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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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THE HINDU Page 1

LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

Indian and Chinese soldiers clash near Arunachal border

Both sides 'suffered injuries' and the troops immediately disengaged from the area, says the Army; commanders hold a Flag Meeting to discuss the issue and restore peace in the Tawang sector

Vijaita Singh
Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI



Face-off: This is the first such incident after the June 2020 episode when 20 Indian soldiers were killed in Galwan Valley. FILE PHOTO

Indian and Chinese soldiers suffered "minor injuries" in a face-off along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9, the Army said on Monday evening. *The Hindu* had earlier in the day reported the clash that occurred at Yangtse. Around 20 Indian soldiers and a much higher number on the Chinese side were injured, multiple sources had said.

"On December 9, 2022, People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops contacted the LAC in the Tawang sector, which was contested by own troops in a firm and resolute manner. This face-off led to minor injuries to a few personnel from both sides," the Army said in a statement after reports of the incident. "Both sides immediately disengaged from the area."

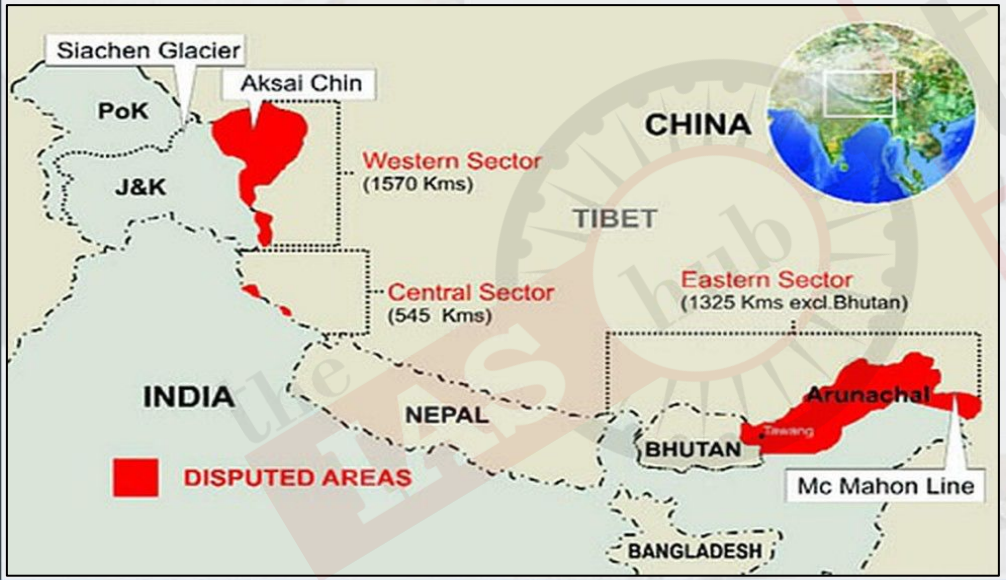
As a follow-up to the incident, Commanders on both sides held a Flag Meeting to discuss the issue in accordance with structured mechanisms to restore peace and tranquility, the Army's statement added. It noted that in certain areas along the LAC in the Tawang sector, there are areas of differing perception, wherein both sides patrol the area up to their claim lines. This had been the trend since 2006, the Army added.

This is the first such incident after the June 15, 2020 episode when 20 Indian soldiers were killed and several others were injured in violent clashes with the PLA troops in Ladakh's Galwan Valley.

The clash occurred as a large PLA patrol came across into the Indian side, one Army source said. "Injuries on the Chinese side were much higher than on the Indian side," the source added. At least three different units of the Indian Army were present at the time of the face-off, it has been learnt.

According to another source, a few soldiers sustained fractured limbs during the skirmish and are said to be recuperating at a hospital in Guwahati. Around 600 PLA soldiers were present when the clashes took place, the source said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10



Context: Indian and Chinese soldiers suffered "minor injuries" after they were engaged in a face-off along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in **Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh** on December 9.

Line of Actual Control

- **About**: A **notional demarcation line** that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.
- **Origin**: The **concept was introduced by Chinese premier Zhou Enlai in a 1959** letter to Jawaharlal Nehru as the "line up to which each side exercises actual control", but rejected by Nehru as being incoherent.
  - Subsequently the term came to refer to the line formed after the **1962 Sino-Indian War.**
- **3 sectors:** The LAC is generally **divided into three sectors:**
  - **Western sector**: Between Ladakh on the Indian side and the Tibet and Xinjiang autonomous regions on the Chinese side. This sector was the location of the 2020 China–India skirmishes.
  - **Middle sector**: Between **Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh** on the Indian side and the Tibet autonomous region on the Chinese side.
  - **Eastern sector**: Between Arunachal Pradesh on the Indian side and the Tibet autonomous region on the Chinese side. This sector generally follows the **McMahon Line**.
- **Current status**: The LAC is **different from the borders claimed by each country** in the Sino-Indian border dispute.
  - The **Indian claims include the entire Aksai Chin region** and the **Chinese claims include Arunachal Pradesh.**
  - These claims are **not included in the concept of "actual control".**
  - The term "line of actual control" originally **referred only to the boundary in the western sector after the 1962 Sino-Indian War**, but during the 1990s came to refer to the entire de facto border.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

NON BANKING FINANCIAL COMPANIES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

NBFCs' share in lending pie slides to 5-year low

Banks gaining at the expense of non-bank lenders

KRISHNA KANT
Mumbai, 12 December

Banks are gaining market share at the expense of non-bank lenders such as housing finance companies, retail lenders, and those giving gold loans.

There has been a steady decline in the market share of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in the credit market as banks have stepped up lending.

NBFCs' share declined to a five-year low of 19.8 per cent in the first half of FY23, down from 20.3 per cent in H1FY22, and an all-time high of 23.1 per cent in H1FY19.

This reverses nearly a decade-long process when NBFCs increased their share in the country's credit and grew more profitable than banks.

NBFCs' market share could fall further in the forthcoming quarters as banks' loan books continue to grow at a fast clip.



The combined loan book of 31 listed banks in the Business Standard sample grew 20.4 per cent year-on-year in the first half of FY23 compared to 11.1 per cent growth reported by 41 listed non-bank lenders. (See the adjoining charts.)

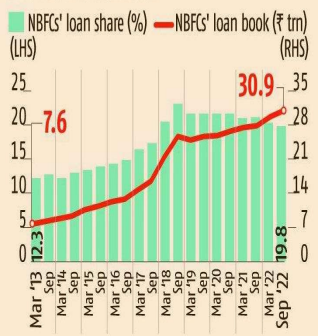
The banks' combined loan books grew to a record high of ₹125.3 trillion at the end of September this year from ₹116 trillion at the end of March and ₹104 trillion a year ago.

In comparison, the combined loan books of the 41 NBFCs grew to ₹30.92 trillion at the end of September this year from ₹29.63 trillion at the end of March this year and ₹27.83 trillion a year ago.

Turn to Page 5

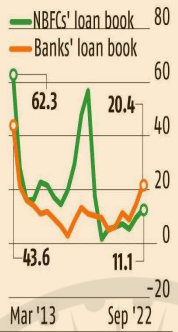
LOSING STEAM

The trend in NBFCs' loan book and credit market share



ON LENDING GROWTH (In % YoY)

Banks' loan book expanding faster



Compiled by BS Research Bureau

Source: Capitaline

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13,000 COMPLAINTS FILED AGAINST LENDERS OVER DIGITAL LENDING APPS

Context: NBFCs´ share declined to a five year low of 19.8 per cent in the first half of FY23, down from 20.3 per cent in H1FY22, and an alltime high of 23.1 per cent in H1FY19.

Non banking financial companies (NBFCs)

- **About**: Also known as a non-banking financial institution, **provides financial services and products** but is not recognised as a bank with a full banking licence.
  - **NBFCs are not banks,** but their activities include lending and other activities such as providing loans and advances, credit facilities, savings and investment products, trading in the money market, managing stock portfolios, money transfers, and so on.
  - Some examples of well-known NBFCs are Kotak Mahindra Finance, SBI Factors, Sundaram Finance, and ICICI Ventures.
- **Criteria for NBFC License**: The company **must be registered in accordance with the Companies Act.**
  - The corporation should be either a Limited Company or a Private Limited Company (PLC).
  - The company's Net Owned Fund must be at least Rs. 2 crores.
- **Regulation of NBFCs:** The **RBI's Department of Non-Banking Supervision (DNBS)** is tasked with regulating and supervising NBFCs in accordance with the regulatory provisions contained in Chapters III B and C and Chapter V of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- **Exemption**: Following NBFCs are exempted from the requirement of registration with RBI:
  - Venture Capital Fund / Merchant Banking companies / Stockbroking companies registered with SEBI.
  - Insurance Company holding a valid Certificate of **Registration issued by IRDA.**
  - **Nidhi companies** as notified under Section 620A of the Companies Act, 1956.
  - **Chit companies** as defined in clause (b) of Section 2 of the Chit Funds Act, 1982.
  - **Housing Finance Companies** regulated by National Housing Bank.
  - **Stock Exchange or a Mutual Benefit company**.

Basis of Comparison	NBFCs	Banks
Meaning	They provide banking services to people without holding Bank License	It is government authorized financial intermediary which aim at providing banking services to the public.
Regulated under	Companies Act 2013	Banking Regulation Act 1949
Demand Deposit	Cannot be Accepted	Can be Accepted
Foreign Investment	Allowed up to 100%	Allowed up to 74% for Private Sector Bank
Payment and Settlement system	Not a part of the System	An Integral part of the System
Maintenance of Reserve Ratios	Not Required	Mandatory
Deposit Insurance Facility	Not Available	Available
Credit Creation	NBFC does not create Credit	Bank create Credit
Transaction Services	Cannot be provided by NBFC	Provided by Bank

INDIAN EXPRESS

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ZERO HOUR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Zero Hour in Lok Sabha: Adhir demands debate on law & order situation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 12

OBSERVING THAT the law and order situation is worsening day by day, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Monday demanded a discussion on internal security, during the Zero Hour in Lok Sabha.

"I demand that in view of the deteriorating law and order situation, there needs to be a discussion on internal security in the House," Chowdhury said.

"This government itself has accepted in the UNSC that after the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, terror camps have increased. Earlier, the number was 150, now it is 225," said the Berhampur MP. He said that since the abrogation of Article 370, there have been 116 killings.

Chowdhury also mentioned the recent RPG attack attack at the police station in Punjab. Eight such incidents have happened in the last 13 months, he said. "Looking at all these issues, we feel that the law and order situation is getting worse... there should be a big discussion on the subject of internal security in the House," he said.

DMK member Kanimozhi Karunanidhi raised the safety matchbox industry issue, saying it was in "peril", flagging the rise in the cost of raw material.

"The matchstick industry in Thoothukudi, my constituency, gives employment to over 10 lakh people. Nearly, 90 per cent of the workforce is women who get employment through this. This is the only source of income for these people," she said.

Kanimozhi said, "There is a lot of illegal import of single use non-refillable lighters. This affects the matchbox industry in a very big way. The GST too has also affected them. The Tamil Nadu CM wrote to the Centre on GST but there was no response. So, this industry is really being ambushed from all sides. I request, through you, Sir, that the Union government has to ban the import of single use lighters, reduce the GST and ensure that the cost of raw material does not go up," she said.

Shiv Sena member Shrirang Appa Barne demanded that the concession in railway fare to journalists, which was discontinued during the pandemic, should be resumed.

Rashtriya Loktantrik Party member Hanuman Beniwal demanded that the Agnipath scheme should be withdrawn.

Context: Congress leader demanded a discussion on internal security, during the Zero Hour in Lok Sabha.

Zero Hour

- **About**: The time when Members of Parliament (MPs) can **raise Issues of Urgent Public Importance.**
  - For the Rajya Sabha, the **day starts with the Zero Hour** and not the Question Hour as it is for the Lok Sabha.
  - **Question Hour is the first hour** of the Lok Sabha session wherein members question the government. **Zero Hour immediately followed the Question Hour.**
- **Origin**: Zero Hour is an **Indian innovation** in the field of parliamentary procedures and has been in existence since 1962.
- **Informal device:** 'Zero Hour' is **not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.**
  - Thus, it is **an informal device available to MPs** to raise matters without any notice 10 days in advance. This is because, generally, the matters are of public importance and such matters **cannot wait for 10 days.**
- **Procedure**: For raising matters during the Zero Hour, MPs must give the **notice before 10 am to the Speaker/ Chairman** on the day of the sitting.
  - The notice **must state the subject** they wish to raise in the House.
  - However, Speaker, Lok Sabha / Chairman, Rajya Sabha **may allow or decline a Member** to raise a matter of importance.
- **Duration**: A member **gets three minutes** to raise an issue in the Zero Hour.

LIVEMINT Page 9

NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Shaji takes over as NABARD chairman

Shaji K V has taken the charge as chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with effect from 7 December, the government on Monday informed Parliament.

He has taken over from Suchindra Misra, additional secretary, department of financial services, ministry of finance, who was holding additional charge, minister of state for finance Bhagwat Karad said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. Further, Karad said there are two board level vacancies in the organization while 514 vacancies are at the group A level.

Replying to a question, the minister said more than 1.2 million loans have been extended by public sector banks in rural areas across the country for setting up business, after the covid period, that is, from April 2020 to November 2022.

Replying to another question, Karad said public sector banks have hired about 86,996 contractual employees for various activities. PTI

Context: Shaji K V has taken the charge as Chairman of **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** with effect from December 7, 2022, the government informed Parliament.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- **About**: An **apex regulatory body** for overall **regulation of regional rural banks** and apex cooperative banks in India.
- **Origin**: NABARD was established on the recommendations of **B. Sivaramman Committee** (by Act 61, 1981 of Parliament) on 12 July **1982** to implement the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981 (statutory body).
    - It **replaced the Agricultural Credit Department (ACD) and Rural Planning and Credit Cell (RPCC) of Reserve Bank of India,** and Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC).
- **Owner**: Set up with an initial capital of Rs.100 crore, its' paid up capital stood at Rs.17,080 crore as on 31 March 2022.
    - Consequent to the revision in the composition of share capital between Government of India and RBI, NABARD today is **fully owned by Government of India.**
- **Functions**: The bank has been entrusted with "**matters concerning policy, planning, and operations in the field of credit for agriculture and other economic activities in rural areas in India".**
    - NABARD also **supervises the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks** along with developing their banking practices and integrating them to the Core Banking Solution (CBS) platform.
    - NABARD also **helps handicraft artisans** sell their products by training and providing a marketing platform for them.
    - NABARD has **partnered with various leading global organisations and institutions** affiliated with the World Bank that have played a role in transforming agriculture.

METAVERSE
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)



FUTURESCOPE

Metaverse to be Key Enabler of Indian Media & Entertainment

One of the key drivers of economic possibilities within the metaverse will be Web3.0's ability to spur digital transformation. "The metaverse will serve as a key enabler for the Indian media and entertainment sector opening newer avenues for India's vast talent pool in engineering, graphics, video, and animation," said Jehil Thakkar, Partner and Media and Entertainment sector leader, Deloitte India.

Web 3.0 accelerating creator's economy, talent and digital transformation

Given India's younger generation's inclination towards technology consumption, Deloitte India anticipates an increase in demand for digital products, and immersive and elevated experiences.

A new set of emerging technologies will drive digital transformation and define customer experience going forward. "Businesses will continue to adopt these technologies if it enables their vision to provide the best customer experience at a reasonable cost

ASHVIN VELLODY, Partner, Consulting, Deloitte India

Adoption of technologies will mean traversing challenges and risks to sustain business in a dynamic marketplace

Growth in Metaverse adoption in India and elsewhere depends on the economic and technological barriers to the underlying technologies. The scale of adoption also will be driven by the cost of compatible devices (Virtual Reality, headsets, smart wearables) and the ability to develop technical skills and readiness

Metaverse opens up a world of new possibilities

The success of Metaverse penetration will depend on the time organisations take to understand its relevance to their business and the pace of this ecosystem's development. The ability to ramp up the technical skills and readiness, and deal with rising cyber threats will be critical to its adoption. Based on the growing awareness of its application possibilities, organisations are likely to reorganise their business to take advantage of this evolving technology to address the needs of an evolving digital native generation.

KEY CHALLENGES

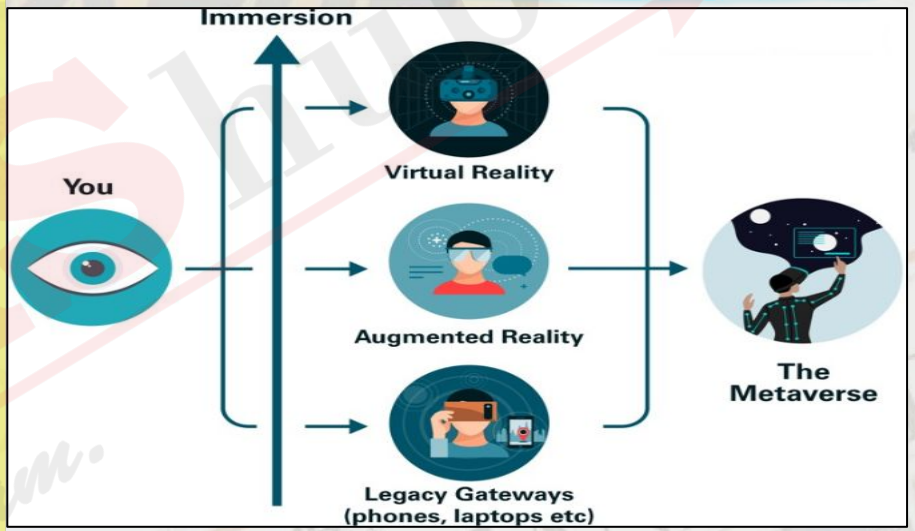
High cost of wearable hardware, such as ocular glasses, haptic suites limits the large-scale adoption	Affordability of underlying technologies will play a huge role in the widespread adoption of Metaverse	Unlike mobile numbers and e-mail IDs, a robust identifier is yet to be developed	Besides fraud, harassments, assaults, bullying and hate speech in virtual world are serious challenges

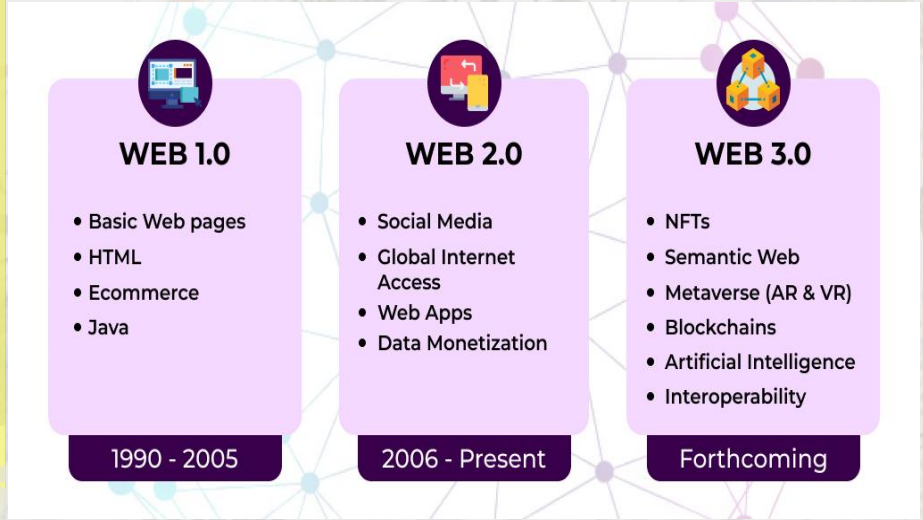
SOURCE: DELOITTE'S REPORT, METAVERSE: THE HYPE, POSSIBILITIES, AND BEYOND

Context: One of the key drivers of economic possibilities within the **metaverse will be Web3. 0**'s ability to spur digital transformation.

Metaverse

- **About**: A **collaborative virtual open space** developed due to the merger of virtually enhanced physical and digital reality. This is physically persistent and it gives an enhanced and immersive experience.
  - The Metaverse is an **augmented or virtual reality-based** next-generation variant of the internet.
  - Activities that currently take place in isolated places (such as purchasing digital land and building virtual homes, engaging in a virtual social interactions, and so on) will ev**entually move to the Metaverse.**
  - It is platform independent, device independent, and **not owned by a single company.**
  - It's an autonomous virtual economy powered by non fungible tokens (NFTs) and crypto currencies.
  - Because it operates on numerous technologies and innovations, the Metaverse is a **multimodal innovation**. Augmented reality (AR), flexible work methods, head-mounted displays (HMDs), the AR cloud, the Internet of Things (IoT), 5G network, machine learning (ML), artificial intelligence (AI), and spatial technologies are all contributing tech capabilities.
- **Augmented Reality (AR)**: An immersive experience of the physical world environment in which **computer generated perceptual data** is used to augment the elements in the real world, sometimes spanning many sensory modalities, such as visual and audio.
  - AR can be defined as a system which c**ombines real and virtual worlds together**, allows for real-time interaction, and enables accurate 3D registration of physical and virtual items.
- **Virtual Reality (VR):** A virtual experience that **can be both identical to and distinct from the actual world**. Entertainment (especially video games), education (like medical or military training), and business(like virtual meetings) are all examples of virtual reality applications.





TIMES OF INDIA

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INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

New amalgamated co can set off long-term capital losses

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Pune bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) has provided some much-needed clarity on the issue of carry forward of long-term capital losses in the hands of an amalgamated company. This loss is available for set-off in the hands of the successor amalgamated company, held the ITAT. The tax tribunal also held that the minimum alternate tax (MAT) credit of the predecessor-amalgamating company has to be allowed in the hands of the amalgamated company.

According to Bhavin Shah, deals leader at PwC India, "This is a welcome ruling where the ITAT has held that the law of succession applies in cases of amalgamation and puts the successor (amalgamated company) in the shoes of the predecessor. All the entitlements, benefits or privileges that had accrued to the

ITAT RULING

predecessor shall be allowed to the successor."

In this case, Capgemini Technology Services claimed brought forward long-term capital loss of nearly Rs 110 crore during the financial year 2012-13. This was the long-term capital loss of erstwhile iGATE Computer Systems, which amalgamated with Capgemini with effect from April 1, 2012 under a scheme approved by the court.

The income tax officer noted the provisions of section 72A of the I-T Act only provide for the set-off and carry forward of the brought forward (business) loss and unabsorbed depreciation of the amalgamated company in the hands of the amalgamating company. This does not cover long-term capital loss.

The ITAT observed, "It is overt any loss available to the amalgamating company shall become available to the amalgamated company for necessary set-off."



Context: The Pune bench of the **Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)** has provided some much-needed clarity on the issue of carry forward of long-term capital losses in the hands of an amalgamated company.

Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)

- **About:** The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) is a **quasi-judicial body** that hears appeals against income tax orders.
- **Origin**: ITAT, often known as the "**Mother Tribunal,**" was the first tribunal to be established on January 25, 1941.
  - It began with **three benches** in Delhi, Bombay, and Calcutta, and has since expanded to 63 benches and two circuit benches in thirty Indian cities.
- **Nodal Ministry**: To ensure the ITAT's maximum level of independence, it is housed in the **Ministry of Law and Justice Department of Legal Affairs** and is not subject to any oversight by the Ministry of Finance.
- **Composition**: For different regions with regional authority, the ITAT has **distinct benches.**
  - The President of the ITAT appoints a bench of ITAT members from among the ITAT's members. A judicial member and an accountant member shall make up each bench.
  - In rare circumstances, the ITAT may convene a special bench of three or more members, with at least one accountant and one judicial member, to hear appeals.
- **Functions**: A taxpayer can s**ubmit a tax appeal** if he or she disagrees with an income-tax authority's assessment order or any other order.
  - Similarly, any order issued by subordinate income-tax authorities can be a**ppealed by an income-tax authority.**
  - Any appeal may be d**ismissed by the President** or any member of the ITAT if the total income calculated by the Assessing Officer **does not exceed Rs 50 lakh.**
  - The ITAT is also the final authority for fact-finding. When it comes to factual matters, the **ITAT's ruling is final.**
- **ITAT e-dwar facility**: It is **an e-filing portal of the ITAT** which enables It is an e-filing portal of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.
- **Faceless e-assessment**: The income tax department has now launched the Faceless facility for income tax appeals. Under the facility, all the **cases will be completed in a faceless way in a faceless environment except for appeals** that are related to evasion of tax, serious frauds, black money, international tax, and special research.

‘DARE TO DREAM’ SCHEME FOR PROMOTING START-UPS

Context: A total of 5,637 applications have been received under three **Dare to Dream Contests** to promote individual and start-ups for innovation in the area of Defence and Aerospace in last three years.

Dare to Dream

- **About**: It is **DRDO's pan-India contest** to promote Indian academicians, individuals and startups to develop emerging defence and aerospace technologies/systems.
    - DRDO provides **technical and financial support** to the winners for realization of their ideas under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme.
- **Origin**: DRDO has been **launching Dare to Dream Contest every year since 2019** to bring together innovators, entrepreneurs, individuals above 18 years and start-ups (recognised by DPIIT and with Indian founders) for innovative ideas in the field of Defence and Aerospace.
- **Criteria**: The selection criteria for evaluation of the entries are completeness of proposal, **scientific soundness, design completeness, merit, technological readiness level achieved and innovation.**
    - The selected individual/company are getting **benefitted as DRDO supports them** to realise awarded ideas into Prototype through Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme.
- **Dare to Dream 2.0**: In 2020, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has launched an innovation contest 'Dare to Dream 2.0' on the **5th death anniversary of former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.**
- **Award money**: Up to **Rs.10 lakh for startup and Rs. 5 lakh** to individual category, will be given to the winners.



PIB

Dec 13

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND TRAINING SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Activities of Environment Education, Awareness and Training (EEAT)

Context: The **Environment Education, Awareness and Training (EEAT) scheme** has been revamped during the current financial year into 'Environment Education Programme'.

- This information was given by the Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change in a written reply in Lok Sabha.

		(Amount in Rs. Crore)
Financial Year	**Budget Estimate (BE)**	**Revised Estimate (RE)**
2019-20	50.00	55.00
2020-21	87.36	45.00
2021-22	60.00	60.00

Environment Education, Awareness and Training (EEAT) scheme

- **About**: A central sector scheme of the **Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** that was launched during the **Sixth Five Year Plan in 1983-84.**
- **Objectives**: Its goal is to raise environmental awareness among all segments of society and to mobilise people's participation in environmental conservation.
- **The three programmes that make up the EEAT scheme are:**
  - **National Green Corps "Eco-club" programme:** Under National Green Corps (NGC), the Eco Club programme was initiated in 2001-2002 to inculcate compassion among people **towards environment and sensitize children** on issues related to environment and development.
  - **National Nature Camping Program**: An initiative of the **Ministry of Environment and Forests in Environment Education**, which is aimed at creating greater awareness, understanding and empathy of children with and for the environment.
  - **National Environment Awareness Campaign:** Launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India in 1986 to create **awareness on environmental issues** among a wide group of stakeholders.

DTE

Dec 13

ENERGY CONSERVATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

Rajya Sabha passes Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill

The amended bill aims to bring large residential buildings under the Energy Conservation regime, enhance the scope of the Energy Conservation Building Code, and amend penalty provisions

NEXT NEWS >

By Rohini Krishnamurthy
Published: Monday 12 December 2022



The Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022

Vision: Facilitate achievement of India's commitments at COP26, promote renewable energy, mandate use of non-fossil sources, introduce carbon markets and trading, help in achieving SDGs in line with the Paris Agreement

Provisions of the Act	Provisions of the Bill
No credit market	Specifies a carbon credit trading scheme with a minimum share of consumption of non-fossil sources by DCs as energy or feedstock. No information on exact structure.
Only GoI can issue ESCerts and only DCs can purchase them	GoI or any agency authorised by it can issue the ESCerts. Apart from the DC, any other person can purchase ESCerts or carbon credit certificate on voluntary basis
Governing Council of BEE to comprise 20-26 members	Governing Council to comprise 31-37 members with inclusion of Secretaries from more ministries like MoEFCC, MoHUA, MoRTH, Steel, Shipping, etc.
Power of GoI to specify energy consumption standards for any equipment and appliance	Mandate expanded to include vehicle, vessel, industrial unit, building or establishment
"Energy conservation building codes" comprising energy consumption norms in terms of per square metre of the area wherein energy is used	Replaced with "Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code" comprising norms for energy efficiency and its conservation, use of renewable energy and other green building requirements for a building.

Context: The Rajya Sabha passed the **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill** on December 12, 2022, to mandate non-fossil sources of energy and establish a domestic carbon market in India.

- The Bill **amends the Energy Conservation Act, 2001** to empower the central government to specify a carbon credit trading scheme.
- This comes after the **Lok Sabha passed the amended bill in August 2022**. The bill was also amended in 2010.

Key Features of the Bill

- **Carbon credit trading:** The Bill **empowers the central government** to specify a carbon credit trading scheme. The central government or any authorised agency may issue carbon credit certificates to entities registered and compliant with the scheme.
- **Obligation to use non-fossil sources of energy**: The 2001 Act empowers the central government to specify energy consumption standards.
  - The Bill adds that the g**overnment may require designated consumers** to meet a minimum share of energy consumption from non-fossil sources. Different consumption thresholds may be specified for different non-fossil sources and consumer categories.
- **Energy conservation code for buildings**: The Act empowers the central government to specify Energy Conservation Code for buildings. The code prescribes energy consumption standards in terms of area.
  - The Bill **amends this to provide for an 'Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code'**. This new code will provide norms for energy efficiency and conservation, use of renewable energy, and other requirements for green buildings.
- **Standards for vehicles and vessels:** Under the Act, the energy consumption standards may be specified for equipment and appliances which consume, generate, transmit, or supply energy.
  - The Bill e**xpands the scope to include vehicles** (as defined under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988), and vessels (includes ships and boats).
- **Composition of the governing council of BEE**: The Act provides for the setting up of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). The Bureau has a governing council with members between 20 and 26 in number.
  - The Bill **amends this to provide that the number of members** will be between 31 and 37.
  - It increases the number of secretaries to 12.
  - It also provides for up to seven members representing industries and consumers.

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Dec 13

UN WATER SUMMIT ON GROUNDWATER

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

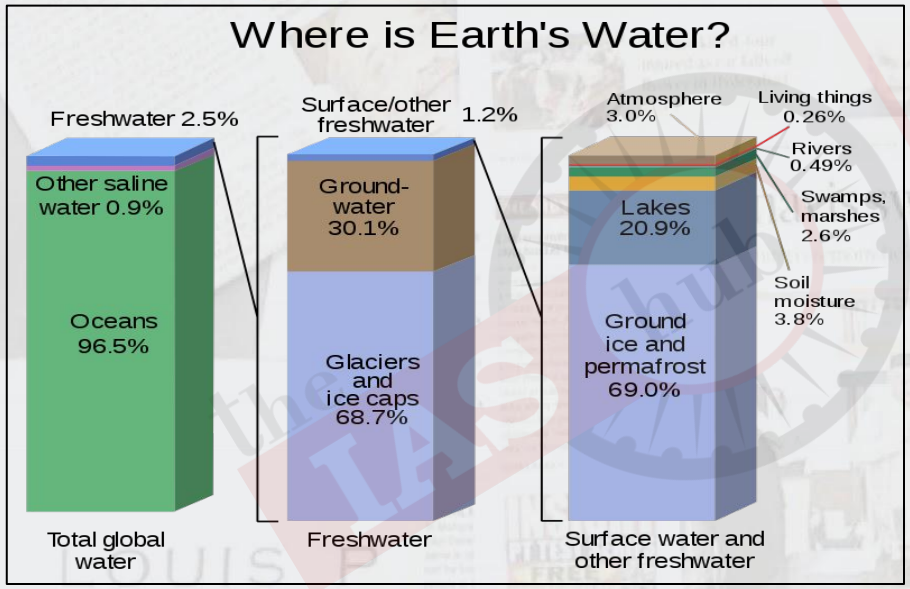


Groundwater protection is key, emphasises Paris Unesco meet

A highlight of the event was the formation of a coalition on transboundary water cooperation

NEXT NEWS >

By Zumbish
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Context: Groundwater must be protected at all costs since it is key to global food production and food security, delegates underlined at the end of the **United Nations-Water Summit** on Groundwater 2022 December 8 in Paris, France.

Key takeaways

- Delegates discussed **actions for building capacity** in order to better govern and manage groundwater and achieve sustainable development goals (SDG) December 7-8.
- Groundwater management needs to apply **five acceleration instruments to ensure that this succeeds**: Governance, Data and information, Innovation, Capacity development and Finance.
- A highlight of the event was the formation of a **coalition on transboundary water cooperation**.
- Only 32 countries have 90 per cent or more of their transboundary basin and aquifer area covered by operational agreements.

United Nations-Water Summit on Groundwater 2022

- It was **organised by UN-Water, UNESCO** and the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre.
- The **five pillars of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework** released in June 2020 — data and information, capacity development, innovation, finance and governance — were the main themes of the discussions.
- The summit aims to raise awareness on groundwater conservation at the global stage will mark the completion of the **"Groundwater: Making the invisible visible" campaign run by UN-Water throughout 2022**.
- The campaign **highlighted the role of groundwater** in alleviating poverty, food and water insecurity and other socio-economic development hurdles.
- Groundwater management is imperative to meet the **UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goal 6** of providing clean water and sanitation for all.
- The key takeaways from the summit will be presented at the **UN 2023 Water Conference** to be held in New York in March 2023.

Ground water status in India

- India is the **largest user of groundwater** with a fourth of the total global withdrawal.
- Indian cities cater to **about 48 per cent of its water supply** from groundwater.

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