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IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS VOL 36

- NATIONAL LAND MONETISATION CORPORATION
- UNCITRAL
- FIRE READY FORMULA
- ONE OCEAN SUMMIT
- ACCELERATE VIGYAN SCHEME
- PM e-VIDYA SCHEME
- HELIOSWARM MISSION
- MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE INSTITUTION
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- MEDARAM JATARA FESTIVAL



SCAN TO EXPLORE





IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR PRELIMS VOL - 36

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INDIAN POLITY**1) NATIONAL LAND MONETISATION CORPORATION**

IN NEWS: - The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC).

ABOUT NATIONAL LAND MONETISATION CORPORATION

- NLMC will undertake surplus land asset monetisation as an agency function, and assist and provide technical advice to the Centre in this regard.
- Asset Monetisation is the process of creating new sources of revenue for the government and its entities by unlocking the economic value of unutilised or underutilised public assets.
- NLMC has been announced with an initial authorized share capital of Rs 5000 crore and paid-up share capital of Rs 150 crore.
- The Board of Directors of NLMC will comprise senior Central Government officers and eminent experts to enable professional operations and management of the company.
- The Chairman, non-Government Directors of the NLMC will be appointed through a merit-based selection process.
- NLMC will be set up under the administrative jurisdiction of the finance ministry.
- NLMC will hire professionals from the private sector just as in the case of similar specialised government companies like the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and Invest India.
- This will enable productive utilization of under-utilized assets to trigger private sector investments, new economic activities, boost local economy and generate financial resources for economic and social infrastructure.

- NLMC is also expected to own, hold, manage and monetize surplus land and building assets of CPSEs under closure and the surplus non-core land assets of Government owned CPSEs under strategic disinvestment.
- This will speed up the closure process of CPSEs and smoothen the strategic disinvestment process of Government owned CPSEs.
- NLMC will undertake monetization of surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other Government agencies. CPSEs are those companies in which the direct holding of the Central Government or other CPSEs is 51% or more.
- NLMC will also advise and support other Government entities (including CPSEs) in identifying their surplus non-core assets and monetizing them in a professional and efficient manner to generate maximum value realization.
- NLMC will act as a repository of best practices in land monetization, assist and provide technical advice to the Government in implementation of asset monetization programmes.

PRACTICE QUESTION

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Consider the following statements

1. National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC) will be set up under the Ministry of Human Resource Development
2. NLMC will undertake surplus land asset monetisation

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - b

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**2) UNCITRAL**

IN NEWS:- The Economic Survey 2021-22 has highlighted the need for a “standardised framework for cross-border insolvency” that will help lenders of debt-ridden companies to claim and recover the corporations’ assets and liabilities on foreign shores also. The survey mentioned the report of the Insolvency Law Committee, which had recommended the adoption of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) with certain modifications to bring the foreign assets under the insolvency process.

ABOUT UNCITRAL

- The UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) is a subsidiary body of the U.N. General Assembly responsible for helping to facilitate international trade and investment.
- Established by the UNGA in 1966, UNCITRAL’s official mandate is “to promote the progressive harmonization and unification of international trade law” through conventions, model laws, and other instruments that address key areas of commerce, from dispute resolution to the procurement and sale of goods.
- UNCITRAL carries out its work at annual sessions held alternately in New York City and Vienna, where it is headquartered.
- The Tribunal constituted in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules 1976 is seated at the Hague, Netherlands, and proceedings are administered by the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY**3) FIRE READY FORMULA**

IN NEWS: - The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has called on global governments to adopt a new 'Fire Ready Formula,' as it warned that incidences of wildfires would rise in the future.

ABOUT FIRE READY FORMULA

- The new formula envisages that 66 per cent of spending be devoted to planning, prevention, preparedness and recovery. The remaining 34 per cent can be spent on response.
- Integrated wildfire management is key to adapting to current and future changes in global wildfire risk.
- There is a need to invest more in fire risk reduction, work with local communities and strengthen global commitment to fight climate change.
- Achieving and sustaining adaptive land and fire management requires a combination of policies, a legal framework and incentives that encourage appropriate land and fire use.

New "Fire Ready Formula" focuses on Planning and Prevention		
Serial No	Budget item	Percentage share of the total on wildfire management recommended
1	Planning	1 %
2	Prevention	32 %
3	Preparedness	13 %
4	Response	34 %
5	Recovery	20 %

ABOUT United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

- UNEP is responsible for coordinating responses to environmental issues within the United Nations system.
- It was established by Maurice Strong, its first director, after the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in June 1972.
- Its mandate is to provide leadership, deliver science and develop solutions on a wide range of issues, including climate change, the management of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and green economic development.
- UNEP hosts the secretariats of several multilateral environmental agreements and research bodies, including:
 1. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),
 2. Minamata Convention on Mercury,
 3. Convention on Migratory Species and
 4. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- In 1988, the World Meteorological Organization and UNEP established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- UNEP is also one of several Implementing Agencies for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

4) ONE OCEAN SUMMIT

IN NEWS:- The Prime Minister addressed the high-level segment of the One Ocean Summit. The summit was organised by France in Brest, France in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank.

ABOUT ONE OCEAN SUMMIT

- The goal of the One Ocean Summit is to raise the collective level of ambition of the international community on marine issues.
- Commitments will be made towards combating illegal fishing, decarbonising shipping and reducing plastic pollution.
- Will also focus on efforts to improve governance of the high seas and coordinating international scientific research.

INDIA'S STAND AT ONE OCEAN SUMMIT

- India supports the French initiative of a "High Ambition Coalition on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction".
- The coalition gathers parties which are committed, at the highest political level, to achieve an ambitious outcome of the ongoing negotiations on a Treaty of the High Seas ("the implementing agreement on Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction"), under the auspices of the United Nations.
- The "BBNJ Treaty", also known as the "Treaty of the High Seas", is an international agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine

biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, currently under negotiation at the United Nations.

- This new instrument is being developed within the framework of the United Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the main international agreement governing human activities at sea.
- India will be happy to join France in launching a global initiative on single use plastics.



SCHEMES**5) ACCELERATE VIGYAN SCHEME**

IN NEWS:- Recently, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), has invited applications under 'ABHYAAS', a program of 'Accelerate Vigyan' scheme, for summer season.

ABOUT ACCELERATE VIGYAN SCHEME

- Accelerate Vigyan (AV) strives to provide a big push to high-end scientific research and prepare scientific manpower which can venture into research careers and knowledge-based economy.
- The primary objective of this scheme is to give more thrust on encouraging high-end scientific research and preparing scientific manpower, which can lead to research careers and knowledge-based economy.
- AV will initiate and strengthen mechanisms of identifying research potential, mentoring, training and hands-on workshop on a national scale.
- The primary objective of this inter-ministerial scheme is to give more thrust on encouraging high-end scientific research and preparing scientific manpower, which can lead to research careers and knowledge-based economy.
- The aim is to expand the research base in the country, with three broad goals –
 - Consolidation / aggregation of all scientific training programs,
 - Initiating High-end Orientation Workshops and
 - Creating opportunities for Research Internships.
- AV will initiate and strengthen mechanisms of identifying research potential, mentoring, training and hands-on workshop on a national scale.

- The scheme also seeks to garner the social responsibility of the scientific community in the country.

6) PM e-VIDYA SCHEME

IN NEWS: - The PM eVidya scheme was launched under the One Nation One Digital Platform with the objective of protecting the education of children during the Covid-19 pandemic.

ABOUT PM e-VIDYA SCHEME

- The scheme was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on May 18 2020. On 31st May 2020, the top 100 universities were permitted to automatically start online courses via the PM eVidya scheme.
- The finance minister also mentioned that Sawyam Prabha DTH channel would support students who do not have any access to the internet.
- Along with the 'Diksha', an e-content and QR embedded book for all classes, the PM eVidya scheme also have the following programs:
- For those studying in the 12th grade a TV channel called 12th One Class was launched.
- The government would also ensure that visually and hearing impaired students are accommodated by making specialized e-content and radio broadcasts.
- The government carried out these efforts so that there would be no impact on the education of students when the countrywide lockdown was imposed.
- A channel dedicated to education on TV will help students who do not have access to the Internet.
- It will be a one-stop solution for all learning needs of students.
- Special radio podcast will be arranged for blind and hearing impaired students.

- Students can study through e-content at the comfort of their homes.
- A new national curriculum and educational framework for schools, early childhood, and teachers will be introduced that is integrated with global and 21st-century skills requirements.
- A special type of e-content will be provided for visually and hearing-impaired students.
- Experts will conduct live interactive sessions from home via Skype.
- It has made private DTH operators like Tata Sky and Airtel a 2-year education video.
- Mental health and emotional well-being will launch the channel called 'Manodarpan' for students, teachers, and families.
- Swayam Prabha DTH channel will launch for all classrooms so that the student who does not have access to the internet can study.
- The e-school will include 200 new textbooks.
- The initiation will be initiated for states and union territories with e-content and QR coded energetic textbooks for all grades, known as 'One Nation One Digital Platform'.
- The top hundred universities allowed starting online classes.
- The use of radio, community radio and podcasts for education has been suggested by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- There will be a single-dedicated channel per class from class 1 to 12 which will be known as 'one class, one channel'.
- To ensure that the National Founders Literacy and Numeris Mission, each child receives learning levels and results in grade 5 by December 2020.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

7) HELIOSWARM MISSION

IN NEWS: - NASA has selected two science missions – the Multi-slit Solar Explorer (MUSE) and HelioSwarm – to help improve our understanding of the dynamics of the Sun, the Sun-Earth connection, and the constantly changing space environment. These missions will provide deeper insights into our universe and offer critical information to help protect astronauts, satellites, and communications signals such as GPS.

ABOUT HELIOSWARM MISSION

- The HelioSwarm mission is a constellation or “swarm” of nine spacecraft that will capture the first multiscale in-space measurements of fluctuations in the magnetic field and motions of the solar wind known as solar wind turbulence.
- The Sun’s outermost atmospheric layer, the heliosphere, encompasses an enormous region of the solar system.
- Solar winds spread through the heliosphere, and their interactions with planetary magnetospheres and disruptions such as coronal mass ejections affect their turbulence.

ABOUT MUSE MISSION

- The MUSE mission will help scientists understand the forces driving the heating of the Sun’s corona and the eruptions in that outermost region that are at the foundation of space weather.
- The mission will offer deeper insight into the physics of the solar atmosphere by using a powerful instrument known as a multi-slit spectrometer to observe the Sun’s extreme ultraviolet radiation and obtain

the highest resolution images ever captured of the solar transition region and the corona.

INDIAN ECONOMY

8) MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE INSTITUTION

IN NEWS:- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) noted that the National Stock Exchange (NSE), the country's largest equities and derivatives exchange is a systemically important market infrastructure institution (MII).

ABOUT MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE INSTITUTION

- Stock exchanges, depositories and clearing houses are all Market Infrastructure Institutions and constitute a key part of the nation's vital economic infrastructure.
- According to a panel set up (in 2010) under the chairmanship of former Reserve Bank of India Governor Bimal Jalan, the term 'market infrastructure' denotes such fundamental facilities and systems serving this capital market.
- The primary purpose of the securities /capital market is to enable allocation/reallocation of capital/financial resources.
- MIIs helps in optimal use of money in the economy and fostered economic development.
- They constitute the nucleus of the capital allocation system and are indispensable for economic growth and have a net positive effect on society like any other infrastructure institution.

ABOUT SEBI

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India was established on 12th April, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- Major Function:
 - To protect the interests of investors in securities.
 - To regulate the securities market.

9) ANGADIA SYSTEM

IN NEWS:- An FIR has been registered against three Mumbai Police officials for allegedly threatening Angadias.

ABOUT ANGADIA SYSTEM

- The Angadia system is a century-old parallel banking system in the country where traders send cash generally from one state to another through a person called Angadia that stands for courier.
- It is by and large used in the jewellery business with Mumbai – Surat being the most popular route as they are two ends of the diamond trade.
- The cash involved is huge and it is the responsibility of the Angadia to transfer cash from one state to another for which they charge a nominal fee.
- Generally, it is the Gujarati, Marwari and Malbari community that are involved in the business.
- The Angadia system works completely on trust.
- While the Angadia system per se is legal, there hangs a cloud over the activity as it is suspected that a lot of times it is used to transfer unaccounted money.
- There have been suspicions that it is also used for transfer of black money like the hawala transaction which is generally used across countries.

ART AND CULTURE

10) LACHIT BORPHUKAN

IN NEWS: - President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the year-long celebration of the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Borphukan, commander of the Ahom forces and an icon of Assamese nationalism.

ABOUT LACHIT BORPHUKAN

- He was a commander in the Ahom kingdom.
- Known for his leadership in the 1671 Battle of Saraighat that thwarted a drawn-out attempt by Mughal forces under the command of Ramsingh I to take over Ahom kingdom.
- The battle of Saraighat was fought on the banks of the Brahmaputra in Guwahati.
- The National Defence Academy (NDA), ever since 1999 has been conferring the best passing out cadet with the Lachit Borphukan gold medal.
- During the last phase of the Battle of Saraighat 1671, when the Mughals attacked the Assamese forces through the river in Saraighat, many Assamese soldiers began losing their will to fight. It was Lachit's clarion call to all the soldiers that made them fight till their last breath, ultimately resulting in the defeat of the Mughals.

11) MEDARAM JATARA FESTIVAL

IN NEWS: - The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned Rs 2.26 Crores for various activities pertaining to Medaram Jathara 2022.

ABOUT MEDARAM JATARA FESTIVAL

- Medaram Jatara is the second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela, celebrated by the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana- the Koya tribe for four days.
- Medaram Jatara is also known as Sammakka Saralamma Jatara.
- It is a tribal festival honoring the fight of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.
- It is celebrated in the state of Telangana. The Jatra begins at Medaram in Tadvai Mandal in Warangal district.
- Medaram is a remote place in the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, a part of Dandakaranya, the largest surviving forest belt in the region.
- It is celebrated once in two years in the month of “Magha” (February) on the full moon day.
- People offer bangaram/gold (jaggery) of a quantity equal to their weight to the goddesses and take holy bath in Jampanna Vagu, a tributary to River Godavari.
- It was declared a State Festival in 1996.

ABOUT KOYA TRIBE

- Koya tribe is the largest adivasi tribe of Telangana and listed as Scheduled Tribe in Telangana.
- The community is spread across Telugu speaking states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- Koyas popularly call themselves as Dorala Sattam (Lords group) and Putta Dora (original lords). Koyas call themselves “Koitur” in their dialect, like Gonds.

- The Godavari and Sabari rivers which are flowing through their area of habitation exercise profound influence on Koyas' economic, social and cultural life.
- The Koyas are mainly settled cultivators. They grow Jowar, Ragi, Bajra and other millets.
- Many koya People have forgotten their Koya Dialect and adopted Telugu as their mother tongue but some in other parts still speak Koya dialect.
- Lord Bhima, Korra Rajulu, Mamili and Potaraju are the important deities to Koyas.
- Their main festivals are Vijji Pandum (seeds charming festival) and Kondala Kolupu (festival to appease Hill deities).
- Koyas perform a robust colourful dance called Permakok ata (Bison horn dance) during festivals and marriage ceremonies.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. Medaram Jatara is the largest fair in India
2. It is a tribal festival honoring the fight of a mother and daughter

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

Answer: - b



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T BALKRISHAN IAS Retd
FORMER ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY,
KERALA
Chief Advisor, Civils Cafe IAS Study Circle

☎7306994905 ☎9048073888
www.thecivilscafeias.com

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