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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



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INDIAN EXPRESS

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DEFINITION OF A DEVELOPED COUNTRY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Fin Secy: India has nano demographic window to achieve developed status

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 9

INDIA HAS a nano demographic window to achieve developed country status, and if it misses, it may not reach there, Finance Secretary TV Somanathan said.

The country has to grow at a rate of 8-8.5 per cent to reach developed country status, he said at an event here. "In the first decade of this century, China grew at approximately 9.5 per cent per annum and similar growth rates were witnessed in countries like South Korea and Taiwan" he said. The Finance Secretary made the comments while delivering the G Ramachandran Endowment Lecture on 'Development in Changing Times, the role of government efficiency' at the Madras School of Economics here.

"The other thing which we often hear and it is an important point that a lot of people make is that we have nano demographic window in which to achieve developed country status, and if we don't catch this window or if we do not use this window, we may never get there," he said.

"There are two widely held views about India in the next two quarters of the century, we have to grow at 8-8.5 per cent to get there and if we miss this quarter ... with demographic dividend, we may be doomed to mediocrity..." he said.



Finance Secretary TV Somanathan *File*

Context: India has a nano demographic window to achieve developed country status, and if it misses, it may not reach there, Union Finance Secretary said.

Definition of a Developed Country

- The term "developed country" is **not universally recognised.**
- **Organizations** like the United Nations, World Bank, World Trade Organization, and World Economic Forum **group developed and developing countries based on their indicators.**
- For example, the **UN classifies countries** into low, lower-middle, upper-middle, and high-income countries. This classification is based on an individual country's gross national income (GNI) per capita.
  - **Low –Income Economy**: GNI per capita of up to $1,085
  - **Lower Middle-income**: GNI per capita up to $4,255
  - **Upper-Middle-income**: GNI per capita $13,205
  - **High-Income economy:** GNI per capita above $13,205
- Since it concentrates on factors with little analytical significance, the **UN categorization is not very precise**. Because of this, **only the top three nations - the US, the UK, and Norway - are regarded as developed nations.**
  - Whereas, **almost there are 31 developed countries, and the rest except 17** (economies in transition) are **designated as developing countries.**
  - In the case of **China, the country's capita income is closer to Norway's than Somalia's.**
    - China's per capita income is 26 times that of Somalia's while Norway's is just about seven times that of China's, but still, it got the tag of a developing country.
  - On the other hand, a **country like Ukraine**, with a per capita GNI of $4,120 (a third of China's) **designated as economies in transition rather than a developed nation.**
- **India, with a GNI per capita of $2,170, falls into the lower-middle income bracket** and is considered **"developing" by the World Bank.**
- **India become world's fifth largest economy** after it overtook the United Kingdom in end-March 2022.

LIVEMINT

Page 3

RUPEE PAYMENT MECHANISM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Exporters seek GST exemption on freight

Has also urged the government to extend the rupee payment mechanism

By Ravi Dutta Mishra
ravi.dutt@livemint.com

Indian exporters have urged the government to extend the rupee payment mechanism to more countries, and restore the 18% goods and services tax (GST) exemption on export freight amid the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s forecast hinting at a sharp decline in global trade next year.

With the exemption coming to an end on 30 September, exporters would have to pay GST on export ocean freight, which traders fear will adversely impact overseas shipments and add to liquidity challenges. "The non-extension of notification relating to GST exemption on freight for exports caused uncertainty, adding to the liquidity challenges of exporters," Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) said during a meeting with commerce minister Piyush Goyal on Friday. Exporters said overseas freight has jumped 300-350% from pre-covid levels and, despite the marginal correction in rates of late, it is still 200-250% more than the 2019 levels. GST on export freight is revenue-neutral as exporters can claim a refund after making the payment. The withdrawal of exemption may increase liquidity for the government, but it will be at the cost of the exporters, FIEO said. "Since cost of credit for exporters is very high, an exemption will help the export sector to have better liquidity, which is the need of the hour," it said. Highlighting the healthy growth seen in some markets, such as Latin America and Africa, it was informed that the evolving economic and geo-political environment required the industry to be attentive and optimistic so that growth opportunities in such new markets are not missed, the commerce and industry ministry said. "Industry participants were assured that the government is committed to address the issues raised by them. Minister Goyal urged the industry to implement innovative ways of marketing, increase quality standards and take full benefit of the free trade agreements to achieve higher export growth in this financial year," it added. On tightening liquidity conditions globally, exporters urged the Centre to introduce an export refinance facility on the grounds that interest rates in many competing countries are much lower.

FIEO said the increase in repo rate has its bearing on the base rate of banks and, consequently, on the lending rates for export credit.

"The base rate of SBI was 8.7% which is likely to be at 9.4% after the increase in the repo rate. The base rate of many banks will be much above the base rate of SBI pushing the export credit rate in rupee." The ministry acknowledged the industry's concerns related to the rising of cost of raw materials and assured that it would look into the exporters' demands.



Exporters said overseas freight has jumped 300-350% from pre-covid levels BLOOMBERG

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

PIYUSH Goyal urged the industry to implement new ways of marketing to boost exports

HE urged them to take full benefit of the FTAs to achieve higher export growth in this financial year

EXPORTERS also urged the government to introduce an export refinance facility

Context: Indian exporters have urged the government to extend the rupee payment mechanism to more countries.

Rupee payment mechanism

- Under this mechanism, **exporters and importers can use a special vostro account** linked to the correspondent bank of the partner country for receipts and payments denominated in rupees.
  - **Vostro account**: one opened by a bank in its home country on behalf of a foreign bank.
- The **funds in the rupee account can be used by the export partner** for trading with anyone who accepts rupees.
- Indian exporters **may also receive advance payment** against exports from overseas importers in Indian rupees through the mechanism.
- **Banks have to take approval** from the Foreign Exchange Department of Reserve Bank of India on doing such transactions.
- Moreover, before allowing any such receipt of advance payment against exports, **Indian banks need to ensure** that available funds in these accounts are first used towards payment obligations arising out of already executed export orders / export payments in the pipeline.
- **Balance in Special Vostro Accounts can be used for**: payments for projects and investments, export/ import advance flow management, and investment in Government Treasury Bills, Government securities, etc.

THE HINDU Page 1

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING

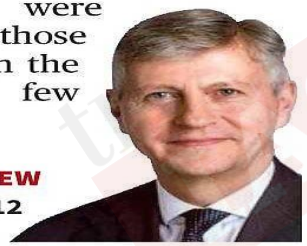
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

'Fatalities among UN Peacekeeping Forces rising'

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The number of fatalities among the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces (UNPKF) in direct attacks is growing, said UN Undersecretary General Jean-Pierre Lacroix in an interview to *The Hindu*, when he visited Delhi last week to discuss the need for more "robust" mandates and better equipment, training and technology with Indian officials.

Mr. Lacroix's visit to the region came amid a number of attacks by anti-UN groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where two Indian soldiers were among those killed in the last few weeks.



INTERVIEW
» PAGE 12

Context: The number of fatalities among the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces (UNPKF) in direct attacks is growing.

United Nations peacekeeping

- Peacekeeping by the United Nations is a role held by the **Department of Peace Operations** as an "instrument developed by the organization as a way to help countries torn by conflict to create the conditions for lasting peace".
- It is **distinguished from peacebuilding, peacemaking, and peace enforcement** although the United Nations does acknowledge that all activities are "mutually reinforcing" and that overlap between them is frequent in practice.
- UN Peacekeeping **began in 1948** when the UN Security Council **authorized the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East.**
- It **deploys troops and police from around the world,** integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to **address a range of mandates set by the UN Security Council (UNSC) and the General Assembly.**
- UN peacekeepers (often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets) **can include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel.**
- Peacekeeping forces are **contributed by member states on a voluntary basis.**
- Civilian staff of peace operations are international civil servants, recruited and deployed by the UN Secretariat.
- **India has been among the largest troop-contributing countries to the UN peacekeeping missions.**
    - As of November 2021, India is the second-highest military (1,888) and fifth-highest (139) police-contributing country to the **United Nations Organisation Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).**
    - In 2007, **India became the first country** to deploy an all-women contingent to a UN peacekeeping mission.
- The **United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)** was established in January, 1949 to supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 3

MODEL BUILDING BYE LAWS, 2016

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

Capital Hits EV Milestone With 1,000 Charging Points

In Less Than A Year, Single-Window Facility Sparks Interest

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Delhi government on Sunday announced that in less than one year, it has reached the milestone of 1,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging points being installed under its single-window facility.

In November 2021, the government had set in place the single-window facility for installation of EV chargers in private and semi-public spaces, which include residential spaces such as apartments and group housing societies, institutional buildings like hospitals and commercial spaces like kirana stores, shops and malls.

A subsidy of Rs 6,000 per charging point for the first 30,000 slow charging points is provided under the Delhi EV policy. The net cost paid by the user, after deducting Rs 6,000, includes an EV charger and the installation and maintenance costs for 3 years come to around Rs 2,500, the government said in a statement.

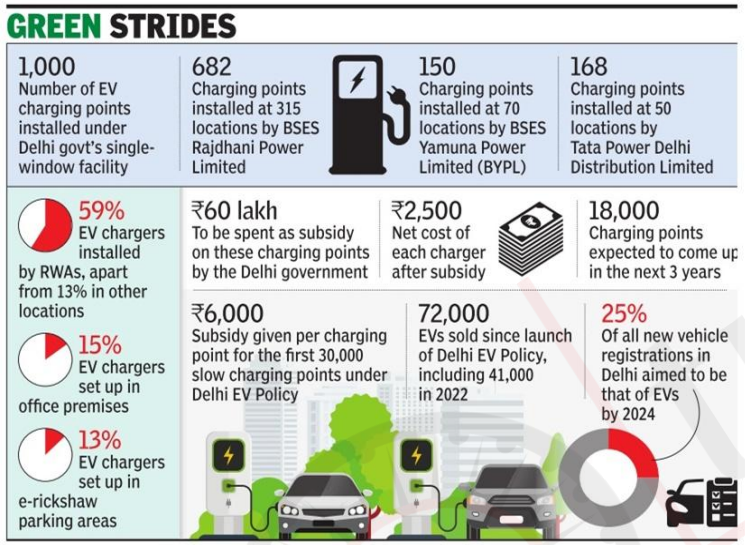
Transport minister Kailash Gahlot said that under chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's leadership, Delhi was committed to bolstering the EV charging infrastructure across the city by providing a network of private and public charging facilities within three km travel from anywhere in the city.

"It is just the beginning as Delhi plans to install 18,000 charging points in the next three years, making it easier for the citizens of Delhi to opt for an electric vehicle instead of an ICE one," he said, adding that by 2024-end, one out of every four new vehicles purchased in Delhi would be an electric one.

The 1,000 charging points include 682 installed at 315 locations by power discom BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BSES), 150 charging points at 70 locations by BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL), and 168 charging points installed at 50 locations by Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL). Most of the chargers - 59% - have been installed by RWAs, followed by office premises (15%) and e-rickshaw parking areas (13%). The Delhi government said that it would spend Rs 60 lakh as subsidy on these 1,000 charging points.

"Delhi is known for bringing new innovations in electric mobility, one of which is the single-window facility for EV charger installation - a first such innovation anywhere in India. This initiative is aimed towards making the purchase of EV chargers in Delhi simple and hassle-free," said Jasmine Shah, vice-chairperson of Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi and also chairperson of Delhi government's Charging Infrastructure Working Group, which devised the single window facility.

Through the single-window facility, any Delhi resident can request installation of a charger from empanelled vendors in their premises, either through the online portal of the discom or by making a phone call. Consumers can also apply for a separate electrical connection with a special EV tariff, the statement said.



Context: The Delhi government announced that in less than one year, it has reached the milestone of 1,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging points being installed under its single-window facility.

Single-window facility

- In November 2021, the **Delhi government had set in place the single-window facility for installation of EV chargers** in private and semi-public spaces, which include residential spaces such as apartments and group housing societies, institutional buildings like hospitals and commercial spaces like kirana stores, shops and malls.
- Through the single-window facility, **any Delhi resident can request installation of a charger from empanelled vendors in their premises**, either through the online portal of the discom or by making a phone call.
- Consumers can also apply for a separate electrical connection with a special EV tariff.

Model Building Bye Laws, 2016

- The Ministry of Urban Development has devised a circular called "**Model Building By Laws 2016" which states the regulatory mechanism and engineering parameters** to keep in mind before starting any construction project in India.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under the Model Building Bye-laws, 2016 (MBBL) has **mandated setting aside 20% of the parking space for EV charging facilities in residential and commercial buildings.**

ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 1

TAX REVENUE OF THE GOVERNMENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Direct Tax Kitty Grows 23.8% to ₹8.98Lcr till Oct 8

Jumps 16.3% to ₹7.45 lakh cr after refunds, crosses 52% of budget estimate

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India's gross direct tax collections surged 23.8% to ₹8.98 lakh crore in the current financial year up to October 8 from a year earlier, data released by the government on Sunday showed. After refunds, direct taxes were up 16.3% to ₹7.45 lakh crore, or 52.5% of the ₹14.2 lakh crore budget estimate for FY23.

"The direct tax collection will remain robust for the next few months on account of the festive season," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA. "The collection will exceed the budget target by a decent margin."

High nominal gross domestic product (GDP) growth — 26.5% in the June quarter — boosted tax revenue. Data released earlier this month showed goods and services tax (GST) collection was up 27% in the April-September period from a year ago, showing strong growth in indirect taxes as well. Direct taxes include corporate and income tax while GST, customs and excise duty make up indirect taxes.

"Strong economic growth coupled with better reporting seems to be supporting the collection figures," said Rohinton Sidhwa, partner, Deloitte India.

Robust tax revenue will give the government a cushion to meet sharply higher-than-budgeted food and fertiliser subsidies while staying within the fiscal deficit target of 6.4% of GDP.

At a gross level, corporate tax collection rose 16.7% in in the fiscal year until October 8 while personal income tax jumped 32.3%, the data showed.

Advance Tax Collections ▸▸ 6

Tax Comfort

	₹ lakh cr	% Rise
Gross direct tax	8.98	23.8
Net after refunds	7.45	16.3

	Increase (%) Gross	Net
Corporate tax	16.7	16.3
Personal income tax	32.3	17.4

₹1.53 lakh crore refunds issued, up 81%



WHAT IT MEANS

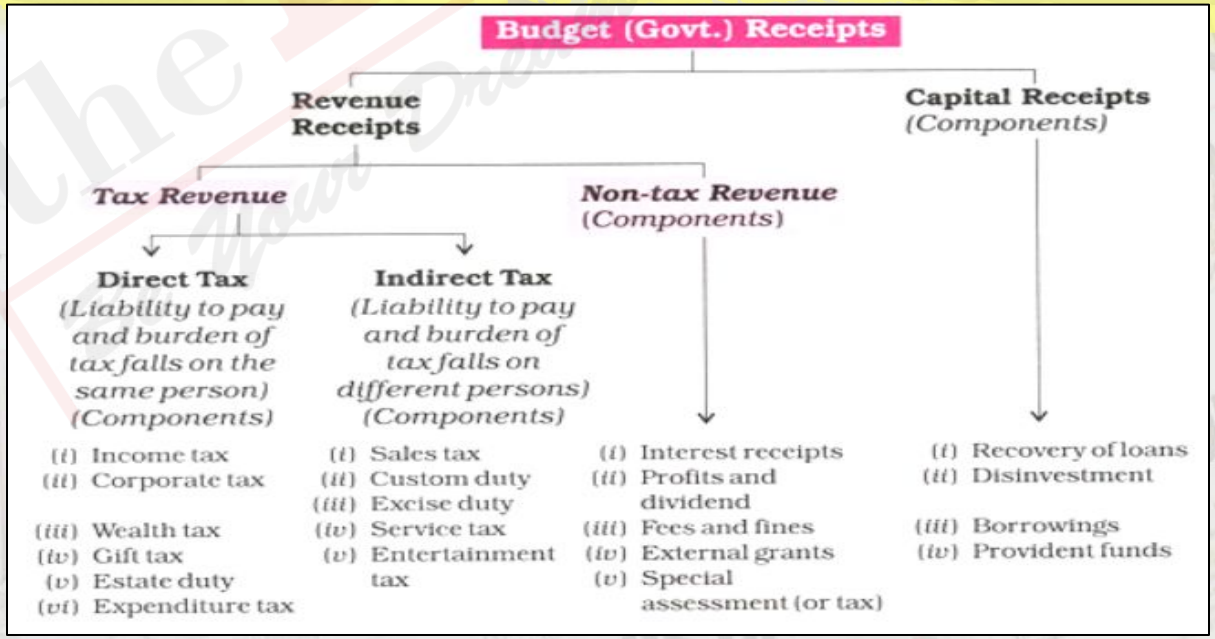
Taxes to remain robust in coming months

Give govt fiscal room to meet high subsidy bill

Context: The net direct tax collections grew 30 per cent to Rs 8.36 lakh crore till September 17 of current fiscal year on increased advance tax mop-up.

Tax Revenue

- Tax is **a compulsory payment** that is made to the government by the people or the companies without having any direct benefit in return.
- The sum of all receipts from the taxes and all other duties under the government are referred to as tax revenue.
- They are **either from direct taxes or indirect taxes.**
- It is the main source of regular receipts of the government and is **categorized into Direct Taxes and Indirect Taxes.**
- The **6 major sources of tax revenue** are Income tax, corporate tax, Goods and Services Tax (GST), Customs duties, Union Excise duties, Wealth tax and gift tax.



BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 3

GIG ECONOMY AND GIG WORKERS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Demand for gig workers jumps like never before

E-com firms may hire over 500,000 more till Diwali

ARYAMAN GUPTA
New Delhi, 9 October

To meet surging demand, e-commerce businesses have hired about 300,000 gig workers so far this festival season and over 500,000 more jobs are expected to be added till Diwali, according to a TeamLease report.

"Quick-commerce, QSRs, retail stores, FMCG, and FOS (Foots-on-the-Street) salesmen are the most in demand roles other than delivery executives," said Ajoy Thomas, V-P and business head (Retail, E-commerce, Logistics and Transportation) at TeamLease. Currently, India is considered a low-margin market where 300,000-400,000 people work as delivery executives. E-commerce firms are, hence, looking for ways to tackle management costs of their delivery fleets. For start-ups, 50 per cent of their expenses come from managing the biker fleet, the report revealed. "Even a change of ₹1 in costs of delivery executives can create a massive impact on the budget of start-ups. Firms are batching orders and offering incentives to the delivery executives," he said.

ON A HIRING SPREE

40% Surge in demand in tier-2 and -3 cities for delivery workers: **TeamLease** report

30% Jump in hiring in third-party logistics; segment may add 800K jobs by December '22

50-70% Rise in seasonal hiring by e-com firms, says gig platform **Taskmo**

500,000-600,000 Tasks completed per month, up from 300,000 in May

35% Surge in demand for delivery talent YoY, says logistics unicorn **Ecom Express**

60-65% of hiring taking place in tier-3 and -4 cities, says Ecom



Context: To meet surging demand,e-commerce businesses have hired about 300,000 gigworkers so far this festival season and over 500,000 more jobs are expected to be added till Diwali.

Gig Economy And Gig Workers

- According to the **Code on Social Security, 2020**, A gig worker is a person who performs work or participates in work arrangements and earns from such activities, outside of the traditional employer-employee relationship.
- Gig workers can be broadly **classified into platform and non-platform-based workers.**
  - **Platform workers:** These workers are those whose work is based on online software apps or digital platforms such as food aggregator platforms Zomato, Swiggy, Ola, and others.
  - **Non-platform workers:** These workers are generally casual wage and own-account workers in conventional sectors engaged part-time or full-time.
- A **Gig economy is a free market system** in which temporary positions are common and organizations contract with independent workers for short-term engagements.
- **India is the fifth largest in flexi-staffing globally**, after the US, China, Brazil and Japan.

PIB

Oct 10

MODHERA SUN TEMPLE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Indian Art & Heritage)

PM visits Surya Mandir in Modhera, Gujarat

Posted On: 09 OCT 2022 7:45PM by PIB Delhi

Context: The Prime Minister visited the Surya Mandir in Modhera, Gujarat.

Key points

- PM **inaugurated Heritage Lighting at Surya Mandir** which makes it the first heritage site in India to be powered solely by solar energy.
- He also inaugurated the **3D Projection Mapping** of Modhera Sun Temple.
- The PM also declared Modhera as **India's first 24x7 solar-powered village.**

Modhera Sun temple

- It is a **Hindu temple** dedicated to the solar deity Surya located at Modhera village of Mehsana district, Gujarat, India.
- It is situated on the **bank of the river Pushpavati.**
- It was built after 1026-27 CE during the reign of Bhima I of the **Chalukya dynasty.**
- **No worship is offered now** and is protected monument maintained by Archaeological Survey of India.
- The temple complex is **built in Māru-Gurjara style (Chalukya style)**.
- The **temple complex has three components:** Gudhamandapa, the shrine hall; Sabhamandapa, the assembly hall and Kunda, the reservoir.



DTE

Oct 10

CONSERVATION OF VULTURES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

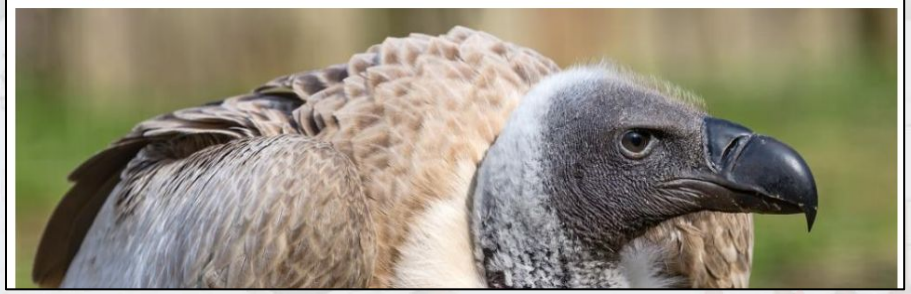
WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY

Vultures mostly forage outside protected areas; conservation efforts should be focussed there, urges study

New UK study tracked 26 African white-backed vultures fitted with GPS tags for four years over southern Tanzania

NEXT NEWS >

By Rajat Ghai
Published: Saturday 08 October 2022



Context: Vultures mostly forage outside Protected Areas (PAs) and If threats such as poison-laced carcasses are removed from these places, the decline in vulture populations can be stemmed, a study by the University of York in the UK has noted.

Key Points

- **African white-backed vultures are most likely to forage** early in the day outside National Parks, specifically in Game Reserves and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), but avoid areas with high livestock numbers to feed.
- **Vultures avoided areas with high livestock density when feeding.** This suggested that vultures did not use cattle as a main food source and avoided areas with high human habitation.
- **Vultures in India also forage mostly out of protected areas**. They travel long distances every day while foraging for food.
- The drastic crash in vulture populations in India was due to the use of diclofenac in veterinary treatment, mainly on cattle. So clearly, vultures fed on livestock.

Vultures

- It is **one of the 22 species of large carrion-eating birds** that live predominantly in the tropics and subtropics.
- They **act an important function as nature's garbage collectors** and help to keep the environment clean of waste.
- Vultures also p**lay a valuable role in keeping wildlife diseases in check.**

Threats

- Poisoning from diclofenac that is used as a medicine for livestock.
- Loss of Natural Habitats due to anthropogenic activities.
- Food Dearth and Contaminated Food.
- Electrocution by Power lines.

Vultures in India

- India is **home to 9 species of Vulture namely** the Oriental white-backed, Long-billed, Slender-billed, Himalayan, Red-headed, Egyptian, Bearded, Cinereous and the Eurasian Griffon.
- Most of these 9 species **face danger of extinction.**
- Bearded, Long-billed, Slender-billed, Oriental white-backed are protected in the **Schedule-1 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.** Rest are protected under 'Schedule IV'.

Conservation Efforts by India

- The Ministry for Environment, Forests and Climate Change launched a **Vulture Action Plan 2020-25** for the conservation of vultures in the country.
- To study the cause of deaths of vultures in India, a **Vulture Care Centre (VCC)** was set up at Pinjore, Haryana in 2001.
- The VCC was upgraded to being the first **Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centre (VCBC)** in India.

PIB

Oct 10

NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah presided over the 70th Plenary Meeting of the North Eastern Council in Guwahati, Assam today

Context: The Union Home and Cooperation Minister presided over the **70th plenary meeting of the North Eastern Council in Guwahati, Assam.**

North Eastern Council

- NEC was **established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971** as an apex level body for securing balanced and coordinated development and facilitating coordination with the States.
- Subsequent to the Amendment of 2002, **NEC has been mandated to function as a regional planning body** for the North Eastern Area and while formulating a regional plan for this area, shall give priority to the schemes and projects benefiting two or more states provided that in the case of Sikkim, the Council shall formulate specific projects and schemes for that State.
- In 2018, The **Union Cabinet approved the proposal of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER**) for the nomination of the **Union Home Minister as ex-officio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC).**
- The Cabinet also **approved that Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of DoNER would serve as Vice Chairman of the Council.**
- **Headquarter** : Shillong
- **Ministry** : Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
- **Chairman** : Union Minister, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
- **Consists of** : Eight states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The chief ministers and governors represent them.



SANSAD TV

Oct 10

SURYA KIRAN AEROBATIC TEAM (SKAT)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)



Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team at Air Force Day celebrations in Chandigarh | 08 Oct, 2022



Context: As many as nine aircraft of the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team of the Eastern Air Command conducted the aerobatic display off the Blue Flag Beach in Puri in Odisha

Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT)

- The Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) was **founded in 1996 and is part of the Indian Air Force's 52nd Squadron.**
- Popularly known as the IAF Ambassadors, **Surya Kiran is an aerobatics demonstration squad of the Indian Air Force.**
- One of the **few nine-aircraft formation aerobatic teams in the world**, the squad possesses a special classification.
- The goal of the aerobatic display is to **highlight the professionalism and talent of Indian Air Force pilots** while also instilling a feeling of patriotism in the country's youngsters.
- SKAT now **operates British aircraft, namely the BAE Hawk.**
- The **Defense Ministry completed discussions between HAL and BAE Systems in October 2015 for the procurement of twenty BAE Systems Hawk Mk.132** aircraft for the Surya Kiran, which will be devoted to aerobatics displays and equipped with smoke canisters.

THANK YOU!

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