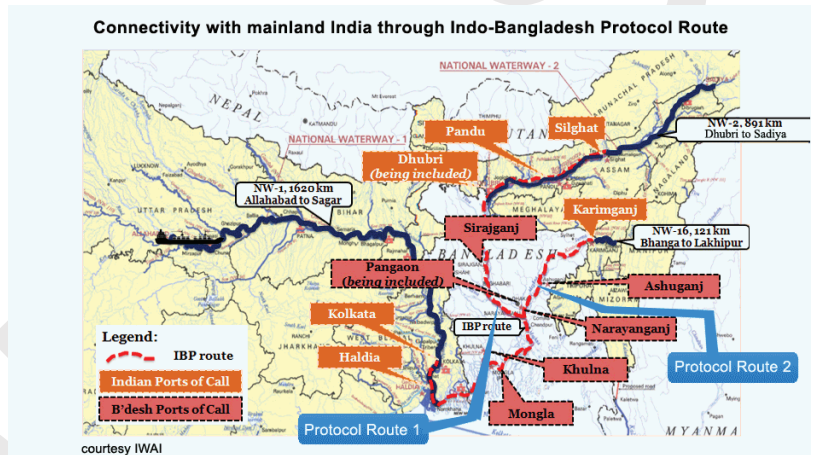


NEWS TODAY

BRAHMAPUTRA GETS CONNECTED WITH GANGA VIA INDO BANGLADESH PROTOCOL ROUTE (IBPR)

- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has successfully conducted the **maiden voyage of foodgrains via inland waterways jointly covering National Waterway (NW) 1 (River Ganga) and 2 (River Brahmaputra) via the IBP route.**
- About the IBP route -**
 - Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit & Trade** was signed in 1972, under which inland vessels of one country can transit through the specified routes of the other country.
 - It was last **renewed in 2015 for five years with a provision for its automatic renewal** for a further period of five years.
 - It is under the **overall ambit of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).**
 - Currently, there are a total of **10 protocol routes and 11 port of calls** on each side.
- Significance**
 - Promote **economic, commercial and strategic links between India and Bangladesh.**
 - Also, it will **promote better connectivity with other neighbouring countries that are landlocked such as Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar.**
 - Herald the growth and development of inland water transport** linking Northeast India and Mainland India, thereby improving regional connectivity.



About IWAI

- It is an **autonomous organization** constituted under the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985.
- It is primarily responsible for **development, maintenance and regulation** of waterways which have been declared as NWs under **National Waterways Act, 2016.**

SIGNIFICANCE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR THE INDIAN JUDICIAL PROCESSES

- Government has pitched the need to adopt new, cutting-edge technologies of **Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to **increase the efficiency** of the justice delivery system.
- Intended benefits**
 - In Indian judiciary, **openly accessible datasets of judgements** are still a challenge.
 - Expedite judicial process** and improve access to justice through **process re-engineering and automation.**
 - Improved decision making**, via tools for intelligent legal analytics and research.
 - Learn from global best practices**, E.g., UK has a system to forecast reoffending criminals.
- Suggestions: Establishing ground rules** for such technologies, identifying and undertaking **stakeholder engagement and forging partnerships** to aid in the development of such technologies.

Challenges in AI Adoption in judiciary

Short term challenges

- Ensuring transparency** as mathematical systems used by the technology for reaching the output are opaque and do not permit public scrutiny.
- Preventing data and design biases** that may perpetuate social inequalities.
- Creating decision support systems** that supplement and not supplant human judgment.

Long term challenges

- May lead to value lock-in** whereby consistent upholding of precedents can cause the legal status quo to become rigid, limiting the possibility of necessary change in legal disposition.
- Legitimate question **whether an algorithmic decision-making tool can accomplish the complex Constitutional role of judges and separation of powers.**

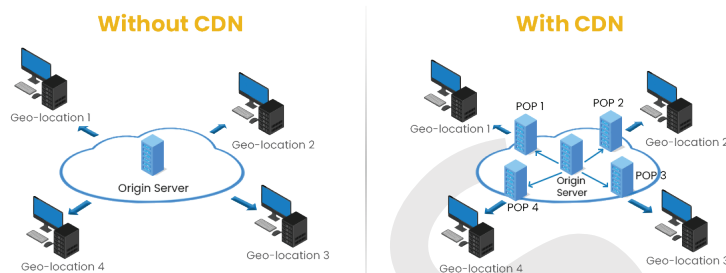
Steps taken so far

- SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software)** is a language learning application being used to translate judgments of English into regional language.
- SUPACE (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court Efficiency)** for improving efficiency and reducing pendency by encapsulating judicial processes that have the capability of being automated through AI.
- SCI-Interact** a software by SC, to make all its 17 benches paperless by making judges access to files, annexures to petitions, etc.

NET NEUTRALITY DEBATE RESURFACE AS TELCOS CLASH WITH BIG TECH ON REGULATING CONTENT DELIVERY NETWORKS (CDN)

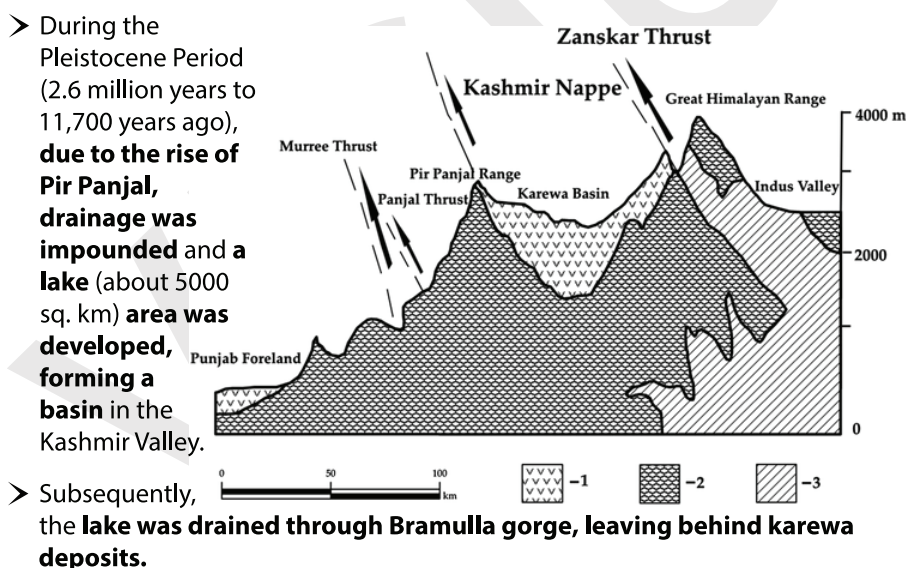
- Telecom companies (telcos) are backing **proposal to regulate Content Delivery Networks (CDN)**, which were **kept out of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's 2017 recommendations** on net neutrality.
 - Net Neutrality or Network neutrality is the idea that Internet service providers (ISPs) should treat all data that travels over their networks fairly, without improper discrimination in favour of particular apps, sites, or services.
- CDN refers to a **geographically distributed group of servers** that work together to provide fast delivery of Internet content.
 - Thus, **internet companies like** search engines (such as Google), OTT content providers (Netflix etc.) will employ CDN services to **deliver services faster**.
 - CDN management software **dynamically calculates which server is located nearest** to the user making the request and delivers content based on those calculations.
- However, telcos contest that **if the access to CDNs is not on equal terms**, the issue of net neutrality may arise whereby customers of preferred players may be provided with better quality CDN service.

Illustrative Working Difference Between-



KASHMIR VALLEY'S ANCIENT MOUND FORMATIONS ARE BEING LEVELLED

- Development and construction in the Kashmir Valley is **excavating and destroying its highly fertile alluvial soil deposits called 'karewas'**.
 - Karewas are **thick lacustrine deposits** (deposits in lake) of glacial clay and other materials **embedded with moraines**.
 - These are getting destroyed due to **haphazard constructions, Illegal clay mining** etc.
- Formation of Karewas** (also called Vudr):



Significance

- Agricultural:** Ideal for cultivation of Kashmir saffron (Zafran), almonds, apples and several other cash crops.
 - Saffron heritage and cultivation of Kashmir Valley has been **recognised as Global Agricultural Heritage Systems** of Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).
 - Saffron has received a **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag in 2020.
- Archaeological:** Hold fossils and remnants of many human civilisations and habitations.

NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FRAMEWORK FOR GARBAGE FREE CITIES (GFCs) LAUNCHED

- It was launched under **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0)** under aegis of **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
- Objective of the framework:** To serve as a **blueprint for capacity building, skill development and knowledge management initiatives** for States and ULBs to ensure GFCs.
- It highlights a **three pillared approach for the purpose**
 - Capacity Strengthening** of State and Municipal Cadres through human resource assessments and trainings, webinars, peer learning and e-learning.
 - Capacity Augmentation** through specialized Human Resources, in the form of program management units and city managers.
 - Ecosystem Strengthening**, through strengthening of existing Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organisation, involving swachhata knowledge partners etc.
- About Garbage free cities**
 - SBM-U 2.0 was launched in 2021 with the overall **objective of creating GFCs**.
 - A **seven-star rating Protocol** for GFCs was launched and cities are required to carry out self-assessment and self-verification for achieving a certain star rating.
 - There are a total of **4 categories of ratings (1, 3, 5 and 7 star)** which are based on a total of **25 Components with Mandatory, Essential & Desirable categories**, like door to door collection, segregation at source etc.

ALSO IN NEWS

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>No-Fly Zone (NFZ)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ukrainian government's call to impose a NFZ over Ukraine has been rejected by NATO. NFZ, or air exclusion zone (AEZ), refers to any region of airspace where it has been established that certain aircraft cannot fly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In military context, it is designed to stop aircraft from entering banned airspace, usually to prevent attacks or surveillance. Previously, NFZs have been established over Iraq (1991 Gulf war), Bosnia-Herzegovina (1995 Kosovo war) and Libya (2011 Civil War). |
|  <p>University Grants Commission (UGC) issues Guidelines for multidisciplinary higher education</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To encourage growth of multidisciplinary higher education institutions (HEIs). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines are in line with National Education Policy, 2020, which envisaged at least one large multidisciplinary HEI in or near every district by 2030. Key highlights Colleges or universities will have the option of collaborating to offer dual degrees. Colleges affiliated to universities can elevate their status to that of degree-awarding autonomous colleges by offering multidisciplinary education. |
|  <p>Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy (SBFA)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre has approved financial assistance for 47 vessels amounting to ₹155 crore under the SBFA. About SBFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched in 2015 as financial assistance scheme to Indian Shipyards for shipbuilding contracts signed between, 2016 to 2026. Aim is to make domestically produced ships competitive with Chinese ones. Under the policy, only those vessels, which are constructed and delivered within three years from date of contract, shall be eligible. However, in case of specialised vessels, Centre can grant an in-principal approval for construction and delivery of such vessels for up to six years. |
|  <p>Food and Agriculture Organization Food Price Index (FFPI)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per FFPI, World food prices hit a record high in February, led by a surge in vegetable oils and dairy products, to post a 20.7% increase year-on-year. FFPI is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities. It consists of the average of five commodity group price indices [cereal, vegetable, dairy, meat and sugar], weighted with the average export shares of each of the groups over 2014-2016. |
|  <p>Ivory trade</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Namibia wants India's support for lifting a United Nations ban on commercial trade of wildlife products, including ivory, for translocation of cheetahs to India. The ivory trade is the commercial, often illegal trade in the ivory tusks of the walrus, African and Asian elephants. Ivory trade is banned in 1989 under United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Ivory is used for making luxury goods, medicinal use. |
|  <p>Financial Action Task Force (FATF)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FATF has retained Pakistan on its terrorism financing "grey list". <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pakistan has been on the grey list since June 2018 for failing to check money laundering, leading to terror financing. Also, UAE has been added to the grey list. FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. Members: 37 (including India) and 2 regional organizations-European Commission and Gulf Co-operation Council. FATF issues two lists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black list (as High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action) Grey list (referred to as Jurisdictions Under Increased Monitoring). |
|  <p>HANSA-New Generation (HANSA-NG)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is India's first indigenous aircraft trainer, designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories. It has completed sea level trials, a necessary prelude to it being evaluated by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Key features - composite light weight airframe, a glass cockpit, a bubble canopy with a wide panoramic view, and electrically operated flap. Significance - ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing due to its low cost and low fuel consumption. |

| | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAL - Formed in 1959, it is a government-owned aerospace research and development laboratory under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). |
|  <p>Europa Clipper Spacecraft (ECS)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, NASA began the assembly of ECS, which is scheduled to launch in 2024. • ECS will scan Europa in search of signs of habitability as scientists believe that the moon harbours an ocean with twice the amount of water in Earth's oceans combined beneath its icy surface, and those oceans might have conditions suitable for life. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Europa is one of Jupiter's four largest moons, called the Galilean satellites (others are Io, Ganymede and Callisto). |
|  <p>Boltzmann medal</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepak Dhar, physicist, from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, became first Indian to receive this medal. • Named after, physicist Ludwig Boltzmann, the medal is awarded for outstanding achievements in the field of statistical physics. • Awarded by: Commission on Statistical Physics of International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP). • IUPAP is the only international physics organization that is organized and run by the physics community itself. |
|  <p>Van Gujjars</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Van Gujjars are a forest dwelling semi-nomadic pastoral community, which continues to practice seasonal migration across forests in Uttarakhand, J&K, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ They migrate to grasslands (bugyals) in the upper Himalayas during summers to feed their cattle, their primary source of livelihood and subsistence. • They are usually displaced for wildlife protection or denied grazing rights under Wildlife Protection Act 1972. |



/c/VisionIASdelhi



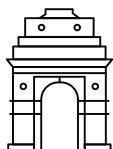
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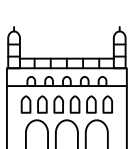
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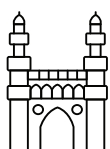
DELHI



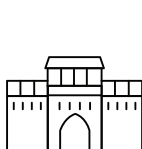
LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



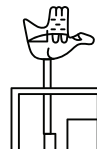
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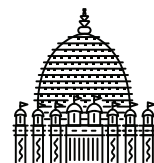
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