavily on satellite data – suggests that on October 3 night, a slope failure occurred along the lateral moraine (a mass of debris and rocks) on the lake's left bank. Preliminary research found that some of the landslide material scraped the glacier terminus, east of it, hit the lake, creating an impulse wave that moved towards the lake's narrow front end.

It widened the lake's outlet, resulting in a partial breach, said Ashim Sattar, a mountain hazard specialist who is currently studying the GLOF and has authored research articles predicting different GLOF scenarios for the South Lhonak lake. There was also a probable overtopping as water moved over the moraine along the lake's outlet. The result was a GLOF that affected around 88,000 people in Sikkim's Mangan, Gyalshing, Pakyong, and Namchi districts.

The lake is one of the largest and fastest growing glacial lakes in Sikkim, and has been a potential hazard for several years now. Dan Shugar, a geomorphologist from the University of Calgary in Canada, who is currently conducting research on the GLOF, noted that before the flood, the lake's area was 1.62 sq. km., and after water being drained out in the GLOF, the area dropped to 1.06 sq. km.

Dr. Sattar said, "While the lake level was lowered due to the flood, it did not drain completely. A lot of water still remains in the lake, making it a potential hazard." Adding to the existing hazard, weeks after the disaster, there have been continuous landslides along the slope that first fallen on October 3, Dr. Shugar added.

When the flood gushed through the valley, it triggered a landslide about 30 km downstream of the South Lhonak lake, which blocked the river, forming a landslide-dammed lake. After reviewing satellite images, Dr. Sattar surmised that the lake had not drained even by November 5.

Considering the risk of sudden release of water downstream, it requires monitoring.

What caused the GLOF?

The Sikkim government has been claiming that the GLOF was triggered by a cloudburst. In fact, Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority's daily reports on deaths and damages continue to call the flood "cloudburst induced". The National Disaster Management Authority's October 6 press release also called the event a "likely combination of excess rainfall and a GLOF".

However, according to G.S. Raha, who heads the Meteorological Centre in Gangtok, the possibility of either a cloudburst or extreme rainfall triggering the GLOF is very less. The 10 weather stations across North Sikkim recorded light to moderate rainfall for the period of the GLOF, Dr. Raha said.

On the morning of October 4, the station at Lachen, located 40 km from the South Lhonak lake, recorded only 0.7 mm rainfall for 24 hours, he said. However, scientists continue to analyse meteorological data for accurate information regarding the role of rainfall in the GLOF.

Researchers are also currently checking whether earthquake tremors could have triggered the GLOF.

How did the disaster happen?

The disaster downstream of the lake was not caused solely by the GLOF, but by a cascade of several events.

One of the most affected places was Chungthang, a town around 60 km from the lake, where the dam of Sikkim's biggest hydropower project – the 1,200-MW Teesta-III – broke. Water from the damaged reservoir combined with the GLOF, leading to even more destruction downstream of the dam.

While the reservoir's gross storage capacity was 500 million cubic metres, the volume of water stored in it at the time of the disaster is currently not known. Further downstream of the Teesta-III dam, two more hydropower projects were damaged. The 510-MW Teesta-V and the 500-MW Teesta-VI that is under construction.

"In the Teesta Basin, where GLOFs are evident, placing mega-dams was a bad decision," said Mujahid Legshe, an activist associated with the Affected Citizens of Teesta (ACT), a collective of

> Signs of climate change emerged in the South Lhonak glacier decades ago. As the glacier melted the lake began growing rapidly, increasing the possibility of a breach

Sikkim's citizens protesting against harmful dams on the Teesta river for more than a decade and a half. The lack of early warning also proved to be detrimental, she said.

Maximilian Van Wyk de Vries, an assistant professor of physical geography at the University of Nottingham, U.K., said that at the South Lhonak lake, a large section of the lateral moraine was "standing for many years preceding the collapse, at a rate of several metres per year".

Prior analysis of a possible landslide, which can be inferred using satellite imagery, would have guided glacial lake management efforts and infrastructure planning in the Teesta Basin, he said.

On October 11, the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) National Remote Sensing Centre published satellite images showing a large deposit of sediments and several landslides along the path of the flood, especially in and around the Chungthang dam. The loose sediment may pose a threat to downstream areas in future, said Kalachand Sain, Director of the Dehradun-based Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology.

In view of the many hydropower-related dams in the Teesta Basin, the large amount of loose sediment that can easily be eroded by heavy water flow may imply a shorter lifespan for dams and lower efficiency for hydropower projects, scientists said.

What is the role of climate change?

In the South Lhonak glacier, the signs of climate change emerged decades ago and became stronger as the rate at which the glacier melted increased, resulting in a rapidly growing lake that was bound to breach – as several research studies stated. In 1990, the South Lhonak glacier was 6.4 km long. A research article published in 2021 found that, by 2019, it had reduced by about 1.3 km and that its area had declined by about 0.96 sq. km.

In 1976, the South Lhonak lake area was a mere 0.20 sq. km, according to a research article published in 2018. As the glacier shrank, the lake grew larger. By 2019, the lake was covering 1.39 sq. km, per the 2021 article.

GLOFs are natural, but the rapid increase in the lake's size as a result of the glacier's accelerated melting tied closely to anthropogenic climate warming, said Dr. VVSV (as he prefers his last name) of the University of Nottingham.

Anil V. Kulkarni, Distinguished Scientist at the Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science's Divecha Centre for Climate Change, said, "The lake's rapid expansion might have weakened the permafrost that was holding the moraine, which would have been one of the important reasons behind slope failure on October 3."

(Kavita Upadhyay is an independent journalist and researcher who writes on disasters in the Indian Himalayan Region.)

Context: Recently, the breach of **South Lhonak Lake in the Himalayan state of Sikkim** led to a devastating glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) that affected four districts, resulting in the tragic loss of at least 42 lives, with 77 individuals still unaccounted for.

- The Sikkim government has been claiming that the GLOF was triggered by a cloudburst. In fact, S**ikkim State Disaster Management Authority's** daily reports on deaths and damages continue to **call the flood "cloudburst induced".**

Role of Climate Change

- **In 1990, the South Lhonak glacier measured** 6.4 km in length, but a research article published in 2021 revealed that by 2019, it had shrunk by approximately 1.3 km and its area had decreased by about 0.96 sq. km.
- **Back in 1976, the South Lhonak Lake** occupied a mere 0.20 sq. km, as reported in a research article from 2018. However, as the glacier continued to diminish, the lake expanded significantly.

Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)

- **About**: Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) is a type of flood that occurs when a glacier-contained water body is suddenly released.
- **Causes of GLOF**: GLOFs happen when the natural dam formed by a glacial lake fails, allowing the stored water to flow rapidly. GLOF can be triggered by several reasons, including earthquakes, extremely heavy rains and ice avalanches.

PIB Nov 6

TRIBAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Gov. Scheme)

Youth delegation attending Tribal Youth Exchange Programme (TYEP) call on the President

Context: Recently, a youth delegation from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh who are attending the **Tribal Youth Exchange Programme (TYEP)** called on the President of India.

Tribal Youth Exchange Program (TYEP)

- **About**: The Ministry of Home Affairs has been running the Tribal Youth Exchange Programme (TYEP) for the last 15 years.
- The program is being run through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Objective

- **Young men and women of the tribal community** from the interior areas most affected by Left left-wing extremism are taken on a tour to major cities and metros across the country.
- **Promoting the aspirations of the youth** in areas affected by Left Wing Extremism.
- Countering the propaganda against the government being spread by CPI Maoists.
- Informing the youth of tribal areas about the development activities and industrial progress and sensitizing them about the rich cultural heritage of India.
- **Deepening the confidence** in the democratic system in these areas.
- Spreading awareness about major development and welfare schemes among the youth of the tribal community.
- Developing an emotional **bond between youth belonging to the tribal community** and their peer groups in other parts of the country.

DTE

Nov 6

GIRAFFE EXTINTION THREATS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Giraffes could go extinct — the 5 biggest threats they face

Context: A recent study (Global Change Biology) highlights the five biggest threats that could lead to the extinction of giraffes.

- Giraffes are the **world's tallest mammals and an African icon**, but they are also vulnerable to extinction.
- **Giraffe populations have declined by 40 per cent** in the last 30 years, and there are now fewer than 70,000 mature individuals left in the wild.

Key Highlights of Study

- The study used data from more than 3,100 giraffes identified **over eight years in an unfenced 4,500km² area** of the Tarangire ecosystem in Tanzania.
- Giraffes **need large areas of savanna** with abundant native bushes and trees to feed on.
- The **biggest threat to giraffes is the degradation, fragmentation** and loss of their habitats through human activities such as farming and human settlement expansion.
- Habitat loss outside protected areas is the main reason for the recent decline in giraffe numbers.
- **Insufficient Law Enforcement**: Another major threat to giraffes is illegal hunting (poaching) for bushmeat markets. This is usually controlled by international criminal syndicates.
- **Ecological changes**: Giraffes are human-caused ecological changes that affect their food availability and mobility.
- These changes include deforestation of savannas for fuelwood and charcoal production, mining activity, and road and pipeline building.
- **Climate change**: Climate change from human-caused carbon dioxide pollution is forecast to increase temperatures and rainfall in many African savanna areas.

Giraffes

- **Giraffes are exotic species** to India and are conserved under captivity.
- The British brought northern giraffes (Giraffa Camelopardalis) from **their African colonies to India** 150 years ago.
- Now giraffes in India comprise a captive population of 29 giraffes in 11 zoos across the country.
- A **recent study at Kolkata Zoological Garden** shows that these giraffes may belong to different varieties of species.
    - **Nubian giraffes** - IUCN status - Critically Endangered
    - **Rothschild giraffe** - IUCN status - Endangered

INDIA BHUTAN RELATIONSHIP

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)



ANI

India, Bhutan to Expand Cross-Border Linkages

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: India and Bhutan on Monday decided to further deepen cross-border linkages through expansion of bilateral cooperation on trade, technology, cross-border connectivity, mutual investments, education and people-to-people connections.

These decisions were agreed upon during a meeting between PM Narendra Modi and Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck here on Monday night.

The two leaders positively assessed expanding partnership between the two countries, including in new areas of connectivity in its broadest form, cross-border trade infrastructure, trade and mutual investments, energy, health, education, skill development, space technology, and environment conservation, and close people-to-people contacts. It was decided to undertake the Final Location Survey (FLS), in consultation with the Bhutanese side, of the proposed cross-border rail link connecting Kokrajhar in Assam to Gelephu in Bhutan through Indian support, according to a joint statement issued after the talks. The two sides noted successful completion of the Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic (PET) survey of the rail-link by Indian Railways. The two sides also agreed to consider establishing rail-link between Banarhat (West Bengal) and Samtse (Bhutan).

The two nations agree to establish rail-link between Banarhat (West Bengal) and Samtse (Bhutan)

Context: Recently, **India and Bhutan have made the decision** to enhance **cross-border linkages by expanding bilateral cooperation** in areas such as trade, technology, cross-border connectivity, mutual investments, education, and people-to-people connections.

Key Points

- Both Countries discussed expanding partnership in various areas, including **connectivity, trade infrastructure, mutual investments, energy, health**, education, skill development, space technology, and environment conservation.
- They decided to **conduct the Final Location Survey** for a proposed cross-border rail link connecting Kokraj and Hashimara, in consultation with Bhutan.
- The **goal is to strengthen cross-border trade and cooperation**, fostering close people-to-people connections between India and Bhutan.

Significance of Bhutan to India

- **Buffer to China**: Bhutan serves as a buffer state between India and China, sharing a border with China.
- Its strategic location is crucial for India's security interests.
- **Vital Connectivity**: The Chumbi Valley, located at the tri-junction of Bhutan, India, and China, is vital for India's connectivity as it **lies close to the "Chicken's neck"** in North Bengal.
- **Security in North-East**: Bhutan has cooperated with India in addressing security concerns in India's north-eastern region by assisting in flushing out militant groups.
- **Chinese Inroad**: China is interested in establishing diplomatic relations with Bhutan and has territorial claims in western Bhutan. India's close relationship with Bhutan is essential to counter Chinese influence.

PIB Nov 6

AIEC
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan co-chairs 1st Australia India Education and Skill Council meeting (AIESC) with Australian Counterparts in Gandhinagar; holds bilateral meeting with HE Jason Clare, MP, Minister of Education, Australia

Context: Recently, the Union Minister for Education and Skill Development of **India held a bilateral meeting with his Australian** counterpart, HE Jason Clare, MP, the Education Minister.

Australian India Education Council (AIEC)

- **About:** The AIESC, earlier the Australian India Education Council (AIEC), is a bi-national body established in 2011 to guide the strategic direction of the education, training and research partnerships between the two countries.
- **Aim**: Promoting cooperation and collaboration in the field of education between Australia and India.
- **Objective**: The interaction is expected to identify innovative opportunities for deepening bilateral research collaborations in a thriving research ecosystem through industry partnerships, research workforce and strategies.
  - It will also aim to facilitate research networks across chosen disciplines between the two countries.
  - AISEC will provide a platform for academic and skill experts to discuss a wide range of mutually agreed priorities, with the ultimate aim of shaping the future of education and skilling in both our nations.

BUSINESS LINE

Nov 6

MSCI INDEX

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

India drops to third spot in MSCI emerging-market index amid rout in Adani group stocks

Context: Taiwan's weighting in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index rose to 14.2 per cent, behind leader China's at 31.2 percent, while India's fell to the third spot with 13 percent, according to Bloomberg-compiled data.

MSCI Index

- **About**: The MSCI World is a stock market index of 1,643 world stocks.
- It is **maintained by MSCI Inc., formerly Morgan Stanley** Capital International, and is used as a common benchmark for 'world' or 'global' stock funds.
- The index includes a collection of stocks of all the developed markets in the world, as defined by MSCI.
- The index includes securities from 23 countries but excludes stocks from emerging and frontier economies making it less worldwide than the name suggests.
- A related index, the MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI), incorporated both developed and emerging countries.
- MSCI also produces a Frontier Markets index, including another 31 markets.
- **MSCI Index India**: As per the official definition, the MSCI Index India is used to evaluate the performance of large and mid-cap segments of the Indian market.
  - MSCI Global Investable Indexes (GIMI) Methodology is used for MSCI Index India.
  - Around 85 percent of the Indian equity universe is covered by the MSCI Index India.
  - There are four constituents: Largest, Smallest, Average, and Median.
- **Significance**: It is considered to be one of the important indices that focus on different geographic areas and stock types such as small-caps, mid-caps, and large-caps.

INDIA TODAY Nov 6

BULAVA BALLISTIC MISSILE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

Russia's new nuclear submarine successfully test launches Bulava ballistic missile

Context: Russia recently carried out a successful test launch of the **Bulava ballistic missile**, designed to carry nuclear warheads.

Bulava Ballistic Missile

- The new **Russian submarine-launched Intercontinental Ballistic Missile** (ICBM) is known as the Bulava.
- Development of the **Bulava missile began in 1998**, with its first powered flight test occurring in September 2005, followed by the first submerged test launch in December of the same year.
- The **Bulava missile is designed to be deployed on Russia's Borey-class** ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs).
- **Features**
- It measures 12-13.5 meters in length, has a diameter of about 2.0 meters, and a launch weight of 36,800 kilograms.
- The **Bulava is a three-stage solid-fuel missile** capable of carrying multiple warheads, each intended to strike a different target.
- It can carry up to **six Multiple Independent Re-entry Vehicles** (MIRVs), which have the ability to maneuver in-flight and retarget to evade hostile air defenses.
- The missile is reported to have an accuracy of 350 meters.

Ballistic Missile

- It is a r**ocket-propelled, self-guided strategic weapon** system that adheres to a ballistic trajectory for the delivery of a payload from its launch site to a preselected destination.
- Initially, **ballistic missiles are propelled by one or multiple rocket stages,** after which they follow an unpowered trajectory that ascends in an arched path before descending to reach their designated target.
- Ballistic missiles have the **capability to transport either nuclear** or conventional warheads.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 6

INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

Talks on 2 more IPEF pillars may end next week

SHREYA NANDI
New Delhi, 6 November

India, along with 13 other nations under the US-initiated Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), is likely to substantially close discussions on two more pillars – clean and fair economy – during the upcoming ministerial slated to take place in San Francisco next week.

With this, the negotiations related to three out of IPEF's four pillars will be completed within a year-and-a-half since the launch of the economic initiative. Already, the legal scrubbing process of the second pillar – the supply chain resilience agreement – has now been completed.

With this, negotiations related to three of IPEF's four pillars will be done within a year and a half since the launch of the initiative

IPEF is a 14-member grouping launched by US President Joe Biden last year with an aim to enhance the economic competitiveness and prosperity among the member countries. The framework is structured around four pillars relating to trade, supply chain resilience, clean economy, and fair economy.

According to government officials, the process for domestic approval for signing the supply chain resilience agreement is underway.

There has also been substantial progress in Pillar I or the trade pillar, although it might take some more time to conclude negotiations since it is the most exhaustive out of the four pillars, they said.

For now, India has opted out of the trade pillar and has an 'observer' status. This means that India will have the flexibility of joining the pillar after seeing the final text once the negotiations are over.

"In under a year and a half, the Biden Administration established and built out a framework of 14 partner nations in the Indo-Pacific to address long-term economic issues and allow the United States and our partners to nimbly respond and keep pace with new challenges and opportunities that arise – whether that's mitigating the impact of a global pandemic on our supply chains or seizing new investment opportunities," US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo said in a statement on Monday.

The ministerial will be preceded by a week-long seventh in-person negotiating round that started on Sunday. The second in-person ministerial is crucial for India, considering that it has not been able to sign any trade agreements this year so far. While the deal with Canada is off the table due to political tensions, negotiations with the United Kingdom are on as both sides are yet not able to sort out the differences in key areas.

The plurilateral economic cooperation arrangement is also of strategic importance for the US and India as it is also seen as an initiative to counter China's influence on the South and Southeast Asian nations and draw more investments among the 14 nations through cooperation. Experts believe that although there might be larger strategic gains for India, IPEF may not yield immediate benefits for the country.

"If you look at the supply chain pillar, there is deep significance on labour and environment standards and India is not prepared to face compliance. The concern is the standards are demanding and it is difficult to meet the standards," said Biswajit Dhar, distinguished professor at the Council for Social Development. "I don't see us getting immediate benefits out of it unless we get domestic processes going and invest in product quality and standards."

Context: India, along with **13 other nations under the US-initiated Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)**, is likely to substantially close discussions on two more pillars – **clean and fair economy** – during the upcoming ministerial slated to take place in San Francisco next week.

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)

- **About:** The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework is a unique type of trade pact that the United States is pushing among the region's governments.
- **Origin**: India and 12 nations led by the United States inaugurated the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) on 23rd May 2022 to provide an economic alternate solution to China's Geostrategic footprint in the Indo-Pacific area.
- **Partner Countries**: Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the United States.
    - Within days of its launch, IPEF expanded its membership to the Pacific Island states, with Fiji joining the initiative.
- **Objectives**: The IPEF seeks to strengthen economic relationships between all of the participating nations to enhance resilience, sustainable development, inclusiveness, economic expansion, fair treatment, and competitive spirit in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Pillars**: It was proposed as an elaborate framework of rules covering four pillars, namely, fair and resilient trade, supply chain resiliency, clean energy decarbonization, and tax and anti-corruption.

DTE Nov 5

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IN CAMEROON
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Wildlife crimes in Cameroon: Prosecution needs to be bolstered as poaching remains a menace despite measures

Context: Cameroon ranked seventh out of **29 African nations in terms of being a source** or **transit point for illegal wildlife trafficking (IWT)** during the decade spanning from 2009 to 2019, according to a new report.

Key Points of Report

- The most frequently **seized items included unprocessed elephant tusks**, crafted ivory articles, pangolin scales, African Grey Parrots, and a variety of primate species.
- Elephant-related products made up a **significant 40 percent of seized commodities, ranging from raw tusks** to crafted ivory, meat, tails, and bones.
- These elephant products were frequently **bundled with other illicitly traded items**. Some wildlife criminals even engaged in cyber-enabled IWT.
- **The report also brought to light** that a significant 24 percent of cases displayed substantial indications of influence peddling and corruption within the legal process

Illegal Wildlife Trade

- **About**: Illegal wildlife trade refers to the illegal activities involving the capture, collection, transport, and trade of wildlife and their products, including live animals, animal parts, and derivatives.
- **In India, trade in over 1,800 species** of wild animals, plants, and their derivatives, is prohibited under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

African Elephants

- The African elephant is the largest animal walking the Earth.
- **African elephants** were treated as a single species, listed as **Vulnerable**; this is the 1st time two species have been assessed separately for the IUCN Red List, following the emergence of new genetic evidence.
- **Forest elephants** occur in the tropical forests of Central Africa and in a range of habitats in West Africa. They rarely overlap with the range of the **Savanna elephant**.
- **Savanna elephant** prefers open country and is found in a variety of habitats in Sub-Saharan Africa including grasslands and deserts.

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