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सत्यमेव जयते



MK Yadav Sir

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ECONOMIC TIMES

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PRIVATE PLACEMENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Crowdfunding for Startups Gets Caught in Regulatory Glare

RoC ruling in the case of fundraising by a Delhi co set to also hit fractional ownership offers

Sugata.Ghosh
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: India's teeming crowdfunding world has come under a new shadow at a time when many startups are dealing with waning investor interest and the backlash from the recent collapse of the boutique American lender Silicon Valley Bank.

A ruling by the ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) has struck at the core of the modus operandi of several small companies to raise money using fintech platforms that connect businesses with investors. According to a March 1, 2023 order by the Registrar of Companies (RoC) of NCR, such fund mobilisation is a violation of private placement rules under the Companies Act.

The RoC has penalised a Delhi-based company Anbronica Technologies and two of its promoter-directors after the company used the platform offered by Tyke Technologies to raise money by reaching out to investors who could be interested to subscribe to compulsorily convertible debentures (CCDs) issued by Anbronica.

This order is an instance where an arm of the government has unambiguously laid down that such fundraising is a breach of law.



der of the law firm Richie Sancheti Associates. "Such platforms adopt variations in service offerings and deal structure to focus on different segments, giving investors exposure to startups and fractional ownership models. However, the ruling makes it clear that private placement rules need to be observed in all such fundraisings. While angel funds operate as regulated pooled structures within prescribed rules, unregulated private companies need to be more careful about each item of service offering from such technology platforms. The recent ruling does offer insights on some aspects that need to be more tho-

Context: A ruling by the ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) has struck at the core of the modus operandi of several small companies to raise money using fintech platforms that connect businesses with investors.

- According to a March 1, 2023 order by the Registrar of Companies (RoC) of NCR, such fund mobilisation is a violation of **private placement rules under the Companies Act.**

Private Placement

- **About**: As per the **Section 42 of the Companies Act, 2013**, private placement means **any offer or invitation to subscribe or issue of securities** to a selected group of persons by a company (other than by way of public offer) through private placement offer-cum-application form, which satisfies the conditions specified in section 42 of the Companies Act, 2013.
  - Section 42 of the Companies Act, 2013 states that the **maximum allotment that can be done in a year is 200,** exceeding which the issue is considered public and the company has to follow the procedure of public issue.
  - In the process of private placement, **no prospectus is issued.**
- **Two Types of Private Placement:**
  - **Preferential Allotment**: Preferential allotment is **the practice of issuing of securities to a selected group of entities** such as mutual fund companies, financial institutions or promoters at a particular price.
    - The directives for such an allotment is specified in the Chapter XIII of SEBI (DIP) guidelines. The investors may also have a lock-in period for the issue of securities and the company needs to take.
  - **Qualified Institutional Placement:** In this mode of private placement, a listed company is able to **issue shares or other securities to only institutional buyers**.
    - It is a way of encouraging the listed companies to raise capital from the domestic market.

THE HINDU Page 1

SVB FAILURE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Silicon Valley Bank 'contagion' may leave India unscathed, say Finance Ministry officials

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The failure of the U.S.-based Silicon Valley Bank may only hit some Indian tech start-ups and IT firms for now, while any broader "contagion" effects that may arise will neither reach Indian shores in a hurry nor are they likely to trigger "systemic risks", according to top Finance Ministry officials.

However, the Centre is cognisant of the fact that the key underlying trigger for the bank's woes – rapidly rising U.S. interest rates that have rendered past government bond holdings "underwater", or loss-making securities – could impinge on the operational health of other financial institutions as well.

If these troubles spread, a resultant flight to safety among global investors could hit capital flows into emerging markets such as India and impact the rupee, said a Ministry official tracking developments.



Officials say there will be no systemic issues for India from the bank's troubles.

'Keeping close tabs'

"We don't know if it will rain, but we will keep an umbrella handy," the official said, signalling that the government and financial sector regulators are keeping close tabs on the situation and the likely impact on the Indian economy."At this point, it is not yet clear if there will be ripple or contagion effects on more banks in the U.S. following this bank's woes. So we don't expect any major effects to spill over on our economy for a while... There may only be some impact on individual start-ups and tech companies who get some funding from there," another official said.

The official quoted earlier also asserted that there should be no systemic issues from the bank's troubles for India. "It may affect specific companies that have investments from SVB or IT firms that have deposited some of their US operations' income there."

CONTINUED ON
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NO GOVT. BAILOUT
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Context: Silicon Valley Bank, a lender to some of the biggest names in the technology world, became the largest bank to fail since the 2008 financial crisis.

- The move put nearly $175 billion in customer deposits under the control of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Reasons behind Bank's Failure

- Federal Reserve **raises rates**
- Some Silicon Valley Bank clients **face cash crunch**
- Silicon Valley Bank sells bond portfolio at a loss
- SVB announces **stock sale**
- Stock sale **collapses**
- SVB goes into **receivership**
  - A Receivership is a **remedy available to secured creditors** to recover amounts outstanding under a secured loan in the event the company defaults on its loan payments.
  - A Receiver may also be appointed in a shareholder dispute to complete a project, liquidate assets or sell a business.

Impact on India

- SVB has been a major **player in the Indian startup ecosystem**, providing banking services and funding to many of the country's most successful startups, including Flipkart, Ola, and Zomato.
- The closure has sent **shock waves in the Indian startups' sector,** which was already facing a funding problem.
- It will also dent the fundraising ability of Indian startups as the US-based bank was a key source of funding for tech startups.
- This could **lead to a cash crunch** for many companies, which may be forced to cut costs, delay projects, or lay off employees.
- SVB has also been instrumental in helping Indian startups expand into the US market, by providing them with the necessary infrastructure and support to set up operations in Silicon Valley.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

ANGEL TAX

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Angel tax relief likely for Sebi-enrolled FPIs

Regulatory framework with valuation rules expected by Apr 15

SHRIMI CHOUDHARY
New Delhi, 12 March

The government is likely to exempt certain categories of investors — such as those registered with regulatory authorities and whose chances of circulating unaccounted money are low — from the so-called angel tax.

These could include funds qualifying as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) and foreign venture capital investors (FVCIs) registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), and entities registered with the Reserve Bank of India, a senior government official privy to the matter told *Business Standard*.

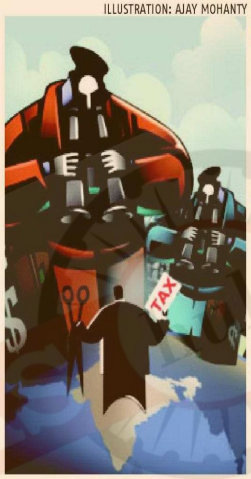
According to him, the revenue department will notify the regulatory framework, incorporating "a list of exempted entities" along with valuation rules for the newly introduced tax, by April 15.

"The move is intended to curb the circulation of illicit money as share premium and not to tax legitimate investment. Foreign entities registered with regulatory bodies are compliant with Indian laws, so those might be kept out of the tax," the official cited above said. He added "we have been reviewing the concern raised by industry and stakeholders and those will be addressed in the framework".

ALL ABOUT THE TAX

- Introduced as an anti-abuse measure in 2012, this seeks to tax any amount received over the fair market value as income in the hands of a company
- Finance Bill 2023 extended the provision to foreign investors

ILLUSTRATION: AJAY MOHANTY



Who could benefit

- Those registered with regulatory bodies and at a low risk of circulating unaccounted money; could also include FPIs, FVCIs, RBI-regulated entities

Why the move

- Start-up and venture capital industry sought exemption for certain class of investors along with changes in valuation methodology

Experts' take

- Existing provisions should be sufficient, and the change in law will affect majority of genuine investors

The angel tax is on the amount received as more than fair market value as income in the hands of a company. Resident investors are within the purview of the angel tax. The government in the Finance Bill, 2023, proposed to omit the condition of residency under Section 56(2)(viib) of the Income-Tax Act, making it applicable even when shares are issued to non-resident investors.

Start-ups and venture capitalists, spooked by the tax made applicable to foreign investment, have approached the government, seeking exemption for certain classes of investors and some changes in the valuation methodology.

Turn to Page II, 3

Context: The government is likely to exempt certain categories of investors - such as those registered with regulatory authorities and whose chances of circulating unaccounted money are low - from the so called **angel tax.**

- These could include funds qualifying as **foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) and foreign venture capital investors (FVCIs)** registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), and entities registered with the Reserve Bank of India.

Angel Tax

- **About**: Angel Tax is a 30% tax that is **levied on the funding received by startups** from an external investor.
  - However, this 30% tax is levied **when startups receive angel funding** at a valuation higher than its 'fair market value'.
  - It is counted as income to the company and is taxed.
- **Issue**: There is **no definitive or objective way to measure** the 'fair market value' of a startup.
  - Investors pay a premium for the idea and the business potential at the angel funding stage.
  - However, tax officials seem to be assessing the value of the startups based on their net asset value at one point.
  - Several startups say that they find it difficult to justify the higher valuation to tax officials.
- **Budget 2023-24:** The Finance Bill, 2023 has proposed bringing non-resident investors in unlisted companies under the ambit of **Section 56 (2) (viib) of the Income Tax Act, also known as the 'angel tax'.**
  - This means privately held companies such as startups that issue shares to foreign investors at a premium may be subjected to **additional taxation requirements.**
  - The provisions will apply to all individual foreign investors.There is a need for further clarity on whether it will also apply to foreign investors structured as funds and institutional investors.
  - The changes to the provisions under which angel tax is levied will become **effective from April 1, 2024** and will be applicable from assessment year 2024-25 onwards.

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PM VIKAS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

PM addresses Post Budget Webinar on 'PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman'

Context: The Prime Minister addressed a Post Budget Webinar on the subject of '**PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman**'.

- It is the last and final of a series of 12 post-budget webinars organized by the government **to seek ideas and suggestions** for effectively implementing the initiatives announced in the Union Budget 2023.

PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman (PM VIKAS)

- **About**: The scheme was announced by Finance Minister during the **Budget presentation 2023-24.**
- **Objectives**: To **improve the status of the craftsmen** in the country.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- **Key Features:** The scheme will be implemented into the **Micro, Small, and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSME) value chain.**
  - Steps will be taken to **integrate the artisans and craftspersons** with the MSME sector, which will enhance their opportunity to scale up their business.
  - **Financial support** will be provided to the artisans, and skills and training programs for age-old and traditional crafts.
  - The training programs will **provide skills related to using the latest technology** by which the artisans can increase their productivity and profit.
  - It will **not disturb traditional practices** but will enhance them.

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COFFEE PRODUCTION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Agriculture)

Mornings sans coffee? Global production under threat due to climate hazards, finds study

Coffee growers in southern Brazil, where conditions are unaffected by El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), could help offset production losses

By Madhumita Paul
Published: Friday 10 March 2023



Context: Increasing climate hazards could pose a major **threat to coffee production** and redraw the global map of this popular beverage, according to a new study.

- The vast majority of the world's coffee comprises two species - **Coffea Arabica (Arabica) and Coffea Canephora (Robusta).**
- Coffee, especially Arabica, is considered a sensitive crop, vulnerable to climate variability and change.
- Researchers **identified 12 climate hazards** that threaten coffee crops in the top 12 coffee-producing countries - Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, Honduras, Peru, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Indonesia, Uganda and India.

Conditions of Growth

- The **hot and humid** climate
- **Temperature** between 15°C and 28 °C.
- **Rainfall** from 150 to 250 cm.
- **Well-drained, rich friable loams** containing a good deal of humus and minerals like iron and calcium are ideal for coffee cultivation.
- **Dry weather** is necessary at the time of ripening of the berries.
- The crop is **not tolerant** to:
  - Frost and snowfall.
  - **High temperature** above 30°C and strong sunshine (Hence, generally grown under shady trees on Northern and Eastern aspects of Hill).
  - **Prolonged drought.**
  - **Stagnant water** (Hence, grown on hill slopes at elevations from 600 to 1,600 metres above sea level).

Coffee Cultivation

- **Second most important beverage** of India after tea.
- Indigenous to **Abyssinia Plateau (Ethiopia)**.
- It was brought to India by **Baba Budan** in the 17th century from Arabia and was raised in the **Baba Budan Hills** of Karnataka.
- British planters established large coffee estates near:
  - Chikmagalur (Karnataka) in 1826.
  - Manantody (Wayanad) and Shevoroys in 1830.
  - Nilgiris in 1839.
- Coffee cultivation r**equires plenty of cheap and skilled labour** for various operations including sowing, transplanting, pruning, plucking, drying, grading and packing of coffee.
- At present, more than 52,000 coffee gardens giving employment to 2.5 million persons exist in India.
- **'Coffee Board of India'** was established through a constitutional act 'Coffee Act VII of 1942' under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The Centre extended the **RoDTEP (Refund of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products)** scheme to the coffee sector to boost exports.
- **Coffee Arabica (49% of the area) and Coffee Robusta (51% of the area)** are the two main varieties of coffee grown in India.
- **Karnataka is the largest producer** (about 70% of total coffee production and 60% of the area under coffee in India).
- **Brazil** is the largest coffee producer in the world .

TIMES OF INDIA

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TRILATERAL COMMISSION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

India key point of focus in international trialogue

Rudroneel Ghosh | TNN

Bringing together important leaders, policy shapers, and strategic thinkers from North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific, the Trilateral Commission held its first plenary meeting in New Delhi from March 10-12. Indicating India's growing importance on the global stage, the plenary covered a wide array of topics ranging from India's political, economic and social evolution , Ukraine war, to the risk of apathy towards Africa and the impact of social media on democracy.

On Ukraine, the need for a dual track approach emerged, seeking a balance between principles and short-term interests. In this regard, India's quiet diplomacy on defusing the situation around Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant last year and facilitating the Kyiv-Moscow grain deal was highlighted. Meanwhile, the outlook on India-China ties remained negative with participants flagging the breach of explicit agreements by Beijing on maintaining peace and tranquillity. Discussions on Pakistan raised concerns that the country continues to be a challenge for the region and the world with the US misreading Islamabad on Afghanistan.

There was optimism with Quad's multidimensional approach building synergies in areas such as maritime security, 5G, reliable supply chains and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. There was also acknowledgement that BRICS members would need to coexist with other emerging platforms.

Context: Bringing together important leaders, policy shapers, and strategic thinkers from North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific, the **Trilateral Commission** held its first plenary meeting in New Delhi from March 10-12.

- **Indicating India's growing importance** on the global stage, the plenary covered a wide array of topics ranging from India's political, economic and social evolution , Ukraine war, to the risk of apathy towards Africa and the impact of social media on democracy.

Trilateral Commission

- **About**: It is a **global membership organization** that for decades has brought together senior policymakers, business leaders, and representatives of media and academe to discuss and propose solutions to some of the world's toughest problems.
- **Origin**: Founded in 1973 **by David Rockefeller**, the Commission has long been an important venue to incubate ideas and form relationships across sectors and geographies.
- **Members**: It consists of **three main regional groups**: North America, Europe, and Asia Pacific.
    - **North America Group**: Includes members from Canada, the United States, and Mexico. It has a total of 135 members.
    - **European Group**: Includes members from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. It has a total of 184 members.
    - **Asia Pacific Group**: includes members from Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, and Thailand. It has a total of 96 members.

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MARITIME PARTNERSHIP EXERCISE
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

MARITIME PARTNERSHIP EXERCISE (MPX) WITH FRENCH NAVY

Context: Indian Navy's indigenously built guided missile frigate, INS Sahyadri participated in a **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French Navy (FN)** ships FS Dixmude, a Mistral Class Amphibious Assault Ship and FS La Fayette, a La Fayette Class Frigate, in the Arabian Sea.

- **INS Sahyadri** is fitted with state-of –the art weapons and sensors, which makes her capable of detecting and neutralising air, surface and sub-surface threats.
- The ship is a **part of Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet** based at Visakhapatnam, under operational control of FOCinC (East).

INS Sahyadri (F49)

- It is a **Shivalik-class** stealth multi-role frigate built for the Indian Navy.
- This class features **improved stealth and land attack capabilities** over the preceding Talwar-class frigates.
- INS Sahyadri was built at the **Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL)** located in Mumbai.
- It was commissioned on 21 July 2012 into the **Eastern Naval Command** headquartered at Visakhapatnam.
- INS Sahyadri was awarded the **'Best Ship Trophy'** at the annual Fleet Awards functions five times namely in the years 2014-15, 2015-16, 2017-18, 2019-20 and 2020-21 and was also presented with Unit Citation in the year 2019-20 in Visakhapatnam.
- The ship is **affiliated with Poona Horse**, one of the oldest armoured regiments of the Indian Army.

Exercises between India and France

- **Varuna** – Naval exercise
- **Desert Knight-21 and Garuda** - Air exercise
- **Shakti** – Army exercise

THE HINDU Page 10

TRISHAKTI CORPS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

Army rescues 370 tourists stranded in snow in Sikkim

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Troops of the Indian Army's Trishakti Corps helped the local police and administration in Sikkim rescue 370 tourists who were stranded in heavy snowfall on Saturday.

The tourists were stuck in some 100 vehicles that were returning from Nathu La, a mountain pass on the border with China, and Tsomgo or Changuu lake to Gangtok.

The rescue mission, named Operation Himrahat, continued through the night on Saturday, the Guwahati-based defence spokesperson, Lt. Col. Mahendra Rawat, said.

"The tourists were moved to safe areas and provided shelter, warm clothing, medical aid and hot meals. The troops arranged accommodation for the 370 tourists [178 men, 142 women and 50 children]," he said.

Detailed coordination was done with the General Reserve Engineering Force for the road opening on Sunday. The road was cleared to enable the vehicles to move to Gangtok.

Context: Troops of the **Army's Trishakti Corps** helped the local police and administration in Sikkim rescue some 370 tourists who were stranded owing to heavy snowfall.

Trishakti Corps (XXXIII Corps)

- **About**: It is a corps of the **Indian Army.**
  - It draws some of its heritage from the **British Indian XXXIII Corps** which was formed in 1942, but disbanded in 1945.
- **Re-raised:** The corps was re-raised by Lieutenant General Umrao Singh on 1 November 1960, in order **to reduce IV Corps's area of responsibilities.**
- **Headquarter**: Sukna in North Bengal, near the city of Siliguri.
- **Area of responsibility**: Includes **North Bengal, Sikkim and if needed, Bhutan.**
  - It comprises **three mountain divisions**, 17th (Gangtok), 20th (Binnaguri), and 27th (Kalimpong).
    - **17th Mountain Division** (Black Cat Division) headquartered at Gangtok.
      - It was raised in 1959 and converted to a mountain division in 1963.
      - It is assigned to the Sikkim sector.
    - **20th Mountain Division** (Kirpan Division) headquartered at Binnaguri.
      - It was raised in 1963 and assigned to the Sikkim sector.
      - Composed of 66, 165, and 202 Mountain Brigades in 1971.
    - **27th Mountain Division** (Striking Lion Division) headquartered at Kalimpong.
      - It was converted to a mountain division in 1963.
    - **Artillery brigade**

INDIAN EXPRESS

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SILSAKO BEEL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 -Env & Eco)

To revive wetland in Guwahati, Assam govt to recover land from 17 institutions

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, MARCH 12

IN A bid to rejuvenate a wetland located in Guwahati to mitigate floods in the city, the Assam government announced on Saturday that it will acquire 179 bighas of land from 17 institutions in the area.

These 179 bighas are located in the area around Silsako Beel, one of Guwahati's three notified wetlands, which is a reservoir basin for stormwater runoff from the nearby hills and Meghalaya. The 17 institutes from whom this land will be recovered, with "payment of due compensation for construction", include Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, a tennis complex under All Assam Tennis Association and Ginger group of hotels. They had been allotted land in this area by the Assam government in the past.

This move is part of a slew of measures being taken by the state government ahead of this year's monsoon with the aim to restore the city's natural drainage systems.

Guwahati, the largest city in Assam, gets affected by artificial floods. The eviction drives, which have been carried out in other parts of the state, reached the heart of the city earlier this month when the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) cleared constructions from around 300 bighas of land around the Silsako Beel, including pucca and kutcha houses and religious structures.

According to GMDA chairman Narayan Deka, around 1,000 bighas of land around the waterbody are "under encroachment".

Experts have long been emphasising the need to clear Guwahati's wetlands. "The renovation of wetlands like Silsako Beel or others is really necessary to manage urban flooding. We need wetlands in the city to absorb floods. In the 1950s and before that, these areas were absorbing floods so there was no urban flooding. Over time, the population has risen and there has been a lot of development. Buildings are constantly coming up and they have also been built on low lying areas. So where does the rainwater go? It flows over the roads," said Bipul Talukdar from the Department of Civil Engineering at Assam Engineering College, who specialises in water resources system planning.

In a more contested move, Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup (Metro), Pallav Gopal Jha has also issued directions to demolish 26 bridges along the Bahini river, which runs through the city and is one of the main channels in the city that drains into the Brahmaputra. According to the order, these bridges are "obstructing the natural flow of water, causing waterlogging in different places along the Bahini river". The move is aimed at "smooth flow of stormwater during the rainy season", says the order.

These bridges are located on some of the busiest roads in Guwahati, connecting them to inner paths. In a city choked with traffic, there are questions over whether this is the only option available.

Engineer and senior technical consultant J N Khataniar argues that the focus should be on increasing the carrying capacity of the river.

"The average width of the Bahini is 8.5 metres but it's not even throughout the city. A uniformity in its width should be achieved by removing obstructions. Secondly, instead of breaking the bridges, why not go below the existing bed level and work on increasing the depth of the river by two or three metres to increase its carrying capacity which should be the main objective," Khataniar said.

Talukdar, too, was of the opinion that the necessity of demolishing the bridges should be studied. "All the river channels in the city are in a very bad condition from an encroachment point of view and a water quality point of view. They are narrow and mostly carry sewage. We have to fully rejuvenate the river instead," he said.



Around 300 bighas of land around the Silsako Beel, including pucca and kutcha houses, was cleared by the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority earlier this month. *Sukrita Baruah*

EXPLAINED

Artificial floods, real concern

UNLIKE THE rest of Assam, which gets flooded by the Brahmaputra river during monsoon, Guwahati gets affected by artificial floods. According to experts, there's a need to clear wetlands to manage urban flooding. With more people migrating to the city, buildings are coming up in low lying areas, causing the rainwater to flow onto the roads.

Context: IN A bid to rejuvenate a **wetland located in Guwahati** to mitigate floods in the city, the Assam government announced on Saturday that it will acquire 179 bighas of land from 17 institutions in the area.

- These 179 bighas are located in the area around **Silsako Beel,** one of Guwahati's three notified wetlands, which is a reservoir basin for stormwater runoff from the nearby hills and Meghalaya.

Silsako Lake (also known as Silsako Beel)

- **About**: Silsako is the Assamese term for **Stone Bridge**. Beel means **lake** in Assamese language.
- **Location**: It is a wetland and lake located at the heart of the Guwahati city and surrounded by villages like **Satgaon, Hengrabari and Mathgharia** in Kamrup Metropolitan district of Assam.
- **Notified**: **Guwahati Water Bodies (Preservation and Conservation) Act-2008** has specifically notified the Silsako Lake in the Schedule I to IV along with other six wetlands of Guwahati.
    - It is primarily **non-perennial in nature.**
    - However, during monsoon combined **sewage flows through the Beel** & Dry weather sewage flows into the Beel throughout the year

DTE

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MAIA MISSION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Air pollution mission: NASA, Italian space agency to study 11 most populated cities globally, including Delhi

MAIA mission to use data from Earth observation satellite to help scientists find correlations between air pollution and health problems

NEXT NEWS >

By DTE Staff
Published: Friday 10 March 2023





Context: National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Agenzia Spaziale Italiana (ASI) will build and launch the **MAIA missions,** NASA announced on March 8, 2023 which is set to launch before the end of 2024.

Key points

- **Multi-Angle Imager for Aerosols (MAIA) mission** to use data from Earth observation satellite to help scientists find correlations between air pollution and health problems.
- The **three-year mission** will focus on 11 primary target areas: Los Angeles, Atlanta, Boston, Rome, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Barcelona, Spain, Beijing, Johannesburg, New Delhi, Taipei, Taiwan and Tel Aviv.
- MAIA is a **state-of-the-art satellite instrument** producing data that will be used in health studies to examine the health effects of various types of air pollution.
- The MAIA mission will **collect and analyse data from the observatory,** sensors on the ground and atmospheric models.
- Its m**easurements of sunlight reflecting off airborne particles** will help researchers determine the abundance, size and optical properties of certain pollutants in the atmosphere.
- The observatory will consist of the **PLATiNO-2 satellite,** which ASI will provide and a science instrument that will be built at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

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