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THE HINDU Page 14

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAMIN AWAS YOJANA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Government Policies & Interventions)

Centre to cut funds if land is not allotted for housing scheme

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Rural Development Ministry says 2.06 crore houses have been constructed till November

The States unable to provide land to the landless beneficiaries of the Union government's flagship housing scheme by December 15 will find their targets for this financial year redistributed to other States, the Centre warned recently.

This means that the Centre will withdraw its share of funds allocated to errant States under the Centrally sponsored Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana (PMAY-G).

More than a fifth of such landless beneficiaries are in Tamil Nadu.

The scheme was launched in April 2016 with a goal of building 2.95 crore houses for the rural poor by March 2022, with the target figure derived from the Socio-Economic Caste Census, 2011.

Due to the COVID pandemic, the deadline was extended by two years till March 2024.

As per the statistics available with the Union Ministry of Rural Development, 2.06 crore houses had been constructed till November 2022.

With the scheme entering its final phase, the construction of houses for at least 2.5 lakh landless beneficiaries across the country is one of the last impediments. "Providing land to the landless PMAY-G beneficiaries for the construction of the houses is of utmost importance since they are among the most deserving beneficiaries in the permanent wait list of the scheme," Rural Development Secretary N.N. Sinha told *The Hindu*.

The original figure of 4.48 lakh landless beneficiaries has shrunk to 2.56 lakh since the beginning of the scheme because of financial assistance provided to purchase land. However, 43% of landless beneficiaries are yet to be provided with land.

Tamil Nadu, with 56,709 landless beneficiaries still on the wait list, followed by Maharashtra (48,272), Assam (23,064), Odisha (19,869) and Bihar (16,943).

Tamil Nadu has been particularly slow in providing help – it started out with 57,680 landless beneficiaries, and has provided land to only 971 , according to Ministry data.

Context: States unable to provide land to landless beneficiaries of the Central Government's flagship housing scheme, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana (PMAYG), by December 15 will find their targets for this financial year redistributed to other States, the Centre warned recently.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY - G)

- **About**: A flagship program of the Central Government in its mission to provide affordable housing for all.
- **Origin**: It is the successor of the Indira Awaas Yojana; a similar welfare measure initiated by the Government in force back in the year 1985.
  - IAY has been revamped into Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) with effect from 1st April 2016.
- **Nodal Ministry**: **Ministry of Rural development**.
- **Objectives**: It is addressed to the rural poor under which it will **provide pucca houses** with all the basic facilities including a hygienic kitchen to those living in kutcha houses.
  - All beneficiaries of this PMAYG will have not only permanent housing by 2022 but **also additional amenities** like electricity, LPG, and road connectivity.
- **Key Features:**
  - **Size of the house**: The minimum size of the house has been **increased to 25 sq.mt (from 20 sq.mt) with a hygienic cooking space**.
  - **Funding**: The cost of unit assistance is shared between Central and State Governments in the ratio 60:40 in plain areas and 90:10 for North Eastern and hilly states.
    - All other Union Territories will have **100% funding from the Central Government**. There is no breakup of the total costs incurred.
    - The unit assistance has been **increased from Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 1.20 lakh** in plain and from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 1.30 lakh in hilly states.
  - **Access to hygienic living conditions**: There will also be **extra financial assistance of Rs. 12,000** per beneficiary for constructing permanent toilets to accompany each house. This additional assistance will be covered under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin or SBM-G. It will ensure that maximum rural inhabitants have.
    - All beneficiaries of this scheme will also receive **Rs 90.95 per day of unskilled labour** under the auspices of the MGNREGS.
  - **Replace non-permanent housing units:** The PMAY Gramin scheme will **replace all existing non-permanent housing units** and will dramatically improve the rural poor's living conditions.
  - **Beneficiaries**: The beneficiaries will be determined based on their social indicators as determined by th**e Socio-Economic and Caste Census or SECC.**
    - The respective gram sabhas will then **determine data verification** and will pass that information to the administration.
  - **DBT**: All payments will be **transferred directly to the bank accounts of beneficiaries,** and Aadhaar data will also be verified to ensure that payments are received only by those who need them.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

INSOLVENCY BANKRUPTCY CODE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Resolution, distribution may be separated in IBC

RUCHIKA CHITRAVANSHI
New Delhi, 1 December

The government is considering an amendment to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to separate the process of resolution of a bankrupt firm from the distribution of funds received from the successful bidder to enable a faster takeover of the distressed company, a senior government official told *Business Standard*.

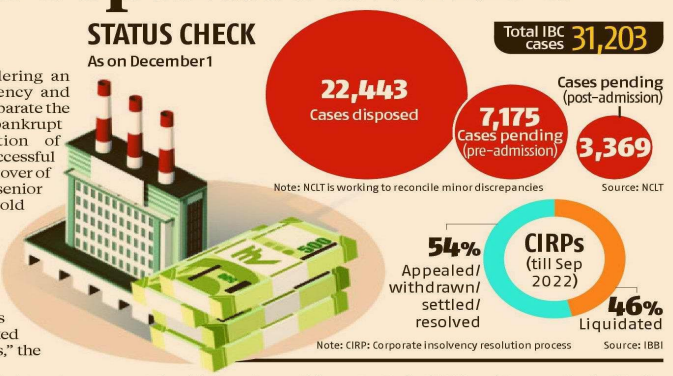
"In many cases the successful bidder is unable to take over the company because of disputes regarding the distribution of funds. Right now the whole plan goes as one but it is being suggested that we look at it in two parts," the official said.

The corporate affairs ministry is rethinking the lower priority currently given to government dues in the IBC under the waterfall mechanism. The IBC places secured lenders at the top of the waterfall mechanism, followed by employees and operational creditors. Fourth come government dues.

"There is a suggestion that the government should also get something out of the resolution process, which is not happening now. We are looking into it," the official added.

The amendments needed to the IBC were discussed in a meeting of a colloquium earlier this week. The meeting was attended by officials of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) and Reserve Bank of India, resolution professionals (RPs), bankers and judges of the National Company Law Tribunal. The amendment Bill is likely to be placed before Parliament next year in the Budget Session. Some of the changes, however, may be made through alterations in rules as well.

Turn to Page 6



STATUS CHECK
As on December 1

Total IBC cases 31,203

22,443 Cases disposed

7,175 Cases pending (pre-admission)

Cases pending (post-admission) 3,369

Note: NCLT is working to reconcile minor discrepancies — Source: NCLT

54% Appealed/ withdrawn/ settled/ resolved

CIRPs (till Sep 2022)

46% Liquidated

Note: CIRP: Corporate insolvency resolution process — Source: IBBI

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016: Salient Features

Clear & Speedy Process for Early Identification & Resolution of Financial Distress for Corporates & LLPs (if underlying business found viable)	**Two Distinct Resolution Processes:** (a) Fresh Start; (b)Insolvency Resolution	**Adjudicating Authorities:** National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and Debt Recovery Tribunal	**Regulator:** Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India for IPs, IPAs & Information Utilities	**Insolvency Professionals (IPs):** To handle commercial aspects of Insolvency Resolution Process	**Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPAs):** To develop professional standards & code of ethics for insolvency professionals members	**Information Utilities:** To process financial information to be used in insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings.

Context: The government is considering amendment to the **Insolvency Bankruptcy Code (IBC) process** of resolution of firm from the distribution funds received from the bidder to enable a faster the distressed company, government official.

Insolvency And Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)

- **About:** It was enacted against the backdrop of mounting non-performing loans, with a view to establishing a consolidated framework for **insolvency resolution of corporations, partnership firms and individuals** in a time-bound manner
- **Origin**: **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016** was implemented through an act of Parliament.
- **Objective**: It was introduced to **resolve the bankruptcy crisis** in the corporate sector.
- **Key Features:**
  - The IBC sets out **three classes of persons** who can trigger the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) - financial creditors, operational creditors and corporate debtors.
  - Either the **creditor (banks) or the loaner (defaulter)** can initiate insolvency proceedings.
  - It is **done by submitting a plea** to the adjudicating authority, the National Companies Law Tribunal (NCLT).
  - According to IBC, a **financial creditor** holds an important role in the corporate insolvency process.
  - The **Committee of Creditors (CoC)** under IBC includes all financial creditors of a corporate debtor.
  - The CoC will **appoint and supervise** the Insolvency Professional.
  - It has the **power to either approve or reject** the resolution plan to revive the debtor, or to proceed to liquidate the debtor.
  - The Code provides **a time-bound process** for resolving the insolvency of corporate debtors (within 330 days) called the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP).
- **Amendments**: The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) act, 2021** amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
  - It introduced **an alternate insolvency resolution process for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** with defaults up to Rs 1 crore called the Pre-packaged Insolvency Resolution Process (PIRP).
  - Unlike CIRP, PIRP may be **initiated only by debtors.**
  - The debtor should have a **base resolution plan in place.**
  - During PIRP, the management of the company will **remain with the debtor.**

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 5

RESIDENT WELFARE ASSOCIATION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Indian Society)

CM at RWA meet: Want to involve public in governance

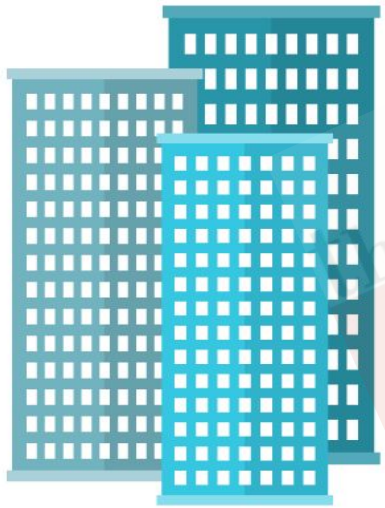
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 1

PROPER DELIMITATION of areas under Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), ensuring there is only a single RWA in a particular area, porta cabins for their offices and civil defence volunteers posted as security guards so associations don't have to spend on guards — these were among the suggestions that RWA representatives presented to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday.



Kejriwal during an interaction with members of RWAs at Panchshila Club, Thursday. *PTI*

RWA, a voluntary society of residents, can be sued for any Misfeasance like overcharging for services, corruption.



Remedy of Abatement

- Complaint can be made before Registrar of Societies
- Residents can resign from membership citing unjustified subscription fees
- But, can't refuse to pay if services already enjoyed

Remedy of Injunction

- Court order can refrain RWA from acting

Police Complaints

- FIR can be filed before the SHO of the local police station
- Filed for extreme cases of corruption, extortion, bribery, theft of funds

Context: Delhi chief minister said that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), if voted to the municipal corporation in the December 4 elections, will give **resident welfare associations (RWAs)** across the city the status of "mini councillors".

Resident welfare associations (RWAs)

- **About**: A **Non-governmental organization** that represents the interests of the residents of a specific urban or suburban locality, particularly in Indian cities.
- **Not recognized government entities:** RWAs are **not official organs of government,** and even slums and illegal housing localities in India can form RWAs to represent citizen interests.
- **Formation**: RWAs are **typically registered under co-operative societies acts,** which require groups to have a minimum of fifteen members from a given area, or under Apartment Owners Act of the state as "association of apartment owners", or under **Societies Registration Act (central Act or state Act)**, which requires minimum ten members.
    - These acts also set the **rules for the establishment of RWA bye-laws,** which include such things as membership criteria, voting rights, and the conditions under which RWA officers can initiate legal proceeding on behalf of the registered society.
- **Membership:** Membership is **voluntary**, and the leadership is usually elected by fee-paying members.
    - Members who d**o not pay the voluntary subscription fee** in any year may not vote in the general body and other meetings of the association since they would be deemed as having opted out of the membership of the voluntary association.
    - Such associations **cannot force residents** to become members and pay annual or other fees but can suspend services to non-paying members.
    - In some localities such associations may bear the word **'Development'** in their nomenclature such as development and welfare association.
- **Significance**: Despite the prevalence of RWAs in slums and unauthorized colonies, however, g**overnment programs aimed at involving RWAs in strategic governance decisions,** such as **Delhi's Bhagidari Scheme** (to promote broad-based civic participation in local governance), include only RWAs based on planned neighborhoods.
    - RWAs have become **increasingly involved in municipal politics and decision-making s**ince the early 2000s and continue to grow in importance.

LIVEMINT Page 2

MARGIN TRADING FACILITY
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Sebi approves extending margin trading facility to equity ETFs

PTI
feedback@livemint.com

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has allowed brokers to extend the margin trading facility (MTF) to equity exchange traded funds (ETFs) and use such funds as collateral as well.

Currently, only select stocks that under Group 1 securities are offered the MTF facility by brokers. "Taking into account the emergence of ETFs as an investment product with various advantages such as transparency, diversification, and lower cost, it has been decided to allow units of ETFs... as an eligible security for MTF as well as an eligible collateral under MTF," Sebi said.



At present, the stocks under Group 1 securities are offered the MTF facility. MINT

The facility is executed with borrowed funds or securities that enable investors to take exposure in the market over and above their resources.

Sebi said initial margin payable by the client to the stock broker should be in the form of cash, cash equivalent or equity ETFs. Further, the stocks or units of equity ETFs deposited as collateral with the stock broker for availing collateral and the stocks or units of equity ETFs purchased under the funded stocks should be identifiable separately and no co-mingling would be permitted for the purpose of computation of funding amount.

While providing the MTF, stock brokers will have to ensure that exposure towards stocks and units of equity ETFs purchased under MTF and collateral kept in the form of stocks and units of equity ETFs are well diversified, Sebi said.

Context: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has given brokers authorization to utilise equity exchange-traded funds (ETFs) as collateral and to broaden the **margin trading facility (MTF)** to include them.

Margin trading facility (MTF)

- **About**: A **facility offered by Broker** to their customers to buy stocks with a minimum required margin and hold the stocks for long time by maintaining the required margin.
  - This margin is **paid either in cash or in shares as security.**
  - Margin trading **can be considered leveraging positions** in the market either with cash or security by investors.
- **SEBI Regulations**: **Only authorised brokers** can offer margin trade accounts as per SEBI regulations.
  - Securities that are margin traded are **pre-defined by SEBI** and respective stock exchanges.
  - Previously, the margin trading was allowed only with cash and providing shares as collateral was not allowed.
  - The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** recently relaxed this criterion by allowing investors to create positions under the margin trading by furnishing shares as security.
- **Eligibility for Margin Trading:** Investors wishing to utilise the margin trading facility have to **create an MTF account** with their respective brokers by accepting the terms and conditions that states they are aware of the benefits and risks involved.
  - The margin varies across brokers.
- **Key Features:** Investors **can create positions against the margin** in the form of cash or collateral through shares.
  - The margin created positions can be carried forward up to a maximum of N+T days, where N is the number of days the said position can be carried over, this varies across brokers and T is the trading days.
- **Benefits**
  - Margin trading is apt for those investors looking at **encashing on the price fluctuations over a short-term** but do not enough cash in hand.
  - Securities in the portfolio or demat account can be **utilised as a security/collateral.**
  - MTF improves the rate of return on the **capital invested.**
  - MTF enhance **investors' purchasing power.**

ECONOMIC TIMES Page 2

HORNBILL FESTIVAL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

Nagaland's Hornbill Festival to be Showcased During India's G20 Presidency

VP says world will experience Naga hospitality when a meeting will be held in state in April; 7 tribes of eastern Nagaland boycott festival demanding separate state

Bikash.Singh@timesgroup.com

Guwahati: India plans to showcase Nagaland's Hornbill Festival during its G20 presidency. The G20 logo was displayed at the festival, which was inaugurated by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar in Kohima on Nagaland statehood day on Thursday. He said the world would experience Naga hospitality when a G20 meeting will be held in the state next April.

The festival is an international tourism event of northeast, held for 10 days annually from December 1. A state official said that G20 chief coordinator Harsh Vardhan Shringla discussed the opportunities to showcase the festival with chief minister Neiphiu Rio. "The Hornbill Festival in Kohima features a special focus on G20. Hundred monuments, including some Unesco world heritage sites, are being specially illuminated today and citizens have been invited to join a selfie campaign," an external affairs ministry spokesperson tweeted.

However, seven tribes from the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation — Chang, Khiamniungan, Konyak, Phom, Tikhir, Sangtam and Yimkhiung, spread across six districts — boycotted the festival demanding an Eastern Nagaland state. ENPO had said there would be no display of any cultural items of the seven tribes during the event. Its delegation is likely to meet home minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Saturday. The demand for Eastern Nagaland follows the alleged inequitable development of eastern areas.

A senior Nagaland official told ET, "village guards (VGs) from seven tribes participated in the statehood day celebration in official uniform in Kohima. The Eastern Naga Students' Federation and the Eastern Nagaland Women's Organisation had said earlier that they had no objection to VGs participating in the official celebration. Since VGs were government employees, they could attend the statehood day in their official uniform but not in traditional cultural attire, the organisations had said.

Last year, six tribes withdrew from the festival following the killing of 14 civilians and one security personnel in firing in Oting in a case of 'mistaken identity'. The Nagaland cabinet had recently said that when the state assembly met, members of Eastern Nagaland Legislators' Union may move a motion to discuss their issue. Chief minister Rio had in October said that the demand for a separate state was "not wrong." Eastern Nagaland comprises Mon, Tuensang, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak and Shamator. As many as 20 MLAs from the region had supported the demand, ahead of the next year's assembly polls. There is growing clamour among the organisations to refrain from participating in elections if the demand is not met. ENPO had also asked the 20 MLAs to resign in a statement last month. It said a resolution adopted on August 26 had urged to boycott "any election process of the central and state government unless a separate statehood is granted by the Government of India, as demanded by the people of Eastern Nagaland under the aegis of ENPO."

ALLEGATION

Demand for Eastern Nagaland follows alleged inequitable development of eastern areas



People of Nagaland participate in a procession on the first day of the Hornbill festival, at Kisama Village on the outskirts of Kohima, on Thursday – ANI

MORE REPORTS ▸▸ PAGE 4

Hornbill Festival

- **About**: A **10-day annual cultural fest of Nagaland** that showcases the rich and diverse Naga ethnicity through folk dances, traditional music, local cuisine, handicraft, art workshops, etc.
  - The festival derives its name from the bird named **Hornbill**, the most admired and revered bird for the Nagas for its qualities of alertness and grandeur.
  - It is called the **festival of festivals.**
- **Origin**: The first Hornbill festival was held in December 2000.
- **Organized by**: **State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments of Nagaland** and also supported by Union Government.
  - **Naga Morungs exhibition** is organized during the festival.
- **Location**: Hornbill festival is held in a village named **Kisama**.
  - It is located in between 2 villages named **'Ki'gwema and Phe'sama'.**
  - Kisama is located at a distance of 12 kms from **Kohima, capital of Nagaland.**

Hornbill

- **About**: Also known as **Great Pied Hornbill,** is one of the larger members of the hornbill family.
- **Distribution**: Found in **tropical and subtropical Africa and Asia.**
  - India is home to nine species of hornbills.
  - The great hornbill (IUCN Red List: Vulnerable) is the **state bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh in India.**
- **Key Characteristics:** The bright **yellow and black casque** on its bill. The casque is U-shaped while seen from the front.
  - The males have a black casque at its back and front underside, while it is reddish in colour for the back casque in females.
  - They are referred to as 'engineers of the forests' as they play a crucial role in dispersing seeds of the tropical forests, thus preserving its ecological balance.
- **Cultural Significance**: They are the **cultural symbols of some ethnic communities** in the northeast, specifically the **Nyishi** of Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Feeding Habits**: A Great Indian Hornbill consumes **fruits and meat while in captivity.**



TIMES OF INDIA

Page 14

WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Organisations)

India to head Wassenaar plenary from January

New Delhi: India will assume chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement plenary on January 1, 2023 for a period of one year, the government said Thursday. India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement on December 8, 2017, as its 42nd participating state. Wassenaar Arrangement is a multilateral export control regime which, through regular information exchange among members on transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies, seeks to promote transparency and greater responsibility in such transfers and prevent destabilising accumulations. TNN

Context: India will assume chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement plenary on January 1, 2023 for a period of one year.

Wassenaar Arrangement

- **About:** A **multilateral export control regime (MECR)** with 42 participating states including many former Comecon (Warsaw Pact) countries established in 1996.
  - It is the **successor to the Cold War-era Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM),** and was established on 12 July 1996, in Wassenaar, the Netherlands, which is near The Hague.
  - The founding document of the Wassenaar Arrangement is also known as **Initial Elements.**
- **Objectives**: It was established to c**ontribute to regional and international security and stability** by promoting transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies, thus preventing destabilizing accumulations.
- **Key Features**: Every six months **member countries exchange information** on deliveries of conventional arms to non-Wassenaar members that fall under eight broad weapons categories: battle tanks, armoured fighting vehicles (AFVs), large-caliber artillery, military aircraft, military helicopters, warships, missiles or missile systems, and small arms and light weapons.
- **Members**: A total of 42 countries are a member of this Arrangement and **India is one of them.**
  - It is **not legally binding.**
- **Other international bodies**: Apart from the Wassenaar Arrangement, there are other international bodies responsible for the management, export and transfer of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, equipment and technologies:
  - **Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT): bans all nuclear explosions,** whether for military or peaceful purposes.
  - **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)**: seeks to **limit the risks of proliferation of weapons** of mass destruction (WMD) by controlling exports of goods and technologies that could make a contribution to delivery systems (other than manned aircraft) for such weapons.
  - **Australia Group**: an informal forum of countries which, through the **harmonisation of export controls**, seeks to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons.
  - **Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)**: comprised of 48 states that have **voluntarily agreed to coordinate their export controls** to non-nuclear-weapon states.

PIB

Dec 1

EXERCISE AGNI WARRIOR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

Joint Exercise Agni Warrior with Singapore Armed Forces Concludes at Devlali (Maharashtra)

Context: The **12th Edition of Exercise Agni Warrior**, commenced on 13 November 2022, concluded at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali (Maharashtra) on 30 November 2022.





Exercise Agni Warrior (XAW)

- **About**: A bilateral exercise between the **Singapore & Indian Army.**
- **Origin**: Held in India since 2004, XAW is **conducted under the ambit of the Army Bilateral Agreement.**
  - The bilateral agreement, **renewed in November 2018** at the 3rd **India-Singapore Defence Ministers' Dialogue**, bears testament to the strong and long-standing defence relationship between Singapore and India.
- **Objectives**: Enhancing **mutual understanding of drills & procedures** and improving interoperability between the two armies.
- **12th Edition**: Exercise Agni Warrior, involved showcasing **joint firepower planning**, execution and use of New Generation Equipment by the Artillery arm of both armies.
  - Exercise also included participation by both sides in **a joint computer war game** as part of the joint planning process.
  - Both sides utilised **niche technology and Artillery Observation Simulators** as part of joint training phase.
  - **Indigenously manufactured Artillery guns** and howitzers also participated during the final phase of the exercise.
- **Other exercise between Singapore and India**: **Bold Kurukshetra** is aimed at developing military technology, enhance the maritime security and bolster the nations' fight against terrorism.

PIB

Dec 2

CENTRAL ADOPTION RESOURCE AUTHORITY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

CARA organises 200 special Social media campaigns, 10 State Orientation Programmes, and Interactive meets with more than 700 Prospective Adoptive Parents and Adoptive Parents

Context: As part of the '**Adoption Awareness Month**' , Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) organised 10 State orientation programmes, ran 200 special social media campaigns, held interactive meets with more than 700 Prospective Adoptive Parents and Adoptive Parents in November ,2022.

Key points

- Adoption Awareness Month was celebrated in the States of **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Daman & Diu, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh**.
- Adoption Awareness Month is about **spreading adoption awareness amongst the stakeholders** and the waiting families desiring to adopt.
- Through the adoption process, CARA is dedicated to **ensuring the long-term rehabilitation of children.**

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)

- **About**: An autonomous and **statutory body** under **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.**
- **Origin**: It was set up in 1990.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of **Women and Child Development.**
- **Functions**: It functions as the nodal body for the adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
  - **Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance** is the nodal body that manages within and outside the country adoptions of Indian children.
- **Designated as the Central Authority:** CARA is designated as the **Central Authority** to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the 1993 **Hague Convention** on Intercountry Adoption.
  - **India ratified** the convention in 2003.
- **Legal Framework Governing Adoption in India:** In India, adoption is covered under the **Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956** (for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists) and the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 (for Muslims, Christians, Jews and Parsis).

Other mandated organisations also which handle adoptions in India

- **State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA)**: Nodal body within the state to monitor & promote adoption and non-institutional care in coordination with CARA.
- **Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA)**: Agencies recognised by the State Government for the placement of children in adoption.
- **Authorised Foreign Adoption Agency (AFAA):** A foreign social or child welfare agency that is authorised by CARA on the basis of recommendations of a foreign country's adoption authority or govt department for all matters relating to the adoption of an Indian child by a citizen of that country.
- **District Child Protection Unit (DCPU):** A unit established by the state government at the district level for identifying orphaned, surrendered and abandoned children in the district. It also gets them declared legally free for adoption by the child welfare committees.

DTE

Dec 2

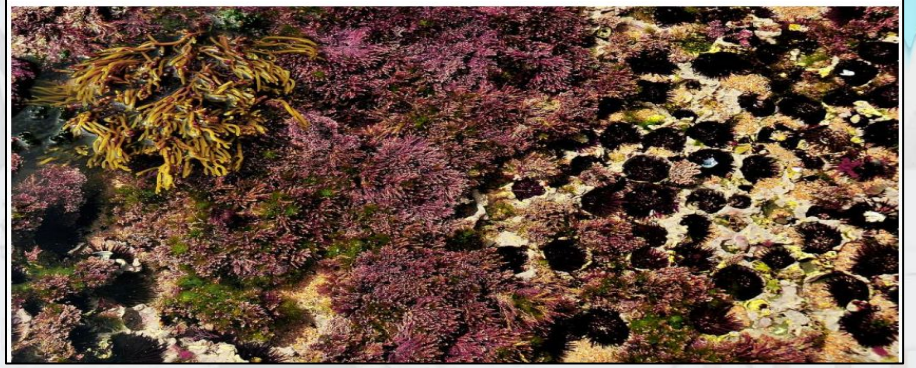
NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

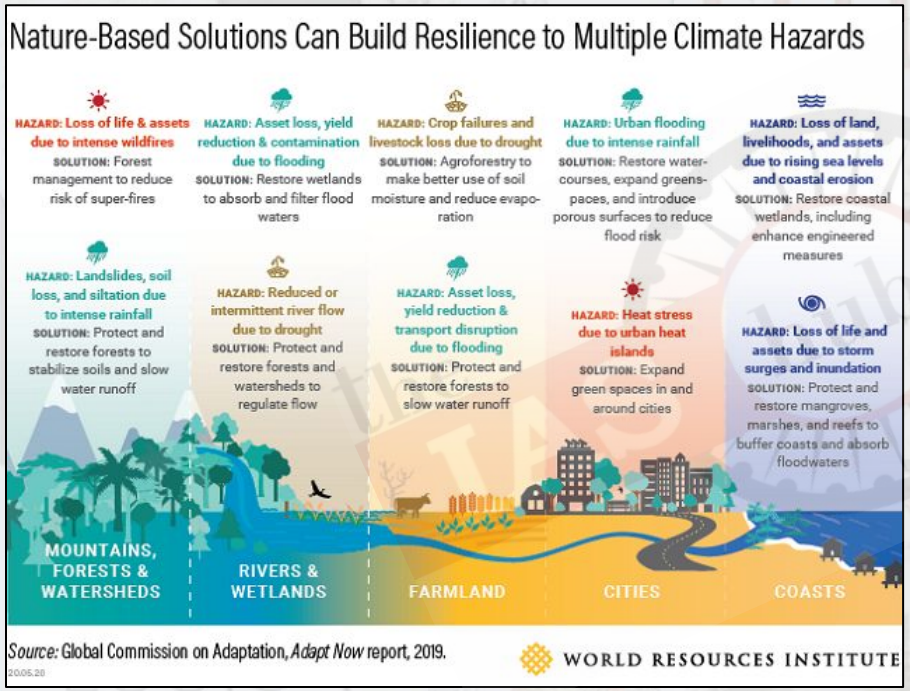
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Double financing for natural ecosystems by 2025 to deal with climate, biodiversity crises: UN report

Current global investments in nature-based solutions $154 billion per year, needs to be $384 billion

By Akshit Sangomla
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Context: Financing for **nature-based solutions (NbS)** needs to be doubled to deal with multiple global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, according to a new United Nations (UN) report.

- The report was released by the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** along with the Economics of Land Degradation initiative of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the European Commission December 1, 2022.

Key points

- The current **global investments in NbS** are around $154 billion (Rs 12,49.44 crore) per year, which needs to be increased to $384 billion by 2025.
- **Investments in economic activities** that release GHGs into the atmosphere are currently three to seven times larger than the investments in NbS.
- The third highlight of the report was the **need for private investments** in nature-based solutions, which currently stands at only 17 per cent.
- A **centralised carbon market** is required for private financing to come into play.
- Markets are **still evolving and work** is ongoing to create standards and ensure integrity.
- This is required as **public investments into NbS** cannot be ramped up soon because of economic challenges for national governments due to conflict, debt and poverty.

Nature-Based Solutions

- **About**: It refer to the **sustainable management and use of nature** for tackling socio-environmental challenges.
- **Definition**: The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** defines NbS as actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.
- **Essential component of Paris agreement**: NbS are an essential component of the overall global effort to achieve the goals of the **Paris Agreement on Climate Change.**
  - In its essence, **Article 5.2 of the Paris Agreement** recognizes the importance of natural resources in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
  - **Article 7** further promotes the idea of building the resilience of socioeconomic and ecological systems through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources.

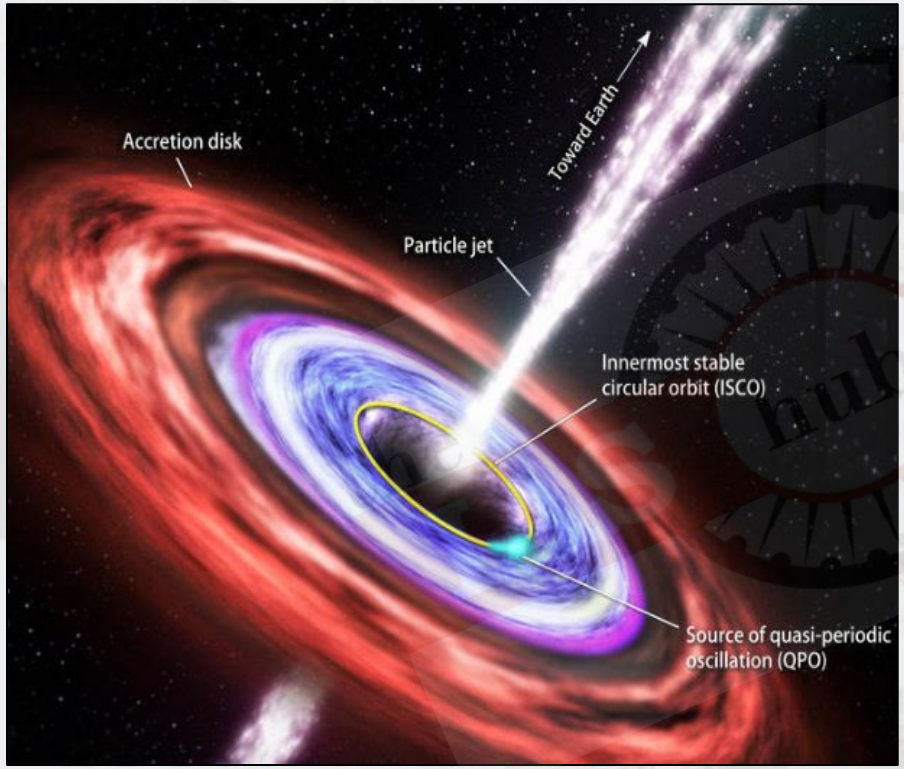
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TIDAL DISRUPTION EVENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)





Context: A mysterious and intensely bright flash of light coming from halfway across the universe earlier this year had stunned astronomers worldwide.

- The source of the intense beam has now been identified - a **supermassive black hole** ripping apart a star, pointing directly at Earth.

Key Points

- **Tidal disruption event (TDE)**: An **astronomical phenomenon** that occurs when a star approaches sufficiently close to a supermassive black hole (SMBH) to be pulled apart by the black hole's tidal force, experiencing spaghettification.
  - In astrophysics, **spaghettification (sometimes referred to as the noodle effect)** is the vertical stretching and horizontal compression of objects into long thin shapes (rather like spaghetti) in a very strong, non-homogeneous gravitational field. It is caused by extreme tidal forces.
  - As this happens, the supermassive black hole spews a **jet of particles moving close to the speed of light**.
  - Black holes sit quietly at the **centres of galaxies** until it is ignited by a TDE, unveiling a hidden population of black holes.
- **Origin**: This signal was **detected in February 2022**. Soon, astronomers turned multiple telescopes, scanning the light in various wavelengths: **X-ray, ultraviolet, optical and radio bands**.
  - The signal named **"AT 2022cmc"** is the brightest TDE ever detected. It is also the farthest.
- **AT 2022cmc**: AT 2022cmc is the **fourth Doppler-boosted TDE detected.** It is also the first such event record since 2011.
  - It appears extremely bright because of an effect called **Doppler boosting**.
  - **Relativistic beaming (also known as Doppler beaming, Doppler boosting, or the headlight effect)** is the process by which relativistic effects modify the apparent luminosity of emitting matter that is moving at speeds close to the speed of light.
- **Gamma-ray bursts**: The source is **100 times brighter** than the most powerful gamma-ray burst afterglow.
  - Gamma-ray bursts - short-lived bursts of gamma-ray light - are known to be the brightest and strongest explosions in the universe. It is associated with the formation of black holes.

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