



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

DECEMBER, 2021

Week-4

22-31 Dec, 2021

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams**

22nd DECEMBER 2021

Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)

- The Union Government launched the Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) Bid Round-VII for International Competitive Bidding.
- It is the most crucial part of the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP).
- It provides a single, uniform Licence for exploration and production of conventional as well as unconventional hydrocarbon resources.

Key Features:

- The Freedom to carve out acreages of choice under OALP bid rounds has been given to contractors.
- The revenue-sharing model is used for offering fields.
- Producers have complete marketing and pricing freedom for crude oil and natural gas produced.
- It has reduced multiple licenses and procedures for extracting different hydrocarbons even from the same well.

About HELP:

- Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) was brought in March 2016 replacing the erstwhile New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)
- It had 2 key drivers, the Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) and the National Data Repository (NDR). Both were launched in June 2017
- It aims to accelerate the Exploration and Production (E&P) activities in India.

MicroAge Experiment

- MicroAge Experiment is set to be launched to the International Space Station on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Key Highlights:

- The MicroAge Experiment will help people in living a longer and healthier life.

- As part of this experiment, human cells will be launched to space.
- Experiment will help in understanding what happens to the human cells and why.
- Experiment will be launched to space from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

Significance:

- It is known for a long time that astronauts in space tend to lose muscle rapidly. So, people have speculated if that is an accelerated ageing phenomenon.
- Astronauts at the space station had an analogous problem. Each astronaut on space station exercises at least 2.5 hours each day. Despite this fact, they lose a significant amount of muscle.
- They find it difficult to walk for a while, after they return back to earth. Thus, this experiment will be conducted to study the ageing phenomenon.

James Webb Space Telescope Mission

- NASA is all set to launch its much-awaited "James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) Mission". It will be launched on Ariane 5 rocket, operated by Arianespace.

Key Points:

- JWST has been in the works for decades. It has been jointly developed by NASA, Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and the European Space Agency (ESA).
- As NASA's flagship astrophysics mission, it is planned to succeed the Hubble Space Telescope.
- The primary mirror of JWST that is, Optical Telescope Element, comprises 18 hexagonal mirror segments. These segments are made up of gold-plated beryllium.
- **Significance:** JWST mission will enable a broad range of investigations in the fields of astronomy & cosmology, including observation of some of the most distant events and objects in space, like formation of the first galaxies and detailed atmospheric characteristics of potentially habitable exoplanets.

23rd DECEMBER 2021

Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021

- The Karnataka Government recently cleared the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021.

Key Highlights:

- This bill provides for protection of the right to freedom of religion as well as prohibition of unlawful conversion from one religion to another by force, misrepresentation, coercion, undue influence, allurement or by any fraudulent means.
- It has the provision of imprisonment from three to five years with a fine of Rs 25,000.
- For violation of provisions with respect to minors, SC/ST & women, offenders will be imprisoned from three to 10 years and a fine not less than Rs 50,000.
- As per bill, accused will be required to pay up to Rs five lakh as compensation to those who were made to convert.
- In cases of mass conversion, there is a provision of 3-10 years jail term along with a fine of up to Rs one lakh.
- It also directs the family court to declare such marriage null & void, which has happened for sole purpose of unlawful conversion, by a man of one religion with a woman of another religion, either by converting the woman before or after marriage or by converting himself before or after marriage.

Constitutional Provisions:

- The Indian Constitution allows individuals the freedom to live by their religious beliefs and practices as they interpret. Important rights regarding religion include:
 - **Article 25:** Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion
 - **Article 26:** Freedom to manage religious affairs
 - **Article 27:** Freedom to pay taxes for promotion of any particular religion

- **Article 28:** Freedom to attend religious instruction or worship in certain educational institutions

OECD Model on Global Minimum Tax

- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released detailed rules for the implementation of a far-reaching global tax deal.
- It aims at subjecting multinational enterprises (MNEs) to a 15% minimum tax from 2023.

Key Points:

- GMT is designed to address the low effective tax rates paid by some of the world's largest corporations, particularly Big Tech giants like Apple, Alphabet, and Facebook.
- These corporations generally use complicated webs of subsidiaries to syphon revenues out of major markets and into low-tax jurisdictions like Ireland, the British Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, or Panama.
- GMT aims to limit the chances for Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) to engage in profit shifting by requiring them to pay at least some of their taxes in the countries where they operate.
- **Timeline:** Countries must enact the agreement into law by 2022 in order for it to take effect in 2023.

Implementation:

- In terms of its implementation, this tax will be applicable to companies' overseas profits. This implies that if a global minimum is applied, governments can still set the local corporate tax rate as per their choice
- In case a company pays lower rates in a particular country, their home governments can "top-up" their taxes to the agreed minimum rate, eliminating the advantage of shifting profits to a tax haven

Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicle

- The first batch of next-generation Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicles (AERV), was formally inducted into the Indian Army.

Key Points:

- It is indigenously designed and developed by DRDO and manufactured by the Pune unit of Bharat Electronics Limited.
- It is a versatile BMP-IIK amphibious Infantry Combat Vehicle (ICV) fitted with instruments for water reconnaissance, land reconnaissance, navigation and data backup.
- It can navigate terrain using Military Grid Coordinate System, measure and plot underwater beds and water currents of rivers or canals, store data from various instruments on Control Console for further analysis and decision-making.
- It is designed to meet the tactical and combat requirements of Military Engineers for carrying out terrestrial and underwater surveys in hostile terrains.
- It provides Combat Engineering Support for offensive & defensive operations in plains, desert and riverine terrains.

24th DECEMBER 2021

Tokenisation

- Recently, Digital payment firms and merchant bodies petitioned to extend the deadline for implementation of the new card-on-file tokenization (CoF).
- The RBI mandate on tokenisation kicks in from January 1, 2022

Key Points:

- Tokenization means replacement of actual card details with an alternate code dubbed as "token".
- The token will be unique for a combination of card, token requestor and device. This token is used to do card transactions in contactless mode at point-of-sale terminals, code payments and quick response.
- The cardholder can get the card tokenized by initiating a request on the app provided by the token

requestor. It is restricted to mobile phones and/or tablets only.

NOTE:

Card-on-File (CoF) transaction, cardholder authorises a merchant to store his/her Mastercard or Visa payment details. The cardholder then authorizes the same merchant to bill the stored Mastercard or Visa account.

Resolution 2593 on Afghan Assistance

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) passed a resolution to permit exemptions in sanctions against the Taliban.

Features of the resolution

- The adoption of Resolution 2593 coincided with the departure of the last US troops from Afghanistan on 30 August, fulfilling Washington's commitment that all its troops would exit Afghanistan by 31 August.
- The UNSC resolution was put forward by the US, the UK, and France and adopted after 13 council members voted in favour, with permanent members Russia and China abstaining.
- It covers urgent humanitarian assistance and other activities, to support basic human needs in Afghanistan.
- It will primarily benefit poor or at-risk populations or otherwise relieve human suffering.

About UNSC resolution 2615

- The UNSC resolution mandates a review of the exemptions every six months. It also encourages the assistance providers to try and ensure that benefits do not flow to entities designated on 1988 Sanctions List.
- It further requests an Emergency Relief Coordinator to brief UNSC every six months on the delivery of assistance.

25th DECEMBER 2021

Mediation Bill, 2021

- The Mediation Bill, 2021 introduced in Rajya Sabha.
- This bill institutionalized the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism of pre-litigation mediation in matters of civil or commercial dispute before parties approach a court or a tribunal.
- The Bill seeks to promote mediation (including online mediation), and provide for enforcement of settlement agreements resulting from mediation.

Key features of the Bill:

- **Mediation Council of India:** The Bill provides for the establishment of the Mediation Council of India.
- **Section 6 of the Bill:** says that any party before filing any suit or proceedings of civil or commercial nature in any court shall take steps to settle the dispute by pre-litigation mediation in accordance with the provisions of the proposed law.
- **Objectives:** The objectives of the Council would be to promote mediation and to develop India as a robust centre for domestic and international mediation, make regulations for registration of mediators, grade mediation service providers, specify criteria for recognition of mediation institutes and mediation service providers.
- **Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996:** The Bill subsumes conciliation under Part III of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, and uses “conciliation” and “mediation” interchangeably.
- **Deadline:** The Bill sets a period of 180 days for completing the mediation process which is further extendable to a maximum period of 180 days with the mutual consent of the parties.
- **Binding on the parties:** The mediated settlement agreement resulting from mediation which will be final and binding and will be enforceable in accordance with the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908,

in the same manner as if it were a judgment or decree of a Court.

- **Conduct of community mediation:** with consent of parties for disputes which are likely to affect peace, harmony and tranquility amongst the residents or families of any area or locality.

Anti-Defection Law (10th Schedule)

- **Context:** Meghalaya Speaker rejected Congress' plea to disqualify its 12 MLAs who deserted the party and joined TMC and declared their move as 'valid' under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution.

Key Points:

- The 10th Schedule of the Constitution contains provisions relating to disqualification on the ground of defection.
- It was included under the 52nd Constitution Amendment Act, also called Anti Defection Act (1985).

About Anti-Defection Law

- The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1985 by the 52nd Amendment Act.
- It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature based on a petition by any other member of the House.
- A legislator is deemed to have defected if he either voluntarily gives up the membership of his party or disobeys the directives of the party leadership on a vote. This implies that a legislator defying (abstaining or voting against) the party whip on any issue can lose his membership of the House.
- The law applies to both Parliament and state assemblies.

Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021' recently passed in Parliament, in order to link Aadhaar with electoral rolls.

Key Highlights:

- This Bill will allow electoral registration officers to ask for the Aadhaar number of people who want to register as voters.
- It also seeks to allow electoral registration officers to ask for Aadhaar numbers from persons who have already been included in the electoral roll. This will be done to authenticate the entries in the electoral roll as well as to identify registration of names of the same person in the electoral roll of more than one constituency.
- Bill also makes it clear that, “no application will be denied for inclusion of name in the electoral roll and no entries will be deleted for inability of individuals in the electoral roll, to intimate Aadhaar number due to such sufficient cause.
- Such people will be allowed to furnish other alternative documents as may be prescribed.

Various amendments to Representation of People Act, 1950

- Section 23 will be amended to allow linking of the roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem.
- Amendment to Section 14 will allow four “qualifying” dates for eligible people to register as voters. As of now, January 1 of every year is the sole qualifying date.
- Amendment to Section 20 and Section 60 will allow the elections to become gender-neutral for service voters.

26th DECEMBER 2021

ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) Funds

- The asset size of ESG funds has ballooned nearly five times to Rs 12,300 crore over the last couple of years.
- Environment, social responsibility, and corporate governance have of late emerged as key themes for investors in India.

- The demand and growth for ESG funds in Asia, especially in India, has been overwhelming, it is 32%.

About ESG Fund:

- They are used synonymously with sustainable and socially responsible investing.
- While selecting a stock for investment, an ESG fund shortlists companies that score high on environment, social responsibility, and corporate governance, and then looks at financial factors.
- With the overall increase in awareness, and with regulations moving in this direction, investors are re-evaluating traditional approaches and considering the impact of their decisions on the planet.
- The key difference between the ESG funds and other funds is 'conscience' i.e the ESG fund focuses on companies with environment-friendly practices, ethical business practices and an employee-friendly record.
- The fund is regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Abhyas

- DRDO successfully conducts flight-test of indigenously developed High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target Abhyas.

Key Points:

- Abhyas was first successfully tested in 2019.
- It offers a realistic threat scenario for the practice of weapon systems.
- It is designed for autonomous flying with the help of an autopilot
- It is developed at Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE).
- It has RCS, Visual, and IR augmentation systems required for weapon practice.
- It has a high subsonic speed trajectory at a very low altitude with long endurance.
- Initial speed by two boosters and turbojet engine for sustained high subsonic speed.

'Pralay' Missile

- India successfully test fired the short-range, surface-to-surface guided ballistic missile 'Pralay'.
- It is developed by DRDO and is based on the Prithvi Defense Vehicle from the Indian ballistic missile programme.

Key Features:

- It is a 150-500 km short-range, surface-to-surface missile with a payload capacity of 500-1,000 kg.
- **Characteristics:** The advanced missile has been developed in a way to be able to defeat interceptor missiles.
- It has the ability to change its path after covering a certain range midair.
- The Missile is powered with a solid propellant rocket motor and many new technologies.
- Capable of being launched from a mobile launcher, it has the latest navigation system and integrated avionics, and will be part of the Artillery Corps of the Army.

NOTE:

Ballistic missile follows a ballistic trajectory for delivering one or more warheads on a predetermined target. Ballistic weapons are guided only during relatively brief periods. Short-range ballistic missiles remain in Earth's atmosphere.

27th DECEMBER 2021

Good Governance Index 2021

- The Union Minister of Home Affairs released the Good Governance Index 2021 on Good Governance (25th December) in New Delhi.

Key Points:

- Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa have topped the list.
- Gujarat registered an increase of 12% while Goa registered around 25% increase on indicators recorded by these states as compared to 2019.

- Uttar Pradesh recorded an incremental growth of around 9% as compared to 2019. Uttar Pradesh has secured the top position in the commerce & industry sector.
- Uttar Pradesh has also improved in social welfare & development and judiciary & public safety sectors, besides in citizen-centric governance parameters.

About Good Governance Index:

- **Prepared by:** Department of Administration Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- **Indicators:** Good Governance Index(GGI 2021) Framework covered ten sectors and 58 indicators. The sectors of GGI 2020-21 are:
 - Agriculture and Allied Sectors
 - Commerce & Industries
 - Human Resource Development
 - Public Health
 - Public Infrastructure & Utilities
 - Economic Governance
 - Social Welfare & Development
 - Judicial & Public Security
 - Environment
 - Citizen-Centric Governance.
- The GGI 2020-21 categorizes States and UTs into four categories, i.e., (i) Other States – Group A; (ii) Other States – Group B; (iii) North-East and Hill States; and (iv) Union Territories.

NITI Aayog's Vernacular Innovation Program(VIP)

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and NITI Aayog have launched the Vernacular Innovation Program(VIP). It will help in overcoming the barriers of language and empower innovators in the farthest areas of the country.

Key points:

- **Aim:** It will enable innovators and entrepreneurs in India to have access to the innovation ecosystem in 22 scheduled languages.

- **Components:**

- Training a Vernacular Task Force (VTF) in each of the 22 scheduled languages.
- VTF comprises vernacular language teachers, subject experts, technical writers, and the leadership of regional Atal Incubation Centers (AICs).
- The train-the-trainer program in collaboration with the Design Department of IIT Delhi to coach the VTF in design thinking and entrepreneurship and the adaptation of these subjects in the 22 languages and cultures.

Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya Jayanti

- The Prime Minister of India has paid tributes to Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya on his Jayanti.

Key Points:

- He was born in Allahabad and took early education under the 'pathshala' system, and was proficient in Sanskrit.
- In 1879, he graduated from the Muir Central College (today's Allahabad University) and started working as a teacher at a local high school.
- He joined the Indian National Congress at its Calcutta session in 1886. He rose up the ranks, and became president four times — in 1909 (Lahore), in 1918 (Delhi), in 1930 (Delhi), and in 1932 (Calcutta).
- He was a scholar and thinker who worked towards spreading education among citizens and supported the nationalization of railways.
- He helped establish the Hindu Mahasabha ("Great Society of Hindus") in 1906, which brought diverse local Hindu nationalist movements together.
- He is known for founding the Banaras Hindu University in 1916 and for becoming one of the torchbearers of the freedom struggle acting as a bridge between the Moderates and the Extremists in the Congress.

28th DECEMBER 2021

Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Act

- The Maharashtra Government passed the Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Act.
- Maharashtra became the second state in India after Andhra Pradesh to approve death penalty for heinous offences of rape and gangrape.

Key Highlights:

- The Act has amended the existing criminal laws to include death penalty as punishment in cases of rape and gangrape "in cases which have the characteristic of offence is heinous in nature and where adequate conclusive evidence is there and the circumstances warrant exemplary punishment, with death".
- The existing law on rape had provisions for death penalty only in cases of repeated offences.
- The Act has also enhanced fines and punishment for offences of sexual violence against women and minors. Under the POCSO Act too, punishment for penetrative sexual assault in heinous cases has been enhanced to death penalty.
- The Act requires the trial in these cases to be conducted on a day-to-day basis and completed within 30 working days from the date of filing of the chargesheet.
- It also requires for the investigation to be completed within a month of the FIR which can be extended by another month by the concerned Special Inspector General of Police or Commissioner of Police only for specific reasons given in writing.
- In cases of grievous hurt caused due to acid attacks under Section 326A, the punishment has been enhanced to a minimum of 15 years which can be extended to the remainder of the natural life of the perpetrator along with fine.

- In cases of voluntarily throwing acid or attempting to throw it, punishment under section 326B has been enhanced to a minimum of seven years and a maximum of ten years.
- The fine amount in these cases will be towards medical expenses including plastic surgery and face reconstruction, the Act states.

Kaavi Art

- **Context:** The Prime Minister of India praised a Goan artist's efforts to revive the centuries-old Kaavi art form.

Key Points:

- Kaavi Art is a form of painting on the inner and outer walls of sacred spaces.
- It covers the ancient history of India in itself. Actually, 'Kaava' means red soil. In ancient times, red clay was used in this art.
- It is found in the Konkan region of the country, especially in temples of Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- During the Portuguese rule in Goa, people who migrated from there introduced the people of other states to this wonderful painting form.

Vaccination for children above 15 years

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India has announced that children between 15-18 years will get COVID-19 vaccines from January 3, 2022.

Key Highlights:

- He also announced that the government has decided to start a precautionary dose of COVID vaccine for Healthcare and Frontline Workers starting from January 10, 2022.
- All citizens above 60 years of age with co-morbidities will also have the option of taking the precautionary dose of the vaccine on the advice of their doctor from

January 10, 2022.

NOTE:

- Omicron is placed in the most-troubling category of COVID-19 variants, along with the globally-dominant Delta plus its weaker rivals Alpha, Beta and Gamma.
- This variant has a large number of mutations. Some of them are cause for serious concern because they may allow the new variant to evade immunity obtained from a past infection or via a vaccine.

29th DECEMBER 2021

NITI Aayog's 'Healthy States, Progressive India' report

- Recently, NITI Aayog released the fourth edition of the State Health Index for 2019–20 in the report titled "Healthy States, Progressive India".
- The health index has been developed by NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank, in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Health index is based on 23 health indicators with major weightage given to mortality rate, total fertility rate, and sex ratio.
- The ranking was done under three categories: larger states, smaller states and Union territories (UTs) to ensure comparison among similar entities.

Key Findings:

- In overall performance, Kerala followed by Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, are top performers.
- Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have shown no improvement in health status.
- Among the Union Territories (UTs), Chandigarh ranked first in overall performance, while Dadra and Nagar Haveli have shown significant improvement.

- Among the smaller states, Mizoram ranked first in overall performance, while Tripura and Manipur were the top two states in terms of incremental performance.

'India Out' campaign of Maldives

- Ever since Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih was elected to office, an 'India Out' campaign has cropped up within the country.

Key Highlights

- 'India Out' campaign in Maldives had started sometime last year as on-ground protests in the Maldives and later widely spread across social media platforms under the same hashtag.
- It is not related to people-to-people conflict (Indian diaspora) but is discontent on close relationship between Maldivian government & India.
- Most recently, the campaign gained momentum when former President Abdulla Yameen started leading it, after the Supreme Court set him free in November 2021 by overturning his conviction in a money-laundering case.

India–Maldives Relations

- India and Maldives share a maritime border. Relations between both the countries have been friendly as well as close in strategic, economic and military cooperation.
- India contributes to maintaining security in Maldives. India and Maldives established their diplomatic relations, after Maldives got freedom from British rule in 1966. India was among nations to recognise Maldives' independence first.

Himachal Pradesh's Renukaji Dam project

- The Prime Minister of India laid the foundation of Renukaji Dam Project in Himachal Pradesh.

Key Points:

- Renukaji Dam is a Rs 6,700-crore project on the Giri river in Sirmour district.
- The project also involves the generation of 40 MW of power during peak flow to be executed by Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd (HPPCL).
- The project would increase the river flow about 110 per cent which will be used to meet the drinking water needs of Delhi and the other Yamuna basin states up to some extent in the lean period.
- The share of stored water among the states will be as follows, Haryana-47.8 per cent; Uttar Pradesh/Uttarakhand-33.65 per cent; Himachal-3.15 per cent; Rajasthan-9.3 per cent and NCT of Delhi: 6.04 per cent.

30th DECEMBER 2021

NASA's Psyche Mission

- NASA is going to launch its ambitious 'Psyche mission' in August 2022. It will be the first launch to explore a giant metal asteroid known as Psyche in the main asteroid belt.
- The asteroid Psyche is in between Mars & Jupiter and is orbiting the Sun. The Psyche mission is one among the two missions of NASA to explore the early Solar System.
- The Lucy mission is another mission to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids in order to study the early Solar System.

About NASA's Psyche mission

- The Psyche mission is a journey to a unique metal asteroid orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
- Asteroid Psyche appears to be the exposed nickel-iron core of an early planet, one of the building blocks of our solar system.
- The mission is led by Arizona State University. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory is responsible for mission management, operations and navigation.

- The spacecraft's solar-electric propulsion chassis will be built by Maxar (formerly SSL) with a payload that includes an imager, magnetometer, and a gamma-ray spectrometer.

Objectives:

- Understand how planets and other bodies separated into layers such as cores, mantles, and crusts.
- Examine an asteroid made of metal.
- Explore early eras of solar system

Ziyuan-1 02E Satellite

- China has launched a new civilian high-resolution mapping satellite 'Ziyuan-1 02E' from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi province.
- The satellite was launched for exploring natural resources. It also launched a smaller satellite, which will be used for teaching geography at a school in Beijing.

Key Points:

- The satellite, called Ziyuan-1 02E, has been equipped with a high-resolution infrared camera, a long-wavelength infrared camera and a multi-spectrum imager.
- The satellite is designed for an eight-year lifespan in Earth orbit. It was launched with the objective of mapping the Earth's surface in high resolution to explore the natural resources.
- Data from satellites will be used to alert for environmental disasters and monitor water quality.

Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award

- Viral Sudhirbhai Desai who is popularly known as the Greenman or green man of Gujarat has been honored with the Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award 2021.

Key Highlights:

- Viral Desai is popularly known as Greenman, because of his love for the environment.

- 28 prominent personalities from 11 countries, namely the United Kingdom, the United States, France, New Zealand, and Malaysia, were felicitated with the prestigious awards.

About Award:

- Global Environmental Citizen Award is an environmental award, established by "Harvard Medical School Centre for Health and Global Environment". It is bestowed annually to an individual who is working to restore and protect the global environment.

31st DECEMBER 2021

Apretude: FDA approved injection to prevent HIV

- The Food and Drug Administration approved Apretude (cabotegravir extended-release injectable suspension) for reducing the risk of acquiring HIV.

Key Points:

- It can be use in at-risk adults and adolescents weighing at least 35 kilograms (77 pounds) for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to reduce the risk of sexually acquired HIV.
- Apretude is given first as two initiation injections administered one month apart, and then every two months thereafter.
- Patients can either start their treatment with Apretude or take oral cabotegravir (Vocabria) for four weeks to assess how well they tolerate the drug.

Oral formulation 'Vocabria'

- HIV patients will be given to take an oral formulation of cabotegravir, known as Vocabria, daily for four weeks before starting the injections, in order to see how well they tolerate this drug.
- Patients are required to be tested for HIV and confirmed negative before starting Apretude.
- They are also required to be confirmed negative before each injection in order to avoid the risk of developing drug-resistant HIV.

Apatani Textile Product

- **Context:** An application seeking a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the Arunachal Pradesh Apatani textile product has been filed.

Key Points:

- The Apatani weave comes from the Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh living at Ziro, the headquarters of Lower Subansiri district.
- The woven fabric of this tribe is known for its geometric and zigzag patterns and also for its angular designs.
- The Apatani community weaves its own textiles for various occasions, including rituals and cultural festivals.
- The tribe predominantly weaves shawls known as jig-Jiro and jilan or jackets called supuntarii. The traditional handloom of this tribe is a type of loin loom, which is called Chichin and is similar to the traditional handloom of the Nyishi tribe.

Bina-Panki Multi Product Pipeline Project

- **Context:** The Multi Product pipeline from Bina Refinery (MP) to POL Terminal at Panki, Kanpur (UP) was dedicated to the nation by the PM Narendra Modi.

Key Points:

- Bina (MP)-Panki (UP) Multiproduct Pipeline Project is a 356 Km long project which has a capacity of around 3.45 million metric tonnes per annum.
- This Project also includes augmentation of Tankage capacity and construction of Rail Loading Gantry at Panki POL Terminal.
- The total cost of the project is Rs.1524 crore (Rs. 1227 crore in UP and Rs. 297 crores in MP).
- **It will cover 5 districts of UP:** Lalitpur, Jhansi, Jalaun, Kanpur Dehat and Kanpur Nagar, and 2 of MP: Sagar and Tikamgarh.
- It will provide for safe and efficient evacuation of products from Bina Refinery and also improve the availability of products in Eastern U.P, Central U.P., Northern Bihar and Southern Uttarakhand.

