theIASHub

the IAS hub
Be Your Dream.

MAY
15

CRUX 10

10 News. 10 Sources. One Place

THE HINDU
ET
BS
TOI
The Indian EXPRESS
livemint
pib
DownToEarth
FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
Science Reporter
विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मन्त्रालय
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
सत्यमेव जयते



MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

1. Zero Covid Policy
2. C-PACE
3. Cape Town Convention
4. Positive Indigenization List
5. Sage Pipeline Infrastructure
6. Director of CBI
7. Exercise Samudra Shakti
8. Kodaikanal Lake
9. Gharial (Gavialis Gangeticus)
10. CEIR System

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

ZERO COVID POLICY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Exports to EU, US grow but Asia, Africa suffer

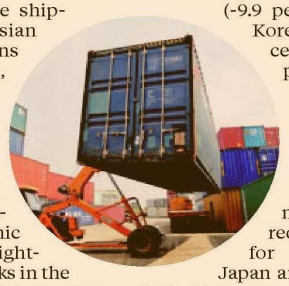
ASIT RANJAN MISHRA
New Delhi, 14 May

India's merchandise shipments to certain Asian and African regions contracted in FY23, thus weighing on overall growth in exports.

There was growth in exports to the European Union and the US, notwithstanding the economic downturn and heightened geopolitical risks in the developed world. India's merchandise exports had risen 6.7 per cent to $450.4 billion in FY23.

According to disaggregated data released by the commerce department, a decline in exports to Northeast Asia, comprising China (-27.9 per cent), Hong Kong (-9.9 per cent), South Korea (-17.7 per cent), Japan (-11.5 per cent), pared India's overall exports growth. While the "Zero Covid" policy in China for most of FY23 reduced demand for Indian goods, Japan and South Korea slashed imports of diamonds and petroleum products from India, as it sourced such items from the sanctioned-hit Russia.

Turn to Page 6



INDIA FAR BEHIND IN RACE FOR ELECTRONICS EXPORTS TO US P4

DESTINATION CHECK

Key regions that drove exports in FY23

Regions	Exports (in $bn)	YoY chg in %
North America	87.8	4.14
European Union	74.8	15.19
GCC nations	51.3	16.79
Asean	44	3.97
Latin America	17.7	18.56

Key regions that dragged exports in FY23

Regions	Exports (in $bn)	YoY chg in %
Northeast Asia	40	-18.83
South Asia	27.4	-19.94
East Asia	7.7	-13.69
CIS nations	3.8	-6.61
Central Africa	1.6	-6.39

Source: Commerce Ministry

I. Export Promotion Schemes



1. **RoDTEP** — Reimbursement of central, state and local taxes/duties.
2. **SEIS** — Promotes services exports.
3. **MEIS** — Scheme for merchandise exports, now replaced by RoDTEP.
4. **EPCG** — Facilitates zero-duty import or domestic procurement of capital goods.

Context: India´s merchandise shipments to certain Asian and African regions contracted in FY23, thus weighing on overall growth in exports.

- While the **" Zero Covid" policy in China** for most of FY23 demand Indian goods, South Korea slashed imports of diamonds and petroleum products from India, as it sourced such items from the sanctions hit Russia.

China's Zero Covid Policy

- The policy calls for **total control and maximum suppression of the virus** through aggressive public health measures such as contact tracing, social isolation, mass testing, and lockdowns.
- Under this policy, Chinese cities are directed to impose **strict lockdowns and social isolation measures** even if only a small number of cases are reported.
- The Zero-Covid policy of China involves the use of **aggressive measures and policies** that are necessary to eliminate and control the COVID-19 viruses local transmission.
- The strategy's goal is to ensure that **no new infections occur** and that the virus is eradicated, allowing the country to resume normal social and economic activities.

PIB MAY 15

C-PACE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) established for providing hassle-free filing, timely and process-bound striking off companies from MCA Register

Context: The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has moved a step forward by centralising the strike off process of companies with the establishment of the **Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE).**

C-PACE

- **About**: The C-PACE institution, established under sub-section (1) of section 396, shall be in operation through the **Registrar of Companies (RoC)** for the purposes of exercising functional jurisdiction of processing and disposal of applications.
  - The setting up of the C-PACE is part of the several measures taken by MCA in the recent past towards **Ease of Doing Business** and ease of exit for the Companies.
- **Objectives**: The establishment of the C-PACE will **help to reduce the stress on the Registry** along with keeping the registry clean besides availability of more meaningful data to the stakeholders.
  - The C-PACE will also benefit the stakeholders by providing a **hassle-free filing, timely and process-bound** striking off their company's names from the Register.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 12

CAPE TOWN CONVENTION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

Go First crisis: Centre may pass bill on int'l assets pact

Plans Legislation Of 'Cape Town' Convention To Comfort Wary Foreign Lessors Of Aircraft

Saurabh.Sinha
@timesgroup.com

PROTECTING AVIATION STORY

- Bankruptcy law takes precedence over CTC (Cape Town Convention). So, **Go First's planes can't be re-possessed** for at least six months to a year
- Government may consider passing CTC Bill to ensure India's aviation story is not hit by **leasing getting more expensive**
- Once a law, **CTC will get equal weightage as bankruptcy** law
- Average lease rental for an Airbus A320/ Boeing 737 is **$3,50,000 per month**

New Delhi: India may now expedite legislating the long pending 'Cape Town Convention' (CTC) Bill after the Go First case to assuage aircraft lessor concerns and ensure leasing planes does not get more expensive for desi carriers, say people in the know.

The aviation ministry had in October 2018 sought comments on the CTC Bill, 2018 to implement the treaty India had signed in 2008 to basically assure lessors their expensive assets like aircraft and engines will not get stuck here when Indian carriers default on paying rentals or go belly up. However, the move has remained stuck since then.

But the events of the past few days where lessors were unable to repossess 45 of Go First's 54 Airbus A320 aircraft after NCLT admitted the airline's plea for voluntary insolvency could now lead to dusting of this 2018 proposal.

Since bankruptcy law takes precedence over CTC, Go First's planes can't be re-possessed for at least six months to a year. This led to aircraft leasing watchdog Aviation Working Group (AWG) issuing a "watchlist notice" for India. It has warned this case "would have a direct and material impact on future financings and leases to Indian airlines". AWG is a non-profit entity co-chaired by Airbus and Boeing and comprises world's biggest aviation manufacturers, leasing companies and financial institutions.

Now sources say the government may finally consider passing this bill to ensure India's aviation story is not hit by leasing getting more expensive. Once a law, CTC will get weightage equal to the bankruptcy law.

"The urgency to pass CTC Bill stems from the fact that lessors are really alarmed and are seeking to repossess planes from vulnerable airlines. If more desi airline/s take the NCLT route to avoid repossession of planes, then things will get worse for serious Indian players. While a law can't be passed with retrospective effect, it can prevent more planes getting stuck here under IBC if more airline/s go into insolvency," said industry insiders.

In the 10 days since Go First filed for involuntary insolvency on May 2, lessors have filed applications to repossess 50 aircraft.

Context: India may now expedite legislating the long pending **'Cape Town Convention' (CTC) Bill** after the Go First case to assuage aircraft lessor concerns and ensure leasing planes does not get more expensive for desi carriers, say people in the know.

- The aviation ministry had in October 2018 sought comments on the **CTC Bill, 2018** to implement the treaty **India had signed in 2008** to basically assure lessors their expensive assets like aircraft and engines will not get stuck here when Indian carriers default on paying rentals or go belly up. However, the move has remained stuck since then.

Cape Town Convention

- **About**: The Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, or Cape Town Treaty is an international treaty intended to **standardize transactions involving movable property.**
  - The treaty **creates international standards for registration of contracts of sale** (including dedicated registration agencies), security interests (liens), leases and conditional sales contracts, and various legal remedies for default in financing agreements, including repossession and the effect of particular states' bankruptcy laws.
- **Four protocols to the convention are specific to four types of movable equipment**:
  - **Aircraft Equipment** (aircraft and aircraft engines; signed in 2001),
  - **Railway rolling stock** (signed in 2007),
  - **Space assets** (signed in 2012) and
  - **Mining, Agricultural and Construction Equipment** (signed in 2019).
    - The **aircraft Protocol** entered into force in 2006, while the others are not in effect.
- **Ratification**: The convention has been ratified by 77 states as well as the European Union.
  - **India has also ratified it.**

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 7

POSITIVE INDIGENIZATION LIST

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

Phased import ban on 928 defence items

Defence PSUs will not be able to import these items beyond timelines indicated

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, MAY 14

THE DEFENCE ministry on Friday approved the fourth and the largest positive indigenisation list of 928 strategically-important Line Replacement Units (LRUs), sub-systems, spares and components, including high-end materials and spares, with import substitution value worth Rs 715 crore.

The list means that defence PSUs will not be able to import these items beyond the timelines indicated against them, varying from December 2024 to December 2029.

The latest list—which is also the largest among the positive indigenisation list—includes digital map generator for the IAF's Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft, voyage data recorder for naval ships, smart multifunction display for the indigenous HTT-40 aircraft, flexible fuel tanks for the Light Combat Helicopter, gearbox and a variety of valves and tyres among others.

Indian Shipyard Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited has provided the maximum number of items in the list.

The fourth list comes amid multiple government efforts to promote self-reliance in defence while reducing imports of defence items and equipment. The list of 928 also includes raw materials, low-value critical spares components—all identified by the Defence PSUs.

As per the Defence ministry, the DPSUs will undertake indigenisation of these items through different routes under 'Make' category and in-house development through the capabilities of MSMEs and private Indian industry, thereby providing impetus to the growth in economy, enhanced investment in defence and reduction in import dependence of DPSUs.

"In addition, this will augment the design capabilities of the domestic Defence industry by involving academia and research institutions," it said.

The DPSUs will soon initiate procurement action for these notified items and the government's Srijan portal dashboard will publish the Expression of Interest (EoIs) and Request for Proposal (RFPs) for the items.

EXPLAINED

1,238 items indigenised

IN THE last two years, the defence ministry has brought in three positive indigenisation lists of 351, 107 and 780 items which will have to be procured only from indigenous sources after the timelines indicated against them. Of these 1,238 items, 310 (1st PIL - 262, 2nd PIL - 11, 3rd PIL - 37) have been indigenised, so far, the Defence ministry said.

Context: The Union Ministry of Defence (MoD) approved the fourth and the largest **positive indigenisation list** of 928 strategically-important Line Replacement Units (LRUs), sub-systems, spares and components, including high-end materials and spares, with import substitution value worth Rs 715 crore.

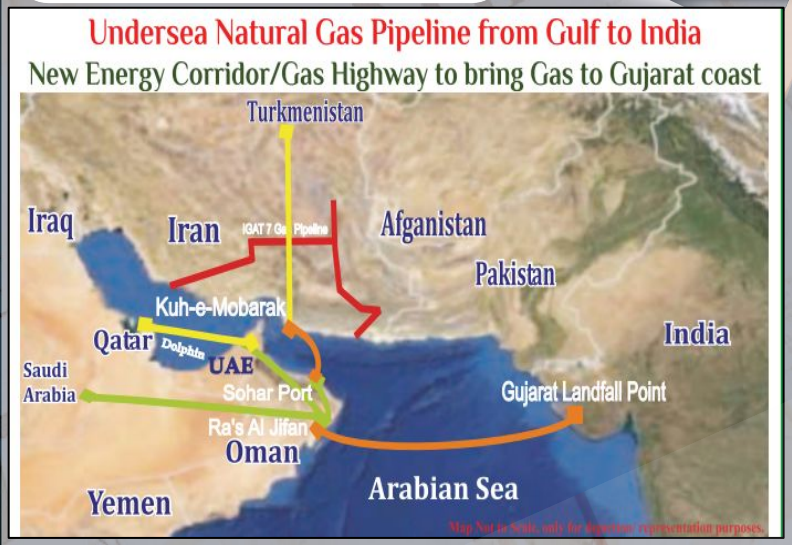
- The list means that defence PSUs **cannot import these items beyond the timelines** indicated against them, varying from December 2024 to December 2029.

Positive Indigenization List

- **About**: The positive indigenisation list essentially means that the Armed Forces - Army, Navy, and Air Force - will **only procure the listed items from domestic manufacturers.**
  - The manufacturers could be **private sector players or Defense Public Sector Undertakings(DPSUs).**
  - **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** enables the notification of a List of Weapons or Platforms that will be banned for import.
    - DAP focuses on **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in defence manufacturing and indigenization of the manufacturing prices.
- **Significance**:
  - It will boost the efforts to achieve **self-reliance** in defence manufacturing.
  - It will help in **minimising imports** by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).
  - It will give **impetus to national Research and Development** as more investment will come here.

SAGE PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE

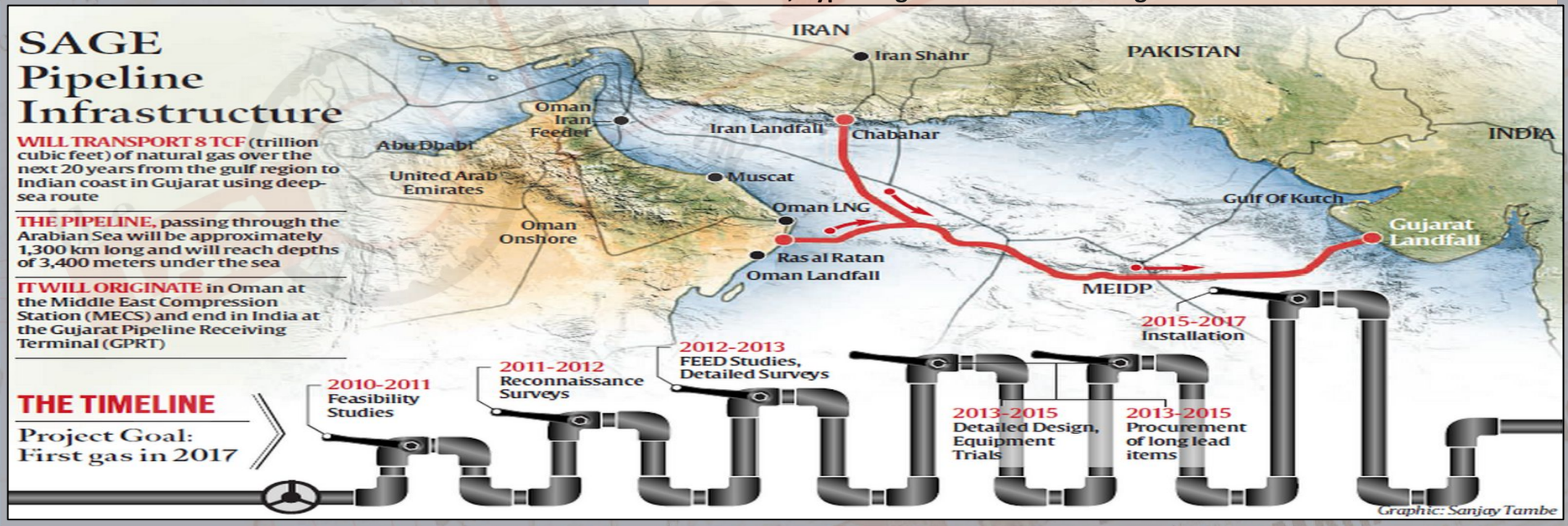
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)



Context: In quest for India's Energy Security, South Asia Gas Enterprise Pvt. Ltd. (**SAGE**) has undertaken a path-breaking project, to build the **Deepest Underwater Transnational Gas Pipeline.**

Key Points

- Also known as **"Middle East to India Deepwater Pipeline (MEIDP)",** it will connect the Gas Rich Gulf & Middle East regions to India, for the transportation of Natural Gas to secure India's Energy Needs.
- SAGE is promoted by the New Delhi based Siddho Mal Group, in Joint Venture with a **UK-based Deepwater Technology Company.**
- SAGE is working with a **Global Consortium** of some of the most reputed companies in the field of Deepwater Pipelines, to create a Multi Billion Dollar "Energy Corridor" that can transport gas **from the Middle East to India, bypassing the land route through Pakistan.**



THE HINDU

Page 11

DIRECTOR OF CBI

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Centre announces Praveen Sood as new CBI Director

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Karnataka's Director-General of Police (DGP) Praveen Sood was appointed Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday, according to an order of the Department of Personnel and Training.

The key appointment will see Mr. Sood at the helm of affairs of the investigating agency during the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Sood – who has never served with either the CBI or the Union government – was not empanelled as DGP at the Centre. His name was not among the original panel of officers shortlisted for the job.

An official said that the empanelment at the Centre will not apply in the case of the CBI Director, unlike in the case of other Central government appointments, as he or she derives powers under the Delhi Police Special Establishment Act, 1946.

"Approval of the Competent Authority is hereby conveyed to the appointment of Shri Praveen Sood,



Praveen Sood

IPS (KN:86) as Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge of the office vice Shri Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, IPS (MH:85) consequent upon completion of his tenure," the order said.

Mr. Sood's name was finalised on Saturday by a three-member panel comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

The two-year fixed tenure of the present incumbent Subodh Kumar Jaiswal is coming to an end on May 25.

Context: Karnataka Director General of Police has been **appointed the new Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation** after a selection panel cleared his name.

Director of CBI

- **About**: Director, CBI as Inspector General of Police, **Delhi Special Police Establishment,** is responsible for the administration of the organization.
- **Appointment**: Till 2014, the CBI Director was appointed on the basis of the **DSPE Act, 1946.** In 2014, the **Lokpal Act** provided a committee for the appointment of CBI Director:
  - Headed by **Prime Minister**
  - **Leader of Opposition** or Leader of the single largest opposition party
  - **Chief Justice of India** or a Supreme Court Judge.
    - **Home Ministry** sends a list of eligible candidates to DoPT.
    - Then, the DoPT prepares the final list on basis of seniority, integrity, and experience in the investigation of anti-corruption cases, and **sends it to the committee.**
- **Tenure**: Director of CBI has been provided security of **two year tenure**, by the CVC Act, 2003.
  - In November 2021, the President promulgated two ordinances to allow the Centre to **extend the tenures of the directors of the CBI** and the Enforcement Directorate from two years to up to five years.

CBI

- The CBI is the **main investigating agency** of the GOI.
- It is **not a statutory body;** it derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the **Santhanam Committee** on Prevention of Corruption.
- It operates under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.**

PIB

MAY 15

EXERCISE SAMUDRA SHAKTI

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

INDIA-INDONESIA BILATERAL EXERCISE SAMUDRA SHAKTI - 23

Context: INS **Kavaratti**, indigenously designed & built ASW Corvette, arrived at Batam, Indonesia to participate in the 4th edition of **India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise Samudra Shakti-23** from 14-19 May 23.

- An Indian Navy **Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft and Chetak helicopter** is also participating.
- The Indonesian Navy will be **represented by KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda,** CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft and AS565 Panther Helicopter.

Samudra Shakti

- **About**: Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' was started in 2018 as a **bilateral exercise.**
- **Objectives**: It aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship, **enhance mutual understanding and interoperability** in maritime operations between the two navies.
- **Other Exercises with Indonesia:**
  - **Garuda Shakti:** Military Exercise.
  - **IND-INDO CORPAT, IND-INDO BILAT**: Maritime Exercise.



DTE

MAY 15

GHARIAL (GAVIALIS GANGETICUS)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)





Context: A **gharial (Gavialis gangeticus)** has been seen in Pakistan's Punjab province for the first time after three decades and could have been from a population reintroduced on this side of the Radcliffe Line in 2017.

- A possibility is it has come from India during floods last year according to locals and stayed there in the **Satluj river.**

Key Points

- India has reintroduced the gharial in the **Harike wetland** which is 50 km from the border.
- **The Harike wetland is where the** Beas and the Satluj, two of the three eastern rivers of the Indus river system and whose waters are allotted to India according to the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, meet.
- Between 2017 and 2021, some 94 gharials were released into the Beas river in the **Amritsar, Tarn Taran Sahib and Hoshiarpur districts** under three phases of the state government's programme to bring back the species to Punjab's rivers.

Gharials

- **About**: Gharials are a type of **Asian crocodilian** distinguished by their long, thin snouts.
  - Crocodilians are a group of reptiles that includes **crocodiles, alligators, caimans, and more.**
- **India has three species of Crocodilians namely:**
  - **Gharial**: IUCN Red List- Critically Endangered
  - **Mugger crocodile**: IUCN- Vulnerable.
  - **Saltwater crocodile:** IUCN- Least Concern.
    - All the three are **listed on Appendix I of CITES** and Schedule I of the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.**
    - However, **Saltwater Crocodile populations** of Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea are included in Appendix II of CITES.
- **Habitats include**: Fresh waters of the northern India - **Chambal river, Ghagra, Gandak river and the Sone river (Bihar).**
  - Population of Gharials is a **good indicator of clean river water.**
- **Conservation Efforts:** Breeding Centres of Kukrail Gharial Rehabilitation Centre in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, National Chambal Sanctuary (Gharial Eco Park, Madhya Pradesh).

DTE

MAY 15

KODAIKANAL LAKE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



The ripple effect: A report from Kodai's beloved lake

Through community partnership, Kodaikanal's residents are working with the municipality to find real solutions for the evolving needs of its central water body

NEXT NEWS >

By Rajni George

Published: Sunday 14 May 2023

Context: Through community partnership, **Kodaikanal** residents are working with the municipality to find real solutions for the evolving needs of its **Kodaikanal Lake.**

Key Points

- A Rs 24-crore project was begun around **Kodai Lake** to develop a new municipality boathouse, fix and obtain boats, renovate parks, refurbish the pavement and plant 4,000 flowering plants around the lake.
- The **lake offers revenue** to those who conduct businesses around it, particularly those benefiting from the floating population of eight lakh tourists a month and counting.
- For a long time, the lake has been known to contain untreated sewage, yet these improvements are chiefly cosmetic.

Kodaikanal Lake

- Kodaikanal Lake, also known as Kodai Lake, is an **artificial lake** located in the Kodaikanal city in Dindigul district in **Tamil Nadu,** India.
- The lake is said to be Kodaikanal most popular **geographic landmark and tourist attraction.**
- The lake is **star-shaped,** centrally located in the town of Kodaikanal and is surrounded by lush green hills of the northwestern Palani Hills range, which is the main watershed for the lake.
- **Kurinji (Strobilanthes kunthiana),** a unique flowering plant is reported from the catchment area of the Lake.
- Recently **two new species of diatom** was found in this lake.
    - A diatom is **any member of a large group comprising several genera of algae,** specifically microalgae, found in the oceans, waterways and soils of the world.

Lake conservation plan

- The Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India has initiated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme called the **National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP)**, since June, 2001, on 70:30 cost sharing basis between the Central Government and the respective State Government.
- The objective is **restoring and conserving the polluted and degraded lakes** in urban and semi urban areas in the country.
- On the basis of studies carried out, 62 lakes **including the Kodaikanal Lake in Tamil Nadu** have been identified as polluted and degraded requiring conservation.

ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 8

Govt to Roll Out System to Block, Track Lost Phones

PTI

New Delhi: People will be able to block and track their lost or stolen mobile phones across India with the rollout of a tracking system by the government this week, a senior government official said. Technology development body Centre for Department of Telematics (CDoT) has been running the pilot of the CEIR system in some of the telecom circles, including Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and North East region, and the system is now ready for pan-India deployment, a DoT official, who did not wish to be identified, told PTI.

"CEIR system is scheduled for pan-India launch on May 17," the official said.

When contacted, chief executive officer and chairman Project Board at CDoT Rajkumar Upadhyay did not confirm the date but confirmed that the technology is ready for pan-India deployment. "The system is ready and now it will be deployed across India in this quarter. This will enable people to block and track their lost mobile phones," Upadhyay said. CDoT has been able to add features to check the use of cloned mobile phones across all telecom networks.

The government has made it mandatory to disclose IMEI of mobile devices before their sale in India.

CEIR SYSTEM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Cyber Security)

Context: People will be able to block and track their lost or stolen mobile phones across India with the rollout of **Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) system** by the government this week.

- Technology development body Centre for **Department of Telematics (CDoT)** has been running the pilot of the CEIR system in some of the telecom circles, including Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and North East region, and the system is now ready for **pan-India deployment.**

CEIR system

- **About**: CEIR is the **citizen centric portal** of Department of Telecommunications for tracing the lost/stolen mobile devices.
  - This also **facilitates for blocking of lost/stolen mobile devices** in network of all telecom operators so that lost/stolen devices can not be used in India.
- **Mechanism**: If anyone tries to use the blocked mobile phone, its **traceability** is generated.
  - Once mobile phone is found it may be **unblocked** on the portal for its normal use by the citizens.
- **CEIR will have information on the Device's :**
  - International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number.
  - Model
  - Version

Secure Top Rank with theIAShub Courses

Prelims 2023 Courses

01 Prelims Crash Course Score Enhancement Program (SEP)

02 INA Current Affairs (Prelims)

03 TACKLE - Prelims Test Series

04 Geography - Prelims Crash Course

Quality Enrichment Courses (Mains 2023)

01 Quality Enrichment Program (QEP)

02 Science of Answer Writing (SAW)

Prelim Cum Mains 2024 Courses

01 NEEV GS Foundation 2024/25

02 INA Current Affairs Pre Cum Mains - 2024

FREE Download PDF

Login to theiashub.com

- Aaj Ka Quality Enrichment (Toppers' Favourite PDF)
- News-CRUX-10 (10 News. 10 Sources. One Place)
- Monthly Editorials (The Hindu & Indian Express)
- Daily Quiz (Prelims)
- Government Schemes & Ministry Wise Year End Review
- Free Enrichment PDFs (Tailor Made Crisp Study Material)



Log On To Our Unique
Free Answer Writing Sessions with Toppers (FAST) Portal
& Start Practicing!

SCAN HERE

9560082909

t.me/theiashub

/mkyadav

www.theiashub.com

www.theiashub.com